SALT LAKE CITY
COMMUNITY FOOD ASSESSMENT
FOOD SYSTEM ANALYSIS
Acknowledgements

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Food is a fundamental human requirement of survival that deeply influences a variety of outcomes for individuals, communities, and the natural environment. Cultures and communities have long been, and continue to be structured around food development for reasons of general sustenance, celebration, social tradition, as well as economic development and security.

To help make relevant and practical decisions about Salt Lake City's future, the Mayor’s Office and the Division of Sustainability began exploring the current challenges and opportunities for a more sustainable local food system. Recognizing the need for more information about the current state of its own food system, the City initiated a process to identify important information that could shed light on specific influences and impacts within the local food framework. In order to move forward with gaining

From food assessment information, there is a basis for developing strategies to support local food enterprises, foster rural/urban links, and advancing food access more effectively.
greater knowledge about its entire food system, the Salt Lake City Division of Sustainability and the Food Policy Task Force decided to use a Community Food Assessment approach. By using the assessment, the City and Task Force members would have the means for understanding details about farming, food processing and distribution within Salt Lake City and the regional foodshed. Obtaining a clearer picture of community well being in relation to the ways in which City residents connect with food in their daily lives, along with discovering more about the local food economy and environmental linkages would be evaluated. When evaluated individually, and as an integrated whole, the Community Food Assessment elements provide baseline knowledge for informing future decisions about local food sustainability.

A comprehensive approach to looking at local and regional food shed dynamics was very important to the success of the project and was achieved by gathering both quantitative and qualitative information about food within a 250 mile range surrounding Salt Lake City. Data examining food production, processing and distribution, food choice, health and urbanization, along with the input from a range of consumer and producer voices were equally important information sources for evaluating existing foodshed conditions.

From this food assessment information, there is an opportunity for Salt Lake City to develop strategies which support local food enterprises, foster rural/urban linkages, and advance food access more effectively. Sources that inform existing food conditions can also help guide recommendations for new ways of thinking about, supporting and developing a more robust local food system. The benefit of this integrated food assessment approach, which utilizes quantitative and qualitative information to examine the present, as well as inform the future, is that it can help Salt Lake City develop sound practices for addressing both the care and support of people along with the natural environment.

As Utah’s most densely populated city, Salt Lake City has grown into an urban center that seeks to gain strength by creating a path toward supporting healthy, diverse, and successful big city living, that includes a future with transformative food planning and development. In thinking about how a new food system might emerge, thoughtful consideration must be given to the dynamics that have already impacted local food outcomes. Population increases and expanding metropolitan development in Utah and Salt Lake City have constrained and diminished nearby land for growing food, while robust transportation networks provides the delivery routes for a wide selection of food choices being consumed at local tables. Shifting aspects of food production and distribution, including global import and export dynamics, demand for greater variety in food choices, emerging methods of urban food production, and increases in the incidence of chronic diseases related to diet, are all strong indications that food production, consumption,
and nutrition are issues germane to Salt Lake City’s local discussion on long-term community sustainability.

**Gaining a firm understanding of Salt Lake City’s current food system is necessary to assist Salt Lake City and its Food Policy Task Force in creating strategic planning, policy and action steps to strengthen local urban agriculture.** Establishing meaningful priorities for the future by using information from the Community Food Assessment will aid Salt Lake City in working toward realistic goals for the future. This assessment will serve as foundational information from which collaborative planning and decision making for a resilient, sustainable local and regional food system can move forward.

**What is a community food assessment?**

Assessing the current situation of Salt Lake City’s food system is a vital first step in establishing the methods necessary to make the system sustainable.

**A community food assessment is a broad look at the food system, including everything from production to processing, sale, consumption, and waste recovery of food.** Where does our food come from? Is food available and affordable to the population? A food assessment seeks to determine where gaps and barriers exist in the food system, and look for ways to develop a more sustainable food economy.

In 2011, the city engaged a local consultant team to analyze aspects of the food system for Salt Lake City. The food system area (or “foodshed”) included a 250 mile radius around Salt Lake City. The team was asked to perform public surveys and public outreach, as well as talk to local people who are connected to food production, processing, consumption, food waste, community health, and nutrition education.

**This community food assessment is a “snapshot in time” of Salt Lake City’s food system.** It provides analysis of data and current policy, and supplies the Food Policy Task Force, the City, and the public with basic information about our food system, in order to make informed decisions about how we can work together to develop a more local, affordable, and sustainable food system.

**What is Food Sustainability?**

A sustainable system is one that meets the needs of the community without limiting the ability of future generations to do the same. A sustainable food system is one that encourages
consumption of fresh, local food, encourages investment in local resources, and promotes long-term health and nutrition in the population. Our food system today depends on transportation of large quantities of food long distances, requiring consumption of vast amounts of finite energy resources. The population generally consumes large amounts of highly processed, unhealthy foods, resulting in growing numbers of diet-related conditions in all segments of the public.

Many forces affect our food system, including economic, environmental, social/cultural, and political systems. This food assessment seeks to determine how those systems are affecting food in our region, and develop policies that could be explored by Salt Lake City to create a more sustainable food network.

**Several current trends in Salt Lake City indicate that there is a growing interest in local food production.** The number of farmers markets and community supported agriculture programs indicate that demand for a local connection to food is on the rise. Concern with food provided at public schools continues to grow, and policies related to feeding at-risk populations continue to develop. Increased interest in gardening and at-home food production is seen across the city. The numbers of community gardens continue to grow, and more and more people are having an honest discussion about how we can build in more sustainable policies relating to our food system.
Taking a look at where Salt Lake City stands as a community is a key element of this food assessment. Demographics, population trends, and forecasted changes in the community may influence policy choices that will affect the food system. Understanding current influences of food on health and nutrition will play a role in determining “where Salt Lake City goes from here.”

Local History

One of Salt Lake City’s earliest demonstrations relating local people to their nearby food is represented in a discovered portion of a Fremont People’s Village, which dates to between 900 – 1300 CE. Unearthed during transit construction in July 1998, State archaeologists excavated this site and discovered human and animal bones, pit houses, food, and pottery shards from this early inhabitant settlement.

What is known of the Fremont is that they were farmers who did not move around much. Because they tended to settle in one place, the Salt Lake City /Fremont site is important in representing what is most likely one of the city’s earliest known farming locations. As permanent residents, these Fremont people oriented their time around food specific activities such as farming, taking wild vegetables, fishing, hunting, processing and cooking food.

After the Fremont people, the first non-native explorers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in the early 1800’s, and their arrival reflects the beginning of Salt Lake City’s distinct explorer and immigrant history. Of the first religious and explorers to the area, Spanish missionary Father Escalante found his way to the Salt Lake Valley in 1776. Jim Bridger, mountain man, trapper, explorer, guide and mediator is believed to be among the first white men to visit the Great Salt Lake.
in 1824. In June of 1847, Jim Bridger had his first encounter with Mormon leader Brigham Young at Little Sandy River. At this meeting Bridger gave Young an accurate geographical and environmental assessment of the Salt Lake Valley, and he is reported to warn of agricultural challenges in the area.1

As with the Fremont People before them, the Mormons arrival in 1847 brought people who wished to settle in the area. Not surprisingly, a primary concern for Mormons was food sustainability for both individual and community survival and success. Indeed, in preparation for the arrival of the entire group, a Mormon advance party began to divert City Creek into a field for planting of potatoes before Brigham Young even reached the valley. Also, in preparation for building a new life and new community, the 1847 Mormon settlers carried seeds and grafts with them across the Midwestern plains which they began propagating immediately in the Salt Lake Valley.

Under the leadership of Brigham Young, the newly emerging Salt Lake City was laid out within the "Plat of Zion" format characteristic of Mormon settlements in the eastern United States. With a keen purpose for community life, the city was directed to be laid out in regular grid, with "wards" organized around important public squares and with large plots and unusually wide streets. In this new community, the large plots supported families, and squares played an important role as gathering places, mostly for public markets, livestock storage, and also for important religious gatherings.

To build up and support food for families and the community, the original Salt Lake City plat was implemented by dividing large 10 acres blocks into eight parcels, with one family assigned to each parcel. These parcels allowed families to have plenty of space for growing food for family consumption.

The community building philosophy of early Mormon leaders was strong, and because of this they saw wisdom in the idea of consolidating the new population in one area. At this time, the majority of the "population center" was focused on Salt Lake City, and community members were expected to "live in the city". While the majority of people were living in the city, large farmland development was pushed outside the city limits, into what was called "The Big Field.2 With its traditional grid layout, a concentration of people and new development could be centered in the city, where the benefits


2. The Big Field, originally 1200 South Street, is now the area south of 900 South Street to 2100 South Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.
of city living could easily be found in places like community markets, exchanges, theatres, and opera houses, while larger scale community farming would remain on city edges, or was scattered across the state.

**Over time, cultural changes, the development of modern irrigation systems and transport altered the way Salt Lakers acquire food.** Since the completion of the continental railway system, today’s complex network of food transport which includes truck, rail, and ocean shipping, growers and consumers in the region expect to fulfill their food needs by accessing local producers along with food supplied from the far reaches of the globe.

Although today’s Salt Lakers live in a world vastly different from the earliest native inhabitants, and of those who permanently settled the city, the need to eat remains for all people in Salt Lake. To know more about food for the City today, it is necessary to discover more about the emerging food system by answering questions about the present community, its cultures and health outcomes.

**Drivers of Change**

The 2012 USDA Economic Research Service has identified that Utah has a quickly growing population. The population has nearly doubled since 1980, when the population was 1.46 million. By 2010, that number had grown to 2.76 million. **This population growth has occurred statewide, but mostly in urban areas.** Between 1980 and 2010, the rural population has grown by 112,000 people while the urban areas of Utah have added nearly 1.2 million people. The median per capita income in Utah has fallen slightly from 2009 levels, from $32,426 to $31,584 in 2010. This 2.6% reduction in income is for the entire state, but when broken down further, rural populations have been affected more than the urban. Rural income fell 3.7%, from $28,425 to $27,373, while the urban income fell just 2.5% from $32,916 to $32,101. In general, urban Utahns are wealthier and fared better than rural Utahns in income loss.
Salt Lake City has a comparatively young population (average age 30.9 years old) although slightly older than the average for the state of Utah of 27 years old. A young population can suppress the per capita income of a community, but can also show larger than average household sizes, typical of the state of Utah.

Salt Lake City is generally more ethnically diverse than the rest of the state. When it comes to food systems, a diverse population means more variety available to the larger community, and more demand for a range of food options. Salt Lake City can see this in its increasing availability of many different kinds of speciality markets and restaurants, which includes African, Asian, Halal, Hispanic, Kosher, American Indian, and Pacific Islander food establishments.

Population by Race & Ethnicity: Salt Lake City, UT 1990-2010

Source: US Census Bureau Redistricting
Diet Related Disease in Salt Lake City

Food has a major impact on the health and well-being of a community. Nationally, the consumption of industrially produced food is known to be causing serious health problems. The prevalence of diet related disease tells how food consumption is affecting the residents of Salt Lake City negatively, and can provide data on where to focus healthy food choice.

There are numerous diet related diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, and obesity. Salt Lake City fares better than the rest of the nation in many of these categories. The Utah Department of Health gathers and monitors health statistics by zip code for the state, which follow and report on these key indicators of diet-related disease occurrences.

Based on Utah Department of Health data, as Salt Lake City becomes more ethnically diverse, rates of diet related disease is also growing. Lower-income neighborhoods have somewhat higher rates of diabetes and high cholesterol, which can impact the health of the community.

Body Mass Index (BMI) is a ratio of height and weight used as an indicator to monitor health generally. A BMI under 25 is considered “normal,” with rates over 25 labeled “overweight” and a BMI of more than 30 classified as “obese.”

As a whole, the “overweight” category of BMI (between 25 and 30) has grown across the city’s neighborhoods in the last ten years. The Rose Park and Avenues neighborhoods have seen the largest increases in this category.

In 2010, 22.63% of Salt Lake City residents were classified obese. Compared to the national average of 35.7%, Salt Lake City is relatively healthy. Salt Lake City’s obesity rate is fairly consistent with other cities in Salt Lake County and the rest of Utah. There are differences in various areas of Salt Lake City. Glendale and Rose Park report the highest levels of obesity, while the Avenues and Foothill areas report the lowest levels of obesity.

In 2009, 30% of Salt Lake City residents said they had been told that their cholesterol was high. This number is much higher than 23.5% of Utah residents who report that they have been told their cholesterol is high.
In 2009 Salt Lake City had a 25.78% rate of high blood pressure. When compared to the national average of 31%, Salt Lake City is relatively healthy. Salt Lake’s rate is slightly higher than the rates in Salt Lake County and Utah, but is within a two percent margin of error.

The health awareness of the city’s population was part of the public survey that was conducted during the process of developing this assessment. When asked if they thought that fruit and vegetable consumption affected personal health, more than 90% of respondents indicated that they are “sure” they help, while 7% responded they “might” help (see chart to the left).

In 2010 Salt Lake City had a slightly higher level of diabetes than the national average of 6.75%, with 7.3%. These numbers were also higher than the county and Utah averages. The national rate of diabetes has increased nearly 3% since 2001; however Salt Lake City’s numbers have grown about 4%. Diabetes rates are especially concerning, as they are indicative of unhealthy diets broadly in the population, and once diagnosed, affect you throughout your life. With the rates of increase over the last ten years, the city and its allied health agencies should confront this issue more aggressively.
Understanding where the food for local people is produced is an important part of developing a more sustainable food system. Many factors affect where food comes from including market economics, energy costs, land values, land use policy, and population demographics. **For the purpose of this study, two demographic production ranges are considered, including production within a 250 mile radius of the city, along with a closer look at agricultural production within city limits.** Many prime farmland areas are found within 250 miles of the city, and understanding what is and isn't produced within the city limits tells a lot about community priorities and local markets.

**Agricultural Land Use Statistics**

When considering the total number of farms within Salt Lake City’s 250 miles foodshed area, Utah has the highest number of farms within the foodshed, with 16,600 farms. The select foodshed counties in Idaho have 13,694 farms. Selected counties in Colorado, Wyoming and Nevada have fewer farms with 6,250, 3,350, and 994 respectively. Utah has the most farming acreage, with 11,100,000 acres. In the surrounding counties of other states, Idaho and Wyoming top the list, with over 7,000,000 acres each. Nevada and Colorado have over 3,000,000 each. The average farm in Utah is 664 acres, selected counties of Idaho averages 567 acres, selected counties of Wyoming averages 2,148 acres, selected counties of Colorado averages 510 acres, selected counties of Nevada has the largest farms with 3,365 average acres per farm. Since 1978, there has been a slow and steady increase in the number of Utah farms, growing from 12,764 farms in 1978 to 16,700 farms in 2007. Despite the growth in number of farms, the percentage of land in farms has only grown a small percent from 19.9% in 1978 to 21.1% in 2007. This means that the average farm size has shrunk from 820 acres in 1978 to 668 acres in 2007.

