

# A Food Policy Agenda for New York City

## Agenda Overview

The New York City Food Policy Agenda lays out recommendations for action by the Mayor and other city officials to improve NYC's food systems. NYC has benefited from strong leadership from city officials, food justice advocates and other stakeholders, so we built upon already significant programs. We hope that food policy will be a major point of discussion in the 2013 Mayoral and City Council elections.

The Agenda addresses a number of key issues areas: Food Democracy (page 5); Regional Agriculture (p. 7); Economic Strength and Job Creation (p. 9); Purchasing (p. 10); Food Distribution (p. 11); Ending Hunger and Promoting Healthy Food (p.14); and Food Waste (p. 19).

Key recommendations for action by the Mayor include:

1. Enact Food Democracy
  - Create a New York City Food Policy Council
  - Establish a City of New York Department of Food
  - Play leadership role in State and federal food policy
2. End Hunger and Promote Healthy Foods
  - Expand school meals (e.g., universal, breakfast in the classroom mandate)
  - Increase Access to SNAP (improve HRA, simplify application progress)
  - Promote Food Literacy in Schools (K-12 curriculum, school gardens)
  - Expand Healthy Food Choices (more funding for Health Bucks, reform FRESH, preserve community gardens, restrict fast food restaurants)
3. Use City Funding to Drive Reform
  - Strengthen local food purchasing goals, support regional agriculture
  - Ensure food and worker standards in exchange for public funding and subsidies
  - Use food policy as an economic engine
  - Sustainably Redevelop Hunts Point Market, including impact on local community
4. Support Living Wages and Safe Working Conditions for Food Workers
5. Reduce and Compost Food Waste

The appendix (p. 22) includes recommendations for policy initiatives the city should provide leadership on at the state and federal level, starting with the reauthorization of the Food and Farm Bill.

The initial list of endorsers of the Food Policy Agenda include: Hunger Action Network of NYS; Added Value and Herban Solutions, Inc; Bronx Health REACH; Brooklyn Food Coalition; Community Food Advocates; Community Services Housing Development Corp.; Community Vision Council; FGE Nutrition Team; Food and Water Watch; Fort Greene Peace; Fresh Routes NYC; Greenpoint Reformed Church Hunger Program; Harlem Dowling; Homeless Services United; Hunter College Center for Community Planning & Development; Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club; Just Food; Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project; Neighbors Together; Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development Corporation; Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, Inc. (NOFA-NY); NYC Foodscape; Outreach C.O.G.I.C.; Slow Food NYC; St.

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John. Episcopal caring hands food pantry; St. John's Bread and Life; St. Mary's Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen; True Gospel Tabernacle; United Food Commercial Workers (UFCW) - Local 1500; Urban Rebuilding Initiative - Urban Community Food Project; West Side Campaign Against Hunger.

The list of individuals and organizations who contributed policy ideas is in the index on p. 31.

## **Values and Goals for a Healthy New York City Food System**

There are a number of critical objectives to achieve in creating a just and sustainable food system in New York City:

- view food policy as an economic engine for the City;
- value and support the role of food and agriculture in our region's human, economic, and environmental health;
- support a food system that provides an adequate income to farmers and food entrepreneurs while provide all food workers with living wages and fair working conditions;
- sustain our regional agricultural resources to help ensure our future food security;
- support entities that produce, process, and distribute local and healthful food;
- achieve an end to hunger through universal access to ample, affordable, local, healthful, sustainably produced, and culturally meaningful food;
- support communities suffering high incidences of food insecurity and diet-related disease;
- provide for inclusive, democratic community participation in food system policy and program development and creative inter-departmental and inter-governmental cooperative action on food issues; and
- create a resilient regional food system that will better withstand the affects of climate change and other emergencies.

These values reflect the concept of Food Sovereignty. Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally meaningful food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In New York City, our health, our economy, and our environment are inextricably linked to our food system. The upcoming 2013 elections for Mayor and the City Council present an important opportunity to mobilize public support for key food policy issues reform, building a more sustainable, resilient, economically stronger, and fairer food system.

The term "food system" encompasses all the activities involved in producing, processing, transporting, storing, distributing, purchasing, and eating food, as well as managing food waste. Our food system is critical to our human and environmental health and to economic development and job creation in New York City.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, "food security" exists when food systems enable "all people (to) have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle <sup>1</sup>.

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New York City has made significant progress in recent years in strengthening its food system. Our city has benefited from strong leadership on food policy issues from the Mayor, City Council Speaker and members, and the Manhattan Borough President. These officials have also released important reports on food policy whose recommendations are reflected in this agenda. Key initiatives include: FRESH (bringing supermarkets into low-income communities); Green Carts; Shop Healthy NYC (formerly Healthy Bodegas); the Food Metrics Report; kitchen incubators; and the establishment of the Office of the Food Policy Coordinator in the Mayor's Office.

New York City restaurants and other food outlets are celebrated internationally for their quality and diversity; good food matters in our city. Tens of thousands of New York City residents purchase food directly from regional farms at farmers markets, such as Greenmarket, and through Community Supported Agriculture programs, facilitated by groups such as Just Food and others. We have experienced incredible growth in urban agriculture on farms and in community and school gardens. Commercial farms are sprouting on the city's rooftops. Young people view farming as a viable and exciting career, and never before have more New Yorkers cared about our food system, where food comes from, how it is produced, its effect on our health, and its fairness.

There is a vibrant and diverse food justice and policy movement throughout the city. Tens of thousands of New York City residents garden, compost, attend food policy conferences and utilize CSAs and farmers' markets. There are strong food policy programs at several colleges, activist oriented chefs and restaurant owners, and a strong food oriented media.

Despite the commendable progress in improving our food system, significant problems and challenges remain including: hunger, public health, food access and waste, low earnings for farmers and food workers, and threats to our farming communities. Recent severe weather (e.g., Hurricane Sandy) has exposed the frailty of the city's food system to emergencies. With climate change accelerating, more needs to be done to make our food system more resilient.

Essential to strengthening our food system is a strong role for citizen input and direction. "Food democracy" exists when citizens have the power to affect city, state, and federal food policies. Citizens need a formal role in decisions affecting the systems that provide the food they eat.

In developing this agenda, we have reached out to citizen food activists throughout New York City, representing the anti-hunger, public health, urban agriculture, community garden, school food, and food justice movements. We also reviewed other reports and studies produced in New York City and we reviewed sound food system policy actions from around the nation (Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New Haven).

## **The Problem - The Challenge to our Farms, Economy, and Environment**

New York City's 8 million residents spend \$30 billion a year on food.<sup>2</sup> Yet city residents suffer from both hunger and health problems associated with unhealthy food choices: highly processed foods high in fat, sugar and salt. An all-time high of 1.9 million of our neighbors rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) and 1.4 million of us rely on emergency food.<sup>3</sup> One in six of us, including more than 400,000 of our children, live in households

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facing food insecurity.<sup>4</sup> The nutrition safety net does not meet the needs of our hungry neighbors.

In many communities, especially low-income, unhealthy food is often more accessible than healthy food. And, in a seeming paradox, the city faces the related epidemics of widespread hunger and overweight and obesity. Over the past 20 years, obesity rates in New York City have doubled. Nearly 40 percent of elementary and middle school students,<sup>5</sup> 28 percent of high school students,<sup>6</sup> and 67 percent of our adults are overweight or obese.<sup>7</sup> Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for adult diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic conditions. In New York State, \$6.1 billion is spent annually fighting diet-related diseases.<sup>8</sup>

Our present agricultural system impairs our ability to sustain our country's population. Its reliance on chemicals, fossil fuels, vast amounts of water, and long distance transportation is bad for our environment and contributes to climate change. America needs 13 million more acres in fruit and vegetable production for each of us to meet USDA healthful dietary guidelines.<sup>9</sup> Crop irrigation uses 30 percent of water withdrawals in the United States.<sup>10</sup> Food production impacts water quality through agricultural runoff polluted with fertilizers, pesticides and manure from farms, fields and feedlots.

We are losing regional farms to development and farmers to retirement. As regional rural farms are becoming fewer and farther apart, agricultural infrastructure is disappearing. We lack adequate farm labor, many of our farmers cannot cover their costs of production, and many food system workers do not receive a living wage. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, seven of the ten worst paying jobs in the nation are food system jobs.<sup>11</sup>

Much food grown in New York travels long distances to other markets and much of what we consume in New York comes from far away making for missed regional economic opportunity. Most food arrives in the city via truck, with more than 10,000 trucks per day at Hunts Point.<sup>12</sup> Truck traffic negatively impacts residents in communities around Hunts Point suffering high rates of asthma exacerbated by poor air quality.

The average New Yorker produces almost 2,000 pounds of garbage a year.<sup>13</sup> Food scraps and used food packaging constitute more than half of the city's waste stream - 20 percent from food scraps and 36 percent from food packaging.<sup>13</sup> Plastic water bottles, which required up to 47 million gallons of oil per year to produce, constitute up to 1.5 million tons of plastic waste per year.<sup>14</sup> And, while plastic used to bottle beverages is of high quality and in demand by recyclers, over 80 percent of plastic bottles are simply thrown away.<sup>14</sup>

Climate change, evidenced by hurricanes Irene, in 2011, and Sandy, in 2012, exposed the frailty of our region's food production capacity and our city's food distribution and access systems.

