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Lewiston Food Policy Audit

Katherine Kelley

Hadley Moreau
Bates College

Yeymi Rivas
Bates College

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LEWISTON FOOD POLICY AUDIT

Completed in partnership with the Good Food Council of
Lewiston Auburn

Katherine Kelley, Hadley Moreau, Yeymi Rivas

Environmental Studies Department, Bates College, 8th December 2018

Executive Summary

The success and development of a sustainable urban and regional food system hinges on the involvement of city planners and policy implementation by local government. Knowledge of where policies are supportive or unsupportive is critical for community activists, such as the Good Food Council of Lewiston Auburn (GFCLA), to direct limited resources toward effective changes. Conducting a food policy audit is one standardized approach for identifying gaps within a food system. In this report, we introduce a food policy audit tool that we adapted for use in Lewiston, Maine. We show results from conducting it in Lewiston and provide recommendations for policy change and future work.

The audit tool is composed of 97 “yes” or “no” questions regarding city food policy. To answer these questions, we relied on the knowledge of city government officials and local experts. In interviews where we posed the audit tool questions, we additionally discussed related current policies and programs. We also inquired about the relative need for improving and developing new policies related to each question, and discussed potential challenges associated with implementing these changes. With the help of many invaluable resource persons, we were successful in adapting the audit tool and completing the audit within ten weeks.

In examining the collected data, we found that the “yes/no” binary of the tool did not clearly identify gaps in the food system. With the objective of clarifying these results, we developed both a quantitative and qualitative classification scheme, and applied this methodology to analyze the audit tool. The quantitative classification scheme is based off of a numerical “grade” ranging between zero and one, depending on if the policy supports or inhibits the sustainability of the Lewiston food system. To further delineate our data we developed a qualitative classification scheme, applied to questions with grades below one. The qualitative

classification ranks the gaps on both their urgency and feasibility for change, which were largely determined via the advice of resource persons and our learned knowledge of the local food policy climate.

Our quantitative grading scheme indicates that 22% of the policy enacted is currently supporting a sustainable food system in Lewiston. The remaining 78% is not, allowing for the identification of policies that are detrimental, non-existent, or existing at the federal or state level instead of at the city level. When policies exist at the state or federal level, there is opportunity to ensure food policies are meeting the specific needs of the Lewiston community.

We have compiled a list of recommendations ranging from broad to specific next-steps. It is our intention that these future projects be pursued by the GFCLA in partnership with another Bates College ES capstone group and/or through collaboration with other interested individuals and organizations.

Recommendations:

- Confirm audit data by referencing the literature of Lewiston policy and code.
- Conduct a literature review to examine strategies for bridging identified gaps in cities similar to Lewiston.
- Consider changing the Lewiston food sovereignty declaration to permit the sale of homegrown vegetables and other goods to friends and family.
- Considering implementing longer contracts for community farm gardens in abandoned lots, as well as “joint use” agreements for gardens between local organizations and schools.

- Conduct an assessment of the feasibility of implementing compost in the Lewiston Public Schools.
- Identify local programs that are already improving the sustainability of the food system and develop a plan to increase city support through advertising campaigns that direct citizens to such existing programs and organizations.
 - Ensure these advertising campaigns reach the New Mainer community.
- Research the pros and cons of establishing agricultural preservation laws in Lewiston.
- Before embarking on advocacy for any suggested changes, conduct interviews with community members who would be impacted by a change in policy.
- Conduct a similar food policy audit in Auburn and find potential areas to collaborate between the cities to increase the sustainability of the Lewiston food system.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	6
Methodology	10
Results and Discussion	14
Recommendations for Next Steps.....	20
Works Referenced.....	24
Appendices.....	26

List of Tables and Figures

Figure 1. Audit Tool Section Key

Figure 2. Qualitative Results Classification Scheme

Figure 3. Percentage of supportive and unsupportive policies identified

Figure 4. Percent of supportive policy by section

Figure 5. Percent of supportive policy within each subsection

Figure 6. Overall qualitative data

Figure 7. Section 1: Promoting Local Food, Sustainability, and Community Food Security

Figure 8. Section 2: Zoning and Land Use

Figure 9. Section 3: Addressing Public Health and Food Access

Figure 10. Section 4: Fostering Social Equity

Introduction

Food systems can be defined as processes that bring food from farm to table, typically encompassing food production, transportation, distribution, and waste management. Often, there are gaps within these processes that inhibit the sustainability of a locality's food system. Sustainability is a key aspect of food systems as it ensures the accessibility, availability, and affordability of current and long-term nutritional needs of a community, as well as the viability of that locality's natural resources. Despite the best efforts of farmers, grocers, and other actors to fulfill these needs, addressing gaps also requires robust political support from governmental entities and local advocacy groups. Local legislators can ultimately influence the success and development of a food system by creating proactive food policy influencing numerous arenas, from public health to urban planning.