**Area of study: 250 mile range of Salt Lake City**

Source: Carbaugh Associates

**40,988**

**Farms within 250 miles**

**16,600**

**Farms in Utah**

Source: USDA
For farmers and local food consumers, the best, or prime agricultural land, is also prime developable land. Based on research and mapping from the American Farmland Trust’s ‘Farming on the Edge’ it is clear that land in Utah and surrounding states are under the pressure of conflict between these two interests. The green areas indicate high quality farmland with low development pressure, while the red areas indicate high quality farmland under high development pressure. For Salt Lake City, and its surrounding foodshed, consideration of a future regional food system will require multijurisdictional coordination in land use policies which directly address the relative scarcity of high quality farmland, and the need to establish land use patterns that can support a sustainable food system.
Amid the worst drought conditions since the Dust Bowl, the Midwest and the Western United States, face the dilemma of how to satisfy the water needs of farmers, urban populations and business development. Drought conditions in the west, brought on by changes in climate, continuing population and economic development expansion are combining to dramatically impact water availability for farming in the Salt Lake City foodshed. In the west, where farming constitutes 1% of the economy yet takes 80% of the water, the impacts of water scarcity, and ongoing competition for water resources places the future of food production in direct conflict with other water users.

Western Regional Watersheds

The Salt Lake City foodshed falls within several western watersheds, including the Great Basin, the Upper Colorado, the Lower Colorado, and the Pacific Northwest. Farmers within the Salt Lake City foodshed area rely on all four of these watersheds to irrigate crops. Rivers in the west provide water to more than 20 million people and claims on rivers like the Colorado currently exceed the capacity to allocate enough water to all users. How watershed management for agricultural use is addressed will impact the food supply of the region and beyond. In order to maintain adequate food production, sufficient attention must be paid to water politics, developmental impacts, and the application of best practices for water resource management.

Utah Farms with Irrigation:

- 2007: 12,492
- 2002: 11,587

Utah Irrigated Farm Acres

- 2007: 1,134,144 acres
- 2002: 1,091,011 acres
- 2002-2007: +4% Increase in Acres of Utah Irrigated Farms

Source: US Ag Census, 2007
One of the major issues concerning the future of farming in Salt Lake County is land development. The Landsat maps from the Cooperative Extension show an aerial view of Salt Lake County surrounded by the mountains (north is up on the maps). Ag land, or vegetation, is bright red in the valley, less dense vegetation such as trees and landscaping in yards or in other development is a dull red. From 1973 to 2009 the difference in available ag land and open space is astounding – most of the bright red tracts are gone by 2009, overtaken by built development. Running the length of the valley is the north/south I-15 corridor and its accompanying development, which shows no red at all. On the top portion of the map, Salt Lake City has lost nearly all of its agricultural land. This trend is alarming for farming in Salt Lake County, as available land will become increasingly scarce and expensive if this continues.

Source:
Charles W. Gay
Associate Vice President
for Cooperative Extension
Since 2002, the total number of farms in the state of Utah has risen, which had been preceded by a precipitous drop in that number. While the general population of the state continues to rise, the total number of farms has not risen correspondingly.

**What are the Characteristics of Food Producers?**

Knowing the demographics of Utah’s farmers helps develop an understanding of current occupational and individual operator trends. Utah’s farmers are 88% male and 12% female, with only 38% of the principal farm operators reporting farming as their primary occupation. One significant factor influencing this low number of farming as a primary occupation is that farming in Utah is not sufficient to financially support most operators and their families. Often, farmers must turn to other jobs or income sources for additional benefits and insurance. Presently, seventy percent of principal farm operators live on the farm that they operate, with the other 30% living elsewhere. The average age of Utah’s farmers as of the 2007 USDA Agriculture census was 57.4 years, increasing in average age by just over 2 years since 2002. This follows national trends, which show a rapidly aging demographic of farmers. With a statewide general population average age of around 27 years old, the difference in general population age with the average age for farmers is an indicator that fewer young people are choosing to enter the farming sector. This is a concern for establishing a more sustainable food system.

Utah organic farms have interesting demographic traits compared with all farms in Utah combined. The operator of an organic farm is 8% more likely to be a female compared to traditional farm operators. Organic farmers tend to be about 3 years younger than traditional...
farmers, and organic farmers are 10% more likely to live on their farm. Also, an organic farmer is 13% more likely to consider farming as their primary occupation.

Utah's farmers tend to be owners of the land they farm, with 71% of all farms being fully owned by the principal operator(s), only 24% are part owners and 6% are tenants on the land they farm. An upward trend since 1997 is for more farmers to own the land they are farming. A substantial majority of Utah's farmers are also sole owners of their farm, at 81.5%. Other organizational structures that make up the mix of farms in Utah are: 5.5% family corporations, 10% partnerships and only 1% non-family corporations, with 3% under estate, trust or co-operative structure. Single owner operations are still the norm in Utah, as they have been in the past.

Ethnically, the demographics of farmers within the 250 mile demographic range is almost exclusively Caucasian, with more than 91% of farmers in the demographic foodshed listed as “Caucasian.” Only 4% of the principal operators of farms in the demographic range are Hispanic, despite a higher percentage of Hispanic representation in the broader population.

The operator of an organic farm is 8% more likely to be female compared to traditional operators.
Utah's organic farming has risen in popularity since the 1990’s. In 1997, Utah had just 3 certified organic operations, and in 2008 that number had grown to 46. Of all counties within Salt Lake City’s foodshed Idaho currently has the most number of organic farms at 160, this is closely followed by Utah with 154. The included counties of Colorado also have a strong showing with 119, where Wyoming and Nevada lag behind with just 10 and 17 respectively. Idaho also leads with organic farmland acreage, with 90,772 acres. Again Utah is close behind with 86,084. Colorado has 6,627, Nevada has 1,965, and Wyoming has just 162 acres. When compared to the amount of overall farmland in the foodshed, organic farms make up a very small percentage of the overall farmland. There are 185,610 acres of organic farmland compared to 32,592,113 acres of traditional farmland. Of the 41,448 farms in the study area, organic farms make up just 460, which is about 1%. When comparing the total number of sales, organic farms in the study area, organic had $7.3 million in sales where traditional farms had over $1.4 billion in sales.
Utah Food Production

In 2010, over half of all cash receipts from Utah farmers came from just 3 different areas: Dairy (22%), Cattle and Calves (21.4%), and Hogs (13.7%). Utah’s top ten commodities account for 90.3% of all cash receipts. The other commodities include: hay (10.8%), Greenhouse/nursery (7.4%), Turkeys (4.9%), Chicken Eggs (4.8%), Wheat (2.6%), Sheep and lambs (1.7%), and Corn (0.8%). For now, raising animals produces more money in sales than growing crops for Utah farmers. Another interesting point is that Utah produces 9.4% of the nation’s safflower sales, 7.5% of Wool sales, and 4.3% of sheep and lamb sales.

Utah’s farm sales come mostly from traditional farms, not from organic operations. The total market value of agriculture products sold from traditional farms is $1.408 billion, and organic farms total $7.316 million. When you consider the average sales per farm, organic farms are not still behind but not as much as it originally seems: traditional farms average approximately $85,000/farm and organic farms average $54,000/farm.

While animal production is high in Utah, a wide variety of fruit and vegetables are grown in the Salt Lake City Food Shed:

- ASPARAGUS
- GREEN LIMA BEANS
- BEANS (SNAP)
- BEETS
- BROCCOLI
- HERBS
- BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- CABBAGE
- CANTALOUPE
- CARROTS
- CAULIFLOWER
- CUCUMBER
- EGGPLANT
- GARLIC
- HONEYDEW
- LETTUCE (HEAD)
- LETTUCE (LEAF)
- LETTUCE (ROMAINE)
- MUSTARD GREENS
- OKRA
- ONIONS (GREEN)
- PEAS (GREEN)
- PEPPERS (BELL)
- PEPPERS (NOT BELL)
- POTATOES
- PUMPKINS
- RADISHES
- RHUBARB
- SPINACH
- SWEET CORN
- SQUASH (ALL)
- SWEET POTATOES
- TOMATOES
- TURNIPS
- WATERMELONS
- APPLES
- APRICOTS
- CHERRIES (SWEET)
- CHERRIES (TART)
- GRAPES
- NECTARINES
- PEACHES
- PEARS
- PLUMS
- ALMONDS
- HAZELNUTS
- PECANS
- BLACKBERRIES
- BLUEBERRIES
- RASPBERRIES
- STRAWBERRIES
# Farm Facts:
Agricultural production within 250 miles of Salt Lake City

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<th>State</th>
<th>Number of Farm Acres</th>
<th>Average Acreage Per Farm</th>
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<td>11,094,700</td>
<td>NV 3,365</td>
<td>UT 16,700</td>
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Source: USDA 2007 Ag. Census
According to the 2007 USDA Ag Census, the selected parts of Idaho in our study of 250 miles from Salt Lake City, are by far the most lucrative out of all the areas studied. They have a high dollar value for crops sold and also have a massive cash value for livestock sold. These areas in Idaho produced over $4.5 billion in crops and livestock. Utah comes next with just over $1.4 billion, followed by selected parts of Colorado, with $278 million, then selected parts of Wyoming with $263 million. Selected parts of Nevada were the least lucrative, with just $186 million in crops and livestock.

Please note that direct comparisons between totals for the states are skewed because all counties in Utah are considered in the study area, while only portions of the surrounding states were included in the study to reflect an approximate 250 mile radius to Salt Lake City. However, when another state has higher numbers for their select counties than all of Utah, it does make quite a statement.
Community Garden Production

Recent years have shown an increased interest in more food production both at home and in community gardens. The total number of community gardens has increased steadily over the last ten years, and the diversity of gardens has increased as well. More and more schools in the Salt Lake City area are establishing community gardens, providing educational space for their teachers and students, but often acting as a space where community members can have access to space for growing of fresh food.
Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County are both working to increase the number and accessibility to community garden space. Salt Lake County has begun to allow use of County owned land for community gardens. Salt Lake City has recently hired a “community garden liaison” to provide support and management for community gardens in the city.

Wasatch Community Gardens, an established non-profit, is a resource for many gardeners, and provides education for new growers, as well as training for those interested in designing and building new community gardens. Interest in these programs has continued to grow each year.

**SLC Public Survey:** Do you grow any of your own food?

![Yes: 67.1% | No: 32.9%](image)


**SLC Public Survey:** If you would like to start a food garden, what can help you get started this year?

Once food has been produced, it needs to be brought to the marketplace. This processing and distribution portion of the food chain is often invisible and behind the scenes to the consumer. To some extent all food needs to be processed before reaching the table. Processing can start in the backyard, and can be as simple as rinsing a head of lettuce picked from a home garden. On a commercial scale processing may start in the field with washing, packing and storing, or it may be “value added food” that is locally made and improved for the customer through preparation and packaging. Value-added products add to local food diversity, help reduce energy impacts caused by bringing food from long distances, as well as increase enterprise and profit margins for local growers and businesses.

For the consumer many factors contribute to food prices, including the distance a product has to travel, how and where it is processed, and the perceived nutritional value of the food. In this regard, when working together, local producers and processors are able to capitalize on providing the freshest product while reducing transportation impacts and minimizing storage needs.

Distribution is how the food moves from the field and processing into the local food chain. Food that comes into, and is distributed in Salt Lake City’s local food network can come from far or near, and is moved through a variety of transportation routes. The majority of food consumed in Salt Lake City is grown in, and distributed from national and international locations, with a lesser amount coming from within the local food shed. Because locally consumed food comes from both distant and nearby places, food coming to the Salt Lake market may travel by train or plane, through seaport on container ships, by international, national or local trucking, as well as by private vehicle.
When considering the local food system, developing the local food producer–processor-distributor relationship ultimately increases the availability of local products in the marketplace, which helps support and grow innovation, employment, and security overall. From an economic perspective, this helps create a fair price for farmers and consumers which enables lower income and price sensitive groups like schools, hospitals, and charitable organizations, to partake in, and not be priced out of the local food movement.

Food From Afar

Since 1994 when NAFTA was implemented, Canada and Mexico have become the United States two largest export markets with exports to Mexico doubling in that time period. As of 2008 all tariffs and quotas on US exports to Canada and Mexico were eliminated, creating the world’s largest free trade area encompassing more than 454 million people and $17.2 trillion dollars worth of goods and services as of 2010.

The USDA estimated that U.S. farm and food exports to Mexico exceeded $11.5 billion in 2007 -- the highest level ever under NAFTA. From 2001 to 2006, U.S. farm and food exports to Mexico climbed by $3.6 billion to $10.8 billion. U.S. exports of soybean meal, red meats, and poultry meat all set new records in 2006. ¹

And, according to the USDA, Foreign Agriculture Service, prior to NAFTA, U.S. agricultural products lost market share in Mexico as competition for the Mexican market increased. After NAFTA, this downward trend reversed. In 2007 alone, the United States supplied more than 72 percent of Mexico’s total agricultural imports, which is due in part to the price advantage and preferential access that U.S. products enjoy because of NAFTA. For example, Mexico’s imports of U.S. red meat and poultry have grown rapidly, exceeding pre-NAFTA levels and reaching the highest level ever in 2006. This is reflected in Utah’s trade with Canada and Mexico.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative reports that in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Live Animals</th>
<th>Meat &amp; Edible Meat Offal</th>
<th>Dairy Produce: Eggs, Honey, Edible Produce</th>
<th>Products of Animal Origin not Otherwise Specified</th>
<th>Fish and Crustaceans</th>
<th>Edible Vegetables and Certain Roots and Tubers</th>
<th>Edible Fruit and Nuts; Peel of Citrus fruit or Melon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Exports</td>
<td>209,612</td>
<td>208,609</td>
<td>1,280,731</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>439,354</td>
<td>696,663</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Imports</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>559,427</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>139,750</td>
<td>102,478</td>
<td>6,206,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Exports</td>
<td>2,434,097</td>
<td>16,440,400</td>
<td>397,363</td>
<td>2,325,334</td>
<td>5,197</td>
<td>3,212</td>
<td>168,512</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research and Innovative Technology Administration: Bureau of transportation Statistics.
2010 Canada and Mexico were the top two purchasers of US exports with $248.2 billion and $163.3 billion respectively. U.S. exports of agricultural products to NAFTA countries totaled $31.4 billion in 2010. Leading categories include: red meats, fresh/chilled/frozen ($2.7 billion), coarse grains ($2.2 billion), fresh fruit ($1.9 billion), snack foods (excluding nuts) ($1.8 billion), and fresh vegetables ($1.7 billion). U.S. imports of agricultural products from NAFTA countries totaled $29.8 billion in 2010. Leading categories include: fresh vegetables ($4.6 billion), snack foods, (including chocolate) ($4.0 billion), fresh fruit (excluding bananas) ($2.4 billion), live animals ($2.0 billion), and red meats, fresh/chilled/frozen ($2.0 billion).

According to the Utah 2011 Economic Report to the Governor, "The two countries geographically closest to Utah, Canada and Mexico, were Utah’s second and ninth highest export destinations, respectively. In contrast to the United Kingdom, where the vast majority of Utah exports were in the form of gold, Canada and Mexico imported a wider array of goods. In 2010, the largest categories of goods exported to Canada were primary metals ($292.1 million), transportation equipment ($191.5 million), and machinery ($132.1 million). The largest categories of goods exported to Mexico were transportation equipment ($96.2 million), chemicals ($77.4 million), and minerals ($58.7 million). From 2008 to 2009, total exports to Canada decreased 5.8% and total exports to Mexico increased 15.5%. From 2009 to 2010, total exports to Canada increased 24.1% and increased 63.3% to Mexico."