## City Progress

We are fortunate that our city's elected leadership has already worked to improve our food system. Many of the key city reports are listed in the appendix. In many cases our recommendations seek to strengthen existing initiatives.

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We call upon the next administration to sustain and enhance the important food-related initiatives undertaken during the past few years.

Key city initiatives have included: FRESH (bringing supermarkets into low-income communities); Green Carts; Shop Healthy NYC (formerly Healthy Bodegas); the Food Metrics Report; kitchen incubators; and the establishment of the Office of the Food Policy Coordinator in the Mayor's Office. The City has helped increase the number of, and access to, farmers' market. Its Health Bucks program to subsidize the use of SNAP (Food stamps) at farmers' market is a national model.

The Mayor's Executive Order No.122 (2008), established more healthful standards for the food purchased and served by the city. The Mayor's Anti-Obesity Task Force issued a number of recommendations. The City Council's FoodWorks legislation, adopted in 2011, included: Local Law (LL) 50, on facilitating local food purchasing by the city; LL 51, on requiring environmentally friendlier packaging of foods purchased by the city; LL 52, on collecting and reporting important city food metrics (though unfortunately not anti-hunger data); LL 48, on reporting city property potentially suitable for urban agriculture; and LL 49, on facilitating the installation of rooftop greenhouses.

The 2011 update to PlaNYC included initiatives to: increase physical access to healthy food; facilitate urban agriculture; further promote sustainable agricultural practices in the city's upstate watershed; study the city's food distribution pathways with a view to improving freight movement; make remediated "brownfields" available for urban agriculture; and create more opportunities to recover food waste.

## The Agenda

### Promote Food Democracy

#### Food policy leadership, Food Policy Council, Department of Food

Food democracy promotes an inclusive way to change the food system in the belief that citizens can, and must, affect food policy decisions that affect them. A principle challenge to food democracy in New York City is the creation of a mechanism to actively engage New Yorkers in advocating healthful, environmentally sustainable, and economically and socially just food policies.

Creating a New York City Food Policy Council, with adequate resources and citizens' input, is critical.

Recognizing the lack of opportunity for civic engagement in the prevailing models of food production and consumption, food policy councils are convening across the country. During the last few years, the number of local and regional Food policy councils has nearly doubled.<sup>15</sup> Food policy councils convene multiple food system stakeholders (producers, processors, distributors, government and consumers) to provide a forum for the comprehensive examination of a food system, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges.

Councils enable different actors in the food system and government to learn more about what each does and to consider how the actions of each impact others in the food system. The councils also

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provide a mechanism to develop specific policy objectives, e.g., reducing the incidence of hunger, expanding rural economic development, and improving the administration of programs. And, also they may provide a forum to discuss emerging issues such as local foods, direct marketing, small and medium-scale rural farms, and urban agriculture.

There are different models for food policy councils. Regardless of the model, it is important to ensure transparency, inclusiveness and strong citizen support; adequate staffing resources for the work; and, some mechanism to link with the local government.

The government creates some food policy councils with formal membership by various government agencies; such councils may have some formal decision making role while also fostering interagency cooperation and usually have some advisory board representing a wide range of stakeholders.

Other food policy councils are established as an independent nonprofit organization to provide advice to the local government on food policy issues. Such councils usually seek some form of relationship to the local government (e.g., the Mayor and other elected officials appoint some of the members of the council).

Many food advocates feel that a nonprofit model may be the best for New York City, especially in light of its dynamic food industry and food policy movement. Many feel that there should also be related food policy councils established in each borough.

Governor Eliot Spitzer re-established a NYS Food Policy Council that had first existed under Governor Mario Cuomo. Unfortunately, the Council has lacked the funding, staffing support and political leadership to move forward on a strong food policy agenda for NYS. Hopefully that will be corrected.

In the 1950s, the city disbanded the Department of Markets. No longer did the city assume its responsibility for the supply of ample and safe food available to its residents, leaving it to market forces alone. The persistent inequity of our food system, hunger, obesity and diabetes, and food deserts and the human, economic, and environmental health opportunities our food system can offer are reasons to create a Department of Food to coordinate all aspects of the city's involvement in the food New Yorkers eat and in the regional food shed that can supply much of that food.

## **1. Facilitate the Creation of and Support an Independent New York City Food Policy Council**

- a. Support and provide sufficient resources to support an independent city of New York Food Policy Council to bring together food system representatives from city and state government, private, not-for-profit sectors and communities. The Council would share information and develop food system objectives: help coordinate resources; and promote the development of a regional food system that is good for producers, eaters, and the environment.
- b. The Council should assist in the development and adoption of a New York City Food Plan as provided for in Section 197-a of the City Charter. The plan would formally provide direction to city agencies on food policy issues, such as outlined in this agenda.

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## 2. Create the City of New York Department of Food

- a. Establish a city Department of Food to: promote urban agriculture and access to healthy, affordable food, including programs such as SNAP and Health Bucks; strengthen the regional food economy; improve food infrastructure, distribution and transportation systems; enhance food waste management and disposal; prepare the food systems serving the city for the consequences of climate change; and, assist in the development and implementation of an anti-hunger agenda. The Department of Food would consult with the proposed city of New York Food Policy Council, and coordinate matters of food and regional farm policy with state and federal governments; including the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration.

### **Strengthen Regional Agriculture**

Protect the regional food shed; support urban agriculture; preserve community gardens; support sustainable agriculture practices

Our city needs to strengthen our regional food system to support farmers and the food industry in the greater metropolitan area.

Regional farm production is essential to sustainably meeting our city's food needs. Our state has over 36,000 farms on seven million acres, a quarter of our state's land.<sup>16</sup> Importantly, regional food production is not just rural production, for food too is produced in the city, in hundreds of community gardens and on an increasing number of innovative, private and not-for-profit, urban farms.

Nationally, the USDA has assisted in the development of food hubs. In Feb. 2103, Governor Cuomo announced \$3.6 million in funding for regional food hubs in Central New York, the Finger Lakes, Hudson Valley, and the North Country, in addition to an earlier food hub project on Long Island.

Many farmers and ranchers, especially smaller operations, are challenged by the lack of distribution and processing infrastructure of appropriate scale that would give them wider access to retail, institutional, and commercial foodservice markets, where demand for local and regional foods continues to rise. Food hubs help by offering a combination of production, aggregation, distribution, and marketing services; they make it possible for producers to gain entry into new and additional markets that would be difficult or impossible to access on their own.

While the city has taken great care to ensure the sustainability of farming in our watershed and to recognize the importance of our own urban foodshed, we have lacked similar vigilance in the protection of agricultural capacities in our larger, rural foodshed. And, the possibility of natural gas extraction by high volume hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in New York State poses a threat to agriculture, regional food security, and water. Our regional food shed is also threatened by climate change and its effect on growing seasons, rain, and insects.

The bulk of our food, much of which could be grown locally, is transported thousands of miles in a fossil fuel intensive fashion. The production and distribution of our food chain is also subject to the

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long-term effects of climate change.

## 3. Support and Expand Urban Agriculture

- a. Adopt sustainable land care practices on city-maintained land to decrease the contamination of soil and water by pesticides, herbicides, and chemical fertilizers.
- b. Reduce policy obstacles to urban agriculture, support research on sustainable urban farming "best practices", make food and horticultural training and certification available to community gardeners and urban farmers, and provide programming and technical assistance.
- c. Enact a Local Law (Int. No. 957) proposed by New York City Council to amend the New York City Charter. The law would help create and develop school gardens by establishing within the office an interagency school gardens team under the management of the director or the director's designee to support the creation and maintenance of school gardens.
- d. Create land use incentives and supporting mechanisms for urban agriculture. Update the Land Use Code pertaining to urban agriculture (using the Seattle 2010 code as a model) to provide definitions of urban agriculture terms, allow urban farms and community gardens permitted uses in all zones where practicable, and allow urban farmers to sell their farm products on the same lot or off-site and provide them with grants to obtain vendor insurance. Work with the New York City Department of City Planning to continue integrating urban agriculture and sustainability principles into Zone Green, an initiative designed to remove impediments to the city's zoning policies.
- e. Promote the development and permanent protection of community garden space, including New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and Housing Preservation and Development land, encourage new developments to include agricultural land (modeled on the "Seattle Green Factor and Priority Green Permitting" program), and provide incentives for private property owners to allow temporary urban agriculture projects on vacant land. Within NYCHA plans include plans for EFPs, urban gardens, and farmers markets. Use some of the funds earned from farmers markets for making improvements in NYCHA buildings.
- f. Help urban farmers preserve urban harvests by providing free or low cost commercial kitchen facilities, including washing stations, storage and preparation spaces, and refrigeration.
- g. Use community gardens and urban farms to generate income through branding and agritourism - create New York City urban farming produce branding to promote food produced in the city.
- h. Include rooftop agricultural greenhouse performance metrics in the Mayor's Management Report (e.g., food and jobs produced, water and energy used, and programming provided, etc.).
- i. Facilitate the development of rooftop farms and rooftop agricultural greenhouses by identifying city-owned properties with roofs suitable for urban agriculture, reducing zoning barriers and simplifying permitting, creating an authorization process for certain use and bulk waivers, waiving Floor to Area Ratio (FAR) requirements and height restrictions, and changing water rates.
- j. Minimize the use of fertilizer and encourage the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices by continuing to work with watershed farmers through the Watershed Protection Program.