Food policy councils are the primary advocates for policy change to promote positive development of the local food climate (Clayton et. al, 2015). The country's first food policy council was founded in 1982 to address the food insecurity and access inequalities aggravated by the nationwide economic recession (Knoxville, n.d.). Food policy councils (FPCs) are beneficial in that they are comprised of stakeholders in the local food systems such as educators, government officials, grocers, and farmers as well as concerned community members. This diversity of perspectives allows for discussion of community-wide food issues while creating a platform for problem solving that facilitates collaboration between the many implicated spheres of the locality (Harper et al., 2009 and Hodgson, 2011). FPCs ultimately attempt to identify areas where policy or planning needs to be implemented or improved.

The Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn (GFCLA) was formed in 2012 to create and support improvements to the food system of the Lewiston-Auburn community. One of the

GFCLA's biggest projects was the Community Food Assessment (CFA) of Lewiston in 2013 to assess the city's food landscape. The CFA "was designed to be a first step in building a healthier local food system" (CFA, 2013). While the CFA has been a good tool for assessing the state of the food system in Lewiston, the GFCLA has identified the need for a more comprehensive understanding of the food policy landscape.

Lewiston's current food system excels in some ways, but also has ample opportunity for improvement. For example, the city has adopted Harvest Bucks at farmers markets, which doubles SNAP stipends to incentivize purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables (CFA, 2013). As Harvest Bucks has not been adopted by cities all across the country, this is an example of one of Lewiston's strengths. Nonetheless, the city faces a host of disparate challenges, many of which are evident in the high number of food insecure Lewiston citizens.

Food insecurity is directly tied to poverty, and in Lewiston, 67% of Downtown lives in extreme poverty (CFA, 2013). Food insecurity, while also deeply rooted in age and race, exists because the system and policies in place have consistently failed the community (CFA, 2013) (Good Shepherd Food Bank, 2017). Other problems emanating from the unsustainability of Lewiston's food system include a lack of: farms, appropriate food distribution centers, and bio waste disposal facilities. To support and strengthen this food system, Lewiston should strive for policies that protect and promote sustainable practices. This work must begin with a comprehensive analysis of existing policy.

In this study, we conducted a Food Policy Audit in partnership with the GFCLA to identify areas where planning and policy are needed to bolster the city’s food climate. The food policy audit was adapted from a framework piloted in a graduate urban and environmental planning course at the University of Virginia (UVA) (O’Brien and Cobb, 2011). This model has been since adapted for utilization in Franklin County, Ohio and Portland, Maine (Julia Harper, GFCLA). Substantive differences existed between the original audit tool and the Ohio and Maine Audits.

There are four main sections in the audit tool, Promoting Local Food, Sustainability, and Community Food Security; Zoning and Land Use; Addressing Public Health and Food Access;

and Fostering Social Equity. Each section is divided into multiple subsections, allowing for analysis of all facets of the municipality’s food system (for a comprehensive list of sub-section titles, see table 1). The audit tool investigates policy by asking “yes” or “no” questions regarding the existence of various city goals, programs, and support systems. The objective of this project was to use a completed audit tool to identify gaps and opportunities for development in the existing food policy in Lewiston. The results of the audit in Lewiston will not only spur policy change in local government, but the tool itself will also serve as an easily replicable framework for similar municipalities in Maine. Ultimately, the audit will assist the GFCLA in the most

Section Key
Section 1: Promoting Local Food, Sustainability, and Community Food Security
1.1. Systemic Approaches
1.2. Supporting Sustainable Agriculture
1.3 Encouraging Production for Local Markets
1.4 Creating Markets for Local foods
Section 2: Zoning and Land Use
2.1 Urban Agriculture on Public Land
2.2 Urban Agriculture on Private Land
2.3 Home Gardening and Agricultural Use of Residential Land
2.4 Traditional Agriculture and Rural Land Use
Section 3: Addressing Public Health and Food Access
3.1. Healthy Food, Wellness, and Physical Activity
3.2 Food Offerings in Schools and Other Public Institutions
3.3 Community Education and Empowerment
3.4 Transportation Options for Accessing Food
Section 4: Fostering Social Equity
4.1 Food Security for Disadvantaged Populations
4.2. Business Incentives for Low-Income Food Access

Figure 1. Section key with titles of sub-sections in the audit tool

efficient use of resources to reach their goal of creating a city-wide food system in which “the entire community... has access to *good food*” (GFCLA, N/A).

