

Local/ Regional Food Systems: Opportunities for Community Engagement and Policy

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Policy Opportunities: from Farm to Fork



What's on the plate?

- The food system context
- Food system assessments and the path to food policies
 - Food policy examples
 - Health and economic outcomes from policies
- Building political spaces for food systems

Food System Components



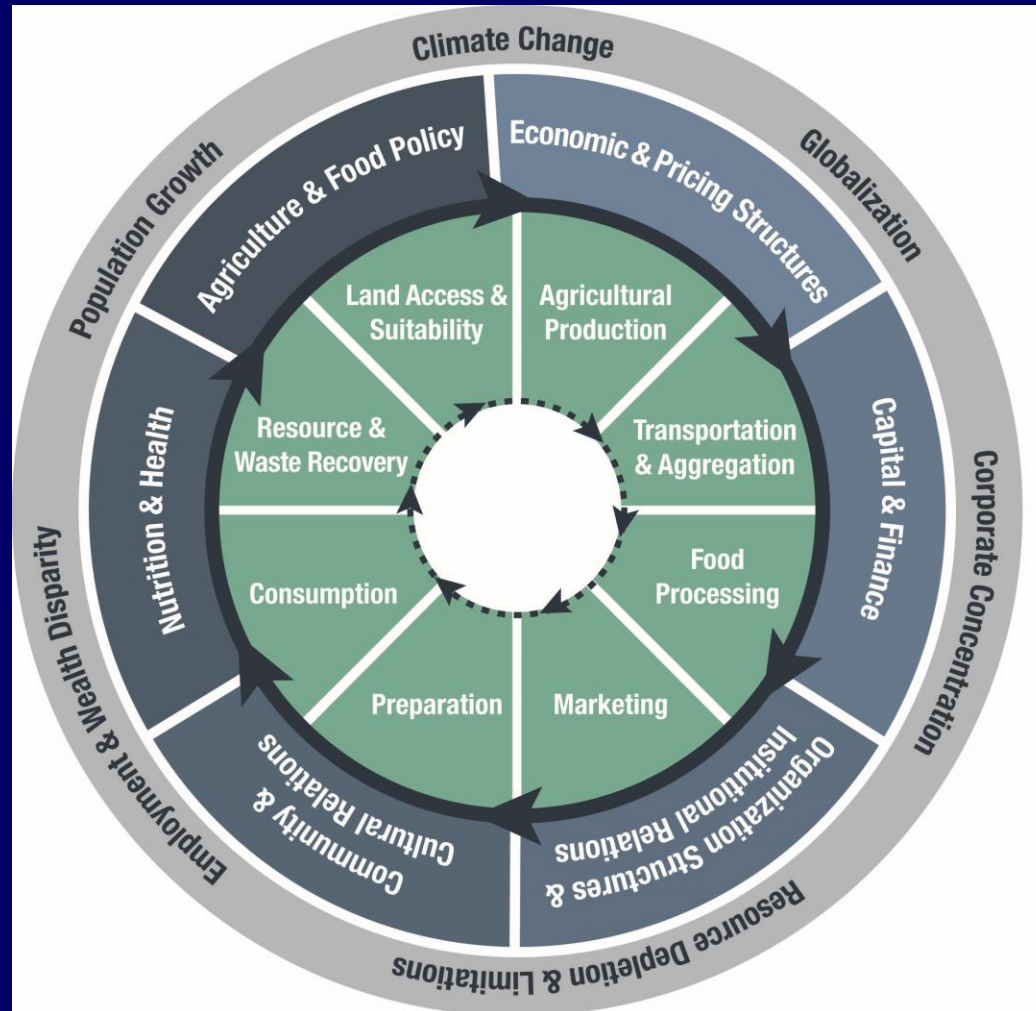
"Developed by: The Community and Regional Food Systems Project, University of Wisconsin-Madison. 6/2013. www.community-food.org."