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- k. Promote income generating agrotourism for community gardens and urban farms with the support of New York City Community Garden Coalition and borough Land Trust groups. Ensure that income from agrotourism is funneled back into community gardening/urban farming projects that support food access for low-income NYC residents. For example, these funds could be channeled into providing free or low cost kitchen facilities for urban farms.

## **Economic Strength and Job Creation**

Continue to support expansion of small-scale food processing, good jobs, strengthen food workers' rights and provide living wages, support regional, rural and urban food producers.

Creating a stronger food system means more jobs at the local and regional level.

Food processors of all sizes contribute to the economy of our city. Food processing in New York City is a \$5 billion industry, with nearly 1,000 food processing businesses employing more than 14,000 workers.<sup>17</sup> We need to better meet their business needs. Small businesses face the high cost of space while larger ones are tempted by lower costs elsewhere. All struggle to access capital, pay for equipment, and find amenable manufacturing and retail space.

Food processors have the potential to support local and regional food producers by purchasing locally grown produce. Regional food procurement, together with good production practices - managing water and energy usage and waste production - are key to sustainable processing.

A vast network of workers is engaged in processing, preparing, and serving food that feeds New Yorkers and these jobs are among the lowest paying jobs in our city. Most of those who work in food system jobs do not earn living wages nor do they have positions that provide benefits, job security, or advancement opportunities. Developing living wage jobs, job benefits, and improving the working conditions for food industry workers are essential elements of achieving a fair and just food system in New York City.

The City Council has created a \$10 Small Manufacturing Investment Fund. \$2 million of the funding is being used to provide capital upgrades to the La Margueta food manufacturing site in Harlem.

## **4. Facilitate Food Sector Economic Development and Local Food Procurement**

- a. Facilitate regional production to processing linkages to ensure an ample and reliable supply of and demand for regionally produced ingredients.
- b. All publicly funded food processing and distribution (FRESH, EDC) should ensure that beneficiaries:
  - provide adequate food health and safety precautions
  - require or provide subsidies for local procurement (mentioned in #9a)
  - support local labor movement
  - provide living wages

Manufacturers receiving public funds should have to sign on the Manufacturer's Code of Conduct developed by Brandworkers International and the administering agency to agree

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to transparency in the award process.

- c. Support the creation and expansion of food processing enterprises. This would include:
  - dedicate Economic Development Corporation (EDC) resources to support local food processing businesses;
  - assist companies in applying to the EDC capital access program (a public-private partnership helping micro and small-businesses obtain conventional bank loans and lines of credit, up to \$250,000, for working capital, leasehold improvements, and equipment purchases);
  - provide city support (for example, the City Council's Small Manufacturing Investment Fund of \$10 million) to develop new manufacturing space (including food processing space), develop a food processing industrial retention policy, and promote awareness of the City's Division of Minority & Women-Owned Business Development among the food sector and local food businesses. Support the establishment of public markets, food business incubators and community kitchens.

## 5. Continue to Incubate Small-scale, Local Food Processing Start-ups

- a. Develop food processing incubator programs citywide, similar to La Marqueta in East Harlem, to help food entrepreneurs start and grow local businesses. The programs would provide facilities, training, one-stop and on-line resources, and technical assistance to enhance job skills in food-related fields
- b. Simplify food processing permit processes, provide regulatory and licensing "roadmaps" to help entrepreneurs work with city agencies, and provide comprehensive, user-friendly information (e.g.; a web site, a manual, seminars, online licensing) regarding food processing regulatory requirements.
- c. Use city-owned land to develop new industrial space for food processing businesses and help start-up food processors cover the expense of equipment and energy.
- d. Promote the development of "green," food-based entrepreneurial and good job opportunities that support our regional farm and food economy.

## 6. Strengthen the Food Processing Work Force

- a. Provide training to prepare New Yorkers for entry into good paying food processing jobs. Encourage the development of food system career mobility pathways. Ensure that food system employers are aware that discrimination on the basis of race, gender, and national origin is illegal. Provide incentives to employers providing fair promotional opportunities. Make targeted local hiring goals.
- b. Guarantee health benefits, such as paid sick days and access to health care, to New York City food system workers.

## Use Food Purchasing to Promote Local Food and Jobs

### Increase government purchasing of local foods; support Farm to Institution initiatives.

In New York City, public funds annually provide more than one quarter billion meals and snacks in senior and day care centers, detention and correctional facilities, hospitals, schools and more. The

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New York City Department of Education, at \$148 million per year is the nation's second largest institutional food purchaser after the military.<sup>18</sup> And, institutions and private businesses serve many millions of meals each year to students, patients, clients, and customers.

The city has the opportunity to promote a sustainable food system through its purchasing decisions. It has already taken important steps to support local and healthy food procurement, so the challenge is how to continue to improve. By procuring and serving regionally produced food, the city can strengthen our regional farm and food economy and contribute to a healthier environment. In addition, the city can undertake initiatives to facilitate non-governmental purchase of regionally produced food.

Pursuant to New York City Local Law 50 of 2011 (part of the City Council's FoodWorks legislative agenda), the City implemented Food Purchasing Guidelines that empower agencies to procure more food that is produced regionally (NYS General Municipal Law section 103). The city has also begun to collect data on the amount of food that is locally purchased; the data collection needs to be strengthened in order to establish the existing baseline.

Farm to Institution (FTI) programs help source local and regional foods for schools, hospitals, faith-based organizations, and worksites. Establishing on-site farmers markets at institutions is one approach. Farm to School programs focus on connecting schools with local agricultural production with the goal of improving school meals and increasing intake of fruits and vegetables by children. Sourcing food from local farms presents a number of challenges including cost and availability of local products, food safety, and liability considerations and lack of skilled labor for food preparation. Wholesome Wave recently received \$250,000 from the Laurie Tisch Foundation to help move more healthy, local foods into hospitals.

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council has developed a Good Food Procurement Pledge. The program promotes increasing levels of achievement in five crucial categories: (1) local economies, (2) environmental sustainability, (3) valued workforce, (4) animal welfare, and (5) nutrition

## 7. Increase City Procurement of Regional Food

- a. Establish agency goals for the percentage of regionally produced food purchased with public funds each year. While data collection needs to be strengthened, based on existing information, an initial goal should be set at a minimum of at least 20% and then increased over time. Improve data collection.
- b. Proclaim a New York City "Eat Local" day, similar to the Los Angeles City, "Eat Local, Buy California Grown" day.
- c. Increase School Food procurement of regionally grown food to 25% to ensure fresher and healthier food (current percentage of local food as reported by Food Metrics largely reflects the purchase of milk products).
- d. The City should establish Sustainable and Healthy Food Procurement Specialist positions in each agency engaged in food procurement to assist buyers in adding the values of health, sustainability, and regional economic strength to food purchasing decisions by linking regional rural production to urban consumption.

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## 8. Encourage Institutional and Private Procurement of Regional Food

- a. Provide support to NYC-based institutions to identify and access sources for local food (e.g., coordinate with NYS Agriculture and Markets; have contact for regional food sources within City administration). Support Farm to Institution programs. Develop a regional food procurement “pledge” similar to LA for New York City restaurants and institutions.

### Food Distribution

Make more fresh, healthful, regional food available, particularly in fresh food deserts; enhance distribution infrastructure and shorten distribution chains via more efficient means of transportation.

Food distribution refers to the ways food travels from farm to plate. It includes the outlets that provide access, the last stop before consumption - food markets, food cooperatives, street carts, farmers markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) sites, and emergency food providers.

The food distribution system depends upon roads, rail lines, and food handling and distribution infrastructure. While much has been accomplished, barriers remain to regional rural and urban farmers' access to the New York City market. These barriers include inefficient and ineffective distribution channels and lack of medium to small-scale wholesale markets and distribution channels.