To achieve the broader aim of this project, we have determined three overall objectives, which are as follows:

1. Define gaps and strengths in the sustainability of Lewiston’s food system.
2. Develop suggestions of planning, outreach or educational programs in the city to improve gaps specified in stakeholder interviews.
3. Ensure the GFCLA and other similar entities have the ability to replicate and scale the study by creating an audit tool that can be used in similar municipalities or tailored to fit a larger scale.

Methodology

Working Relationship with the GFCLA

Communication with our partner, the GFCLA, was crucial to the success of this project. We met with a staff person from the organization on an almost weekly basis. When in-person interviews were not possible we discussed work via conference phone calls and email. Meetings allowed feedback on weekly work.

Finalizing Food Audit Tool for Lewiston Use

We needed systematic methodology to finalize the questions and structure of the audit tool for use in Lewiston. To select a food audit tool structure most pertinent to Lewiston, we compared the UVA audit tool to those used in Franklin County, Ohio and Portland, Maine. To systematically compare these audits, each question in the audit spreadsheets were compared line-by-line and differences between questions were noted on a new spreadsheet. From this comparison we prepared a summary of significant finds, was shared with the GFCLA. With the GFCLA's input, we eliminated and edited various audit questions according to their relevance in Lewiston.

Answering Audit Questions

Questions in the audit tool require "yes" or "no" answers that culminate in a final score. To answer these questions, we will rely on community officials and experts. A preliminary list of resource persons was included in project materials by the GFCLA. We did some background research to provide a list of our own proposed resource persons, and received approval of this contact list from the GFCLA. See the final list of contacts utilized in this study in appendix 1.

Professionalism and efficiency were the primary goals of communication with resource persons. To actualize these goals, had a systematic communication protocol. We first reached out via email. Emails followed the structure of a GFCLA pre-approved template email (appendix 2). When there was no reply within five working days, we sent a follow up email following another email template (appendix 3). We were successful in contacting most resource persons following this protocol. Several people emailed answers to the audit questions, but we met the majority of contacts for in-person interviews.

Categorizing Lewiston Food Policy Audit Data

Our results were categorized with a numerical “grade” for the effectiveness of the total audit and subsections within the audit. When a policy was in place that supported the food system, that question was scored 1 point. When a policy or practice acted as a barrier to a sustainable food system, or no helpful policy existed, that question was scored 0 points. Answers that were not clearly supportive or unsupportive were scored in between 0 and 1 at quarter intervals. This allowed us to get an overall “grade” for the audit as well as component sections.

Our interviews were useful in that they provided more than “yes” or “no” answers to audit questions. Resource persons were able to give us a better idea of programs existing outside of the government that support the food system as well as programs on the state and federal level that support the city’s food system.

Interpretation Scheme of Results

We began this food audit under the assumption that completion of the audit tool would in itself create a comprehensive and clear picture of the gaps and strengths in the Lewiston food

system via indication of supportive or unsupportive policies. Under this assumption, the quantitative grading scheme would be sufficient categorization of results. However, the results of this audit were far more complex than anticipated. For example, if supportive policy at the city level is missing, in many instances the need for policy is met through state and federal regulations. While the audit tool recommends that the city reduce the availability of junk foods in schools and public buildings, such policy has already been implemented by the federal government that addresses these needs in the public school system. On the other hand, in some situations, the presence of an unsupportive policy is not actually a pressing concern based off the size and needs of the Lewiston community. For example, funding streams, such as Community Block Grants for food production were identified in the audit as resources that support a sustainable food system. While Lewiston does not have a loan program specific to food production, this gap likely does not need to be addressed because the community has expressed no need for grants specific to food production (appendix 4: audit tool question #56).

Cognizant of the risk of oversimplification while also attempting to structure the results of this study in an accessible and useful way, we developed a qualitative classification scheme for identified policy gaps that describes the urgency of changing these policies as well as the feasibility for creating such change. Each of these four categories was used to color code the results (Fig. 2). The purpose of this color scheme is to allow for efficient identification of policies that the GFCLA may want to pursue changing. The color classification of each question was determined via the recommendation of resource persons and our discretion. Information that influenced our interviewee's and or our decisions can be found in *appendix 5: Supporting information*.

