

M I C H I G A N  
G O O D F O O D  
C H A R T E R



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# On the Menu

- Welcome & Introductions
- Background
- The Charter: Recommended Strategies & Actions
- Questions
- Next Steps



# Land Acknowledgement

Photo: Shiloh Maples  
Manoomin - Great Lakes Region Indigenous Rice



# Some History & Context

# What role is the Charter playing in food systems change?

# What role could it play?

It brings people together around a shared agenda, collectively addressing agreed upon issues.

Guiding funding decisions.

It helps guide our county-wide planning and learning efforts.

Strengthening local farms in the Upper Peninsula and addressing significant food insecurity here

The charter guides the work that we do locally and at a statewide level through MSU Extension Community Food Systems work

MI agriculture can provide healthy foods and economic benefits to residents. Partnership efforts to improve the food systems.

Serve as a convening point for institutions, food producers and policy makers to support a stronger regional food system

The charter is THE document that visions, strategizes, and cements our food systems work in Michigan.

Providing a framework for Michigan organizations to work more collectively toward food system goals

Future forecasting needs and solutions

Champion, Institutional supporter

strategic leadership

Guiding organizations and businesses on creating a more equitable food system.

connecting programs, policies, and people

Roadmap for future actions!

the Charter is a tool for economic development and promoting public health in our state.

The Charter could provide guidance in informing priorities regarding food systems issues and policies.

Works as a guide to policy; Could set up future projects

Common goals and strategies, getting us all on the same page with where to focus our efforts.

first principles

# HISTORY

Initially published in 2010, the Michigan Good Food Charter helped build momentum for efforts across Michigan to advance **a food system that promotes equity, health, sustainability, and thriving economies.**



Michigan Good Food

# CHARTER



# Quick Poll: Charter Update Process Participation







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# The Update Process

- **Builds on the Past:** Building on the original Charter and the past 10 + years of food systems work in our state - relationships and leadership from communities & networks.
- **Grassroots:** Statewide feedback through online survey, meetings, interviews, facilitated discussions, 2020 Good Food Summit, 2021 Charter Gathering - Over 500 people and 150 organizations contributed!
- **Adaptable and designed for resilience:** A process and end product that can thrive even when faced with challenges; changed and developed as we went through the steps and learned more from you.
- **Leans toward the Future:** Captures existing work and ideas for moving forward, addressing gaps that still exist. ***A balance of meeting folks where they are at and being bold.***

The background is a teal color with a blurred image of blueberries and green leaves on the left side. On the right side, there are faint, light blue hexagonal outlines. The text "What is the Charter?" is centered in the lower half of the image.

**What is the Charter?**

# A Framework for Good Food Action



**VISION**

Our shared purpose.

**SIX GOALS**

The results we want to see in our communities.

**SIX STRATEGIES**

Strategies describe how we can work toward the vision and results.

**22 ACTIONS**

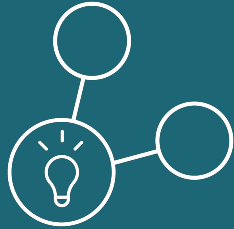
Steps we can take to engage in the strategies and achieve our goals.

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# How Can We Use the Charter?



**Explore ideas**  
that advance  
good food  
systems in  
Michigan



Identify  
**common  
ground** within  
and across  
sectors



Build **action  
coalitions**  
around food  
systems policy  
change



**Inform  
policymakers**  
of statewide  
and local  
priorities



Organize  
**shared  
measurement**  
for greater  
impacts



# A Shared Vision

Michigan has a thriving food economy distinguished by equity, health, and sustainability.



The Charter calls for systemic change by supporting food systems that:

- ensure food is **accessible** to everyone,
- promote **healthy** communities,
- use **fair** and **sustainable** production methods, and
- support a **diverse** and **equitable** society.

# Charter Action Summary

## A Good Food System Is...

### Accessible

Everyone can access and afford healthy, culturally relevant food where they live, work, learn, and play.

### Equitable

The food system promotes just and fair inclusion in a society where all people can participate, prosper, and have the power to make decisions.\*

### Fair

No one is exploited in the food production process, and people working in food systems have access to living wages, benefits, safe work environments, and pathways for career advancement.