Hunts Point, in the Bronx, the world's largest food distribution center, housing over 200 businesses and employing more than 12,400 people.<sup>19</sup> It has three markets: produce, seafood and meat. The market helps feeds nine percent of the U.S. population, supplies food to 22 million people within a 50-mile radius.<sup>19</sup> Its infrastructure is no longer adequate to fulfill the critical role it plays in our regional food system. Unfortunately, only four percent of the produce sold at the market comes from New York State farmers.<sup>20</sup> The market is adjacent to one of the country's most impoverished neighborhoods, where hunger is epidemic with some of the highest rates of diabetes and obesity in the city. Residents are exposed to serious air pollution from more than 70,000 vehicles daily, including diesel trucks.<sup>21</sup>

Estimates to rebuild Hunts Point have ranged from \$300 million up to \$500 million. In 2012 the city agreed to provide \$172.5 million in cash and tax breaks to the produce market.<sup>21</sup> In return, the market cooperative is to sign a 99-year lease and spend about \$330 million to revamp its operation at Hunts Point.<sup>21</sup> The cooperative must obtain about \$160 million in additional financing.<sup>21</sup> The federal government recently contributed \$25 million.<sup>22</sup>

The federal government recently provided \$10 million to Hunts Point to upgrade its aging - and inadequate - freight rail distribution center.<sup>23</sup> The market has 18 miles of train tracks, accommodating up to 3,000 train cars each year.<sup>23</sup> The market's railroad layout does not allow crews to unload trucks and trains at the same time. Unloading and filling rail cars takes eight hours and requires crews to move trucks to accommodate the trains.<sup>23</sup>

Food deserts are geographic areas where residents' access to affordable, healthy food options (such as fresh fruits and vegetables) is restricted due to the absence of grocery stores within convenient travelling distance. An estimated 750,000 New York City residents live in food deserts, while three

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million people live in places where stores that sell fresh produce are few or far away.<sup>25 26</sup> Supermarkets throughout New York City have closed down in recent years due to increasing rents and shrinking profit margins. The disappearance of urban grocery stores has had the most serious impact on low-income communities. The city has launched initiatives such as FRESH (supermarkets), Green Carts and healthy bodegas to address this problem. But putting new supermarkets into food deserts may continue food apartheid if their prices remain unaffordable to nearby low-income residents.

At the state level, the New York Healthy Food & Healthy Communities (HFHC) Fund was established to facilitate the development of healthy food markets in underserved communities throughout New York. The \$30 million fund is part of a statewide initiative to promote healthy communities.

## 9. Improve Regionally Produced Food Distribution

- a. Convene a roundtable of regional food producers, processors, distributors, community residents and institutional food providers to determine local food distribution best practices, obstacles, and models to increase the distribution of regionally produced food.
- b. Analyze our foodshed to identify the optimal distribution routes and modes for local food distribution in the region and the city.
- c. Improve farmers' access to the New York City market by establishing small-scale, wholesale farmers markets and other distribution points throughout the five boroughs, strategically located in underserved neighborhoods.
- d. Ensure the long-term viability of outdoor farmers markets through the establishment of long-term leases and infrastructure improvements, such as adequate space for trucks, electricity and lighting, water, cold storage and light processing facilities, and toilets.

## 10. Sustainably Redevelop Hunts Point

- a. City, state and federal officials need to work with other stakeholders to obtain the resources necessary for the sustainable redevelopment of the Hunts Point Produce Market, including a Wholesale Farmers Market. The redevelopment process needs to be transparent with an inclusive process for members of the city's food system and local residents.
- b. Reduce traffic track by expanding the rail link.
- c. Provide the neighborhood with a new outlet for fresh fruit and vegetables provided by regional farmers. Jobs should be provided to the local residents and the impact of transportation and air quality on the neighborhood needs to be reduced.

## 11. Expand Access to Local Healthy Food, especially in food deserts

- a. Expand and promote opportunities for people to purchase fresh, healthy, local food. Promote local produce options that reflect the food cultures of various communities, particularly at farmers markets serving low-income communities. Provide grocery stores, bodegas and other small food businesses with a range of policy supports, such as tax credits, subsidies, and technical assistance for bulk /group purchasing, to encourage them to stock more healthy food and less unhealthy food.
- b. Provide sufficient funding for inclusion of DOHMH flyers in HRA mailings to food stamp

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- recipients at markets that accept food stamps and provide Health Buck incentives.
- c. Expand EBT and Health Buck usage and offer reduced rates or subsidized membership in food co-ops and warehouses for low-income residents.
  - d. Support, expand, and increase food access programs such as Greenmarket and other farmers markets, CSA programs, Green Carts, and Shop Healthy Bodegas, particularly where more than 50 percent of residents are at or below 185 percent of the poverty level. Continue to assist bodegas in obtain refrigeration units to make it easier to sell fresh produce.
  - e. Expand funding for the Health Bucks program to include both EBT and the monthly WIC Fruit and Vegetable Check.
  - f. Encourage direct sale partnerships between regional farmers and low-income residents. This includes supporting mobile market vans delivering food by the box and other mobile fresh food delivery systems, buying clubs, and CSAs.
  - g. Utilize EFPs as a point of distribution of local produce, a space for food literacy, and for culinary and nutrition education. Incorporate EFPs with urban farms that could grow food for EFPs.
  - h. Increase the number of licenses and decrease the cost of permits for mobile healthy food businesses issued by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Reduce the waiting time for mobile healthy food businesses that operate in underserved areas.
  - i. Strengthen and expand FRESH to further incentivize the development of grocery stores in neighborhoods with poor food access.
    - Require FRESH recipients to complete annual reports on job quality, local hiring and retention, and food quality. This info would be included in New York City Industrial Development Agency (NYCIDA) reporting.
    - Require a wage floor for the employees of recipients of FRESH incentives.
    - Improve the NYCIDA FRESH application process to ensure that accurate information is provided by applicants, that it enhances community involvement in the granting of incentives, increases the money available to each applicant based on the applicant promising to meet certain community benefit, and increases oversight and monitoring of subsidy recipients. In collaboration with public housing tenant advocacy groups, conduct an inventory of all NYCHA property suitable for grocery store expansion and adapt GroceryWorks to obtain higher participation from residents of designated food deserts.

## **End Hunger, Improve Healthy Food Choices**

Improve access to SNAP; adopt universal school meals with stronger nutritional standards; breakfast in classroom mandate; increased funding for EFAP and Meals on Wheels; food planning for emergencies.

All city residents - especially our most vulnerable, the disadvantaged, the young, and the aged - must have access to ample, affordable, healthful, sustainable, and culturally meaningful food. By healthful food we mean fresh, nutritious, minimally processed foods including: fruits; vegetables; whole grains; fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products; lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts; and foods low in saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt, and added sugars.

The lack of access to healthy food options and over-access to high calorie, low nutrient foods, has

## A Food Policy Agenda for New York City

serious health consequences for New Yorkers. Persistent poverty and unemployment have significantly contributed to hunger, which remains an on-going problem in our city. We support the agenda of groups such as the New York City Coalition Against Hunger and the Economic Justice and Social Welfare Network to reduce poverty through targeted job creation (including expanding transitional jobs for welfare participants and WPA-style public jobs), improving the administration of the Human Resources Administration (include access to cash assistance and reducing sanctioning), and higher wages. HRA needs new leadership that embraces the goal of improving the quality of life for low-income New Yorkers and recognizes the daily challenges such households face in NYC.

Since the recession started in 2007, the number of individuals using emergency food programs has increased by more than 60%. A recent survey by Hunger Action Network found that more than 2/3 of the programs have experienced a drop in food donations while almost all (89%) report an increase in demand. More than 20% of the guests are seniors, while more than a third are children and a third the working poor. The biggest reasons driving households to emergency food programs are high rents, lack of jobs and low wages.<sup>27</sup>

School food programs have the potential to reduce hunger and food insecurity as well as play a role in reversing childhood obesity and improving nutrition. Yet, New York City has the lowest school breakfast program participation rate among large cities in the country, even though the program is free in most schools.<sup>28</sup> The city's optional breakfast in the classroom program has been effective in increasing participation but only a limited number of schools and classrooms presently participate. In addition to increasing access and nutritional quality, attention must also be paid to making the food choices attractive to students so they will eat it.

For school meals, the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 provides the Community Eligibility Option (CEO) to replace the inefficient, application-based system with a paperless electronic "direct certification" data matching with SNAP or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). This allows students to eat free of charge and free of stigma in low income communities. A school district is eligible for the CEO if at least 40 percent of its students are directly certified for free meals based on their participation in specified programs such as SNAP and TANF (welfare). A school with 40 percent of its students directly certified would receive reimbursement from the USDA of 64 percent at the free lunch rate and 36 percent at the paid lunch reimbursement rate, while a school with 62.5 percent of its students directly certified would receive 100 percent reimbursement at the free lunch rate.

Since 2003-04, the Department of Education (DOE) has provided breakfast at no charge to students, regardless of their family income. In FY12, NYC's SchoolFood served an average of 642,957 lunches per day, of which 76.7% were free, 8% were reduced-price and just 15.2% paid full price. These numbers indicate that New York City is a low-income school district. To date, DOE has not applied for the CEO program for all eligible schools. A City Council resolution (1637-2013) was introduced in March 2013 urging the Mayor and DOE to do so.

Farmers markets offer additional opportunities for low-income residents to access fresh, local food. The city is to be commended for having established the Health Bucks program to subsidize the use of SNAP at farmers markets. The city has also worked to make it easier to use SNAP benefits at farmers markets.

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The city has adopted nutritional standards for foods they purchase. This should be continued and strengthened, and expanded to include local foods. The city should expand efforts to promote healthy and local food choices by private institutions, such as the Healthy Hospital Food Initiative.

The Mayor's Anti-Obesity Task Force in 2012 developed a number of policy recommendations.  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/om/pdf/2012/otf\\_report.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/om/pdf/2012/otf_report.pdf)

The city has taken steps through public education campaigns and restrictions on sale size to reduce access to sugary beverages. Sugary soft drinks have been pinpointed in medical studies as a major contributor to our obesity epidemic.<sup>29</sup> A study from Harvard Medical School determined that each additional 12 ounce sugary soft drink consumed per day increases the odds of a child becoming obese by 60 percent. The main sweetener in soda — high-fructose corn syrup — can increase fats in the blood called triglycerides, which raises the risk of heart problems, diabetes and other health woes. This sweetener also doesn't spur production of insulin to make the body "process" calories, nor does it spur leptin, a substance that tamps down appetite, as other carbohydrates do.