<p>Low Priority, Easy to Implement:</p> <p>There is no policy in place to address issue but issue is not pressing/not relevant. Policy would be relatively easy to implement if issue became pressing.</p>	<p>Low Priority, Difficult to Implement:</p> <p>There is no policy in place to address issue, and at this time it is not a priority. Further research and/or more resources are needed if policy seems necessary in future.</p>
<p>High Priority, Easy to Implement:</p> <p>There is no policy in place but issue is easy to address through policy and needed in the community.</p>	<p>High Priority, Difficult to Implement:</p> <p>There is no policy in place to address issue but further research or more resources are needed for successful policy implementation. Policy would ultimately be helpful in long run.</p>

Figure 2. Qualitative Results Classification Scheme: Policies that received a grade lower than 1 were identified as being 1) high or low priority to implement/change and 2) either difficult or easy to implement/change. Four colors were chosen to graphically organize these classifications.

Recommendations to the GFCLA

After identifying gaps in food policy and interviewing resource persons our objective was to give the GFCLA an organized list of feasible recommendations for the betterment of Lewiston food policy. Utilizing the classification scheme in figure 1 in conjunction with interview narrative, we selected several specific policy gaps to consider implementing or changing. These gaps can be found in the recommendations section of this report.

Results and Discussion

To see a comprehensive list of results (in yes/no format) and their qualitative and quantitative classification, please see the *Completed Audit Tool* in appendix 4. To see further explanations and justifications for audit tool responses (why something was designated a yes or no) see *Supporting Information* in appendix 5.

Quantitative Overall Results

Across the entire audit, 78% of the audit grades were below 1, and thus indicated unsupportive food policy, and 22% of the audit grades were 1, and thus indicated supportive policy (fig. 3). These percentages indicate that there is significant room for improvement in Lewiston policy regarding food.

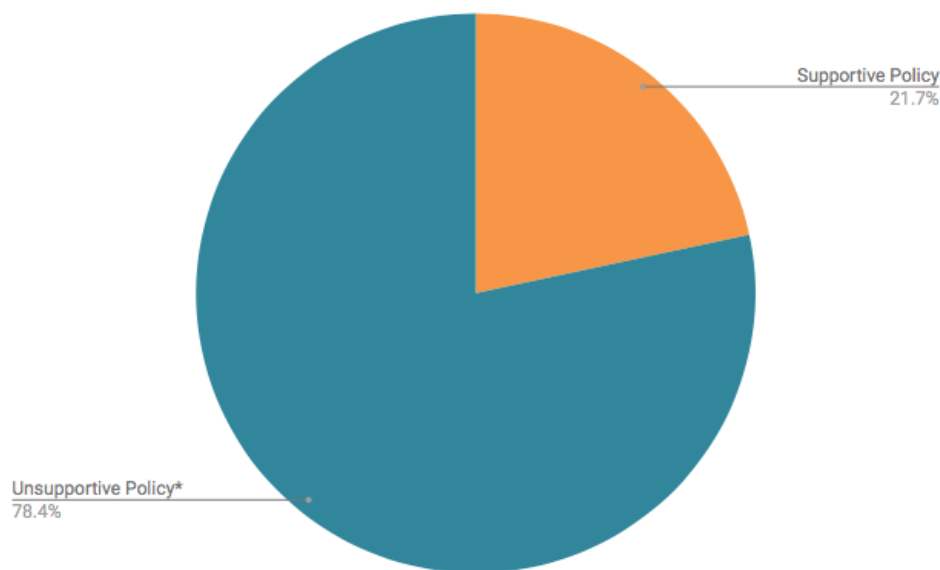


Figure 3. The percentage of supportive and unsupportive policies identified in the Lewiston Food System. “Unsupportive” policies were graded as a “zero.” The term unsupportive includes both detrimental or insufficient policies at the state and federal level as well as well as policy that is non-existent.

Quantitative Results by Section

The distribution of supportive policy was not equal across all sections outlined by the audit tool. For example, 25.9% of the policy in section 2 (Zoning and Land Use) were identified as supportive policy, while only 7.1% of the policy in section 4 (Fostering Social Equity) were identified as supportive policy (fig. 4). This indicates that focusing on programs and policies not only directly addressed by the audit tool but within those general area of social equity would be beneficial for fostering a more sustainable food system in Lewiston.