### Healthy

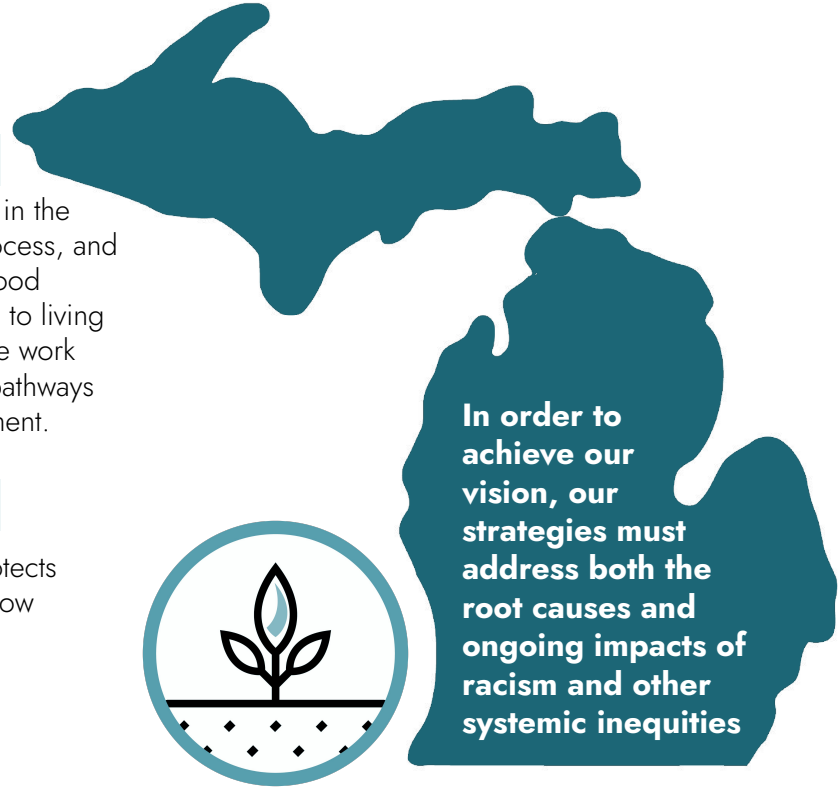
The food system supports opportunities for everyone to be as healthy as possible, physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

### Diverse

The food system encourages diversity - of scale, products, means of access, production strategies, markets, ownership models, and foodways - as a strength that fosters community and system resilience as we face an unknown future.

### Sustainable

The food system protects air, water, and soil now and for future generations.



**In order to achieve our vision, our strategies must address both the root causes and ongoing impacts of racism and other systemic inequities**



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# Charter Action Summary

## Our Goals

### **Food Access to Food Sovereignty**

Everyone has the resources to access and afford healthy, culturally relevant food where they live, work, learn, and play and the ability to shape the food systems that impact them.

### **Fair Wages and Economic Opportunity**

People who plant, harvest, process, pack, transport, prepare, serve, and sell food have access to living wages, benefits, safe work environments, and pathways for career advancement and leadership.

### **Farm and Food Business Viability**

The food system supports a dynamic mix of local, regional, national, and global food sources that offer opportunities for small-scale and marginalized Michigan farm and food businesses to thrive.

### **Sustainable Ecosystems**

The food system protects air, water, and soil now and for future generations.

### **Health Equity**

The food system supports opportunities for everyone to be as healthy as possible, physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

### **Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience**

Communities are resilient in the face of climate change and the food system actively mitigates its impact on the climate.



# The Bigger Picture



# Understanding Food Systems

## Food systems are part of ecosystems.

- We depend on air, water, land, and soil to produce food.
- Our food systems decisions influence the health of the ecosystems we rely on.
- We must prioritize the wellbeing of both people and the environment.



