



Food

INITIATIVES **Housing and Neighborhoods** • Promote walkable destinations for retail and other services | **Parks and Public Space** • Facilitate urban agriculture and community gardening | **Brownfields** • Promote green space on remediated brownfield properties | **Water Supply** • Continue the Watershed Protection Program | **Transportation** • Improve freight movement | **Solid Waste** • Promote waste prevention opportunities • Create additional opportunities to recover organic material • Revise City procurement practices to reduce solid waste • Improve the City government's diversion rate

Healthy, sustainable food systems are critical to the well-being of our communities and central to our ability to accommodate a growing population. Yet food presents a unique planning challenge; unlike sewers or streets, much of New York City's food systems infrastructure is privately owned and shaped by the tastes and decisions of millions of individual consumers. These complicated and inter-related subsystems aren't easily understood or influenced, even by concerted municipal interventions. Furthermore, many of food's most significant climate and environmental impacts are associated with food production, most of which takes place outside the city, and shaped by federal policy. Nonetheless, our food systems intersect with several areas addressed by PlaNYC. Improving the distribution and disposal of food within New York City and increasing access to healthy food will not only benefit the environment, it can also have positive public health and economic impacts.

We are developing a multi-faceted strategy to increase access to affordable and healthy foods and reduce the environmental and climate impacts of food production, distribution, consumption, and disposal.

On food production, we will survey municipal lands to identify underutilized properties that may be suitable for urban agriculture or community gardens. We will continue facilitating agriculture projects at publicly-owned sites by planting 129 new community gardens on New York City Housing Authority land and promoting school gardens through Grow to Learn NYC, our citywide school gardens initiative. We will also review existing regulations and laws to identify and remove unnecessary barriers to creating community gardens and urban farms. In some cases, remediated brownfield sites also present an opportunity for community gardens, and we will design state-of-the-art protective measures that allow community gardens to grow on remediated sites. Through our Watershed Protection Program we will continue to work with farmers in our watershed to minimize the use of fertilizer and adopt sustainable agriculture practices.



We are working to better understand how we can improve the distribution of food into and around the city. As a first step, we will work with the City Council to analyze our foodshed and evaluate the environmental effects of our food systems. Redeveloping the Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market, the largest wholesale produce distribution center in the world, will significantly impact food distribution, so we will work to facilitate the re-design of the Hunts Point Terminal Produce Market to improve its functionality.

Our strategies to create more sustainable communities will promote access to, and consumption of, fresh and healthy food. We will facilitate the creation of 300 healthy food retail options in underserved areas of the city and identify additional zoning amendments to expand the FRESH program to incentivize the development of grocery stores in neighborhoods with food access needs. We will continue using City-owned land to foster entrepreneurship in food retail and processing.

Better management of food waste can save money and reduce the environmental cost of food disposal. Food scraps make up 18% of New York City's residential solid waste stream, and we estimate that food waste composes 11% of commercial solid waste not including construction and demolition fill. We will create additional opportunities to recover organic materials including food scraps, yellow grease, and yard waste at community and commercial levels. We will also pursue energy-generating projects such as food waste diversion at the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center.

In addition to its work supporting the initiatives in PlaNYC, our Office of the Food Policy Coordinator facilitates other citywide programs to improve our food environment, address diet-related diseases, and combat food insecurity. New York City has led public health initiatives like calorie labeling on menus and banning trans fats in restaurants. We have also set pioneering nutritional standards for food served in City agencies and schools.

We cannot create a greener, greater New York without systems that make healthy food available to residents and dispose of food waste in ways that reduce its environmental impact. The food-related initiatives within the Plan will improve the long-term health of individual New Yorkers while strengthening our economy and environment.