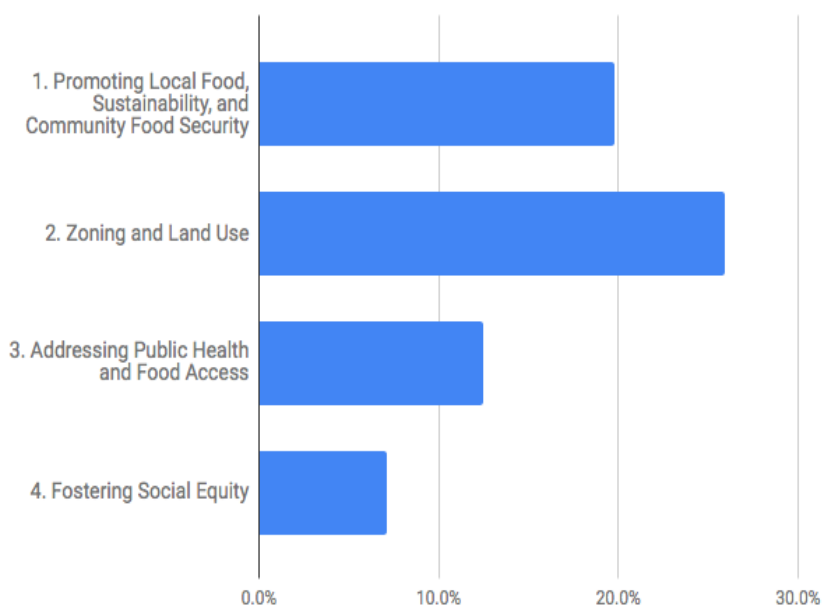


Figure 4. Percentage of supportive policy in the four main sections

Quantitative Results by Sub-Section

Each section also has differences within respective sub-sections. For example, within section 1.1 (systemic approaches) 50% of the policy was identified as supportive whereas in section 1.3 (encouraging production for local markets) 0% of the policy was identified as supportive (fig. 5).

This additional level of specificity allows for further identification of areas to focus limited resources.