Although the 2009-2012 economic downturn has had detrimental effects on trade globally and within the NAFTA region, trade (imports and exports) for 2010 reached $61.3 billion dollars. Even accounting for this downturn, agricultural trade within NAFTA has more than tripled since 1994. Additionally, advantages for North American consumers include a wider diversity of products available throughout the year due to the warmer climate of

3. 2011 Economic Report to the Governor, p. 79
Top five exports per state for the demographic range as well as their value in millions on dollars.

**Utah**

Total Utah agricultural exports equals $441 million. Utah's top five exports represent 79% of the total cash value of its agricultural exports.

1) Wheat/wheat products $144.8
2) Hides and skins $80.6
3) Live animals and meat $62.8
4) Feeds and fodders $37.6
5) Other $34.1

Total exports: $441.0

**Colorado**

Total Colorado agricultural exports equal $1,492.3 million. Colorado's top five exports represent 80% of the total cash value of agricultural exports.

1) Wheat/wheat products $344.4
2) Live animals and meat $280.5
3) Feed grains and products $196.0
4) Feeds and fodders $165.9
5) Hides and skins $149.1

Total exports: $1,492.3

Mexico. These include but are not limited to tomatoes and avocados. This has also allowed Mexican markets to expand their offerings of products such as peaches, pears, and apples from the US and Canada. While ongoing disputes still exist regarding trucking to and from the US and Mexico resulting in retaliatory tariffs from the Mexican Government, the net overall effect of NAFTA has resulted in increased trade within the region with a minimal effect on farm jobs in the US.4

While full implementation of NAFTA has been achieved in terms of trade, there were no mechanisms built into the agreement which provide for food safety or sanitation policies. Currently the interested parties are working together to set standards which can be agreed upon in order to realize the full potential of trade liberalization within the region in terms or agricultural trade. Thus, the future success of NAFTA is contingent upon outside policy matters such as border security and immigration. With a total population increase of over 90 million people within the NAFTA region projected for the next 20 years, implementation of policies which ease the transfer of goods in a secure manner are crucial to ensuring that free markets remain in place for the benefit of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

**Producers Processing and Regulatory Policy**

While it appears that current NAFTA policy lacks adequate sanitary food safety provisions, the US policy addressing food safety standards for national growers is applied more stringently. Through food and agricultural regulations at the federal, state and local levels, US producing, processing and distribution is regulated with the purpose of increasing food safety and value throughout the entire food chain. For the well being of the entire community the City’s residents, businesses and guests must have confidence that food grown, processed and/or distributed within Salt Lake City proceeds securely and safely. As Utah’s capital city, Salt Lake maintains the state’s largest population and the state’s largest daily workforce, so fulfilling the delivery of safe and nutritious food that supports and protects people, the local economy, as well as the environment is both a challenge and an opportunity for enhancing a dynamic farm-to-fork food system.

Regardless of farm size or location, after harvesting, fresh, raw food must be processed, and the first opportunity for processing is attributed to where fresh produce is grown. This type of processing takes place in the field, where a raw commodity is harvested, and then washed, cleaned, sorted, packed and cooled on site. Another on site raw commodity packing possibility is for fruit or vegetables to be picked, sorted, and sent immediately to a packing-
house for cleaning and packing. Commonly, the intensity and method of processing that takes place in a grower's field is often determined by the gross revenue of the producer.

For US small farmers making under $500,000 gross revenue, selling direct to market, and within a 275 mile radius of the farm, whether they be backyard contracted Small Plot Intensive Farm (SPIN) growers, or growers on larger parcels, there are specific exemptions or “flexibility” from processing and distribution inspection under the US Food Modernization Act (USFMA). **According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the majority of food grown by local farmers making under $500,000 gross revenue is delivered directly to consumers, restaurants, and grocers and poses less of a risk of food borne illness or security to local customers.** (US Department of Health and Human Services)

When comparing the less rigorous safety and sanitation processing and distribution requirements of small farmers grossing less than $500,000 and direct marketing over 50% of their product in state or within 275 miles of their farm (Tester Hagan Amendment of 2010) against larger growers, it is clear that regulatory requirements become more exacting for those above the maximum threshold. As reported by Utah’s local farmers, and consistent with regulatory standards of the Food Safety Modernization Act (USFSMA), the Tester Hagan Amendment affords small farmers relief from higher federal food safety requirements and a safe, secure, and financially feasible way for local farmers to bring fresh, local food to market. The key reasons sited for reducing federal regulatory oversight for small farms include 1) local farmers are physically close to their customer base and have closer ties and reputations with their customers and local communities; and 2) these small food growers are regulated by state agencies (i.e. Utah Department of Agriculture and Food) in conjunction with local agencies like county health departments.

**The Local Processing and Distribution Playing Field**

Among farmers who were interviewed anonymously for this food assessment by the consultant team, the disparity in food processing and safety regulation between small revenue and larger grossing farmers brought up some concerns. For some of the larger revenue farmers interviewed who process in the field, USFMA’s more stringent regulations and inspections for processing, packing, and distribution translates into uneven responsibility and added business expense. **As explained by Utah’s farmers, in order to meet food safety compliance, and get their product successfully into the food chain, higher grossing farmers must address food safety, sanitation and security by becoming highly knowledgeable in understanding and managing product safety and food traceability, employee training on food safety compliance, water quality assurance, signage, limiting certain animals in the field, (including Idaho**

**Idaho**

Idaho’s agricultural exports equal $1,565.7. Top five exports represent 92% of the total cash value of agricultural exports.

1) Vegetables and preparations $469.1
2) Feeds and fodders $389.2
3) Wheat/wheat products $299.6
4) Dairy products $208.2
5) Feed grains and products $80.5

**Total exports:** $1,565.7

**Nevada**

Top five exports represent $61.0 million dollars. Top five exports represent 98% of the total cash value of agricultural exports.

1) Seeds $26.5
2) Vegetables and preparations $19.9
3) Feeds and fodders $6.5
4) Other $3.4
5) Wheat/wheat products $3.4

**Total exports:** $61.0

**Wyoming**

Wyoming agricultural exports equal $128.3 million dollars. Top five exports represent 91% of the total cash value of agricultural exports.

1) Feeds and fodders $63.1
2) Seeds $17.2
3) Feed grains and products $14.3
4) Wheat/wheat products $12.3
5) Live animals and meat $9.8

**Total exports:** $128.3

Local farmers are looking for more education on how to increase year-round growing, and business planning, as well as struggling to find ways to compete with consumer demand within Utah for ever lower prices.

Salt Lake City Producers, Processors, and Distributors

At the time of this assessment, an evaluation of Salt Lake City land use shows that large scale agricultural production has been reduced and confined to a small northwest section of the city limits. Along a short stretch of road in the northwest quadrant, a handful of cattle ranchers are still able to graze cattle, goats and chickens, grow hay, and other produce in green houses. Presently, the product raised in this area is not destined for local market and because of its low intensity agricultural output it could not currently fulfill even a minor portion of food demand for the community.

With the exception of very limited area for large agricultural parcels in the northwest quadrant, the City’s existing urban farming activity operates exclusively at the small or micro scale. These small or micro urban farms are largely worked by self-taught producers, who commonly use high intensity organic growing practices. The acreage required for this type of growing is often minimal, with some farms producing on plots as small as ½ acre, or using scattered plots in various locations throughout the city. Most of Salt Lake City’s urban farmers own at least a portion of their land, but when they find a need for more space, innovative land and resource sharing practices with local residents are proving profitable.

Among the smallest in scale for Salt Lake City’s commercial producers, backyards have become fertile ground to launch a new brand of Community Supported Urban Agriculture (CSUA), using SPIN farming. By contracting to use plots in backyards, urban growers in Salt Lake City are growing and selling produce on site for the resident, as well as having the possibility of harvesting surplus produce for direct delivery to other CSA customers.
Presently, twenty-seven growers and ranchers have been identified as operating within Salt Lake City. Because most farms within the city limits are small, and discretely scattered around various neighborhood locations, this total number of operators in the city may be incomplete. Producers identified within Salt Lake City limits were located through various methods including CSA postings, local magazines, farmers markets, internet, direct personal contact or reference by another grower.

A variety of crops are grown by Salt Lake’s farming community and among the selection of food that is produced in the City local farmers report success in growing a range of produce that includes, but it not limited to: micro-greens, tomatoes, carrots, squashes, beets, green beans, radishes, eggplant, cilantro, basil, rosemary, spinach, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, peas, and organic vegetables starts.

Salt Lake City based growers are reporting high interest in maintaining fresh product excellence, and explain that time constraints, an inability to hire workers, lack of knowledge about how to start a value added business, along with the unavailability of commercial kitchens are influencing their decision making for not expanding into the value added arena.

All of the growers within the city limits who participated in a phone survey for the CFA, reported that they all take their product directly to market, which include farmers markets, grocery stores, restaurants, and CSA’s using their own cars or trucks. When asked about exporting to markets outside of the city limits, 99% of the Salt Lake City growers stated that all of their product stays within with City limits. Only one grower reported that they distribute about 1% of their crop outside of the city to a nearby ski resort.

**Concerns and Conflicts**

When thinking about the next growing season, a low number of Utah farmers who participated in the survey expressed an intention of reducing their production in 2013. While this bodes well for the next growing season, concerns about barriers and challenges were also shared. Approximately 50% of survey respondents who were interviewed stated that they are limited in expanding their operations due to land or water access, or the costs of acquiring more of each. The financial burden of acquiring and using more water was seen as a significant limitation to expanding production.

The consulting team also heard that when farming is not the sole means of employment, time conflicts with the primary job, or increased job responsibility away from the farm are reasons why a small farm production and business may end up suffering. The
inability of farming to provide “traditional benefits” such as health insurance and a retirement plan as a profession were cited as reasons why some farmers may work a second job in order to fill the benefits gap. Being able to leverage land for agricultural use is also becoming prohibitively difficult because of increased housing development. These types of underlying pressures and constraints were best summed up by one farmer who said,

“I am losing some of my leased property to development this year. I am constantly under time and resource pressure which may lead to decreased production.”

In thinking about business sustainability and growth, a potential lack of a strong customer base and the inability to advertise their product were seen as potential risks. Utah’s Own is seen as a bright spot in helping to create a positive image about both the value of local farming and Utah products.

### Supporting a Community Food Network

Salt Lake City farmers are looking for new and innovative opportunities to expand their market reach. Specific ideas from farmers about how to innovate include: extending the growing season by finding the means to build greenhouses, high-tunnel and hoop houses, participating in education to programs that emphasize year-round growing, education on farm business planning, and business expanding into value added products. The farmers said that what they needed most to succeed included:

- More workers
- A SLC based processing center, or commercial kitchen to aid in processing locally grown products into value added products
- Quick freeze units and cooling boxes
- Education on a variety of issues including: business management and planning, especially in the areas of licensing, taxes, and long-term planning. We found that people were open to either going to a traditional class setting, or webinar
- Grant writing assistance
- Education about how to grow year-round
- Infrastructure to increase year-round opportunities
- Helping with managing transportation cost

### Salt Lake City’s Local Processing

While there are a variety of local and national food processors in Salt Lake City, including facilities like raw food and meat processors along with various value added products, of the produce grown within the foodshed, very little of that raw food is actually being prepared as ready to use in Salt Lake City. Interviews with Salt Lake City based
farmers and processors, convey that no produce grown within Salt Lake City is being processed at City located commercial facilities.

Of the commercial processors located in Salt Lake City, there are only a handful of businesses who process raw goods, either meat or vegetable and this has led to facilities operating at, or near capacity levels. In speaking with facility operators, many were reluctant to share insights regarding their operations for security and propriety reasons, but for those who spoke with the consultant team, the following information was shared:

- Raw vegetable and Meat processing facilities range in size from roughly 5,000-50,000 square feet.
- Meat processors annually produce 52,000-7,000,000 pounds of raw product; Raw vegetable, value added producers did not provide any information about their output.
- The size of the facility also contributes to the number of employees on staff, ranging from 4-47 at a given facility.
- The majority of product for processing comes from supplies outside of the demographic area, but all of the respondents did report using at least “some local suppliers.”

### Food Processing Capacity Limits

For local growers or foodies who are engaged in, or want to start a value added food line, the cost of leasing or purchasing a licensed commercial kitchen is most often beyond their financial means. To offset investment costs for value added food production, ideas such as renting a commercial processing space, a commercial restaurant kitchen, or using a church or school facility are sometimes considered as good options.

To understand more about the possibilities for expanding value added processing in Salt Lake City, commercial food processors within the City limits, and the Salt Lake City School District were asked, “In the future, would it be possible for a local small or medium local sized producer to be able to contract with your facility to process raw or value added product?”

Based on the responses of Salt Lake City commercial operators, the prospects of any opportunity for renting either of these types of facilities in Salt Lake are completely limited. Commercial processing facilities reported being heavily regulated, by the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Salt Lake County Health Department, and the State Department of Agriculture, and companies hire third party inspectors to come in and ensure that they are within compliance as well.

In anonymous interviews, local processors shared detailed
information about capacity limitations, as well as regulations and standards for food safety and security. One meat processor reported that the USDA may come through his facility several times a day, and that letting somebody else use the machinery would compromise the safe food practices already put in place by their company. A raw vegetable processor who was interviewed with had similar concerns regarding the community health issues which could arise from an outside party using their facility.

Overall, these interviews show that public food safety concerns and potential business impacts along with security and food borne cross contamination were considered extremely high consequences for any outside party to use local commercial processing facilities.

When speaking with the Salt Lake City School District regarding opportunities for utilizing kitchens, several areas of limitation were stated. Regulation of uses, safety, staffing and liability insurance were red flags which prohibit sharing or renting school district kitchens. On most weekdays, the Salt Lake City School District is fully staffed and operating three large “pod kitchens” which prepare foods such as chili, soups and other cook and chill school breakfast and lunch food that is distributed to district schools. In addition to the 3 pod kitchens, each school has it’s own kitchen where food that can be prepared and cooked within a 20 minutes timeframe. The District kitchens are working at full capacity, where regular staff prepare, cook and serve Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The school district maintains strict rules about the use of it’s facilities for public use, and is conscious about limiting the rental, or sharing of it’s kitchen space for school or community special events and is purposeful about staying out of private sector enterprise.

Concerns for processing at School District kitchens include:

- As a matter of District policy, school space is not rented out on a long-term basis
- School District policy directs that the rental times are available on a week-to-week basis
- School uses always have priority over all others for kitchen facility use
- Health code restrictions limit access
- A school district kitchen manager always has to be present when a school kitchen is in operation.
- Liability and insurance is for school district
- Concern with not wanting to compete with existing or future commercial enterprise
- Kitchen equipment was provided through federal funding with school use in mind

As an important element of urban agriculture, the City’s household food gardening and in home food processing represents the smallest scale of agriculture and processing in Salt Lake City.
Salt Lake City: Home Grown Processing

Although Salt Lake City is the state’s largest urban center, a unique carry over from the city’s traditional past are small and moderate sized homes located on lots with large front and back yards. Even into the 21st century, a sizeable majority of residents still live in homes with medium and large sized backyards where they have adequate space to grow their own food. Regardless of whether home grown food is processed for a value added enterprise, or for family use, this type of food use serves to expand and strengthen Salt Lake City’s community food system by increasing the availability of affordable, nutritious food.