New York City should develop a plan to end hunger - to make sure that all its residents have enough to eat. Frances Moore Lappe, author of *A Diet for a Small Planet*, has written "Hunger is not caused by a scarcity of food but a scarcity of democracy." In "A City that Ended Hunger" (<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/food-for-everyone/the-city-that-ended-hunger>) she describes how the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil declared food a human right and developed and implemented a plan to provide healthy, affordable food to low-income residents.

"The city developed dozens of innovations to assure everyone the right to food, especially by weaving together the interests of farmers and consumers. It offered local family farmers dozens of choice spots of public space on which to sell to urban consumers, essentially redistributing retailer mark-ups on produce—which often reached 100 percent—to consumers and the farmers. Farmers' profits grew, since there was no wholesaler taking a cut. And poor people got access to fresh, healthy food."

The city also makes good food available by offering entrepreneurs the opportunity to bid on the right to use well-trafficked plots of city land for "ABC" markets, from the Portuguese acronym for "food at low prices." The city started three large, airy "People's Restaurants" (Restaurante Popular), plus a few smaller venues, that daily serve 12,000 or more people using mostly locally grown food for the equivalent of less than 50 cents a meal.

## 12. Strengthen Access to SNAP (food stamps) and Other Nutrition Programs

- a. Simplify the application process for food assistance programs, including a streamlined application for the elderly. Take full advantage of state and federal initiatives and waivers (e.g., the able bodied waiver for SNAP). Allow for a 36-month recertification period instead of one year. Continue efforts to enable individuals to apply for programs simultaneously.
- b. Install new leadership at HRA that is more responsive to the needs and realities of low-income New Yorkers. Provide adequate staffing, training and supervision to enable HRA workers to fulfill their mission. Overhaul the City's welfare to work program with more

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emphasis on job creation, job training and education. Stop efforts to divert individuals from accessing cash assistance. Reduce the excessive use of sanctioning, especially since HRA is often at fault.

- c. Expand media and public outreach campaigns to increase participation in SNAP and other nutrition programs, including providing city funding to supplement other government program outreach efforts.
- d. Assist low-income individuals in accessing fruits and vegetables by: increasing funding for Health Bucks; continuing to expand participation of farmers markets in the SNAP and Health Bucks programs; providing supplemental city funding for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program Coupons provided to low-income seniors and WIC participants; and providing financial assistance so that farmers markets, Green Carts, food coops and CSAs are equipped with cost effective EBT transaction processing capability.

## 13. Increase School Meal Participation While Improving Nutritional Quality

- a. Enact universal school meals. Make free school lunch available to all public school children by taking advantage of the new Community Eligibility Option (CEO) for low-income school districts (free school breakfast is already provided).
- b. Mandate that schools provide healthful breakfasts in the classroom (and "grab and go" model in hallways) to all public school children. Better work with teachers and school staff, including education regarding the benefits of school meals participation.
- c. Develop a K to 12 food literacy curriculum. Short-term, integrate food and nutrition into school curricula by working with science teachers, physical education teachers, parents, and local institutions with a focus on building the skills to purchase and prepare raw foods; incorporate this information into outreach materials and activities with parents and local institutions.
- d. Expand the DOE's "garden to cafe" programs by better integrating the program into the school meals program and providing increased opportunities for schools to procure fruits and vegetables from external food outlets including community gardens, food banks, food pantries, retail outlets, local farms, etc. Incorporate fresh produce into healthy meals on "harvest days" at least once a month. Engage parents, community members, and local institutions in these efforts. Incorporate fresh produce into healthy meals on "harvest days" at least once a month.
- e. Help make food choices in school more appealing to students. Expand support for programs such as Wellness in Schools and Cornell's Food and Brand Lab. Strengthen existing school wellness committees through a school district-wide cabinet that includes wellness committee representatives, SchoolFood staff, principals, custodians, parents, teachers, students, and local organizations. The New York City Department of Education's Office of School Food should collaborate with nutrition experts, community members, interest groups and parents to improve the nutritional output of food items that result in healthier school menus.
- f. Provide capital investment and staff training to increase schools' capacities to cook whole foods. Improve the quality of school meals, including improving nutrition standards by: making salad bars available every day; adopting Meatless Mondays; serving only whole grain pasta, bread, and rice; expanding eligibility for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program to ensure students eat at least one fresh fruit daily; ensuring that vegetables are

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served fresh (frozen if possible, minimize use of canned foods to raw ingredient form).  
Eliminate sweetened milk.

- g. Provide public access to school food ingredient lists, including nutritional information and food sources and source locations.
- h. Continue efforts to expand the reach of after school and summer meal programs by increasing the number of summer meal sites (e.g., pools, libraries) and improving outreach efforts, particularly in low-income areas.
- i. Expand efforts to make drinking water readily accessible through water fountains and ensure that water is available to accompany meals and snacks in schools and childcare facilities. In schools, expanding the School Food water jet program; ensure that water is available during after school hours and during non-instructional school time programming.
- j. Eliminate the sale of junk food in schools. Strengthen enforcement of existing state restrictions on such sales in schools. Improve the nutritional value of New York City DOE's Chancellor-regulated competitive food items sold in vending machines in public schools and institute stronger oversight over items sold. Examples of healthy choices include: low-fat yogurt, nuts, and fruit.
- k. Integrate food action and justice into the city's high school public service requirements and create an on-line list of food and food justice-based community service and senior project opportunities.
- l. Work with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to inform the development of revised standards that address obesity prevention and address overall health and nutrition issues in child day care as well as increase the nutritional value of food provide in childcare settings.

### **14. Increase Funding for Emergency Food Programs**

- a. Provide adequate funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) (e.g., \$15.4 million for food in 2013, an increase of \$7 million from present funding); index funding for EFAP to inflation; switch to food ordering flexibility (including expanding access to fresh produce); and create a Human Resources Administration emergency food program advisory council.

### **15. Strengthen and increase Funding for Senior Center Congregate and Home Delivered Meals.**

- a. Build in an annual inflation factor to provide healthy food, a variety of menus, and the provision of therapeutic meals for senior center congregate and home-delivered meals.
- b. Fund senior center breakfast programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA).
- c. Restore the Sixth Congregate Meal Weekend Program which, in the past, provided a single take home weekend meal from Senior Centers for low income, older adults, and conduct a public awareness campaign to promote the Sixth Congregate Meal Weekend Program, senior center meals, and home-delivered meals.
- d. Collaborate with nutrition experts to improve nutrition education and budgeting in senior centers.

### **16. Promote Public Health and Food and Nutrition Education**

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- a. Expand food and nutrition education campaigns through public service announcements, subway advertisements, and social networks and distribute more nutrition education materials through emergency food programs. Promote awareness of the nutrition guidelines set for bulk purchasing by the Food Bank For New York City as recommended guidelines for donated food items.
- b. Expand funding for culinary training provided to children, youth, families, and seniors focusing on whole, unprocessed foods.
- c. Encourage employers to promote nutrition education, wellness, and healthy eating practices in the workplace. Promote the consumption of healthy food instead of junk food through public awareness campaigns and education.
- d. Reduce the number of fast food restaurants in food deserts as other cities have done. Potential steps include eliminating fast food retailers' eligibility for Industrial Commercial Abatement Program (ICAP) funding; placing a cap on the number of outlets; and restricting the development of new fast food restaurants in certain areas (e.g., within 500 feet of schools in food deserts).
- e. Eliminate unhealthy food messaging in city owned facilities.
- f. Require that children's meals offered at restaurants with toys or other incentives meet the nutritional standards of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- g. Increase the availability of city water in parks and other public spaces.
- h. Create a program similar to Seattle's Farm to Table Program to help connect city-supported licensed childcare facilities and city-supported senior meal programs with local farmers to integrate fresh, local produce into meals served to children and seniors.
- i. Require that family care centers have nutrition requirements for meals and prohibit parents from bringing in sugar sweetened beverages and junk food.
- j. Require GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) labeling of foods containing GMO ingredients sold in the city. Modify Executive Order No.122 of 2008 to require that foods containing GMO ingredients, hormones, and antibiotics be phased out of foods purchased and served by the city over a five year period.
- k. Increase taxes on the sale of soda and other sugary beverages.
- l. Adopt, update and expand many of the recommendations from the City's Anti-Obesity task Force (a number of them are included elsewhere in the Agenda.)

### **17. Ensure the Availability of Food in Emergencies**

- a. Adopt a city emergency response plan which ensures access to healthy foods during and after severe weather events, with an emphasis on vulnerable and low-income populations. Establish funding for Emergency Food Providers to access in response to emergencies such as natural disasters.
- b. Promote emergency food safety guidelines to help consumers, food stores and restaurants determine if food is still "good" after an emergency, such as a prolonged electrical service outage.