Food System Framework



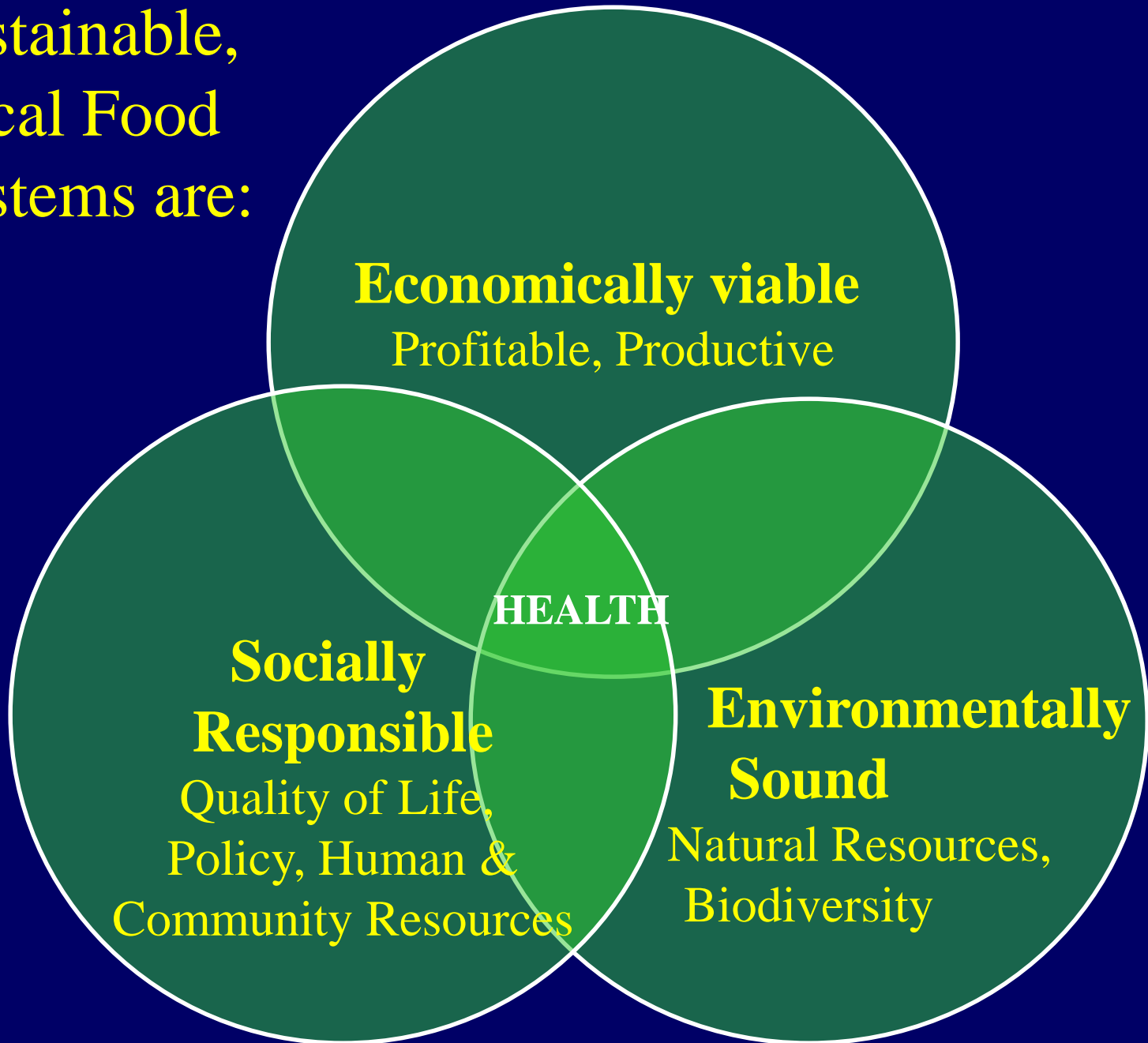
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Food systems challenges



"Developed by: The Community and Regional Food Systems Project, University of Wisconsin-Madison. 6/2013. www.community-food.org."

**Sustainable,
Local Food
Systems are:**



Refocus attention on...

- Food production systems
- Distribution systems
- Consumption patterns
- **Food policies**

Food System Assessments

What is a community food system assessment?