Cottage Food Businesses

For many emerging food entrepreneurs, the opportunity to start up a small, home food based business, commonly referred to as a cottage food business, proves to be just the right place from which to develop and launch their very own unique product. For food processors who cannot, or do not want to invest in a commercial kitchen, establishing their food business in their primary residence, using their own home kitchen equipment, provides an avenue for gaining entry into the market place by testing and ramping up their business from home.

A cottage food business owner has the opportunity to develop and process a wide variety of value added products in their home kitchen. Examples of non-potentially hazardous value added foods which can be prepared in a home food business include a variety of baked goods – (without cream, custard or meat fillings) jams, jellies, other spreads, hard boiled eggs, nut mixes, popcorn, mustards, pickles, candies, teas, spices and dehydrated produce.

To get started, all cottage food businesses must be compliant with State and local regulations. In addition to understanding what can be developed and processed in a residential kitchen, a cottage food business owner must understand to whom and where they can sell their product. Within the demographic range, cottage food businesses can sell direct to consumers at places like farmers markets, roadside stands, in private homes and at non profit/charitable events.

Cottage food industry is regulated at the State level and of the States within Salt Lake City’s food shed, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming each have laws establishing rules and conditions for home food business enterprise. Food safety is paramount, and the necessary safe food rules for inspection, handling, processing and labeling of cottage food products are spelled out clearly for each State. Although varied in rigorousness, similar standards for each of these three States include requirements for business registration/naming, demonstrating food safety knowledge, and product labeling with nutritional content. Additionally, Utah specific requirements stipulates that home food
business owners to cook for themselves, disallows free roaming pets, keep samples for fourteen days, and requires that any recipe changes be approved by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

Given one’s ability to meet specific State standards, using one’s home kitchen can be a great environment to kick-start, test and improve on a retail food product. In 2013, Salt Lake City has seven registered cottage food businesses in operation. In Salt Lake City, a particular challenge faced by successful cottage food producers becomes how to ramp up to the next business level when product demand outpaces the capacity of the home kitchen.

For cottage food entrepreneur’s who are growing, existing options for a next stage, business expansion is limited. Because of shared use constraints, Salt Lake City’s cottage food businesses who need and want to expand will likely have to find a willing commercial restaurant kitchen, or locate the rare commercial processing facility who is willing to rent space. In Salt Lake City’s food market, the possibility of renting restaurant space or a processing facility to grow a value added business will usually mean limiting one’s own production hours to the primary owner’s non-operating hours. Frequently, the times when shared rentals are available may be late at night, or in the middle of the night. The other, more costly option is for expanding the value added business by buying or, leasing one’s own commercial kitchen processing facility.

In Salt Lake City, a mid range step is needed for cottage business owners, and other food entrepreneurs to begin and grow their business in an environment that supports the greatest chance for developing and marketing a quality product with financial success. Steps can be taken to integrate emerging food businesses into an overall local food network where capacity building for unique local food enterprise is developed by forming linkages to local producers, and where appropriate food infrastructure grows opportunity for entry into the processing, production, and distribution market.

**Processing for the Home**

As part of its traditional land use past, Salt Lake City’s larger backyards were plotted with the intention of having families grow vegetable gardens and fruit trees to supplement them through the growing season, and for processing or ‘canning’ to help get through the next winter. Today, as in the past, there is an interest by some residents to grow family food for home processing. In addition to home kitchen canning, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints operates a community processing kitchen in Salt Lake City which is available for use by city residents to preserve their own food for non-commercial use.
Conclusion

The challenge of advancing a sustainable food system includes enhancing opportunity for local growers to increase production and to facilitate an appropriately scaled distribution and processing network benefiting producers, distributors, processors, retailers and consumers. Based on this food assessment, small and medium growers within the Salt Lake foodshed value their profession, but are sometimes frustrated by a host of external constraints that are barriers to expanding the flow of local food within the community. Among the limitations to bringing more local food to Salt Lake City is the fact that small and medium sized regional growers face the demand of bringing their own product directly to market.

While direct to market, or grower-distributor may have some value for growers participating in farmers markets and CSAs, it is time consuming, energy intensive, is subject to the cost of vehicle and fuel costs, and lacks connection to retail outlets where most consumers make food purchases.

In Utah alone 80% of farms are family owned and are categorized as small or medium sized farms, and in the 250 mile food shed area, the total number of farms are also small and medium sized. Identifying ways to bring more local food to Salt Lake City customers is an important step in strengthening the food system. Strategic evaluation of the potential for scaling up a mid sized regional food distribution system that may increase business, transportation and environmental efficiencies, as well as improve the availability of local food by enhancing connections between growers and retailers.

In addition to the need for logistics evaluation and planning, there is a serious shortage of commercial processing space available for emerging or small to mid sized raw and value added entrepreneurs. Because existing facilities are at capacity, and kitchen sharing opportunities are limited, it appears that there is a significant amount of room to expand the food value chain in Salt Lake City by developing partnerships that support culinary incubators that can be used to create a wide range of interesting and appealing food.

To further facilitate access and growth of local products in the Salt Lake City marketplace, partnership building, additional facility improvements, like financing for cooling systems and technical/educational business training in pricing, marketing, labeling, safe food handling, quality assurance and customer satisfaction will be needed to facilitate food system transformations.
How and what is consumed can tell a lot about a local food system. On a daily basis, consumer food choices are influenced by many factors including: taste, time, food affordability and availability, health, culture, and personal habits. In a single day, consumers are more than overwhelmed by food choices, planning, budgeting and nutrition to the extent that an average American consumer may make over 200 food decisions a day (Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, 2009).

To develop a more complete local food system, individual and community experiences are important to help construct an dynamic food environment. Understanding overall consumer trends, along with gaining insight into Salt Lake consumer preferences, what local consumers think about their local food market, and where they access food, combine together to inform possibilities for an integrated and robust community food environment.
Dialogue on Local Food

One way of discovering valuable ideas about local food is through community conversation and knowledge sharing. To learn more about Salt Lake City residents’ interest in their food culture, during the summer of 2012 residents were invited to join in a “Community Dialogue on Local Food Accessibility, Affordability, Health, and Local Opportunity.” A total of three separate sessions were held, two at the Salt Lake City Main Library, and one at the Neighborworks Salt Lake Center. At these community meetings, residents shared their thoughts about the existing local food environment, as well as added their hopes and ambitions for how the city could develop a stronger, and more interesting local food system.

In addition to community meetings, a food assessment survey was offered to complete online, in person at a local library, or in adult education classroom. This extensive survey offered valuable input and provided greater understanding of food values and consumption among Salt Lake City residents. The survey ran from February 2012 – September 2012.

Consumer Food Sources

Recent national analysis of consumer food at home purchases during the years from 1998-2006 show that consumers buy less healthful food at supercenters when compared to supermarket purchases. In places where there is a 1% increase in supercenter market share, there is also a statistically significant decrease in the purchase of healthy groceries (Volpe, Okrent, Halstay, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, 2013).

Food-at-home sales by type of outlet, 2000-11

The share of food sales at nontraditional food retailers continued to increase relative to the share at traditional foodstores.

Source: USDA, ERS, Food Expenditure Tables: Table 14.
Consumer information from the Salt Lake City Food Survey, taken by residents from February through September 2012, provides a snapshot of at-home purchasing outlet choices for the local community.

Local survey results show that a majority of Salt Lake respondents make frequent food purchases, weekly and two or more times per month. Consistent with national trends, food purchasing at non-traditional outlets is high, with 60% of Salt Lake survey respondents making at least once monthly purchases at nontraditional locations.

When asked about buying locally grown fruits and vegetables, slightly more than one-third (36%) made these purchases from farmers markets, another third (32%) from supermarkets. Much smaller percentage of purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables were made from CSA’s (12%), Supercenters (7%) and fruit and vegetable stands (5%).

**SLC Public Survey:** Do you currently get food from any of the following food sources? Check all that apply.

**SLC Public Survey:** Which location do you most often purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables?

Because Salt Lake City has significant influence over the location of all types of food retail outlets within the city, in the future, it will be very important for Salt Lake City and its health agency partners to evaluate the relationship between food outlet type, food purchases and health outcomes for Salt Lake City neighborhood residents.

**Farmers Markets**

Salt Lake City is home to an expanding farmer’s market arena. The Downtown Farmers Market, Salt Lake City’s first farmers market, opened in 1992. In 2012 there were a total of 8 markets throughout the city. These eight farmers markets draw on farmers who come from 14 different counties within the Salt Lake City food shed region (250 miles).

During the months from June to October, there are seven markets open, operating five days per week. In the winter, there is one market open several times during the season. The Downtown Market has several “pop-up” winter markets which operate at a different location each month. There are no farmers markets operating on either Mondays or Wednesdays.

**Farm Counties of Origin Within SLC Foodshed (250 mi) Delivering to Farmers Markets in SLC Area (2012)**

**SLC Public Survey:**

*What are the top three places where you shop for fresh produce?*


---

The top three locations for all produce purchases, regardless of production origin are first supermarkets, second farmers markets and third, with an equal share buying from neighborhood grocery stores and specialty food markets.
The consumer need for fresh and healthy food occurs at all income levels. While Salt Lake City has expanding farmers markets and CSAs, this map and the map on page 42 show that there are location gaps in this type fresh food access, especially in areas with moderate and higher levels of poverty.

**SLC Farmers Markets**

**Winter Market**  
900 West North Temple

**Sugar House Farmer’s Market**  
Sugar House Park, 84106

**Campus Edible Gardens Market**  
& University of Utah Farmer’s Market  
Tanner Plaza at the Union 84112

**SLC Downtown Farmer’s Market**  
Pioneer Park 84101

**People’s Market**  
Int’l Peace Gardens 1000 S. 900 W.  
84114

**Downtown Tuesday Farmer’s Market**  
327 S 500 E, 84101

**IRC Farmers Stand**

**Westminster College Farm Stand**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmers Markets</th>
<th># of farms attending</th>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THURS</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Peoples Market</td>
<td>variable</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2. Downtown Tuesdays Market</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. University of Utah ( &amp; Edibles Stand)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Westminster College Farm Stand</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Sugar House Farmers Market</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. International Refugee Farmers Stand</td>
<td>variable</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. SLC Downtown Farmers Market</td>
<td>87</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Winter Market (Utah State Fairpark)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Support Agriculture (CSAs) provide consumers and farmers with a mutually beneficial direct to market relationship. Unlike large scale farms who produce one or two main crops, CSA farms grow a wide variety of crops that are generally available from May to October. By continuously planting throughout the growing season, CSA farmers grow and sell a delicious range of foods for their members.

While each CSA operates in its own way, a majority of them have pick-up locations around the city. A few CSAs provide produce choice for the consumer by providing options at the Downtown Farmers Market. Members pick up their weekly share at the farmers' food stand at the market, allowing them to select the produce they want to purchase.

Source: 2011 Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Annual Report
Traveling to Get Food

Transportation is one of many ways to evaluate food access in Salt Lake City. Access to supermarkets and the food that people want to buy may be complicated by mobility restrictions. In neighborhood areas that are underserved by supermarkets, or other fresh food opportunity, transportation barriers such as low or no vehicle availability, inconvenient transit, the expense of taxi service and walking distance of greater than ¼ mile pose risk to healthy food opportunity. Many individuals and families on a tight or limited budget may find the cost of paying for public transit or taxi service an expense that may mean reducing quantity or quality of food.

The adjacent map shows Salt Lake City household automobile ownership by census tract, as well as adjacent transit availability for each of the 16 supermarkets throughout the city. The lighter colors point to areas of lower vehicle ownership and darker colors show areas of higher ownership. In the middle of the city, the downtown district has low auto ownership, and with ongoing bus and light rail changes, also has the highest concentration and frequency of transit service.

Salt Lake City has four neighborhoods with low supermarket access and lower income. Three of these neighborhoods, a section of Popular Grove (from 1-80 to 600 South between Redwood Road 900 West), West Capital Hill (in the area from the northern city boundary to North Temple, and 400 West to 200 West) and a part of the Ball Park Neighborhood (from 800 South to 1300 South, and State Street to 400 East) all have low vehicle ownership. Despite the fact that significant transit investment has been made in Salt Lake City since 1999, residents in these neighborhoods may still be challenged by limited intra neighborhood transit service for supermarket shopping and transit cost. Difficulties using transit in these areas may include, infrequent service limited hours of operation, and/or no service on weekends. An added difficulty, especially for those shopping for families, may be carrying grocery bags safely on and off buses.

Policies that link planning to healthy food availability with transportation planning will be important to make sure that all residents have fair and complete food access. Coordinated efforts by multiple city departments and partners to develop strategies, incentives and opportunities for expanding fresh food venues in lower access, lower income and lower mobility access areas will help grow Salt Lake City residents have healthy food access, build community cultural connections, support neighborhood entrepreneurial opportunity.
For all income groups in Salt Lake City, household food dollars spent on daily and weekly snacking may increasingly be redirecting food dollars toward spending and consumption on high calorie, low nutrient foods. In the 30 year period from 1978-2008, the average number of snacks consumed per day by American adults doubled, with an increase from 59 to 90 percent. For all adults, those 60 and over consume the fewest total calories, including from overall food calories and from snacking. (USDA, ARS) When compared with children from the late 1970’s who consumed about one snack per day, children in 2012 consume almost three snacks a day. (USDA, ERS)

Snacking during the day is associated with consuming more calories along with less of most nutrients. Frequently, the types of snacks both children and adults are choosing to eat are of poor nutritional quality that are high in calories, fat, sugar and salt. In Salt Lake City, diet related health impacts are on the rise and future steps which encourage and guide the substitution of fruit or vegetable snacks for common high calorie low nutrient snack foods will help increase fruit and vegetable consumption, increase daily nutrition and support overall reduction of calories consumed.

If they are made available in a wide variety of venues throughout the City, fruits and vegetable snacks can become appealing, healthful, and tasty food choices may help all of Salt Lake achieve 5 A Day success. The chart to the left shows how choosing to substitute 1.1 ounces of potato chips (109 calories) with ½ cup of strawberries, (27 calories), or grapes (58 calories) or carrots (22) significantly reduces calorie intake.
Food at Home

Overall food choice is influenced by many factors, and both the national and Salt Lake City level, national data show taste is the biggest factor and health a less important factor when people consider when, how often and where they eat.

Although a healthy or poor diet can be purchased at various income levels, greater personal wealth affords the consumer an easier path to purchasing and consuming a broader range of food types, which includes a more diverse selection of fruit and vegetables. In areas where food at home spending is less, challenges with affordability may limit the range of healthy food, but not necessarily the overall healthfulness. The ability to spend more on food at home does not guarantee a more nutritious food selection. It may indicate healthful purchases, or it may indicate that a consumer has simply purchased more food, higher priced food, poor in nutrition foods, and/or may be wasting more food overall.

Across all income categories, at home food dollars are not translating into ideal fruit and vegetable consumption for individuals. By an overwhelming 92%, Salt Lake survey respondents said that food taste together with healthy choice guides their household food purchases. This response was followed by a trailing 21% who said food taste alone guide their household food purchases.