### **Eliminate and Reduce Food Waste**

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Food scraps, used cooking oil, waste water from washing and other food processing, and packaging materials are by-products of our food system. Food scraps and packaging constitute more than half of the city's waste stream. Much of this "waste" is safe, wholesome food that could potentially feed the hungry. Excess food not fit for consumption can be recycled into a nutrient-rich soil amendment.

On the consumer end, much household waste is due to food spoilage, overcooking, plate waste and over-purchasing. A study in the United Kingdom found that two-thirds of annual household waste is due to food not being used in time, whereas the other one-third is caused by people cooking or serving too much.<sup>30</sup> Some waste is driven by consumer confusion over "use-by" and "best-by" dates — which are based on manufacturer suggestions for peak quality — that lead people to throw out food for fear that it is spoiled, when in fact it still is safe to eat. Some of the problems with food waste are outlined in *Food, Water and Energy: Know the Nexus* (see the appendix resources for link).

Most stores discard food products as soon as they are past these "sell-by" dates. Restaurants contribute to the problem with supersized portions, sprawling menus and inadequate training for food handlers about minimizing food waste. A considerable amount of energy and water are associated with discarded food. Approximately 2.5 percent of the U.S. energy budget is "thrown away" annually as food waste - the equivalent to the energy in hundreds of millions of barrels of oil.<sup>31</sup>

Our consumption of bottled water contributes to a vast amount of unnecessary waste. Despite the fact that New York City's tap water is among the best tasting and cleanest in the nation, so clean, in fact, that it does not require filtration, plastic water bottles constitute up to 1.5 million tons of plastic waste per year.<sup>14</sup> And with recycling rates in New York City as low as they are (15%), most of these bottles end up in the landfill.<sup>32</sup>

Mayor Bloomberg recently proposed prohibiting the use of Styrofoam containers in schools and restaurants, as well as a pilot municipal pickup program for food waste on Staten Island for composting.

## 18. Feed People, Not Landfills

- a. Reduce the amount of food waste produced in the city by educating households to acquire only what they need and to preserve excess food by freezing or canning, especially abundant seasonal fruits and vegetables.
- b. Recover more excess food for human consumption that might otherwise enter the city's food waste stream. One step is increase coordination with City Harvest that collects excess and distributes food from restaurants, grocers, corporate cafeterias, manufacturers, and farms.
- c. Provide seed funding for a "community kitchen" modeled after DC Central Kitchen that redirects surplus food from around New York City and uses it as a tool to train unemployed adults to develop work skills while providing thousands of meals for local service agencies and fostering local farm partnerships.

## 19. Prevent and Manage Waste

- a. Strengthen city food procurement practices to further reduce solid waste and to focus on

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packaging made of reusable and recycled materials, and increase the city's recycling of food-related packaging (see LL 50 of 2011).

- b. Encourage restaurant grease recycling.
- c. Ban plastic types: #3, Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC or V), used in bottles and plastic wrap and believed to interfere with male reproductive hormones; #6, Polystyrene (Styrofoam or PS), used in take-out containers, meat and food trays, hot cups, and egg cartons and known to be a carcinogen; and #7, Polycarbonate (PC), used in jugs, bottles, jars, and microwavable containers (all believed to cause reproductive abnormalities and pre-cancerous conditions and to contribute to obesity).
- d. Launch a food waste education and behavioral change campaign focused on reducing the amount of edible food entering the waste stream and composting.

## 20. Expand Residential and Commercial Food Composting

- a. Support the establishment of composting facilities (including municipally-owned) sited outside of flood zones.
- b. Develop a mandatory curbside compost program (supported by compost education) for residential users building on successful models, such as in Seattle and San Francisco, and expand the city's recycling and solid waste recovery programs.
- c. Eliminate barriers to food composting in community gardens, such as clarifying that the Business Integrity Commission (BIC) does not govern community-based composters and haulers.
- d. Increase the retail value for compost through "Official New York City Compost" branding. Promote the sale of city produced compost to gardening stores and other retail outlets. Increase donations of city compost to school and community gardens and urban farms, and expand its use by the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Sanitation.
- e. Require that city agencies compost food waste and encourage private venues, including sports and entertainment venues, to do so.
- f. Establish organic collection programs for large food companies, restaurants, and other food-producing venues, provide grants for training, outreach, and new containers from the Department of Sanitation, and increase funding for compost education and technical assistance.
- g. Require businesses generating more than 104 tons of food scraps annually to compost, once compost facilities are in place.
- h. Implement anaerobic digestion of source-separated organic waste (not mixed waste), which creates usable methane fuel and valuable soil enhancement material.

## 21. Eliminate Plastic Water Bottles

- a. Discourage bottled water consumption through public education, initiating a campaign to educate residents about the high quality of the New York City tap water.
- b. Ban the sale of bottled water in city facilities. Restrict the sale of single use bottled water.
- c. Restrict city agencies from purchasing bottled water, where practicable.

## 22. Minimize Food Industry Environmental Impact

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- a. Revise city Environmental Quality Review standards (CEQR and SEQRA, respectively) to include the potential impact development proposals and other actions have on the food system.
- b. Establish a goal for the reduction of food waste in the food processing industry and conduct an education campaign in support.
- c. Work with food processors to reduce energy use through increased energy efficiency and conservation and help food processors access energy efficiency programs
- d. Create micro-loan programs to subsidize regional farm equipment conversion from fossil fuel to waste-based, bio-diesel fuel and reward distributors using hybrid technology and clean fuels.

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## APPENDIX

### State and Federal Policy Recommendations for New York City

The Mayor and other city officials play a critical role in advocating at the state and federal level for policy changes to improve our food system. The federal Food and Farm Bill is especially critical.

The Mayor must coordinate food and farm policy development with the city's state legislative and federal congressional delegations to develop common legislative and executive food and farm priorities beneficial to the city.

#### **The Food and Farm Bill**

The Food and Farm Bill is the nation's blueprint for the food system; it comes up for reauthorization every five years. It is critical for the Mayor and City Council to continue to provide leadership to support a farm bill that promotes healthy food, ends hunger, supports sustainable agriculture practices, and provides family farmers and other food workers with a living wage.

We endorse the positions of the New York City Food and Farm Bill Working Group (see resources in appendix for link).

Unfortunately, Congress in 2012 failed to reauthorize the farm bill. At the end of 2012, it extended the existing farm bill for nine months, defunding many critical community food initiatives and failing to include a number of reforms to promote healthy foods and Dairy Farms that had been included in the ongoing deliberations.

Our recommendations below on federal policy highlight some of the critical initiatives that should be included. More details are on the New York City Food and Farm Bill Working group; a summary of their key principles is below. We also support the general positions of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Food Research and Action Center, Food and Water Watch, and the Environmental Working Group.

#### 1. A Health-Focused Food System

A food system that focuses on increasing the production and distribution of healthy foods - including fruits, vegetables, and whole grains - for consumption in our communities, homes, schools, and institutions will support the health and well being of us all.

#### 2. An End to Hunger and Access to Healthy Food

Ending food insecurity and hunger by protecting our nation's nutrition programs and ensuring equitable access to healthful, sustainably produced food is of paramount importance.

#### 3. A Level "Plowing" Field

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Small- and mid-scale family farms are increasingly struggling against anti-competitive practices, industry consolidation, and subsidies that tilt the playing field. Restoring competition, promoting fairness, encouraging decentralization, and developing scale-appropriate programs will contribute to the future vitality of small- and mid-scale regional, rural, and urban farm and food enterprises.

## 4. Good Environmental Stewardship

To ensure a secure food system today and well into the future, we must preserve our vital agricultural soil and water resources, reduce farm and other food-system energy consumption, and practice sustainable agricultural production methods that minimize air and water pollution.

## 5. Vibrant Regional Farm and Food Economies

We must look to innovative methods to strengthen our regional food systems as a means to regain economic vitality. We must provide entrepreneurial opportunities and foster business growth and job creation in rural and urban production, processing, and distribution. Farm and food strategies must support beginning and disadvantaged urban and rural farmers, as well as established farmers facing the challenges of feeding America.

## Positions that New York City Should Support at the State and Federal Level

### Food Democracy

#### **State**

**1. Reform the NYS Council on Food Policy. The Council needs to have a strong advisory committee. It needs clearer mandates and accountability for its work product.**

### Regional Agriculture

#### State

#### **2. Support and Maintain Rural Agriculture**

- a. Appropriate at least \$25 million annually for the New York State Farmland Protection Fund and comprehensively identify our most productive farmland to facilitate targeted preservation.
- b. Expand annual funding for the Environmental Protection Fund to \$164 million. EPF funds programs such as the Farmland Protection Program, Conservation Partnership Program and Agricultural Nonpoint Source Program that help farmers protect their land from real estate development and enhance water quality.
- c. Cultivate new food system collaborations among Regional Economic Development Councils.

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- d. Support the development of new and expansion of existing livestock processing facilities and evaluation of small-scale appropriate livestock processing regulations and policy.
- e. Advocate for greater investment in small and medium-scale farm financial (loans and grants) and other (education) services.
- f. Survey board members and staff of New York land trusts to identify potential and interest for converting farmable areas into working lands.