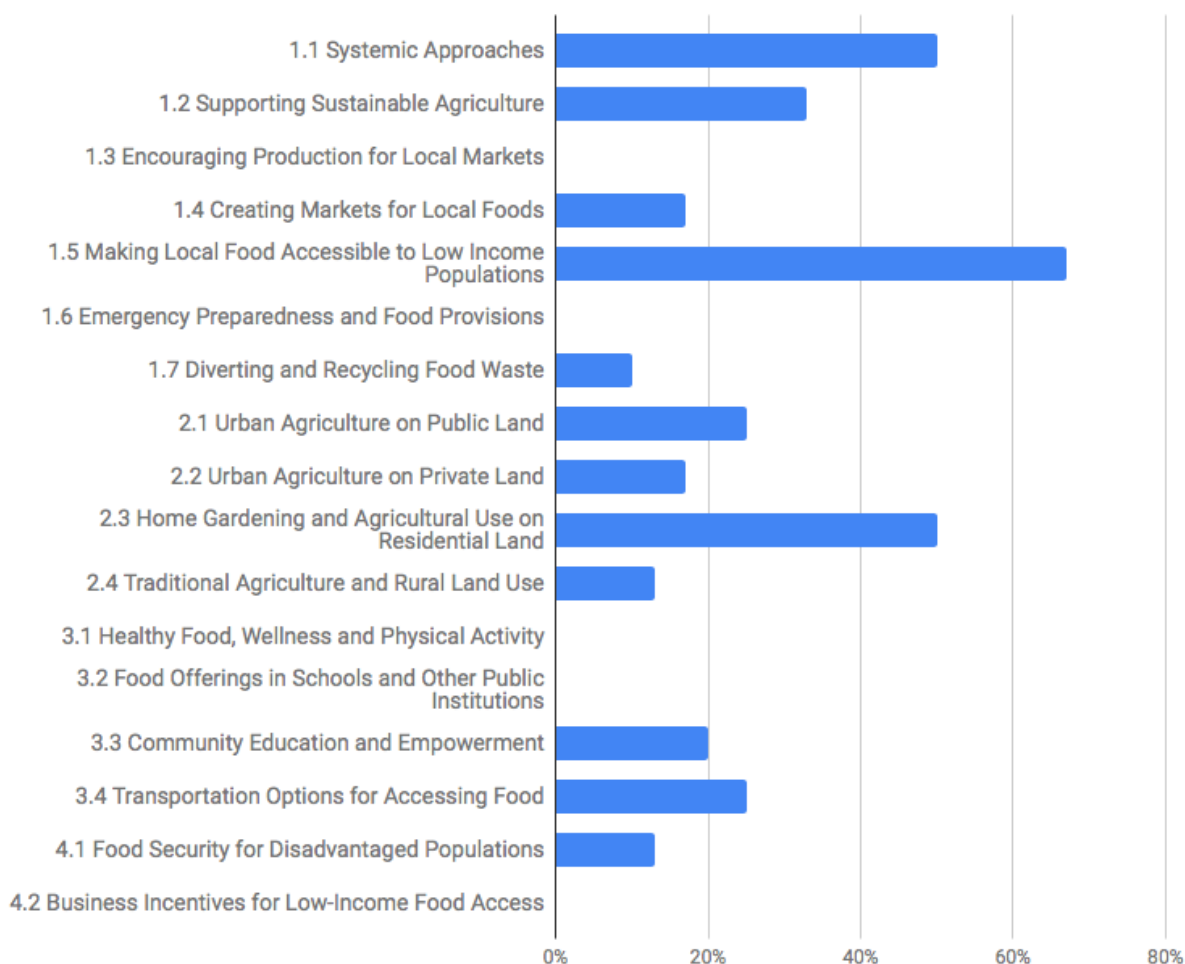


Figure 5. Percent of supportive policy within each subsection of the audit tool

Qualitative Results by Section

“Supportive” and “unsupportive” were useful identifiers for quantitative analysis, but are vague terms that do not encompass any level of urgency or indication of what might be inhibiting the food system most. Thus, we next provide a summary of major qualitative findings from this policy audit for each of the four major categories: 1. Promoting Local Food, Sustainability, and

Community Food Security, 2. Zoning and Land Use, 3. Addressing Public Health and Food Access, and 4. Fostering Social Equity.

This is a recommendation for interpreting the data. Classifications were made based on information we collected from interviews with local experts. For example, often times experts would tell us how necessary and feasible implementation of a new policy/changing an existing policy might be. We suggest the GFCLA uses the following figures as a summary of the qualitative information in the spreadsheet.

Qualitative Overall

This image is an overall representation of the qualitative classification scheme. The minimal gray color indicates that there is not a lot of city policy supporting Lewiston food system.