- A systematic, comprehensive community or regional analysis of the food system from “farm to fork”
 - Environment
 - Production sector
 - Processing, distribution sectors
 - Consumption, food access
 - Waste stream

Hallmarks of Food System Assessments

- Place-based (countywide)
- Engage diverse communities
- Gather data from farm to fork (all in one place)
- Examine intersections

Underlying values



The San Diego Process: Assessment Vision & Goals

Vision 1: Better Health and Well-being of San Diego County Residents

1.1 San Diego County residents know where their food comes from, how it grows, and who grows it

1.2 San Diego County residents, from infants to seniors, consume more healthful foods

1.3 All San Diego County residents have access to affordable, healthful, culturally desirable foods at all times

1.4 Initiation and duration of breastfeeding, the healthiest first food, increases in San Diego County

1.5 San Diego has local, accessible, adequate food supplies for emergency preparedness

Vision 2: Agricultural Stewardship of San Diego County's Environmental Resource Base

2.1 San Diego County increases its working lands for urban and rural food production

2.2 San Diego improves its waterways as healthful, sustainable food sources for San Diego County residents

2.3 San Diego County food producers and processors employ practices that support animal welfare

2.4 San Diego County prioritizes food production in allocation of available water resources

2.5 San Diego County recycles its organic wastes locally and makes compost available for local food production

Vision 3: Thriving Communities and Sustainable Economic Growth

3.1 Local and regional procurement/sale of food grown in San Diego County increases

3.2 Fishing, farming, and ranching increases for diverse groups in San Diego

3.3 The San Diego food system (production, distribution, processing, disposal) provides safe, fair, meaningful work

Unpacking the Assessment

■ Components

– Quantitative information:

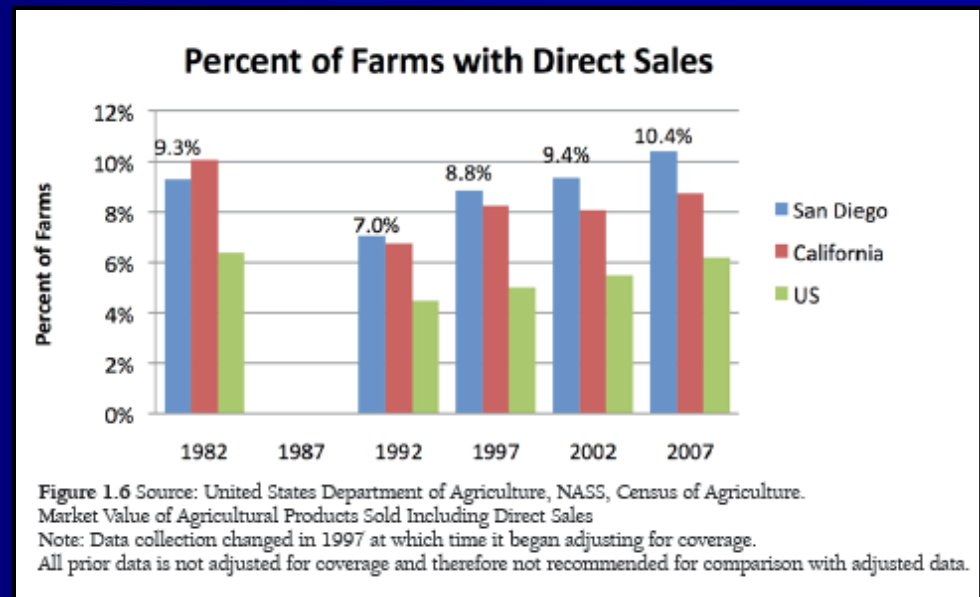
■ Indicators

– Qualitative information:

■ Interviews

■ Surveys

■ Focus groups



Participatory Process

- Value of coalition/group identity
- Value of “ownership”
- Opportunities to explore diversity



San Diego

New Roots Community Farm/ IRC:

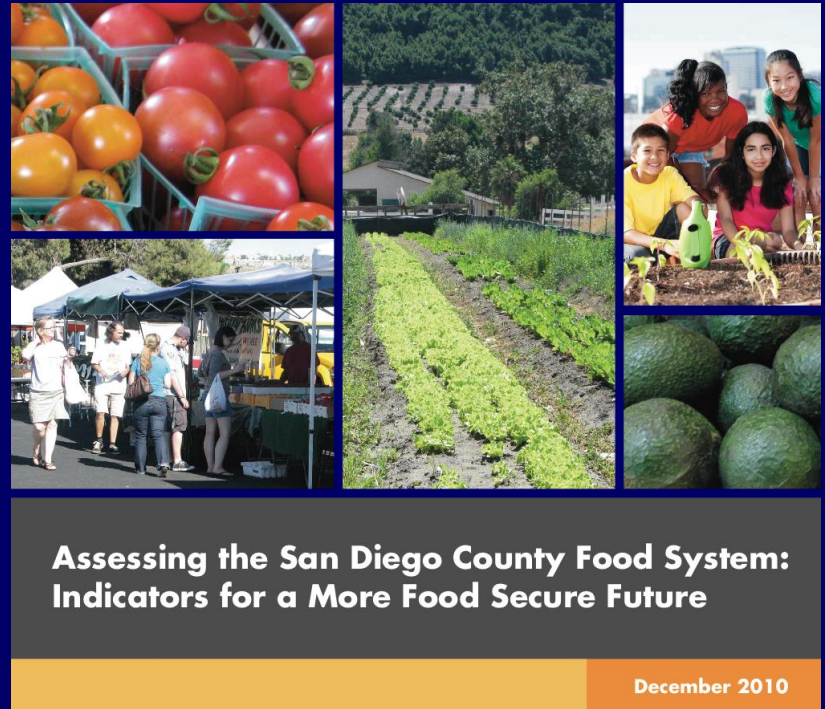
The power of story

- 2.3 Acre strip of city-owned land
- Tended by local refugee and immigrant communities: 80 families, organic crops
 - Somali Bantu
 - Hispanic
 - Hmong
- Growing, cooking, eating traditional foods
- Local restaurant sales



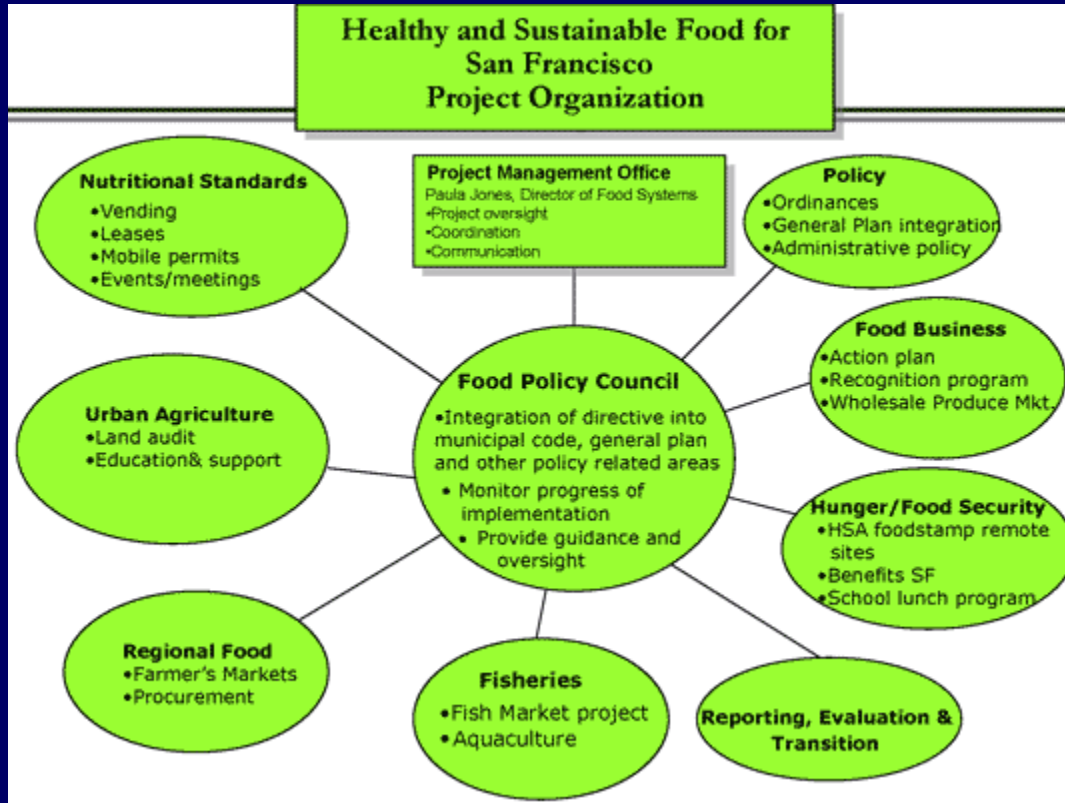
Conclusion & Recommendations

- Value of synthesis
- Recommendations should relate to policy priorities
- The San Diego Action Plan