## Food passes through many hands.

- Most of our food moves through a process to get from the field to our plates.
- Many people are involved in each step.
- The process adds value but the price of food does not always reflect the true cost of production

# Understanding Food Systems

## People shape food systems.

- Current food system policies, practices, and economic structures reinforce inequities that stand in the way of us reaching our vision.
- We must acknowledge and address these structural problems and work together across sectors



## Our decisions have many outcomes.

- Health and wellness outcomes Land, ecosystems, and energy impacts
- Climate change, and its effects on food production
- Social, economic, and cultural practices
- Education, research, and innovation opportunities
- Infrastructure and technology resources

**What needs to  
change?**



# We've made great progress...

**Thanks to advocacy, entrepreneurship, network support, training, and technical assistance over the past decade, there has been enormous growth in support for local and regional food systems in Michigan.**

- + Fresh, locally-sourced food in schools & early care settings
- + Market opportunities for small farm and food businesses
- + More Farmers markets & accepting food assistance benefits
- + Federal & state programs investing in small & mid-sized farm/food businesses, Training & TA
- + Resources dedicated to increasing access to healthy food

# We still have challenges...

**In spite of this progress, and facing a pivotal time in the wake of a global pandemic, we still face challenges.**

- △ Infrastructure for local/regional food production, processing & distribution
- △ Commodity markets incentivize selling at the lowest prices
- △ Restrictive budgets for institutions and families
- △ Higher burdens and barriers to entry for BIPOC, beginning, and smaller scale producers
- △ Aging farm population, land consolidation
- △ Agriculture contributes to and is affected by climate change

# Root Causes

There are many reasons these challenges continue to hold us back

- **Systemic inequities** are so embedded in our culture that they **can be hard to recognize.**
- A common thread is the deeply rooted systemic inequities, especially racism, woven throughout our history, society, and policies.
- We must acknowledge these root causes and their ongoing impacts as we work to address them.

Dismantling unjust systems and achieving equity must be collaborative, intentional, and actionable to effect systemic change.

# Ongoing Systemic Issues in the Food System

**Systemic issues affect everyone and disproportionately impact marginalized communities.**

## Examples

- Disparities related to land tenure and wealth-building for marginalized individuals and communities
- Health and environmental issues affecting opportunities and quality of life
- Decision making disparities built into our society and institutions, leading to reduced individual and community self-determination

# How the Charter Connects

## **We must acknowledge and address ongoing systemic issues.**

- The Michigan Good Food Charter integrates racial, economic, and environmental equity as critical elements for achieving our vision.
- We have woven ideas to support anti-racism, community food sovereignty, and other forms of equity throughout the Charter recommendations.

## **The Charter can serve as a guide and catalyst for food systems stakeholders to:**

- identify gaps in existing policies and initiatives
- determine where policy, resources, and funding can have the most impact and spur transformative change
- leverage collective power to foster self-determination in communities most impacted by food systems challenges



A close-up photograph of several blueberries on a branch, with green leaves in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark green filter. In the top right corner, there is a white outline of a hexagonal pattern, resembling a honeycomb or molecular structure.

# What can we do?

Recommended Strategies & Actions

# A Closer Look



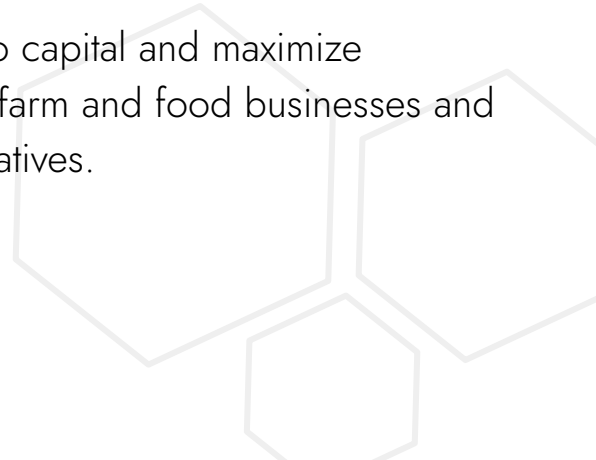


# Farm and Food Business Development

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Cultivate thriving local/regional farm and food businesses.