SLC Public Survey: Which of the following guide your household food purchase?

Consumer attitudes about the purchase of local and organic food are another driver for food at home shopping. The demand for organic foods, especially fruits and vegetables, continues to grow nationwide and Salt Lake City has been identified as an area with high consumer demand for organic products. (USDA/ERS 2005) When buying organic food, most consumers buy local and organics in supermarkets, direct to consumer venues, or specialty stores. While meeting demand for these products will continue to be an important factor in enhancing the local retail market, for Salt Lake consumers with reduced buying power, the premium pricing of organic and locally grow foods may be beyond a realistic food at home budget.

**SLC Public Survey:** Which local foods do you purchase?

![SLC Public Survey Graph](image)


From the local survey, Salt Lake City residents are more likely to purchase local fruits and vegetables when compared to other local fresh products. Eggs and honey rank closely together as second most preferred local products, with a majority of people stating that they buy local dairy as part of their food purchases.
More Americans than ever enjoy meals away from home. Although food consumption away from home is on the rise, in 2009, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that across all income groups, consumers still spend more on food at home than food away from home. For all income groups, eating dinner away from home accounted for the largest share of weekly food away from home, with lunch as the second highest eating out expenditure. For low to moderate income consumers, a higher percent—approximately 70% for low income consumers—of total food dollars available is spent on food at home, while high income consumers spend an almost equal amount between food at home and food away from home. (BLS 2009)

Food secure consumers may spend more money on food away from home, but that does not necessarily translate into better nutrition. Salt Lake consumers who eat away from home frequently are more likely to eat less fruits and vegetables, and are likely to eat food that is higher in both sodium and fat.

Households earning a pretax income of $93,784 or above spent more on average than the combined total spent by households in the first three income groups.
In October 2010, goods in a typical shopping basket, such as meats, vegetables and fruits, dairy products, and other items, varied in price. Potato chips, a favorite snack food for many people, were more expensive per pound than typical meal staples such as turkey, broccoli, bread, and chicken. Around the holidays, many Americans plan feasts that usually include a meat. Uncooked steak is more expensive than the combined price for ham and turkey, per pound.

**636 Salt Lake City Restaurants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Service Restaurants</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited Service Restaurants</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snack Bar / Ice Cream</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafeteria Buffet</td>
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<td>Pizza</td>
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<td>Prepared Food Shop</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tavern/Club</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakery</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The amount Salt Lake City consumers spent on food away from home and restaurant dining is closely associated with national expenditures and is reflected in household income by census tract, where higher income consumers spend the greatest average dollars on food away from home.

**Food Away From Home Average Spending per Household by Census Tract (2010)**

Meals at Restaurants/Other (Average) by Census Tract 2010.

**National Expenditure Share on Food Groups, 2006**

- **Nonalcoholic Carbonated Beverages**: 36%
- **Fruit Juice**: 14%
- **Whole and Reduced-fat Milk**: 16%
- **Low-fat and Fat-free Milk**: 14%
- **Water**: 9%

*Source: USDA, Economic Research*
Since 1894, the US Department of Agriculture has gathered and published information on a nutritious, economical diet for average American male who engages in a moderate amount of activity. Currently, the USDA Household Food Basket includes four different meal plans, the Thrifty Plan, Low Cost Food Plan, Moderate Cost Food Plan and Liberal Plan to show important nutritional and economic food costs, and it is the basis for representing the average food basket for Salt Lake City residents. Each of these food plans is used to create a market basket of types and quantities of food for 15 different age/gender groups for children from 1-11 years old and for males and females from age 12 through mature adults at different spending capabilities. Tailored to meet the needs of Americans of different ages and genders, and income levels, the plans present a nutritious diets which include food from fruits and vegetables, grains, dairy, meats and beans, and other foods like fats and oils categories.

By modeling US nutritional standards, with the National Health and Nutrition Survey, (NHANES) and Neilsen Homescan food data, the food baskets are a close average representation of America’s real eating patterns combined with healthy diets and cost considerations. Because average consumption of fruits and vegetable is below minimum dietary standards, and fats, added sugars and salt are above dietary standards, the food plans are adjusted to meet recommended consumption for these food groups. ¹

The food baskets and meal plans are designed as a guide to help people of various incomes realistically achieve healthful eating within a food spending budget. The Thrifty Food Plan serves as the

[Graph showing consumption of food by age and gender for different meal plans]
The nutritional basis for each of the plans is based on a combined analysis of federal standards for Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA), Adequate Intake (AI) Acceptable Macronutrient Distribution ranges (AMDR), Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the MyPyramid food intake recommendations. To determine the market baskets food quantity, nutrition and cost, actual food consumption and nutrition content of 58 food categories and 4,152 food types was obtained through the National Health and Nutrition Survey (NHANES) survey of food consumed by Americans combined with the Neilsen Homescan food price data base on food consumed.

Food expenditures for bankrupt individuals are often formulated by bankruptcy courts using the Low Cost Food Plan, and many divorce courts use the Food Plans to set alimony payments. Another way the food plans are used is by the Department of Defense, who uses the values of the Liberal Food to determine the Basic Allowance for Subsistence for military members. Finally, the Low Cost, Moderate and Liberal Cost Food Plans are used by the USDA and States to set family child support guidelines and foster care payments. (United States Department of Agriculture, USDA and Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, CNPP)

**Monthly Cost, USDA Meal Plans by Age, Gender**

**SLC Public Survey:** How many servings of fresh fruit and vegetables do you eat per day?

**Source:** IBIS and SLC Public Survey

1. The nutritional basis for each of the plans is based on a combined analysis of federal standards for Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA), Adequate Intake (AI) Acceptable Macronutrient Distribution ranges (AMDR), Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the MyPyramid food intake recommendations. To determine the market baskets food quantity, nutrition and cost, actual food consumption and nutrition content of 58 food categories and 4,152 food types was obtained through the National Health and Nutrition Survey (NHANES) survey of food consumed by Americans combined with the Neilsen Homescan food price data base on food consumed.
To determine a rough estimate of the quantity of the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables needed to feed Salt Lake City residents in one year, two separate sets of estimates were created. The first estimate is for recommended pounds of vegetables and fruits using the USDA Low Cost, Moderate Cost and Liberal Food Plans. Consumption amounts of fruits and vegetable pounds per year was calculated from the 16-year old and above population, based on estimates from the 2012 American Community Survey, and assumes a moderate level of exercise per person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LOW COST PLAN</th>
<th>MODERATE COST PLAN</th>
<th>LIBERAL COST PLAN</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables, LBS/week</td>
<td>7.28</td>
<td>8.95</td>
<td>10.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits, LBS/week</td>
<td>7.19</td>
<td>7.37</td>
<td>10.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This estimation is based on the 5 A Day Dietary Recommendation for Fruits (2 servings per day) and Vegetables (3 servings per day), and is calculated based on the 2012 Salt Lake City adult population.
Conclusion

There are many factors influencing the food choices that consumers consider healthful. Salt Lake City’s best efforts at assuring access to tasty, variable, affordable, and healthy food, and support for a wide range of consumers will best be approached through efforts that support consumer choice in neighborhood areas throughout the entire city. Special attention should be given to creating plans and policies that support healthy, diverse food choices in lower access areas, as well as areas where people recreate and enjoy leisure activity.

Community Dialogue - How Can Salt Lake City Improve the Food System?

- Culinary Kitchen – for new culinary business opportunity and to expand the economy
- Develop a food hub
- Food education in all schools and the community
- Chef’s to Schools, School Gardens
- Space and funding for more urban farms, including in neighborhoods
- Support health and the economy by getting local food in hospitals, universities, Senior Centers, and local government
- Create edible neighborhoods
- Create opportunities to grow year round with green houses and hoop houses
- Mayor Becker should have his own demonstration garden
- Salt Lake City Mayor to help market and promote Salt Lake City farmers and local grocers
- Parade of home gardens
- Use vacant City land for gardens
- Employee programs to eat local food
- Help with planning and budgeting for healthy food
- No sales tax on fresh fruit and vegetables
- Water bill breaks for urban farmers and gardeners
- Get more people into gardening
- Improve air quality through local farming
- Develop school food waste programs
- Composting in every neighborhood
- Provide funding for local farmers
- Opportunity to buy direct from SLC farmers
- “Neighborhood Calle de Comidas, where fruit trees line the streets”
- Create a food system that works with the natural environment
- Improve health by expanding community cultural traditions
- More vegetarian food and fresh produce in the City
With 1 in 6 households in Utah struggling to afford enough food, food security is a serious issue across the state and in Salt Lake City. Because of this, local community nutrition is significantly impacted by food resources for sub-populations in the community. Several "at-risk" populations rely on the broader community for providing food at some point in their lives. Many community organizations exist with the primary purpose of providing food to various populations in Salt Lake City. How these organizations are supported can influence the availability of food for large segments of the population.

Food support programs generally fall into two categories: 1) emergency food, and 2) food assistance. While emergency food programs provide temporary relief to a household in a crisis situation, food assistance is a more long-term solution to households relying on social programs to provide enough food to eat. Since the start of the 2008 economic recession, food assistance demand has grown nationwide, as well as in Utah. A major increase in the working poor relying on food assistance has been impacting all programs.

**Emergency Food Resources**

**Catholic Community Services (CCS)** CCS operates two emergency food locations in Salt Lake City. The Good Samaritan program, located in the rectory of the Cathedral of the Madeleine distributes thousands of sack lunches and other material goods Monday through Friday. Additionally, CCS operates the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, which serves hot lunch meals every week of the year, Monday through Friday. St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen also serves a hot evening meal called Dinner at Vinnie’s. These dinner meals are served 365 days a year. In 2010 St. Vincent’s lunch program served 224,916 meals and Dinner at Vinnie’s served an average of 308,500 meals per year.
Salt Lake County Community Action Program

This program consists of emergency pantries around the valley. Persons in need of food can come to these pantries and get food items. Salt Lake City has one of the five distribution sites. In total, the Community Action Plan helped 149,484 people in 2008.

Crossroads Urban Center

This local program has an emergency pantry located in Salt Lake City to help people get emergency food in an emergency. In 2010, Crossroads Urban Center helped 18,801 households, totaling 40,410 people.

In Salt Lake City, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS Church) provides food assistance to over 150 people a day for low income mothers and children. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints provides food assistance to over 150 people a day for low income mothers and children.

WIC

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is aimed at providing nutrition to low income mothers and children. WIC was established in 1972 to address the nutritional needs of low-income women, infants, and children. The program provides food assistance, health education, and referrals to health care.

Federal Food Assistance Programs

SNAP

This program is known in Utah as Food Stamps, but is known federally as The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This is the largest program in the United States, with over 40 million participants who received some $65 billion in assistance in 2010 alone. SNAP focuses on providing assistance to persons of all ages who are members of low income households. In Utah, there are 131 SNAP retailers throughout the state, with over 40 million participants in the program. This program provides people with a type of card that they can purchase items directly from food stores, with the aim that they can increase their purchasing power to obtain nutritious food items. In 2010, 83% of the program was distributed directly through retailers, with the remaining 17% of card transactions directly from grocery stores.

In December 2011, there were 2,278,971 participants in this program. Of these, 75% were members of low income households. In addition, the program provides nutrition education, counseling, and referrals to health care providers.

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In Salt Lake City, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS Church) provides food assistance to over 150 people a day for low income mothers and children.

Food Assistance for Disaster Relief

This program provides emergency food to organizations such as the Red Cross in the event of a disaster such as an earthquake, hurricane, or wildfire. In 2011, the program helped 1 million people nationwide. The distribution frequently shifts because the program only helps areas where disasters have taken place.

Federal Food Assistance Programs

SNAP

This program is known in Utah as Food Stamps, but is known federally as The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This is the largest program in the United States, with over 40 million participants who received some $65 billion in assistance in 2010 alone. SNAP focuses on providing assistance to persons of all ages that are members of low income households. In Utah in 2010, there were 283,971 participants in this program, yet only 56% of eligible Utah participants received some $65 billion in assistance. This is the largest program in the United States, with over 40 million participants in the program. The program provides food assistance to persons of all ages who are members of low income households. In Utah in 2010, there were 283,971 participants in this program, yet only 56% of eligible Utah participants received some $65 billion in assistance. This is the largest program in the United States, with over 40 million participants in the program. The program provides food assistance to persons of all ages who are members of low income households. In Utah in 2010, there were 283,971 participants in this program, yet only 56% of eligible Utah participants received some $65 billion in assistance. This is the largest program in the United States, with over 40 million participants in the program. The program provides food assistance to persons of all ages who are members of low income households. In Utah in 2010, there were 283,971 participants in this program, yet only 56% of eligible Utah participants received some $65 billion in assistance. This is the largest program in the United States, with over 40 million participants in the program. The program provides food assistance to persons of all ages who are members of low income households. In Utah in 2010, there were 283,971 participants in this program, yet only 56% of eligible Utah participants received some $65 billion in assistance.
age five. It provides these families with vouchers and/or means to purchase approved nutrient rich food and formula directly from grocers and supermarkets. WIC had over 9.17 million participants in 2010, with 2.15 million using the WIC program directly at farmers markets. There were 80,244 participants in the WIC program in Salt Lake County in January of 2012. WIC is not an entitlement program. It is funded by an annual congressional grant.

**NSLP** The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally supplemented program that allows school children to get food at school. Parents pay for their children to participate in the program, and where circumstances allow, they may qualify for either a reduced lunch cost or a free lunch all together. This is a national program, with some 31 million daily participants in 2010. Salt Lake City had 26,380 students participate on a daily basis in 2011.

**SBP** The School Breakfast Program allows school aged children to get breakfast at school. While any child can participate, the program aims to support poor and low income students who might not get breakfast at home. It operates similar to the NSLP, where students can purchase breakfast, and qualifying students can get either reduced cost or free breakfast. In 2010, there were 11.6 million students participating daily. In Salt Lake City there were nearly 1 million breakfasts served in 2010, with a daily average of 5,287 students served.

**SFSP** Summer Food Service Programs keep school cafeterias open year round to provide nutritious meals to students. The program operates similar to the NSLP, where students can pay for lunch, or if they qualify, pay a reduced rate or get a free lunch. In 2010, 2 million students participated in this program.

**Special Milk Program** This federal program provides reimbursements to schools and child care facilities for the milk they serve. The program targets children 19 and younger. Institutions may qualify for reimbursements of milk served if they do not participate in other school meal programs. This program has been steadily declining in the number of pints of milk it paid for since the peak in 1969 when the program covered 3 billion pints of milk. By contrast, in 2010, the program covered 72 million pints of milk. This is due in part to flat funding.

**Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program** This federal program is aimed at providing a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables to children eating meals at schools. This program began as a pilot in 2002 and has been gradually expanding every year. In the 2011/2012 school year, the program will give $158 million in assistance to schools that participate. Utah’s allotment was $2,264,162 in assistance for this program in 2011. Currently there are 15 elementary schools in Salt Lake City that participate.
**Utah Food Bank:** List of SLC Pantries

The Utah Food Bank solicits donations and provides food for pantries around the state. Several pantries supplied by the Utah Food Bank are located in Salt Lake City:

- **Salvation Army SLC Pantry**
  679 S. Main Street

- **House of Prayer**
  829 S. 200 W.

