

## 2017 State Overview Vermont

VT has a vibrant and active local and sustainable food movement. The market is full of non-profit food system support organizations. University of Vermont serves as a national leader in food system and agriculture innovation. It is a regional leader in the development and integration of a robust food system plan; VT Farm to Plate. The VT Farm to Plate web presence via the VT Food System Atlas organizes the various workgroups and taskforces including those in which HFHC participates: the Aggregation and Distribution workgroup, the Health Cross-Cutting workgroup, and Food Access workgroup. Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) VT chapter is a leader in the region on scaling up the state's producers to meet institutional demand. Vermont is home to the VT Venture Center a food processing endeavor that has successfully sourced to the state's institutions.

Vermont health care facilities are motivated and active in local and sustainable food work. They collaborate and share successes and challenges regularly through their Healthy Food in Health Care workgroup. This workgroup communicates by email and phone and meets in person 3 or 4 times a year. A unique characteristic of Vermont health care is that their food service operations are primarily self-operated, which allows for greater flexibility in purchasing, and therefore an ability to buy direct from a farm or small distributor.

### **Key Upcoming Activities/ Opportunities in 2017**

HFHC will work with the Vermont Venture Center around new product development to meet institutional purchasers' needs.

Development of a new work group focused on Community Food Outreach, which will meet quarterly. This workgroup will provide networking opportunities for Vermont community benefit staff, hospital administrators, clinicians, food service operators, and community based organizations. It will focus on the opportunities to leverage use federal IRS community benefit requirement to address identified needs of chronic disease and food insecurity through local food system programs and investments.

### **Key Dates for 2017**

January 12-13 Vermont Healthy Food in Health Care Workgroup Retreat

January & February: 2017 HFHC survey

March: Nutrition Month, featuring the blended burger

April 5-7: Regional Farm to Institution Summit in Leominster, MA

July- September: Farm field trip

September: Launch Nourished by New England local food program

October 24: Food Day

November 13-19: Get Smart Week

TBD: Quarterly Vermont Community Food Outreach Roundtable

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