<http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/sfs/>

Food Policy Councils



Food Policy Councils

- Convenes citizens and government officials to create a comprehensive local/regional/state food system plan
 - Policies influence food programs, businesses, individuals and communities

Examples of Food Policies: Community Health

- Berkeley soda tax
- LA Good Food Purchasing Pledge:
procurement policy for city institutions



Examples of Food Policies: Land Use

- Ag land preservation policies
- Urban ag: CA AB 551 (Urban Ag Incentives Zones Act)



Examples of Food Policies: Farmer Markets

- CA AB 1871: FM enforcement
- EBT machines at FMs
- Double up coupon programs for SNAP at FMs



Kentucky Food Policies

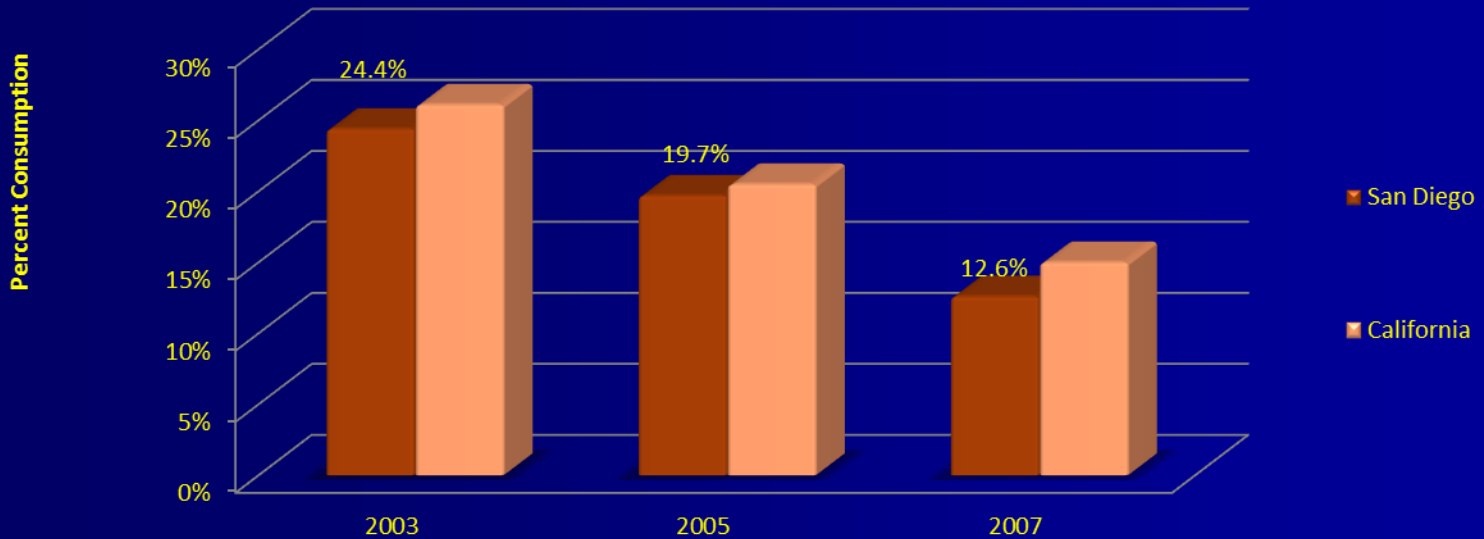
- Created “Kentucky Proud” (2008)
- Created Legislative Task Force on Childhood Obesity (2011)
- Tax credits for farmers for edible ag products donated to food banks (2013)