## 3. Ban Fracking, Preserve our Food and Watersheds

- a. Ban high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF or fracking) statewide due to its negative environment and public health problems. The New York City watershed needs to be protected.

## Federal

## 4. Support Sustainable Food Production

- a. Ensure that urban farms are counted in the Census of Agriculture.
- b. Require that Federal Farm Program and crop insurance recipients achieve basic soil and water resource protection.
- c. Federal funding for agriculture should reward farmers and ranchers for adopting practices that protect the water and soil and reduce the carbon footprint. Provide technical and financial assistance to farmers to help modify their operational practices to provide greater resilience to the affects of climate change.
- d. Fund fully agriculture conservation, research, and extension programs that protect soil resources, improve air quality, and conserve water quality.
- e. Fully fund the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, Sustainable Agriculture Research Education, and the Organic Research and Extension Initiative.

## 5. Plan for Farms in Our Future

- a. Adequately fund the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development and Minority and Disadvantaged Farmers programs and ensure that it includes urban, as well as rural, farmers.
- b. Ensure that Value-Added Producer Grants, which provide technical assistance and working capital for value-added product marketing, support food hubs and outreach in cities with underserved neighborhoods.
- c. Enhance Rural Development programs to support local and regional food hubs and other supply chain innovations serving cities when a significant proportion of economic benefit accrues to regional rural producers.

## 6. Provide a Stable Agricultural Work Force

- a. Improve the Federal Guest Worker Policy to provide farmers with adequate farm labor and guest farm workers with a more secure and fair work environment.
- b. Amend the Emergency Disaster Grants for Farm Workers program to include a standing

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fund of \$5 million, with authority for replenishment, to provide funding for services to farm workers affected by natural disasters in order to maintain a critically needed workforce in disaster affected areas.

## 7. Provide for the Resilience of Regional Small and Medium-Scale, Family Farms

- a. Support the development of universally available, administratively simple, cost-sharing risk management farm insurance, with indemnity buy-up options, suited to small and medium-scale, diversified farm operations (e.g.; multiple specialty crop and planting, organic, mixed grain and livestock, dairy, aquaculture, and value-added processing) to protect against loss of farm revenue due to damaging weather or natural disaster.

## Economic Strength and Job Creation

### State

## 8. Improve Food System Working Conditions

- a. Guarantee health benefits, such as paid sick days and access to health care, to food system workers. Enact a standard of workers earning seven to nine job-protected, paid sick days each year.
- b. Ensure that procurement policies, government subsidies and loan programs require that contractors and recipients engage in fair labor practices and provide worker protections.
- c. Increase employee wage theft penalties, guarantee food system workers' right to organize, and protect against retaliation for organizing
- d. Tie the state's liquor licensing process to labor standards and incentivize good labor and food practices by giving some small benefits through the licensing process to businesses that go above and beyond what the law requires.

### Federal

## 9. Improve Food System Pay

- a. Increase the federal minimum wage to \$9.80, over a three-year period in \$0.85 increments, and increase the tipped minimum wage, in similar increments, until it reaches 70% of the federal minimum wage.

## Use Food Purchasing to promote local food and jobs

### State

## 10. Increase State Procurement of Regional Food

- a. Strengthen the “price preference” and “best value” (e.g., freshness, days from harvest to delivery, and perishability) provisions of New York State General Municipal Law (GML) section 103 to facilitate state and city agencies' increased purchase of New York State

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produce, including fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meats.

- b. Ensure that at least 20% of the food procured by State agencies be grown, produced, harvested, or processed in New York State. This can be done either by implementing two existing Executive Orders (Establishing a State Green Procurement and Agency Sustainability Program, and Establishing State Policies for the Promotion of Sustainable Local Farms and the Protection of Agriculture Lands), or passing the “Buy from the Backyard Act.
- c. Enact legislation (As. Peoples-Stokes, solicitation of available New York food products) to require the state to develop guidelines for state agencies to increase the purchasing of New York farm products and to require successful bidders for state food contracts provide state agencies with the type, dollar value and geographic origin of food provided.

## **Food Distribution**

### **State**

#### **11. Create Regional Markets for Regionally Produced Food**

- a. Increase public investment in processing, aggregation, and distribution facilities (e.g., regional food hubs). Allocate \$30 million for an Agricultural Development Fund for investment in food processing, distribution infrastructure, and job creation.

#### **12. Develop Environmentally Sound Distribution Practices**

- a. Enact legislation to require that corrugated wholesale transfer packaging is coated with a moisture barrier and certified as recyclable.
- b. Reduce farmers’ costs to deliver food to farmers markets, food hubs, CSA sites and other customers by creating reduced-cost “farmer” EZ-passes
- c. Create a micro-loan program to subsidize local farmers’ conversion of vehicles to waste-based, bio-diesel consumption.

#### **13. Improve School Food and Nutrition Education**

- a. Enact legislation making mandatory a food, agriculture, and nutrition curriculum for K-12 public school students including a home economics course, which involves developing the skills to purchase and prepare raw foods.
- b. Ensure that every school has access to agriculture, be it a community garden, urban farm, or relationship with a rural farm.

#### **14. Increase Public Sector Food Donation**

- a. Require state and municipal agencies, and their contractors, to ensure that surplus food is donated to non-profit food distribution organizations.

### **Federal**

#### **15. Link Regional Farmers and Urban Eaters**

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- a. Establish a federal Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) competitive grant program to award funds to organizations providing extension services - marketing and business assistance, crop development – to new and current CSA farmers.
- b. Support innovative delivery and distribution programs, with preference given to projects focusing on family farms that expand CSA reach into “food deserts” and low income communities with limited access to fresh food.
- c. Fund a Local Marketing Promotion Program that would offer competitive grants to establish, expand, and promote direct producer-to-consumer marketing.

## 16. Support Organic Agriculture

- a. Fund the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program at an annual amount of \$7 million and raise the maximum cap per participant from \$750 to \$1,000.
- b. Ensure equity for organic producers by eliminating the five percent surcharge they pay on their crop insurance rates and reimburse organic farmers for crop losses using organic prices rather than conventional prices to recognize the higher market value organic products

## End Hunger, Improve Healthy Food Choices

### State

## 17. Enhance Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance

- a. Increase funding for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) by at least \$10 million annually. Make the HPNAP application process clearer and simpler, with increased flexibility as to how programs spend their HPNAP funds. Increase funding for EFPs operating and capital equipment costs. Increase the percentage of purchased emergency food that is healthy, locally produced fruits and vegetables.
- b. Increase supplemental funding for the various federal child nutrition programs, such as WIC and school meals. Expand funding for Meals on Wheels for Senior Citizens.

## 18. Improve the Health Standards of Food Purchased and Served

- a. Adopt federal wellness standards and issue comprehensive agency nutrition standards.
- b. Continue to strengthen standards and bans around particular nutrients (e.g. sodium) or foods (e.g. sugary beverages). Enact a sugary beverage tax, with revenues used to fund nutrition, food, health and agriculture programs.
- c. Phase out over five years foods containing GMO ingredients and foods produced with hormones and antibiotics.

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## Federal

### 19. Maintain and Strengthen Food Assistance Programs

- a. Maintain access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for currently eligible populations and extend eligibility to the long-term unemployed, legal immigrants, and former drug felons. Maintain the entitlement status of SNAP funding (oppose block granting).
- b. Use the USDA's Low-Cost Food Plan, rather than the Thrifty Food Plan, as the basis for SNAP benefits, effectively increasing benefits by approximately 30 percent.
- c. Raise the maximum shelter deduction so that SNAP benefits are adjusted to reflect variable regional housing costs. Increase the minimum SNAP benefit so that elderly households receive at least an amount that is equivalent in value to the floor set in the 1970s; fully allowing SNAP benefits to be adjusted when high housing costs consume more of a family's income.
- d. Strengthen The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) - increase mandatory funding for TEFAP food and make the program more responsive to changes in need by tying funding to unemployment levels; increase the latitude of USDA bonus commodity purchasing authority by linking it to emergency food assistance need; and make funding mandatory for TEFAP food storage, distribution, and handling.
- e. Promote access to healthy foods through so that farmers markets, participating farmers, Green Carts, food co-ops and Community Supported Agriculture programs (CSAs) are equipped with cost effective EBT transaction processing capability.
- f. Support the expansion of the Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program (CFP) for a total of \$50 million over five years. CFP helps fight food insecurity by funding community food projects - including urban agriculture projects - that help promote those communities' self-sufficiency.
- g. Increase funding levels for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) above the present \$25 million per year. The program provides low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible fresh foods at farmers markets, roadside stands, and Community Supported Agriculture programs (CSAs).
- h. Incentivize the purchase of healthy foods by providing at least \$50 million a year in such funding and make federal matching funds available for programs that provide incentives for the purchase of fruits and vegetables by SNAP participants

### 20. Strengthen Child Nutrition Programs to End Hunger

- a. End child hunger and food insecurity in America by 2015. Increase federal funding for the various child nutrition programs to adequately meet the need.
- b. Ensure that all children have access to high quality, nutritious foods, local and regional whenever possible, in their schools and through other child nutrition programs.
- c. Make federal child nutrition programs universal and more nutritious while reducing associated administrative paperwork and bureaucracy.
- d. Make nutrition education available to all children and caregivers through child nutrition programs.

