

**Washington County Community Food Council
Prioritized List of Infrastructure Gaps**

Washington County Food Summit

March 8, 2014

In the spring of 2013, Washington County: One Community's Farm to School Coordinator was contracted to co-convene a series of meetings on the county's food system in conjunction with the GROWashington-Aroostook Regional Planning initiative. Meetings were held in Cherryfield, Machias, Eastport, Calais and Princeton. Results and responses were collated and continue to be compared with previously completed and newer local and regional studies and data. A total of 117 attendees provided input via both insta-polling devices and open discussion after a slideshow presentation on Washington County's Food System. Additionally, initial results were shared with community members who were under-represented at the meeting and their input added.

The following represents a short list of visions that were most often mentioned at the meetings, in discussions and in research and that have strong potential to resolve infrastructure gaps in order to strengthen our food system.

Production

- Season extension & year round production opportunities
- On-farm energy efficient storage system options
- Transition of available farmland to new farmers
- Healthy and diverse fisheries

Production Inputs

- Access to inputs
- New farms of all sizes
- Labor pool resources

Processing

- Slaughterhouse facility Support
- Commercial kitchen and processing facilities access
- Export of locally value-added products to niche markets

Distribution

- Food Hub Availability
- Coordinated transportation systems

Food Access

- SNAP benefit access
- Healthy food access at convenience stores
- Community gathering/learning opportunities

Waste Resources

- Utilization and protection of existing waste resources
- Composting at institutions/schools

Support Services

- Access to financing \$\$
- Education opportunities
- Policy recommendations that support local foods promotion

To view the entire summary document contact:

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Go to GROWa's website: <http://gro-wa.org/food-system-meetings.htm#UxX3CHmWv-g>