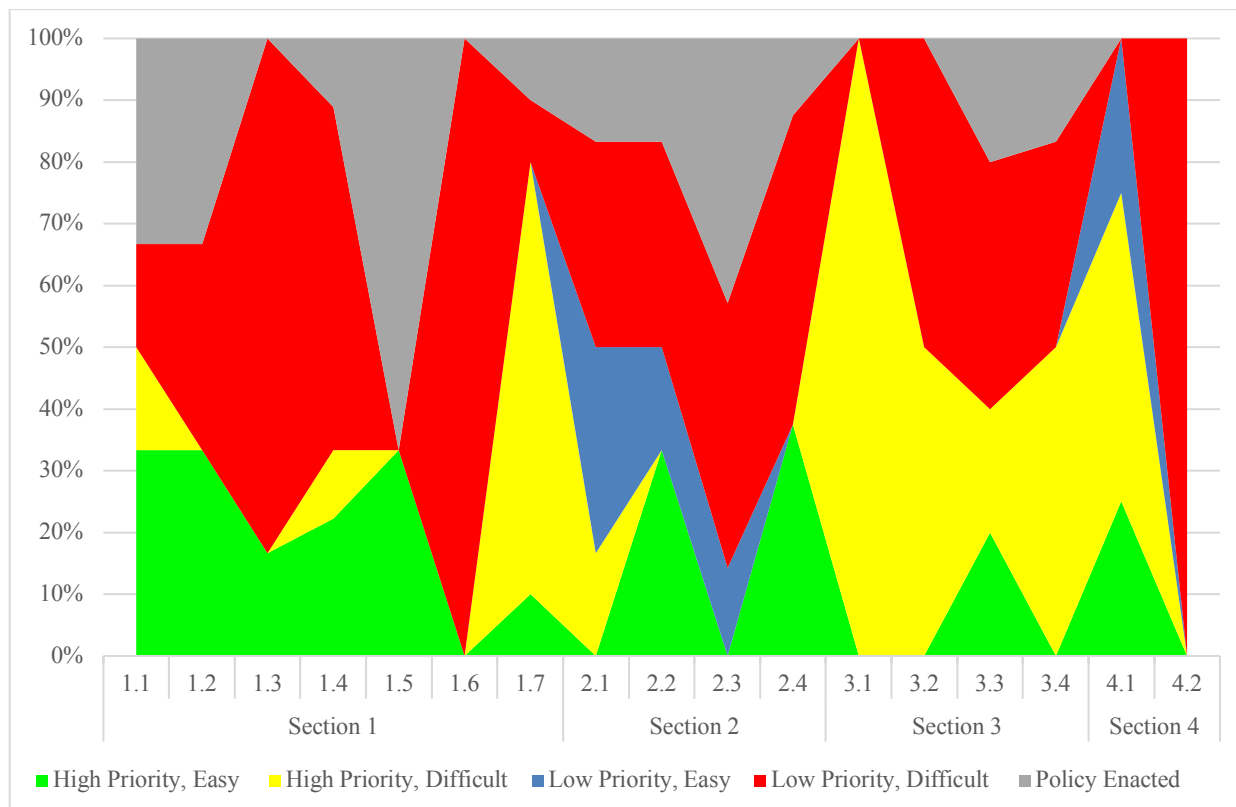


Figure 6. Qualitative overall results for the Lewiston Food Policy Audit

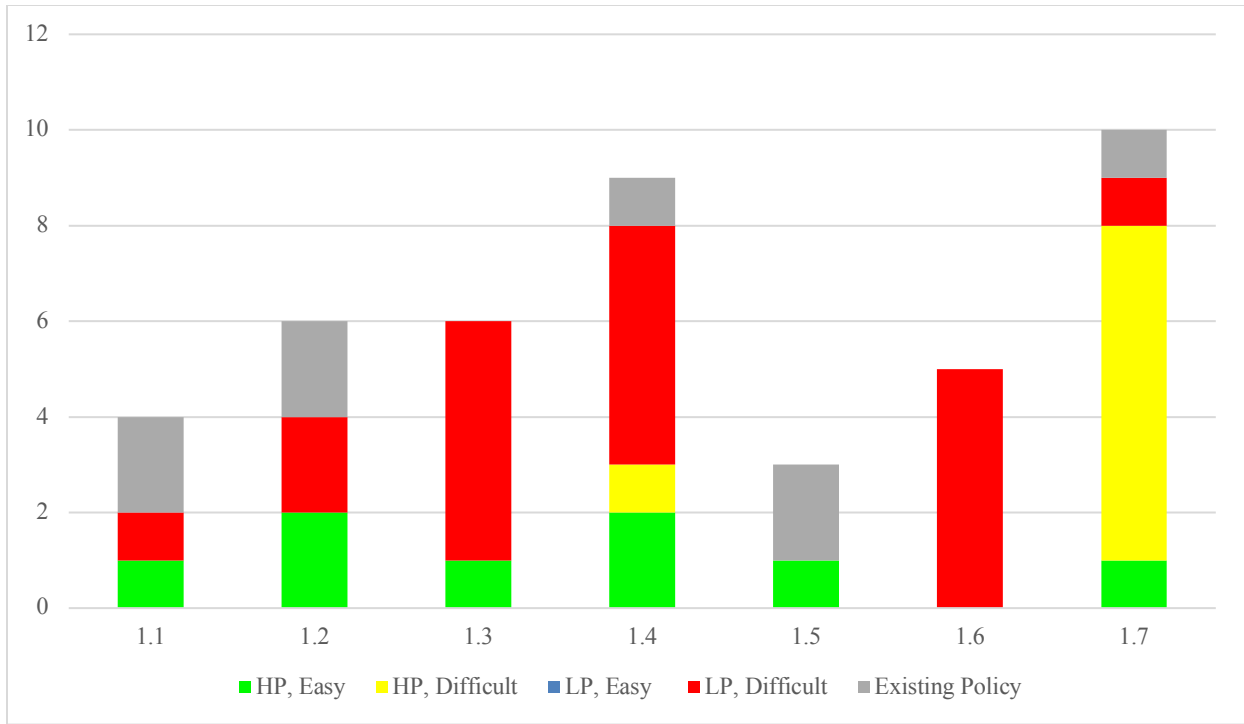


Figure 7. Section 1: Promoting Local Food, Sustainability, and Community Food Security