***Targeted investment, policies, and technical assistance can ensure the long-term financial viability of Michigan farm and food businesses while fostering financial empowerment for those producers who have been marginalized.***

1. Establish a statewide farm and food business viability program or network.
  2. Generate equitable access to capital and maximize investment opportunities for farm and food businesses and BIPOC-led food systems initiatives.
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# Local/Regional Food Value Chains

Prioritize local and regional food systems within a global economy.

***We can strengthen Michigan communities by:***

- ***growing the market for locally and regionally produced food,***
  - ***increasing transparency and communication in the food supply chain,***
  - ***encouraging values-based food purchasing strategies, and***
  - ***investing in local/regional food value chain infrastructure.***
3. Develop systems, tools, and resources for marketing locally, regionally, and sustainably produced food.
  4. Invest in regional food distribution, processing, and manufacturing infrastructure to address the priorities of small- and mid-scale local/regional farm and food businesses.
  5. Equip farmers markets with tools, resources, and policy support to create thriving marketplaces for local farm and food products.
  6. Ensure food producers and communities are prepared for environmental, economic, and public health crises.

# Collaboration Infrastructure

Use the power of collaboration to dismantle racism and systemic inequity in food systems.

***How we work together is as important as what we work on.***

***Because no organization or community member can make the necessary systemic changes alone, collaboration and partnership are crucial.***

***To successfully dismantle systemic inequities in the food system, we must increase the diversity & representation of people participating in food systems decision making at all levels.***

7. Create leadership development pathways for a diverse body of community experts to advocate and guide good food systems initiatives, networks, and policy.
8. Increase the collective power of local food councils and other community-driven advocacy coalitions to influence policy.
9. Invest in the continued development of cross-sector networks that support the development of good food systems.
10. Conduct research, education, evaluation, and advocacy efforts using equitable and antiracist principles/practices.

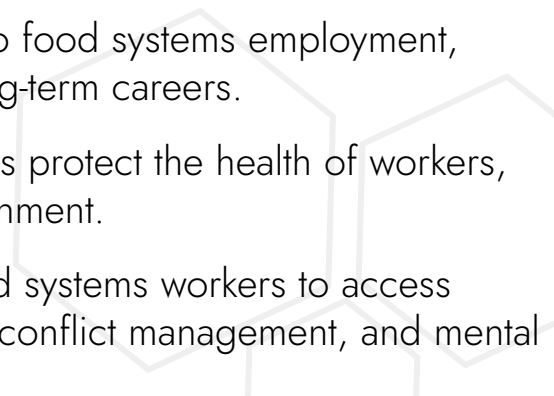


# Employment Equity

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Establish fair compensation, safe working environments, and opportunities for career advancement in food systems.

***Food business owners, workers, and public and private agencies must work together to develop quality food systems jobs, design equitable career pathways, and ensure that food systems jobs protect the health of workers, communities, and the environment***

11. Equip farm and food business owners with adequate support to offer fair, comprehensive compensation and benefits.
  12. Design equitable pathways to food systems employment, business ownership, and long-term careers.
  13. Ensure that food systems jobs protect the health of workers, communities, and the environment.
  14. Create opportunities for food systems workers to access resources to address stress, conflict management, and mental health care concerns.
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# Land and Ecosystem Stewardship

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Foster climate resilience through equitable land stewardship.

***We can invest in farmers and food producers as ecosystem stewards to protect rural and urban farmland, fisheries, and watersheds; reduce food waste; and keep plastic out of landfills.***

***Additionally, land use policies and financial investment can improve access to land for current and future generations while advancing community food sovereignty***

