

REGIONAL VISIONING DATA

A visioning exercise based on the Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework was conducted at six regional food network gatherings in 2016.



COMMUNITY FOOD
STRATEGIES

WHAT'S WORKING?

Groups shared what resources, partnerships, and initiatives were currently working toward the shared goal or result.

CHARLOTTE REGION

- Regional community assessment
- Successful school garden implementation
- SNAP/WIC vouchers promoted at farmers markets
- Lomax Incubator Farm
- Growth of farmers markets
- Comprehensive plans incorporating food and farm initiatives
- Federal & state conservation dollars
- REACH, a federal corner store initiative

NORTHEAST REGION

- Roanoke Valley Community Health Initiative
- General transformation towards viewing agriculture as an economic driver
- Rocky Mount Food Hub
- More interest in local food
- Some farmers markets
- Agriculture-rich communities value farming
- Abundant, productive land
- Slight increase in infrastructure supporting the local food supply chain
- Landowner interest

SOUTHEAST REGION

This data was not collected.

TRIAD REGION

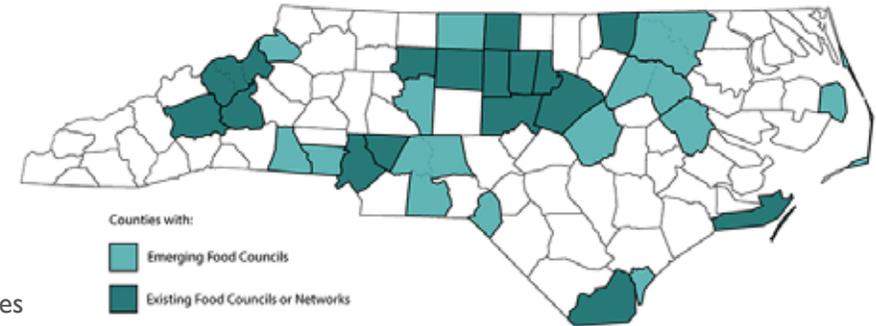
- Triad Community Kitchen
- Culinary programs in high schools and community colleges
- Active Future Farmers of America (FFA) program
- More focus on the root causes of poverty
- Some corner stores selling local food
- Farmers markets accept SNAP vouchers
- Greensboro permaculture guild
- Hospital funds farmers market in food desert
- Active, effective FoodCorps program

TRIANGLE REGION

- Blue Cross Blue Shield funding
- Engaged NC Cooperative Extension
- Restaurants supporting and showcasing local farms
- Eastern Carolina Organics
- Farmer FoodShare
- NC Farm to School
- Food policy councils
- Orange County financial support for agriculture enterprises
- Durham school system committed to local food purchasing
- Incubator farms

WESTERN REGION

- Community response from food and health assessment
- Funding opportunities
- Young farmers
- Diverse, non-traditional partners
- Farm-to-school and Farm-to-early childcare programming
- Land donated for farming
- Local food distribution channels
- Farmland preservation ordinance
- Effort toward youth & diverse leadership in community



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GREATER IMPACT:

What could we do more of to make greater impact towards our result.

The information below is summarized from the conversations at the events. We did our best to clarify the intent of the suggestions while maintaining specific language from the community members.

CHARLOTTE REGION

- Increase consumer awareness of and engagement with local food options through events and promotion
- Use statistics and data on buying local to create economic development campaign
- Foster collaboration between local food community stakeholders within county and region
- Provide more resources and funding to local foods development and staff
- Offer more educational and infrastructure opportunities for farmers to improve their businesses
- Strengthen relationship between councils and planning departments

NORTHEAST REGION

- Diversify who is having the conversations and who has access to opportunities
- Grow more food advocates and farmers with education and capital access for start-ups
- Illustrate how the existing and new components of the food system could work
- Provide more technical assistance for grassroots organizations
- Promote buy-in and funding support at institutional level for procurement

- Help small-scale producers enter distribution outlets and work together to compete with big industry
- Help farmers get GAP certified to enter new markets

SOUTHEAST REGION

This data was not collected.

TRIAD REGION

- Offer leadership skills and advocacy tools for local leaders
- Provide food and agriculture curriculum and learning experiences for children, including visiting farms
- Create more accessibility for farmers to enter distribution networks and profitable markets
- Conduct Cost Benefit Analysis on not addressing these food system issues
- Assist institutions in navigating obstacles to purchase local foods
- Increase community, non-traditional stakeholder involvement and cross-sector collaboration
- Lead programs to reduce food waste and create market opportunities for non-perfect produce

TRIANGLE REGION

- Partnering with living wage projects to increase employment and wages
- Facilitate more community conversations and events around local, sustainable food
- Seek out diverse community stories and listen to local wisdom around food
- Communicate with and educate local officials about favorable food & farm zoning and planning
- Support small farmers with market opportunities, like workplace CSAs
- Collaborate with existing programs and help align efforts in improving access to healthy, local food
- Explore opportunities to provide food production and nutrition education and to engage youth

WESTERN REGION

- Increase support from local government officials and key leaders
- More policies that promote stability, economic sustainability, and a living wage
- Increase in local food purchases and support by institutions, schools, and large employers
- More funding and resources for food systems staff, operations, and programs
- Documentation of and access to regional success stories and best practices
- More fun and excitement at food and farming activities