**Do policies make a
difference?**

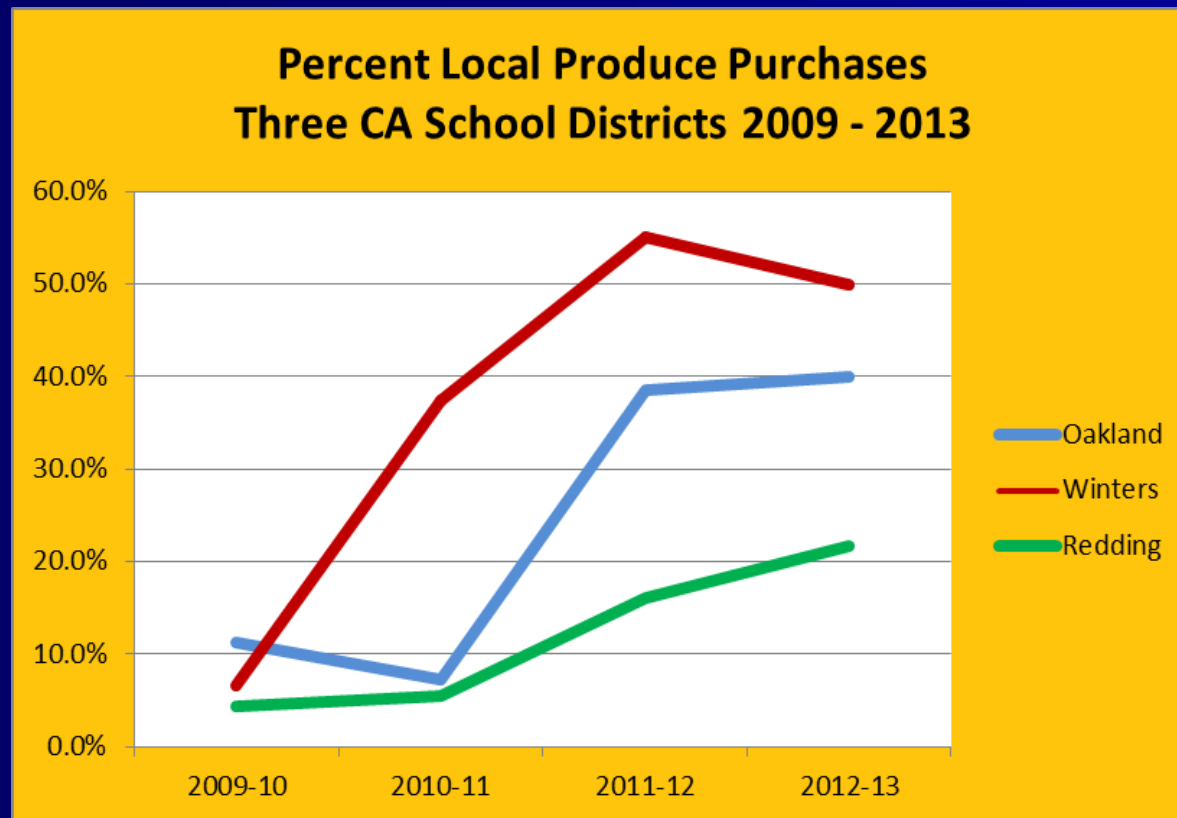
Outcomes resulting from food policies

San Diego Food System Assessment
Percent of Youth Consuming 2 or more Sugary Drinks
Yesterday



Outcomes resulting from food policies

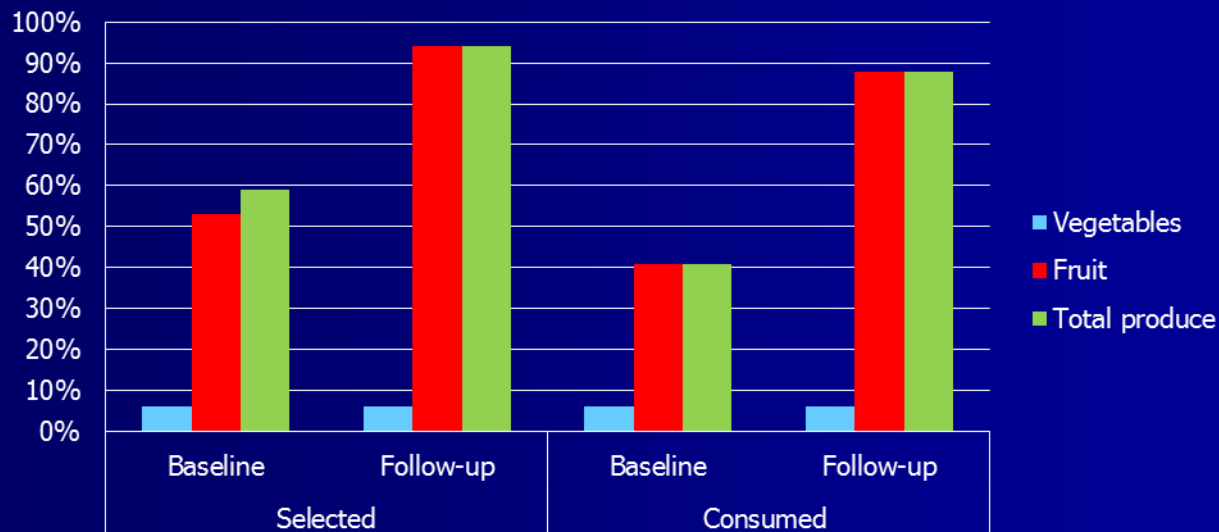
- Local procurement increases in schools