- **Lutheran Social Services of Utah**
  4392 S 900 E

- **St. Marks Hildegards**
  231 E. 100 S.

- **Northwest C.A.P.**
  1300 W. 300 N.

- **Reach of SLC**
  1235 W. California Avenue

- **Utah AIDS Foundation**
  1408 S. 1100 E.

- **Rescue Mission - SLC**
  463 S. 400 W.

- **Crossroads Urban Center**
  347 S. 400 E.

- **St. Pauls Food Pantry**
  261 S S. 900 E.

**Child and Adult Care Program (CACF)**  This federal program provides reimbursement to child care and adult care facilities for providing nutritious meals. The program pays the cost of meals for 3.2 million children and 112,000 adults daily. Utah has 326 participating locations and served an average of 15,049 people a day.

**After School Snack Program (ASSP)**  Provides children with USDA approved snacks to children at some 27,000 after school programs and child care facilities nationwide. In 2010 the program cost $156 million. In 2011, Utah served 927,514 snacks in 135 locations.

**Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)**  This program supplies nutrient rich food to mothers and children up to age 5 and also to seniors. The program is similar to WIC, but instead of giving a way to buy food, CSFP distributes food directly to participants. The program averaged 518,000 monthly users nationwide. Most of whom were low-income Seniors; only 21,000 of the participants were women, infants, and children.

**WIC Farmers Market Program**  This program allows WIC users to purchase food directly from growers at farmers markets. This program did not include Utah in 2011.

**Local Participation in Food Assistance Programs**

- **Utah Food Bank for Seniors** - This service provides seniors with food delivered to their door from the Utah Food Bank. In Salt Lake County there are 2,600 seniors receiving this service each month.

- **Meals on Wheels**  This program delivers prepared meals to homebound seniors. The program has one kitchen in Salt Lake County.

- **Backpack Program**  This program targets children that might not have access to regular meals over the weekend. The program gives children a backpack at the end of the school week filled with easy to open and prepare foods to help them last over the weekend. In 2012 the program provided 17,864 backpacks to these children.

- **Kids Café**  This program provides an evening meal on weeknights for children in low income areas around Salt Lake County. These meals are served out of school cafeterias, community centers and after school programs. Approximately 1,300 meals are served on weeknights.

- **Salt Lake Senior Center Lunch Program**  This program provides seniors with lunch at senior centers. The program is administered by Salt Lake County. Salt Lake City has 5 participating senior centers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
<th>Range of Service</th>
<th>Number of locations</th>
<th>Number Served</th>
<th>Local Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National School Lunch Program NSLP</strong></td>
<td>Lunch and after school snacks in educational facilities</td>
<td>School-aged children</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>101,000</td>
<td>31 million daily (2010)</td>
<td>26,380 in Salt Lake City daily (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Breakfast Program SBP</strong></td>
<td>Breakfast served in educational facilities</td>
<td>School-aged children</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>88,000</td>
<td>11.6 million daily (2010)</td>
<td>985,399 breakfasts in 2010 (daily average 5,287)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Food Service Programs SFSP</strong></td>
<td>Serves meals (mostly in schools) while school is out.</td>
<td>Low income school-aged children</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>2 million (summer 2005)</td>
<td>2 million</td>
<td>466,695 in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women Infants &amp; Children WIC</strong></td>
<td>Voucher system</td>
<td>Child-bearing women and children up to age 5</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>8 in SL county/ 3 in SLC</td>
<td>9.17 million (2010)</td>
<td>80,244 in Salt Lake County in January 2012*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LDS Church Welfare Programs</strong></td>
<td>Church run food pantries</td>
<td>General population</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>138 storehouses worldwide</td>
<td>Over 500,000 meals (2012)</td>
<td>8,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catholic Community Services</strong></td>
<td>Soup Kitchens and food distribution</td>
<td>General population</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Over 500,000 meals (2012)</td>
<td>243 Gardeners in Salt Lake City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wasatch Community Gardens</strong></td>
<td>Gardens, backyard sharing</td>
<td>General population</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>7, 5 in Salt Lake City</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>243 Gardeners in Salt Lake City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program SNAP</strong></td>
<td>Electronic bank transfer cards to pay for food</td>
<td>General population</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>283,971 in Utah (2011)</td>
<td>22,780 in Dec 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WIC Farmers Market Prog./ WIC Senior Farmers Market Prog.</strong></td>
<td>Voucher system redeemable at farmers markets</td>
<td>Child-bearing women and children up to age 5 / Low income adults who are 60+</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>*no presence in Utah in 2011</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program</strong></td>
<td>Serve fresh produce in schools</td>
<td>School aged children</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>15 in SLC</td>
<td>$2,264,162 2011/2012 school year.</td>
<td>8,970 students in Salt Lake School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special Milk Program</strong></td>
<td>Milk distributed to schools that do not participate in the NSLP</td>
<td>School aged children</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>9 in Utah</td>
<td>72 million half pints of milk served in 2010</td>
<td>0 in Salt Lake School District 125,400 in Utah in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child and Adult Care Program</strong></td>
<td>Provides reimbursements for day care facilities for meals served to enrolled persons</td>
<td>School aged children / impaired or 60+ adults</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>326 in Utah</td>
<td>3.2 million children daily 112,000 adults daily</td>
<td>15,049 daily participants in Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Target Group</td>
<td>Range of Service</td>
<td>Number of locations</td>
<td>Number Served</td>
<td>Local Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Snack Program</td>
<td>Provides money for schools and child care facilities to serve snacks to kids</td>
<td>School aged children</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>27,000 nationally 135 in Utah</td>
<td>$156 million in 2010</td>
<td>927,514 Snacks served in Utah in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Assistance for Disaster Relief</td>
<td>Supplies relief organizations (such as the red cross) with food for emergency situations</td>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>*Not Available</td>
<td>1 million in 2011</td>
<td>*not available. This provides food for disasters and is highly irregular with distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake County Community Action Program</td>
<td>Emergency food distribution centers</td>
<td>General population</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>1 in SLC, with 5 centers in SL county</td>
<td>149,484 in SL county (2008)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah Food Bank for Seniors</td>
<td>Food Delivery</td>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>n/a delivery</td>
<td>2,600 in Salt Lake County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Urban Center</td>
<td>Pantry</td>
<td>General Population</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18,801 households</td>
<td>40,410 people (2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals on Wheels</td>
<td>Food Delivery</td>
<td>Homebound Seniors 60+</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>1 kitchen for SL County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Lake Senior Centers Lunch Program</td>
<td>Provides lunch at senior centers</td>
<td>Seniors 60+</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>5 in SLC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpack Program</td>
<td>Distributes food to children at school for weekend meals</td>
<td>School aged children</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>13 sites in school year, 5 in summer</td>
<td>17,864 meals annually for 600 Children</td>
<td>19,884 backpacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids Café</td>
<td>Weeknight meals served at schools</td>
<td>School aged children</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>29 School Year Sites and 16 summer sites</td>
<td>222,837 meals served</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)</td>
<td>Similar to WIC but distributes food directly.</td>
<td>Child-bearing women and children up to age 5 / Low income seniors</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>518,000 monthly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utahns Against Hunger</td>
<td>Political advocacy for food assistance.</td>
<td>State lawmakers</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Affordability and Household Food Security

The USDA defines food security as access by all people at all times to enough food for an active healthy life (USDA Community Food Security). Communities that are food secure make certain that people can acquire food in socially acceptable ways, and that all community members have food that is nutritional and safe.

The Salt Lake City Food Survey shows that the voluntary, self reporting survey participants were predominately a food secure group with 78% reporting that their household always has enough money to buy food. Households who occasionally lack money or foodstamps constituted 19% of responses, and 3% reported that their household often lacks money or foodstamps to buy food.

The USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion works in conjunction with other federal agencies in evaluating and publishing guides on four economic levels of healthy food baskets for Americans. Four official USDA meal plans represent a nutritious diet at four different cost levels. The plans include, the Thrifty plan, the Low – Cost plan, Moderate Cost plan and Liberal plan. The Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) represents a market basket of varied and nutritionally sound foods from which food stamp allotments are determined. Within this economical meal plan, food basket options are grouped into selections which contain either breads, cereals and other grain products (tortilla’s, pasta, etc.) milk products, fruits and vegetables, (fresh, frozen and canned), meats, fish and beans and other food items like spices, sugar, and baking goods.

To understand more about food security a survey team conducted a confidential in-store price assessment among selected Salt Lake City supermarkets. This study was carried out during the month of August 2012, and an in-store Thrifty Food Plan grocery shopping occurred October 2012. A total of 14 stores permitted the in store survey. The purpose of the study was aimed at finding out if low-income individuals or families in Salt Lake City, who are receiving full food stamp allotments are able to afford a healthy food market basket.

Meal Planning

Through a large consumer sampling process, coupled with nutrition advice, all of the USDA meal plans are designed to reflect a market basket of realistic food choices that people in the US population will eat at home. An important element of the four food plan market baskets is that they can be used as a helpful guide in purchasing healthy food at various income levels. For people on a low income, or a food stamp budget, the Thrifty Food Plan market basket is a useful resource for meal planning that assures a balanced, affordable diet. For the consumer, grocery shopping using the Thrifty Food

Food Stamps in Utah

YEARLY AVERAGE FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS SALT LAKE CITY HOUSEHOLDS (2012)

$297 AVERAGE FOOD STAMP ALLOCATION PER UTAH HOUSEHOLD (2012)

$668 MAXIMUM FAMILY OF FOUR MONTHLY FOOD STAMP ALLOCATION

$122 AVERAGE SINGLE ADULT MONTHLY FOOD STAMP ALLOCATION (2012)

$200 MAXIMUM SINGLE ADULT MONTHLY FOOD STAMP ALLOCATION (2012)
Plan assumes that all purchases are made at the most economical in store cost for each food choice.

In Utah, the full food stamp allotment for an individual adult is $200.00 per month, (- $50.00 per week of groceries), and $668.00, (- $167.00 per week) for a family of four. It is important to recognize that most individuals and families do not receive the maximum food stamp allotment if they earn any income. With even a small addition in household income, food stamp funding is reduced, and recipients must find other means to cover any food cost gap.

**Pricing Thrifty Food Plan Items**

To better evaluate the buying power and healthy eating opportunity of the Thrifty Food Plan on a food stamp budget, an in store food audit of 14 Salt Lake City supermarkets was conducted throughout the month of August 2012. The in-store survey evaluated and compared the price of a list of similar size and weight items, based on USDA Thrifty Food Plan food groups.

The Salt Lake City supermarket grocers assessment revealed that there were ten stores where some items were missing from the list. These items were scattered throughout the sampling of stores. These missing items would not seriously prevent a Thrifty Food Plan shopper from achieving menu selection success or absolutely compromise nutritional needs significantly; however, not having these items available could prove to be an additional challenge for budgeting and for food choice.

While all stores across the survey have a high frequency of food items, one item, **ground turkey, which is a lean meat choice, was found missing in four stores**. Ground pork and reduced sodium chicken bouillon cubes were found missing in three of the stores surveyed. These foods represent the highest number of missing items in the supermarkets, and indicate that overall, Salt Lake City food stamp recipients have access to a high level of thrifty food options.

Within the market basket, the cost of purchasing the entire fresh fruit category (bagged apples, bananas, grapes, melon and oranges) ranged from the most economical purchase at one store location of $3.42, to the high end one store purchase of $10.10, with an average of $5.73.

The cost of purchasing the entire fresh vegetable market basket, which included bagged, unpeeled carrots, celery, green peppers, lettuce, onions, tomatoes and potatoes, ranged from a low price in
store cost of $5.39 to the highest price location which cost $11.72. The average price of the full fresh vegetable basket across all stores was $6.66.

**Shopping the Thrifty Meal Plan**

To gain a complete understanding of the possibility of purchasing healthy and tasty food on food stamp budget, a complete Thrifty Food market basket was planned and purchased for a family of four using the full food stamp allotment as the budgetary guideline by the consultant. A grocery store was selected using the criteria that it was centrally located within a neighborhood, is served by two bus routes, and is within ¼ mile of most residents in the census tract.

Using the USDA Thrifty and low cost meal plan as a guide, the total time for planning a “grocery list” (market basket) was 1.5 hours. **Shopping from the thrifty meal plan list requires price checking every item, as well as evaluating low prices in conjunction with unit price for every purchase. A shopper who uses a thrifty plan must be skilled in their ability to shop for the most economical value based on weekly food planning, evaluation of cost, and unit price. To reach greater success in budgeting, they should prepare a weekly menu informed by in-store specials. In today’s convenience oriented world, shopping for the Thrifty Meal Plan is a time intensive process that increases overall preparation and shopping time. Shopping for the Salt Lake Thrifty Food Plan took one

**SLC Public Survey:** For those receiving food stamps, about how long do your monthly food stamps take care of household food needs?

![SLC Public Survey Chart](image)

At this point in time, it was possible to shop for a variety of healthy foods, including a wide selection of fruits and vegetables, within the food stamp budget for a family of four.
hour and 45 minutes.

The reward for using the meal plan resource guide to shop for value, flavor and nutrition, was being able to budget and shop within the food stamp weekly share for a family of four. At this point in time, it was possible to shop for a variety of healthy foods, including a wide selection of fruits and vegetables, within the food stamp budget for a family of four. The food purchased assumed planned meal preparation, very careful shopping, and at-home food preparation based on a weekly menu. The weekly menu was established using specific portions for each meal for each family member. For individuals or family members who are physically active, the Thrifty Food Plan, which is informed by average activity, will most likely be insufficient in providing enough calories for a healthy and physically active lifestyle.
FOOD WASTE

At the end of the food system is where the amount food we discard is found. We can classify our food waste into “consumable” and “non-consumable” waste. Consumable food is often donated by grocers or individuals to community food support organizations. Non-consumable waste often ends up in the landfill, but could be an un-tapped resource for production of compost for use by local producers.

Consumable Food Waste

Consumable food waste is food waste that could still be used by others. The Utah Food Bank and others market their services broadly to the community to request donations of consumable food for distribution to those in need.

In addition, the Utah Food Bank (UFB) operates a “grocery rescue” program throughout the state of Utah. This program teams the UFB with local grocers who have consumable food that has either passed its “best by” date, or is otherwise no longer saleable. Each week the UFB gathers donations from participating grocers, and delivers it immediately to local pantries where it is distributed to individuals and families in need of assistance as soon as possible.

Since its beginnings in 2006, the program has grown each year in scale and in the number of participating stores. In 2012, the program will collect and distribute nearly four million pounds of perishable food in Salt Lake County alone. The chart below shows the growth of the program over the last five fiscal years.

In 2012, the Utah Food Bank Grocery Rescue program will collect and distribute nearly four million pounds of perishable food in Salt Lake County alone.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>FY07</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>FY08</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>FY09</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>FY10</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>FY11</th>
<th>FY12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Pounds Collected</td>
<td>300,572</td>
<td>613,262</td>
<td>859,950</td>
<td>1,146,921</td>
<td>1,539,163</td>
<td>1,695,765</td>
<td>2,752,104</td>
<td>7,775,847</td>
<td>3,445,672</td>
<td>8,878,530</td>
<td>$4,879,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating Stores</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Months</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Donation per store per Month</td>
<td>3,578</td>
<td>2,434</td>
<td>4,215</td>
<td>3,823</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>2,445</td>
<td>3,475</td>
<td>4,224</td>
<td>4,351</td>
<td>4,070</td>
<td>4,157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fiscal Year for the Utah Food Bank: July 1 - June 30

~33 Million

POUNDS OF FOOD DIVERTED FROM THE LANDFILL TO THE UTAH FOOD BANK THROUGH THE GROCERY RESCUE PROGRAM FROM 2006-2012.