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## Eliminate and Reduce Food Waste

### State

#### **21. Support Community Garden Composting**

- a. Revise the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulations on composting facilities (Chapter IV-Quality Services; Part 360.5) to ensure that they are not overly burdensome thereby deterring small-scale, city community gardens wishing to compost food waste.

#### **22. Encourage the Enjoyment of New York City Water**

- a. Increase sales tax on bottled water.
- b. Ban the sale of single-serving plastic water bottles (see link to Concord Massachusetts Sale of Drinking Water in Single-Serve PET Bottles Bylaw).
- c. Eliminate sales tax on canteens and home water purification systems.
- d. Fund micro-loan programs to subsidize regional farm equipment conversion from fossil fuel to waste-based, bio-diesel fuel and reward distributors using hybrid technology and clean fuels.

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## INDEX

The first step in developing the food agenda was to examine the following city reports:

- **Food in the Public Interest**, Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, February 2009
- **FoodNYC**, Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, February 2010
- **FoodStat**, Measuring the Retail Food Environment in New York City Neighborhoods, Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, May 2009
- **Food for the Future**, Food Systems Network New York City, November, 2011
- **PlaNYC**, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, April 2007 (updated April 2011)
- **FoodWorks**, City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, November, 2010
- **Food Metrics Report for New York City**, Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability and Office of the Food Policy Coordinator, October, 2012
- **New York City Food and Farm Bill Principles and Priorities**, New York City Food and Farm Bill Working Group, September, 2012

Agenda recommendations are drawn principally from: first, the milestone sources listed above, modified to reduce redundancies and, importantly, in recognition of subsequent New York City food system achievements; second, suggestions from an array of contributing food activists; and, third, food actions drawn from other relevant sources.

The initial drafting was done by Ed Yowell, co-Chair of FSNYC and Governor of Slow Food NYC; Margaret Dunn-Carver, CUNY Hunter College Dietetic Intern with Hunger Action Network of NYS and FGE Nutrition Team; and Mark Dunlea, Executive Director of the Hunger Action Network of NYS.

### **NYC Food Policy Agenda Acknowledgements:**

Carolyn Zezima, President, NYC Foodscape  
Matthew Cotton, Principal, Integrated Waste Management Consulting, LLC  
Mark Winne, Mark Winne Associates  
Fern Gale Estrow, FGE Food & Nutrition Team  
Stewart Desmond, Executive Director, West Side Campaign Against Hunger  
Hannah Lupien, Food Policy Strategist, West Side Campaign Against Hunger  
Amanda Berhaupt-Glickstein, MS, RD and PhD Candidate in Nutrition, Rutgers  
David Haight, New York Director, American Farmland Trust  
Nadia Johnson, Food Justice Program Coordinator, Just Food  
Andrew Barrett, School Garden Operations Associate, GreenThumb NYC Department of Parks and Recreation  
Rachel Makleff, Concerned Citizen  
Pam Koch, Executive Director Laurie Tish Center for Food Education and Policy at Teachers College Columbia University  
Philip J. Malebranehe, Writer, volunteer, Neighbors Together  
Harry McNeary, Founder and Director, Urban Rebuilding Initiative

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Jannie Wolff, Community Educator Nutrition and Health  
Josh Kellermann, Senior Policy Analyst, ALIGN: The Alliance for a Greater New York  
Rosna Sethi, NYCCA, Advocacy and Community Associate  
Adam Obernauer, UFCW Local 1500, Political Organizer

## Other Resources

- NYC Coalition Against Hunger
- Food Bank for New York City (<https://secure3.convio.net/fbnyc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=207>)
- Brooklyn Food Coalition
- Buy Backyard Act <http://www.nysenate.gov/press-release/senate-passes-buy-backyard-act-boost-local-agricultural-purchases-1>
- Food Enterprise Zones <http://old.gothamgazette.com/article/health/20090304/9/2846>
- NYC Hunger Free Communities Consortium
- FSNYC (Food Systems Network NYC)
- San Francisco Urban Agricultural Programs
- Seattle's Food Action Plan
- 2012-2013 strategic priorities for the City of Los Angeles Good Food Office and the Los Angeles Food Policy Council
- New Haven Food Action Plan
- National Resources Defense Council (Hunts Point Redevelopment)
- NYC Food & Farm Bill Working Group

## Resources:

1. Brooklyn Food Coalition, Roadmap for Healthy, Sustainable School Food City Council Resolution:  
<http://brooklynfoodcoalition.org/programs/school-food-network/roadmap-for-healthy-sustainable-school-food-city-council-resolution/>
2. Division of Minority & Women-Owned Business Development:  
<http://www.esd.ny.gov/MWBE.html>
3. Recipes for Health, Improving School Food in New York City, A Report of the Projects for Healthy Public Policies at the City University of New York, School of Public Health at Hunter College and City Harvest:  
<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/NYCSchoolFood.pdf>
4. Concord Massachusetts Sale of Drinking Water in Single-Serve PET Bottles Bylaw:  
[http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA\\_TownClerk/Water%20Bottle%20Bylaw.pdf](http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_TownClerk/Water%20Bottle%20Bylaw.pdf)
5. Breakfast in the Classroom: <http://breakfastintheclassroom.org/>
6. Food, Water and Energy: Know the Nexus:

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[www.gracelinks.org/media/pdf/knowthenexus\\_final.pdf](http://www.gracelinks.org/media/pdf/knowthenexus_final.pdf)

7. NYC Food and Farm Bill Working Group: <http://foodbillnyc.wikispaces.com/>  
<http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=1361>

## Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/005/y4671e/y4671e06.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://agsci.psu.edu/research/food-security/locations-partner-sites/new-york-city-new-york>

<sup>3</sup> <http://otda.ny.gov/resources/caseload/2012/2012-12-stats.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nyccah.org/node/28>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/survey/survey-2009fitnessgram.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/survey/yrbs09-trendreport.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/stateprograms/fundedstates/new\\_york.html](http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/stateprograms/fundedstates/new_york.html)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/obesity/statistics\\_and\\_impact/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/obesity/statistics_and_impact/)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.farmland.org/news/pressreleases/13-Million-More-Acres.asp>

<sup>10</sup> <http://co.water.usgs.gov/nawqa/hpgw/factsheets/DENNEHYFS1.html>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.htm>

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[http://www.nycedc.com/sites/default/files/filemanager/Projects/Hunts\\_Point\\_Vision\\_Plan/HPVisionPlan\\_ImprovementTraffic.PDF](http://www.nycedc.com/sites/default/files/filemanager/Projects/Hunts_Point_Vision_Plan/HPVisionPlan_ImprovementTraffic.PDF)

<sup>13</sup> <http://ibo.nyc.ny.us/cgi-park2/?p=222>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/bottled/>

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[http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/lsc/documents/FINAL\\_LOCAL\\_TOOLKIT\\_2.pdf](http://www.law.harvard.edu/academics/clinical/lsc/documents/FINAL_LOCAL_TOOLKIT_2.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/New\\_York/Publications/Annual\\_Statistical\\_Bulletin/2012/Annual%20Bulletin%202012.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/New_York/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/2012/Annual%20Bulletin%202012.pdf)

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.huntspoint.com>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/25/nyregion/push-to-give-midsize-new-york-farms-a-hub-at-the-hunts-point-market.html?pagewanted=all>

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/06/nyregion/hunts-point-produce-cooperative-says-city-commission-is-interfering-with-business.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/06/nyregion/hunts-point-produce-cooperative-says-city-commission-is-interfering-with-business.html?_r=0)

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[http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/menuitem.c0935b9a57bb4ef3daf2f1c701c789a0/index.jsp?pagelD=mayor\\_press\\_release&catID=1194&doc\\_name=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nyc.gov%2Fhtml%2Fom%2Fhtml%2F2012b%2Fpr315-12.html&cc=unused1978&rc=1194&ndi=1](http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/menuitem.c0935b9a57bb4ef3daf2f1c701c789a0/index.jsp?pagelD=mayor_press_release&catID=1194&doc_name=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nyc.gov%2Fhtml%2Fom%2Fhtml%2F2012b%2Fpr315-12.html&cc=unused1978&rc=1194&ndi=1)

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<sup>23</sup> <http://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20120625/hunts-point/hunts-point-market-use-10m-grant-for-rail-improvements>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/24/nyregion/freshdirect-expands-delivery-to-all-parts-of-the-bronx.html>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/supermarket/index.shtml>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21256070>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.hungeractionnys.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/EFP-report-Final.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> [http://frac.org/pdf/urban\\_school\\_breakfast\\_report\\_2012.pdf](http://frac.org/pdf/urban_school_breakfast_report_2012.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/sugary-drinks-fact-sheet/>

<sup>30</sup> [www.gracelinks.org/media/pdf/knowthenexus\\_final.pdf](http://www.gracelinks.org/media/pdf/knowthenexus_final.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es100310d>

<sup>32</sup> [http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/downloads/pdf/DSNY-reports/Annual\\_by\\_Boro\\_District\\_FY12.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/downloads/pdf/DSNY-reports/Annual_by_Boro_District_FY12.pdf)