

# FARM & FOOD INITIATIVE

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION



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For a thriving New England



## *New England Food Policy Report*

A sustainable food system is key to creating a region that is resilient, economically vibrant, and environmentally sound. *New England Food Policy: Building a Sustainable Food System*, a report by CLF, American Farmland Trust (AFT), and the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG), identifies policies that either help New England grow its capacity to feed itself, hinder this growth, or provide opportunities to strengthen our food system. The report is based on stakeholder interviews and two years of research. CLF, AFT, and NESAWG also produced topical webinars on food policy issues discussed in the report. Download the report and get webinar information at: [www.newenglandfoodpolicy.org](http://www.newenglandfoodpolicy.org).



**At CLF, we believe that a thriving New England means a thriving local food system – the region’s communities, environment, and economy depend on it. Not only does food have value in its own right, local food production also has strong environmental and economic benefits. CLF is working to foster a sustainable local food system to help New England communities thrive.**

Our food system is a unique lens through which to address long-standing economic inequities. A striking disparity in wealth and power exists not only between large-scale industrial agriculture companies and small- and medium-scale farmers, but also between more affluent populations living close to well-stocked supermarkets and low-income communities lacking easy access to healthy, fresh food. Building a sustainable regional food system requires addressing these economic inequities by leveling the playing field for producers and increasing food access for people living in underserved communities.

Farmers, food entrepreneurs, consumers, and other stakeholders are hard at work throughout New England creating the vision for a regional food system. CLF is partnering with these groups to provide the legal and policy scaffolding to construct that vision. By building a robust regional food network, we can help increase fresh food access, create jobs, reduce carbon emissions, foster healthy communities, and support regional economies – the hallmarks of a truly thriving New England.

### Project Spotlight

The Legal Services Food Hub is CLF’s pro bono legal services network for farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food-related organizations. The Hub helps farmers and food entrepreneurs navigate legal issues in order to bring economic stability to the farm and food sector, increase regional food production, and build a more just food system for all New Englanders. CLF connects farm and food constituents with an attorney from our growing network to provide free legal assistance on transactional issues. Farmers and food entrepreneurs qualify by meeting an income cap. [www.legalfoodserviceshub.org](http://www.legalfoodserviceshub.org)



LEGAL  
SERVICES  
FOOD HUB

## KEY WORK

### JOIN CLF TODAY!

Conservation Law Foundation relies on contributions from our members to do the work of protecting New England's environment: preserving our natural resources, building healthy communities and promoting a vibrant economy. To become a member of CLF or to learn about the many ways you can support our work, visit [clf.org/donate](http://clf.org/donate) today.

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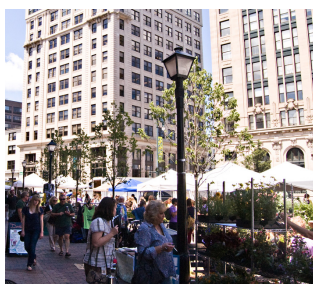
### SUCCESS STORIES



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#### Food Safety Modernization Act

- The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), enacted in 2011, imposes a new requirement on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate on-farm activities, including how farmers grow food.
- The FDA's regulations will have a tremendous impact on small- to medium-size farms across New England. CLF submitted extensive comments on the Produce Safety Rule and the Preventive Controls Rule, which threaten on-farm conservation practices and the viability of smaller, diversified produce farms. Thanks to these and many other comments, FDA is redrafting the rules.



#### Urban Agriculture

- CLF and CLF Ventures, our market-based solutions team, analyzed the job creation potential and environmental benefits of sustainable food businesses in a study titled "Growing Green" ([www.clf.org/growing-green](http://www.clf.org/growing-green)).
- CLF and other stakeholders worked closely with the Boston Redevelopment Authority to amend Boston's zoning code to allow commercial-scale urban farming in Boston.
- CLF is supporting the Burlington Food Council's efforts to shape agriculture policy with ordinances that promote environmental responsibility and humane livestock husbandry.



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#### Northeast Food Hubs Cluster Initiative

- CLF Ventures conducted a New England Food Hub Site Suitability Analysis utilizing geographic information systems (GIS) to identify optimal locations for regional fruit/vegetable and seafood food hubs in underserved areas of New England.
- CLF Ventures presented a workshop to prospective food hub entrepreneurs titled "Food Hub Business Structures: Knowing your Choices, Understanding their Implications" at the 2014 National Food Hub Conference in Raleigh, NC.



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#### Regional Food System Planning

- CLF Ventures authored a comprehensive handbook, *Municipal Food Systems Planning Toolkit for MAPC Communities*, to provide resources for municipalities to support their important role in sustaining local and regional food systems ([www.mapc.org/sustainable-agriculture](http://www.mapc.org/sustainable-agriculture)).
- CLF and CLF Ventures partnered with Federal Street Advisors to put on a regional summit, "Financing a Sustainable Food System for New England," where an audience of investors and food entrepreneurs from around New England shared stories focused on financing sustainable food businesses.