Year officially started in Utah: 2006
Retail stores participating in 2006: 14
Utah counties served: 1
Participating partner agencies: 0

Current Year: 2012
Total participating stores: 200
Utah counties served: 18
Participating partner agencies 21

Life of the Program, 33,177,062 pounds of food diverted to the Utah Food Bank.
Non-consumable Waste

In 2012, Salt Lake City completed a waste study to determine the quantity and ratio of waste items ending up in the landfill. A sampling of 2011 waste revealed that 22.17% of waste was food. It is estimated that this equated 10,039 tons of food.

In 2011, there were 45,294 tons of waste that was sent to the Salt Lake County landfill. This number has dropped by nearly 10,000 tons from 2008 levels. With 2,332 tons of recycled waste, the levels of curbside recycling have fallen from the 3,382 tons in 2009. The levels of yard waste have grown dramatically from 1,190 tons in 2008 to 12,485 tons in 2011. This suggests that garbage levels have been roughly the same, but yard waste is being processed separately, rather than being included in regular trash disposal.

Recommendations for new city programs related to food waste, prepared by CalRecovery, Inc., 2454 Stanwell Drive Concord, California 94520:

**Food Scraps Program (Curbside)**

**Sector:** Residential

**Stream:** Food Scraps

**Facility:** None at this time

**Description:** Nearly 200 communities in the United States divert food scraps from the landfill and the most common model is the addition of food scraps to an existing yard scraps program with automated weekly collection. Additionally, the largest material type by weight in Salt Lake City's residential waste stream is food scraps (approximately 20%). Under this program, residents are banned from disposing food scraps into the trash container (similar to current regulations for yard scraps/recyclables) and instead must source separate food scraps and put them in the yard scraps/organics container. Example Communities: Seattle WA, San Francisco CA

**How it would work in Salt Lake City:** The program requires no significant changes for City staff, and depending on where the materials are processed, it does not require any significant changes in the hauling practices. The program does require a behavior change on the part of residents and it would require that the existing compost facility changes its processing to accept food scraps or that a new facility be developed. In order to achieve the change in residential behavior, the City would first pass an ordinance barring the disposal of food scraps in the trash cart (similar to existing ordinance 9.08.030). This would be followed by outreach/education on the new program, including new sticker/decals for the organics carts. Some communities have included the purchase and delivery of small (2-3 gallon) kitchen containers for each household in the program deployment. SERA instead recommends making coupons for ‘free’...
containers available for each household that must be redeemed at selected locations. This method of distribution cuts down on delivery costs and ensures that only people that want the small kitchen containers obtain them.

Pitfalls/Barriers: The current compost facility does not accept food-soiled paper. The common potential barriers to food scraps collection are:

- **Political issues:** Getting decision-makers on-board with a food scraps diversion program and building support for the program among residents can be a challenge.

- **Facility issues:** The current facility does not accept food scraps. There may be permitting issues as well as processing issues that must be overcome in order to ensure that the collected materials are processed appropriately and in an environmentally acceptable manner.

- **Pests/vectors:** Concerns among generators and elected officials that the collection of food scraps will increase the number of problems with respect to pests and vectors are common. It is important to note that under the proposed program, no quantities of new materials are being generated or disposed. Currently, food scraps go into a cart and are put out at the curb for collection and transported to a landfill; under the new program, food scraps are put into a cart and are put out at the curb for collection and transported to a compost facility. The same materials are being placed into the same type of container and in the same location; they are just being delivered to a compost facility instead of buried in a landfill. So, while increased problems of pests and vectors may be a fear, it tends not to be an issue in operating programs assuming collection is as frequent as currently used for MSW.

- **Potentially higher tipping fees:** In 88% of the communities in the United States, with food scraps collection the tip fees for organics are lower than the tip fees for MSW. However, there is the possibility that it will cost more for Salt Lake City to tip organics than it does to tip MSW, making the program more challenging economically.

- **The "Yuck" factor:** Residents can be reluctant to participate in the program because of perceived issues of odor, mess, etc. The best way to overcome these concerns is through an effective education campaign. Food scraps can be layered in the yard waste container with yard waste on top to reduce odor; kitchen containers can be lined with paper towels or bio-bags; dairy, where existing, can go down the garbage disposal to reduce odors; and meats can be wrapped in a paper bag or other compostable item before being set out for collection.

- **Contamination:** As with a successful curbside recycling program, education, outreach, and ongoing monitoring are the keys to overcoming potential contamination issues. The.
largest contaminants in combined food scrap/yard waste streams are reported to be non-compostable plastic items (bags, dining ware, cups). Whether a community chooses to allow compostable bags in the stream depends on the processing site. Some communities actively promote compostable bags as a way to increase participation while others have banned all bags in the stream, compostable or not, due to challenges in processing.

**Commercial Food Scraps Pilot**

**Sector:** Commercial  
**Stream:** Food Scraps, Food-soiled paper  
**Facility:** None at this time

**Description:** The modeled program targets a few partner establishments (restaurants/grocery stores/schools) to pilot a curbside food scraps collection and diversion program (food scraps are estimated to make up over one-fifth of the commercial waste collected in compactor routes in the city). Example Communities: Cambridge MA, Davis CA

**How it would work in Salt Lake City:** The City would first identify a partner hauler and then work with the hauler to find sufficient businesses to generate a full collection route’s worth of clean, pre-consumer food scraps with three times per week collection. Ideally, the generators would be located near each other in order to minimize transportation costs. The City would provide a subsidy to the generator (or hauler) per cubic yard of food scraps collected so that food scrap collection is not more expensive than MSW collection. The City and partner hauler would also go to each business to conduct staff training and provide signs and indoor containers for the food scraps. Pre-consumer waste would be targeted in the pilot to reduce contamination in the stream. Collection would occur in multiple 64-gallon containers. Because this is a pilot, the program would be monitored closely throughout its duration to track the actual costs and impacts as well as barriers, tips, and changes for future programs.

**Pitfalls/Barriers:** As with the residential food scraps programs, the largest barrier at this time is that there is no local processing facility accepting food scraps. Assuming that this barrier is overcome, other typical barriers in commercial food scrap programs include the ‘yuck’ factor, contamination, and costs. The pilot program would be designed to overcome these barriers through education (yuck factor), staff training, only targeting pre-consumer food (contamination), and a City subsidy (cost).
This is an exciting time in Salt Lake City, where opportunities for enhancing existing local food programming, and supporting dynamic change to create a more sustainable food system is promising. To advance this promise, Salt Lake City’s Community Food Assessment provides a wealth of baseline foodshed information which allows leaders in both the public and private sector to move forward together in charting a well integrated local food network.

Planning, developing and implementing a robust integrated local food system in Salt Lake City will require a significant amount of sustainable urban planning along with skilled coordination and cooperation by a range of culturally and organizationally diverse groups, including growers, producers, distributors, emerging food businesses, community organizers, established non profits, local businesses and other government agencies.

Successfully building an accessible, affordable, healthy, delicious and interesting local food network will also be dependent on the willingness of interested groups to realistically understand, balance and integrate the positive attributes of the City’s foodshed against its limitations. Taking steps forward on a local community food pathway may mean that some internal and external adjustment, and development will be needed by people and organizations who are working to support of a more cohesive community food approach.
Based on information obtained from the Salt Lake City Community Food Assessment, the following practices are recommended as a starting point for moving toward a more sustainable food system.

1. **Sustainable Urban Agriculture Planning and Good Food Planning Practices**

   **A.** Create an Urban Agriculture and Food Plan (UAFP) which will address agricultural planning and future food policy needs at various scales of urban development within the city. Salt Lake City’s Urban Agriculture Plan should create a framework for agricultural development at the Farm, the District, the Neighborhood and the Site level.

   **B.** The Urban Agriculture and Food Plan will integrate the elements of community, equity, economy and the environment to create a local food system that provides multiple benefits. During the UAFP process, a comprehensive review and evaluation of existing city plans and ordinances should be implemented to assure that there is vision, values, and goal alignment between agriculture and food planning components and other city efforts. Identification of urban agriculture strategies for each Salt Lake City District and Neighborhood along with recognizing zones for long- term production, distribution, and processing, will help provide a lasting legacy of food sustainability for Salt Lake City.

   **C.** Salt Lake City should create the position of a full-time urban agriculture and food coordinator. This person will facilitate, manage, and support all implementation of new food policy and programming.

   **D.** Protect all existing agricultural land in Salt Lake City. Work with individual land owners, local, county, state and federal agencies to ensure that existing urban agricultural land is preserved.

   **E.** Guide the process and support the development of Salt Lake City becoming a Regional Agriculture Center. (www.growingpower.com)

   **F.** Increase the total number of farmers in Salt Lake City. Partner with Salt Lake Community College and Horizonte School to create a Sustainable Urban Agriculture or Small Farm Academy Certificate or Associates Degree. Encourage and support the development of a Veterans to Farmers Program (sandiegocitycollege.edu)

   **G.** Offer policy and planning guidance, as well as, financial support for the development of specific known, or innovative urban farming techniques. These types of techniques may include Small Plot Intensive (SPIN), aquaponics, solar greenhouses, rooftop and green wall farming and gardening, high tunnels and hoop-houses. Funding mechanisms should be identified within current and projected budgets. The Food Policy Task Force should assist the Division of Sustainability and the Mayor’s office in outlining criteria for the receipt of agriculture and food project funding.

   **H.** Implement an annual quantitative and qualitative information gathering assessment on the status of urban farming in Salt Lake City foodshed region. This annual review should be aimed at understanding ongoing agricultural development, and should include, but is not limited to, information gathering about existing, emerging and innovative farm practices, worksite conditions for local growers, processors, and producers. This survey should also inquire about perceptions regarding progress on local food policy and project goals. Coordinate this assessment with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, County Extensions, and the private sector.

   **I.** Protect important biologic and natural resources in Salt Lake City. Work with the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and environmental and energy organizations to integrate ecological practices with urban agriculture development. Special attention should be focused on air quality protection, smart water management, rainwater harvesting, soil protection, integrated pest management, and natural habitat protection.
J. Promote discussion and coordination between local commercial growers and charitable food giving organizations for the planting and harvesting of a specific number of rows, or pounds of fresh, locally grown food on existing commercial farmland. This produce then will be harvested by volunteers and given to food banks and food pantries.

K. Develop policies that integrate urban agriculture development with new single and multifamily housing projects.

L. Create the “Mayor’s Report Card on Regionally Sourced Food”. Engage Salt Lake City’s local business community to promote and use a voluntary reporting of local food sourcing on a city based web platform. Acknowledgements for Largest Amount of Locally Sourced Food given by Salt Lake City Mayor at annual local entrepreneurs and community wide event.

M. Implement policies to address detrimental health outcomes associated with the permitted location of convenience stores, super centers, and quick food locations.

N. Participate with the Food Policy Task Force and other community organizations to develop and market a community wide education program on year round home gardening.

O. Include “Farm to Where You Are Programs” in all possible venues. Develop action steps for creating farm to institution (hospitals, universities, faith based communities, schools and recreation centers, government and non government worksites) Link other healthy lifestyle activities such as community gardening, Know Your Farmer, cooking or nutrition education with Farm to Where You Are Program. (http://www.yale.edu/sustainablefood/food.html) (www.farmtocollege.org) (http://www.healthobserveratory.org/library.cfm?refid+72927)

P. Create and maintain a central information clearinghouse for all production and processing resources. These may include USDA programs, SARE, Utah State University Extension, SL County Health Department and community level agricultural education, programs and events.

2. **Create a Food System Economic Strategy and Implementation Plan**

A. Evaluate and support the development of a Culinary Incubator Kitchen to be located in Salt Lake City.

B. Educate and improve the safe food handling practices of small scale farmers. Prepare farmers for value added opportunity.

C. To develop a stronger economic urban farm base in Salt Lake City, work with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to increase the production of specialty food crops for sale to retail and direct to consumer.

D. Support the expansion of affordable retail locations for direct to market farmers in low income/low access areas of Salt Lake City. Use loan funding and grant partnering to support the use of these storefront locations by direct to market in low income/low access target areas.

E. Guide the examination and evaluation of existing economic impacts and business decision making by local urban growers. The Food Policy Task Force and Salt Lake City should support an analysis of factors affecting decisions about business expansion, and conditions related to generating wages and benefits for urban growers and their employees. This study will identify business knowledge gaps within the producer/processor/distributor community and will facilitate recommendations about economic development support and additional programming to help growers.
F. Develop and offer a farm equipment micro loan and grant application program for Salt Lake City commercial food growers. Promote and assist producers with writing for USDA grants for farm equipment.

G. Work with Salt Lake City Public Utilities to evaluate and make recommendations about opportunities to offer reduced water rates for Salt Lake City licensed commercial food growers.

H. To increase local agricultural business capacity, participate with public and private partners to in promoting ongoing education and training for local growers, processors and distributors. Areas of educational focus may include addressing wage and price structuring, access to affordable health care, retirement planning, labor sharing programs and other business development strategies, new growing techniques and business growth strategies.

I. To enhance the participation in ongoing education opportunities, work with the USDA, SARE, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Salt Lake County and State Health Departments, and organizations such as Vest Pocket Business Coalition to develop and communicate grower/processor/distributor education and training programs.

J. Maintain a local food producer, processor, distributor, retailer resource information database.

K. Coordinate a plan to develop agro-tourism programs based in Salt Lake City. Work with local growers, Visit Salt Lake, the Hotel and Restaurant Industry, Utah Heritage Foundation, mobility agencies and others in the private sector to develop and launch this program. Within the scope of urban agricultural planning, market the farm experience, afford greater opportunity for on site farm stands and agro tourism/farm site visits which link bike and walking routes, restaurants and hotels to Salt Lake City farm sites.

3. Identify Next Steps for Evaluating and Pursuing a Regional Food Hub (usda.gov). Maximize the Transportation Network to Increase Local Food and Reduce Energy and Pollution Consequences.

A. Assess the supply chain needs and impacts within the local food shed distribution chain. Evaluate job creation potential within the food distribution sector. Evaluate the feasibility of integrating a food hub distribution center with a Salt Lake City based culinary incubator kitchen.

B. Identify funding sources to support and develop an integrated regional food hub/culinary incubator kitchen study. Funding partners may include the USDA, UDFA, foundations, as well as private sector contributors. Based on assessment results, work with Food Policy Task Force members, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and Salt Lake County to advance location selection and program development.

C. Survey growers, distributors and retailers on how Salt Lake City, The Food Policy Task Force and other partners can best coordinate and assist with scaling up specialty crop producer growth with the local market. Survey on the potential for opportunities to support the development of agricultural co-ops who will grow and deliver in the Salt Lake City retail market.