15. Leverage land use planning strategies to improve access to farmland and support community food sovereignty for current and future generations.
  16. Invest in farmers as ecosystem stewards by supporting and incentivizing food and agriculture practices that protect the integrity of our soil, water, and air.
  17. Support the development of a food value chain that prioritizes Michigan- and sustainably-produced foods.
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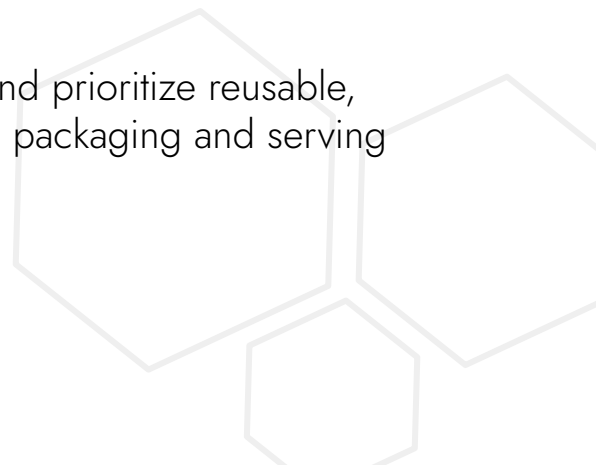
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18. Invest in and support food recovery and food waste reduction practices throughout the value chain and among consumers.
  19. Minimize single-use plastic and prioritize reusable, recyclable, and compostable packaging and serving alternatives.
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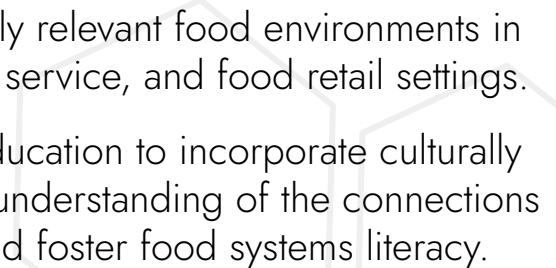
# Nutrition, Health, and Food

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Support people to have real choices that lead to good food and health.

***We must expand food access, foster the vitality of local/regional farm and food businesses, and address deeply rooted, systemic issues that lead to inequitable health outcomes.***

***We can foster dignity and choice in food systems by prioritizing approaches that connect food, health, and community food sovereignty***

20. Eliminate barriers to food and nutrition security and ensure the nutritional needs of Michigan's children are met.
  21. Establish healthy and culturally relevant food environments in community-led, public, food service, and food retail settings.
  22. Design food and nutrition education to incorporate culturally relevant foodways, cultivate understanding of the connections between food and health, and foster food systems literacy.
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The background of the slide is a dense, textured pattern of green foliage, including various leaves and stems, rendered in a monochromatic green color. In the upper right corner, there is a faint, light-colored outline of a hexagonal shape, possibly representing a cell or a molecular structure.

**What next?**



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# The Charter in Action



## Communication

- Coalition-building and networking opportunities
- Events and activities highlighting your leadership
- Training, education, & technical assistance

## Advocacy

- Policy action → Establishing a “statewide food policy voice” to advance the recommendations & goals of the Charter

## Evaluation & Tracking Progress

Tracking progress with:

- Data gathering/reporting
- “Ground Truthing”
- Storytelling
- Feedback



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# Charter Council



## Coordinating Committee

- Coalition-building and networking opportunities
- Engaging leaders and impacted communities
- Policy Action Working Group or Form a statewide food policy council

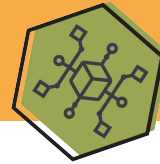
## Shared Measurement

- Long-term indicator selection
- Data sharing & possible dashboard development
- Identify advocacy needs

## 2023 Summit Planning Committee

- Mid-May 2023 (TBD)
- Hybrid - fully virtual or fully in-person
- Scholarships & Flexible registration rates
- Focus on storytelling & coalition-building toward action

# Get Involved



- Read the [Michigan Good Food Charter](#)
- [Join a committee](#)
- Add your name to the [Resolution of Support](#)
- To work with others near you, [connect with a local food council or statewide network](#)
- [Subscribe to our mailing list](#) to stay in touch
- [Spread the word](#) with others



## COMMITTEE NOMINATION

[michiganfood.org/get-involved/join-a-committee](https://michiganfood.org/get-involved/join-a-committee)



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# How can we support you?

1. How we can help you engage your networks in the Charter recommendations? Stories, tools, materials, other ideas...
2. Are there policies or opportunities for action, sharing, connecting that you want others to know about?



<https://www.menti.com/usi8nnnv8v>



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# Questions?

Add them to the Q&A Box