Outcomes resulting from food policies

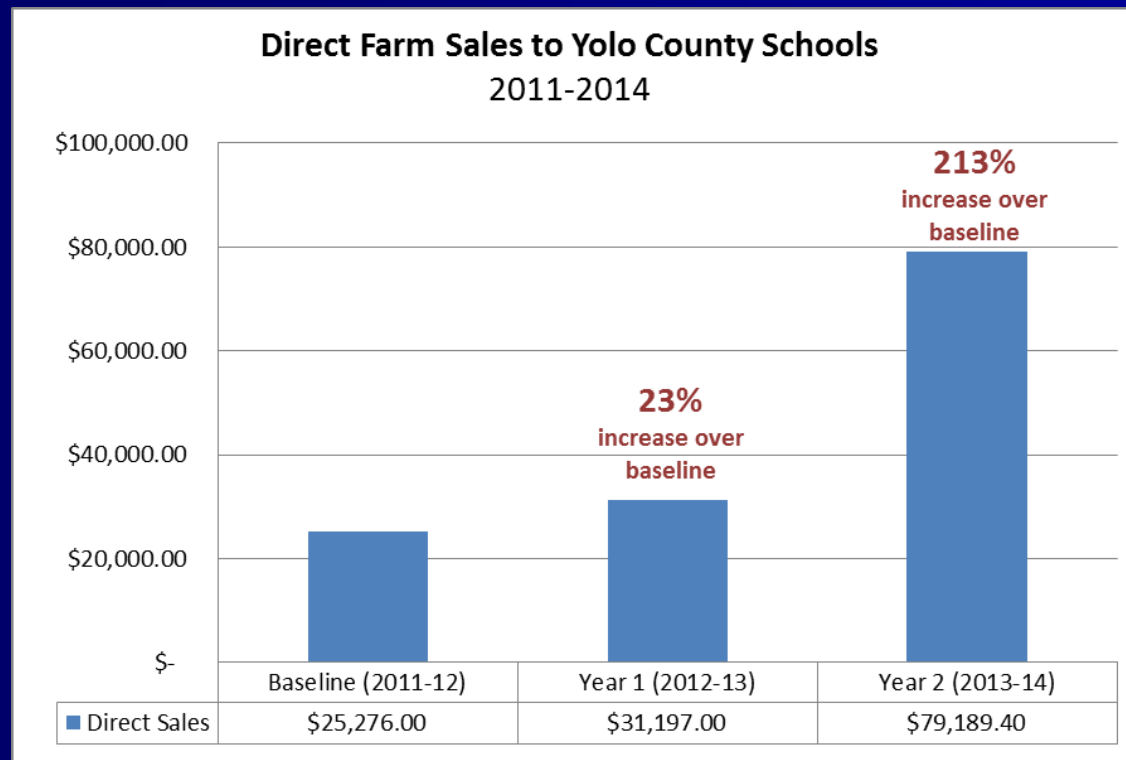
- Produce consumption increases

Winters Joint Unified School District Produce Selection & Consumption



Outcomes resulting from food policies

- Sales to regional farms increase



Creating spaces for more robust, resilient food systems

- Economic spaces
- Environmental spaces
- Social spaces
- Political spaces



CHIEF
CULINARY SERVICES

Sweet White
APPLES

Sweet
NECTAR

Sweet Crunchy
APPLES
Fuji

PLU

CC
Cer
Org

Co. of
ORGANIC SEEDS
Grapes!!

FRESH FRUIT
AIM
FRESH FRUIT
AIM

MARTY-B
BELL
PEPPERS
from California

3 BELL PEPPERS
3 BELL PEPPERS
3 BELL PEPPERS

3 BELL PEPPERS
3 BELL PEPPERS
3 BELL PEPPERS

ORGANICALLY GROWN
Producing Area for
Central Valley County