D. Create a clean and efficient transportation guide for direct to market producers and processors. Initiate a Salt Lake City urban agricultural transportation study to inform the implementation guide. Using the study information, promote greater travel efficiency, cleaner air and lower carbon emissions by helping the direct to market business sector consider and choose best delivery routes, convert
existing vehicles to cleaner fuel, purchase new clean fuel vehicles such as hybrid, CNG or electric, and support the use of transit where feasible for direct to market delivery.

4. Local Food Procurement Policies

A. Through the resources of the Food Policy Task Force, convene a multi-partner working group that will evaluate and gather support for prioritizing procurement of regionally sourced food by local, county, state government and anchor institutions.

B. Collaborate with the Salt Lake City School District (SLCSD) to assess “ready to eat food products” needs. Offer to facilitate production and procurement of Utah grown and processed foods for consumption by SLCSD students, faculty and staff.

5. Build the Salt Lake City Food Brand

A. Fund, develop and promote a Salt Lake City “Real Food” or “Good Food” brand that identifies local growers and processors on the label. Salt Lake City and the Food Policy Task Force will initiate this program by convening a dialogue with potential partners such as local food entrepreneur representing diverse food selections, Visit Salt Lake, Vest Pocket Business Coalition, Local First, The Downtown Alliances, a range of Salt Lake City Farmers Market Coordinators, Utah’s Own, and the International Refugee Committee.

B. Encourage Utah’s Own to identify and create a Utah geo-local agricultural food products campaign. Assist with identifying funding for a radio, television and social media campaign that highlights Utah’s Own food regions as well as features agricultural food products within the State. Examples of this type of campaign is the California Avocado, California “Happy Cows-Cheese” campaign, and campaigns from various states that feature growing areas or processed products specialty regions for products like wine, honey, cheeses, nuts and berries, and other fruits or vegetables.

C. Enhance and encourage Salt Lake City foodservice entities such as restaurants, caterers and hotels of all sizes to purchase a minimum percentage of locally grown or processed food for their consumers. Work with local business organizations to create a “Matchmaking Guide for Local Food Procurement.” The guide will serve as a resource how to get product into the retail market, as well as, connect local growers and processors with other foodservice businesses.

D. More strongly emphasize the e2 recognition program for businesses who purchase a minimum percentage of food grown within the Salt Lake City foodshed.

E. Collaborate between Salt Lake City, the Food Policy Task Force, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA’s) growers, Utah Department of Agriculture, Salt Lake County and non profit and private groups to create a market outreach and branding campaign for local CSAs. (http://www.cityfresh.org) (http://foodbankwma.org/farm/)

F. Work with the Utah State Health Department to obtain licensing rights to the Fruits and Veggies—More Matters brand. Coordinate with Salt Lake County Mayors and the Governor to co-campaign under the Fruits and Veggies—More Matters campaign. (www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov) (fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org)
6. Fresh and Healthy Food For All Communities – Improve Access to High Quality, Affordable Food

A. Using the UAFP, focus attention on developing complete sustainable urban agriculture neighborhood systems in low access/low income areas of Salt Lake City. This process and implementation will have an emphasis on providing food for people in need, creating new opportunity for emerging growers, enhancing the business capacity of existing growers, processors, and retailers, integrating cultural and community connections, introducing and sharing a wide range of healthy foods, and demonstrating connections between the natural environment and the neighborhood food system.

B. Bring urban transportation planners into the Food Policy Task Force discussion on improving access to high quality, affordable food. Advocate for transportation planning that includes daily and frequent transit routes serving grocers and supermarkets offering healthy foods.

C. Promote and facilitate “Double EBT Coupon Day’s”

D. Actively support the elimination of hunger with dignity in Salt Lake City. Support efforts to increase participation in federal food stamp and Meals on Wheels programs, including efforts to bring more children and working poor adults into federal and local food resource programs.

E. Create incentives and identify funding for Green Carts near or in parks and recreation centers. Mandate a percentage of healthy food vending at all Salt Lake City supported parks, golf club houses, recreation centers, and other Salt Lake City facilities where food is sold to the public. (http://policylink.org)

F. Increase efforts to supply and use fresh fruits and vegetables at emergency and food bank locations by creating partnerships with local growers to donate unmarketable, but nutritious agriculture surplus. (www.fbcmich.org)

G. Increase nutrition, social connection and reduce hunger by creating and coordinating a “Salt Lake City, Cooking Matters” program which will engage participants in meal planning and effective cooking demonstration, and food preservation, while introducing key nutrition and food budgeting messages. (www.cookingmatters.org)

H. Design and offer an educational and outreach toolkit for neighborhood stores to adopt family friendly policies that limits displays of unhealthy foods and displaying fresh fruits, vegetable, dairy, or 5 A Day displays.

I. Participate with the Food Policy Task Force and the local grocer community to create a Fresh Food Financing Initiative. This program will provide grants, low interest loans, training and technical assistance for neighborhood grocers to improve lighting, fresh food signage, fresh food displays and other conditions in existing stores, or establish new stores in low income/low access areas of the city. (http://www.thefoodtrust.org/php/programs.ffi.php) (http://www.thefoodtrust.org/php/programs/corner.store.campaign.php) Incentives for Store Owners(http://thepreventioninstitute.org/sa/enact/neighborhood/shopkeepers/php)

J. Work with the Food Policy Task Force, Senior Centers and senior food supportive organizations to evaluate, organize and install Elder Community Gardens at Salt Lake City Senior Centers and Salt Lake City Senior Housing.

K. Support the installation of community gardens at charitable food sites including houses of worship and transitional housing centers.

L. Engage a wide range of community groups to host Healthy Food Drives with the Food Policy Task Force. Groups to connect with include churches, schools, worksites, government and other anchor institutions. Increase the outreach of the Healthy Food Drives initiative by working with food resource organizations to create a Healthy Foods Donation list which can be delivered through regular mail or electronic media. www.uga.edu/nchfp
M. Partner with supermarkets to host a “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” fresh bag of Utah apples giveaway day at in the fall. (Idaho Department of Agriculture)

7. Promote and Lead Healthy, Tasty, Fresh Foods with Passion

A. Create citywide guidelines for a “Plants on the Perimeter” program. This program will focus on the importance of growing non food plantings that attract beneficial insects like bees, butterfly’s, and praying mantis to parkstrip areas and around food gardens.

B. Educate on the how to’s of creating and maintaining clean, healthy food environment for the home garden. Healthy soil and planting practices which include preserving top soil, creating adding nutrients, and locating food planting away from areas where winter road salts, non point source pollutants and ground level air pollution can impacted the plant environment. Emphasis on how to create healthy soils, using less or no pesticides and herbicides, the installation of drip irrigation, and clean rain water harvesting for the home gardener.

C. Educate about the food waste reduction and water quality connection by encouraging the elimination of food maserators in homes, restaurants and institutional food service setting.

D. Create and Promote the Mayor’s 5 A Day Challenge program. Offer on line links from the SLC Green homepage to USDA One Week Meal Planning for the 5 A Day Challenge. (www.ChooseMyPlate.gov)

E. Plan and install Edible Demonstration Gardens in public locations such as Salt Lake City Libraries, Washington Square, Fire Stations, the Public Safety Building, and the Leroy W. Hooton Jr. Public Utilities Administration Building. Co-locate “Fruit and Veggie” storyboards in Salt Lake City demonstration gardens.

F. Using the Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Nutrition for Everyone model, establish a Salt Lake City based online Fruit and Vegetable Calculator. (http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/everyone/fruitsvegetables/howmany.html Centersfor Disease Control and Prevention

F. Support and coordinate the development of Garden Market-Healthy Work Sites programs. Working closely with Salt Lake City based businesses, develop, implement and evaluate the Healthy Work Site program. To develop this program, Salt Lake City will connect and coordinate with employer networked groups such as Vest Pocket, Local First, the LDS Church, financial institutions, banks, hotels, Visit Salt Lake, and other employers.(http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/hwi/programdesign/index.htm Center for Disease Control andFOOD SUSTAINABILITY76Prevention (http://ww2.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cpns/Pages?WorksiteFitBusinessKit.aspx)

G. Create guidelines or policy recommendations encouraged by the Food Policy Task Force and Salt Lake City to assure balanced and healthy eating at all Salt Lake City meetings. (http://kaisersantarosa.org/cafeteria) (http://ww.acsworkplacesolutions.com/documents/F251300Meeting%20Well%20Guide-u.pdf)

H. For a one-year period, encourage Salt Lake City Council weekly email letters to feature a local grower, processor, neighborhood grocer or community garden/gardener located within each of the respective Council Districts.

I. Connect with Salt Lake Community Councils and other neighborhood based organizations to support a “Local Food and Recipe Sharing” feature on their organizations website.

J. Engage and connect the Food Policy Task Force with the private food industry and collegiate and professional
athletic teams to promote nutritious food and healthy activity through the Kids and Nutrition – Be An Allstar program. Private food sector participation is encouraged in the Chefs to School, Adopt a Salad Bar, and Produce Marketing Association, (PMA) Fruits and Veg More Matters in school food, math and English education. (JAM School Program, jamschoolprogram@healthtips.com)

K. Develop and Promote a Pack a Waste Free Lunch program for families, local businesses, community groups, churches and others. Provide posters and on line information planning guide for libraries, schools, houses of worship and business locations. (www.wastefreelunches.org)

8. Strengthen the Organizational Capacity of Salt Lake City’s Food Policy Task Force

A. Bring together Mayor Becker and the Food Policy Task Force to focus on defining the long-term institutional structure of the Food Policy Task Force. To assure the success of food sustainability in to the future, a transition from a Food Policy Task Force to a Food Policy Advisory Board is strongly urged. The newly formed Board should focus on developing one, three and five year sustainable urban agriculture and food strategies. (Missouri Food Circles, http://foodcircles.missouri.edu/commfoodsys.htm)

B. To establish priorities and focus on annual goals, objectives and action items, convene an annual Food Policy Task Force retreat. Through the retreat process, maximize the assets of Food Policy members by identifying areas of strong interest and availability to advance and adopt action items.

C. Evaluate and advise on emerging community agricultural system opportunities and the need to include new perspectives at the food policy table. Identify and define the needs, expectations and roles for sharing Community Food Assessment information, as well as roles for advancing goals and objectives brought forth by the Community Food Assessment.

D. Priorities for the Food Policy Task Force and Salt Lake City should include maintaining continuous engagement with national and international food policy organizations such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Center for Disease and Prevention and other policy organizations. By engaging with these type of networks, Salt Lake City and its Food Policy Task Force will be able to effectively advise and support Salt Lake City’s urban agriculture system into the future.

E. For the near term, plan and develop annual community events like International Food Day and Urban Agriculture and Food conferences one year to six months in advance.

9. Reduce Food Waste – Increase Food Recovery

A. Launch the Salt Lake City Food Recovery Challenge for consumers and businesses. Salt Lake City and the Food Policy Task Force utilize free federal resources to raise awareness and promote strategies for the local community to improve health and nutrition, support those in need, save money, conserve energy and helping the natural environment. (http://www.epa.gov/wastes/conserve/smm/foodrecovery/)

B. Mandate a residential food waste recovery program that utilizes existing tan/brown yard trimmings cans.

C. Support and help grow programs for food recovery of unspoiled food from restaurants, hotels, caterers, corporate
dining rooms, sporting events, concerts and other large scale food establishments. (Rock and Wrap It Up Program.

D. Create a food waste and food recovery how to toolkit for food service providers. This toolkit will help the local food industry learn about saving money and helping the community. Toolkits will include how to organize a Green Waste Team who can help eliminate food waste on site by reducing or preventing caused by over preparation, reduce front of house and back of house food waste, and explore more nutritious menu items that reduce fats, oils and grease. (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service: www.csrees.usda.gov/, EPA, A How to Guide for Food Service Providers)

E. Involve concessionaires and vendors in a food recycling at events program. Provide information from the program through a handbook of guidelines and in-person training. Help concessionaires create green food teams and provide food waste recovery bins.

F. Work with Food Policy Task Force to discuss and initiate a pilot commercial food industry food waste collection and diversion program. After a trial test and evaluation period of up to one year, address challenges, make changes and determine if a commercial food waste program should be mandated.
KEY WEBSITES


Food Assessment  http://www.foodsecurity.org/cfa_home.html

http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/research.htm

Trade with Canda and Mexico: Research and Innovative Technology Administration: Bureau of transportation Statistics, Downloaded February 29, 2012 http://www.bts.gov/programs/international/transborder/TBDR_QA.html

Through GIQ, you can ask government information librarians who are experts at finding information from government agencies of all levels.

Policy  http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/Research/StudyandEval.htm

Food Security Research  http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/FoodSecurity/FoodSecurity.htm

FOOD ATLAS


http://www.ers.usda.gov/Emphases/Healthy/

Production-Distribution

http://www.manta.com/mb_45_B61AF000_45/fruit_and_vegetable_markets/utah 70 Fruit-Vegetable+Produce Mkts. in Utah.

Food Insecurity:

http://www.foodsecurity.org/FPC/The North American Food Policy Council

http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodSecurity/readings.htm#statistical

http://hdl.handle.net/10113/32791


Maps: Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Food Stores, Food Assistance, Food Eaten at Home,
http://ers.usda.gov/foodatlas/documentation.htm

FOOD EXPENDITURE

http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/CPIFoodAndExpenditures/recommended_data.htm
http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/CPIFoodAndExpenditures/consumerpriceindex.htm
http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/CPIFoodAndExpenditures/Data/cpiforecasts.htm
http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/CPIFoodAndExpenditures/threetypesoffoodexpendituresseries.htm

Search: 2007 Economic Census and Surveys
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ECN&_submenulid=&_lang=en

BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

http://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1

FOOD AND NUTRITION


WHAT WE EAT AT HOME


USDA_Agricultural Research Service _ Research Development_Surveys
http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2004/040614.htm

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/surveys.htm
http://www.norc.org/Pages/default.aspx = National Opinion Research Center

Best Practices
http://www.cityharvest.org/programs/food-and-fitness
http://www.cityharvest.org/hunger-in-nyc/research-reports

Nutrition and Health
http://www.schools.utah.gov/cnp/Fresh-Fruit-and-Vegetable-Program.aspx
2012.02.16 Utah Dept. of Education program
http://ers.usda.gov/Briefing/DietQuality/DietaryPatterns.htm

Insidious Consumption http://ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June07/Features/Insidious.htm

Food Assistance Programs http://ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/


Food Stamps http://www.census.gov/acs/www/


Nutrition Education

http://www.snapretailerlocator.com/


Food Availability

http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FoodConsumption/FoodAvailSpreadsheets.htm

Farm Atlas By County


Economics of Food Relocalization

The 25% Shift - Benefits of Food Localization for Northeast Ohio and How to Realize Them

Study downloadable here: http://www.

neofoodweb.org/resources/137

BALLE leakage calculators

http://www.livingeconomies.org/leakage_calculators

Studies That Support Local Living Economies (using leakage analyses)

http://www.livingeconomies.org/aboutus/research-and-studies/studies

The 10% Campaign

http://www.ncsu.edu/project/nc10percent/index.php

The Local Multiplier Effect poster

http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/go-local/the-local-multiplier-effect

Plugging the Leaks - LM3 resources

http://www.pluggingtheleaks.org/resources/plm_lm3.htm