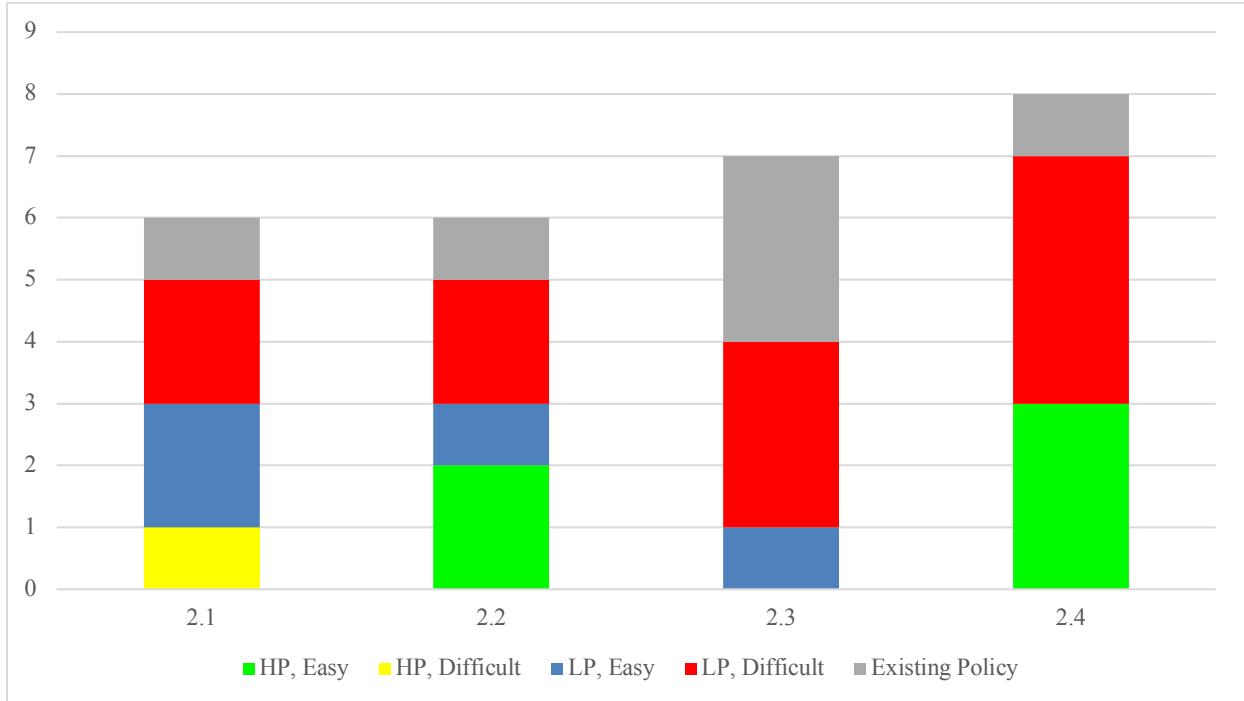


Figure 8. Section 2: Zoning and Land Use

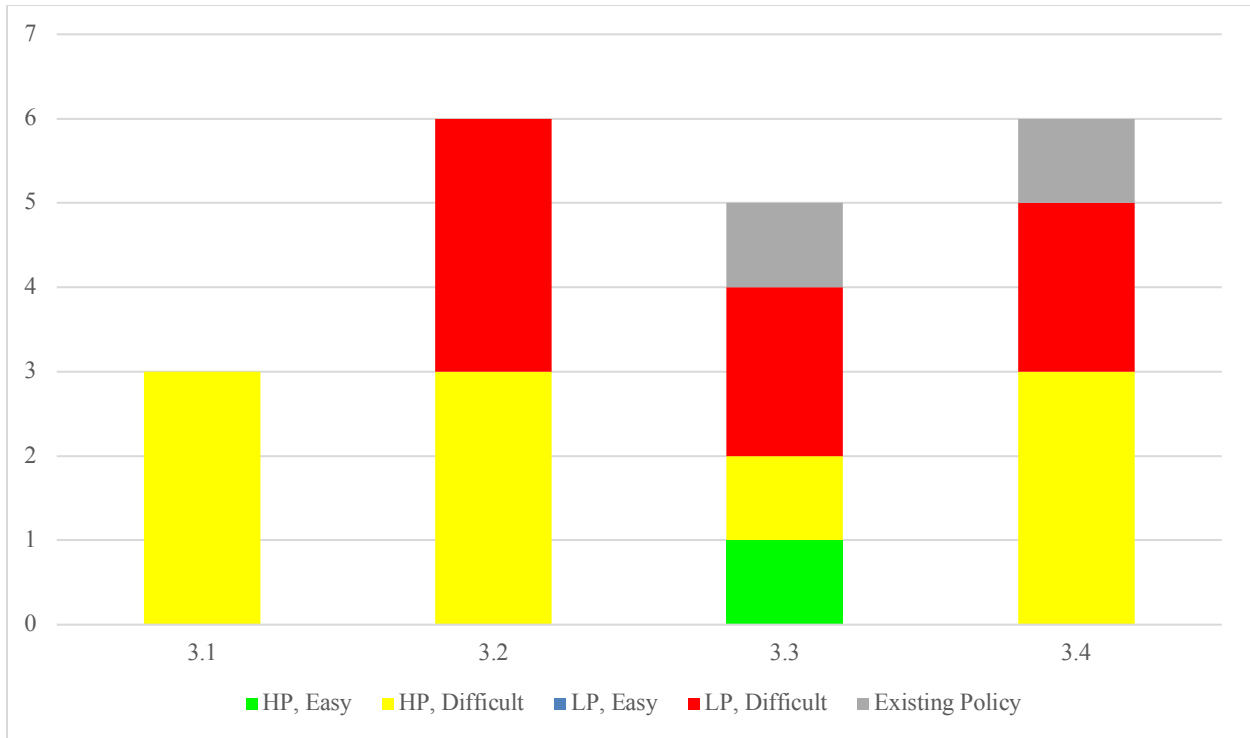


Figure 9. Section 3: Addressing Public Health and Food Access

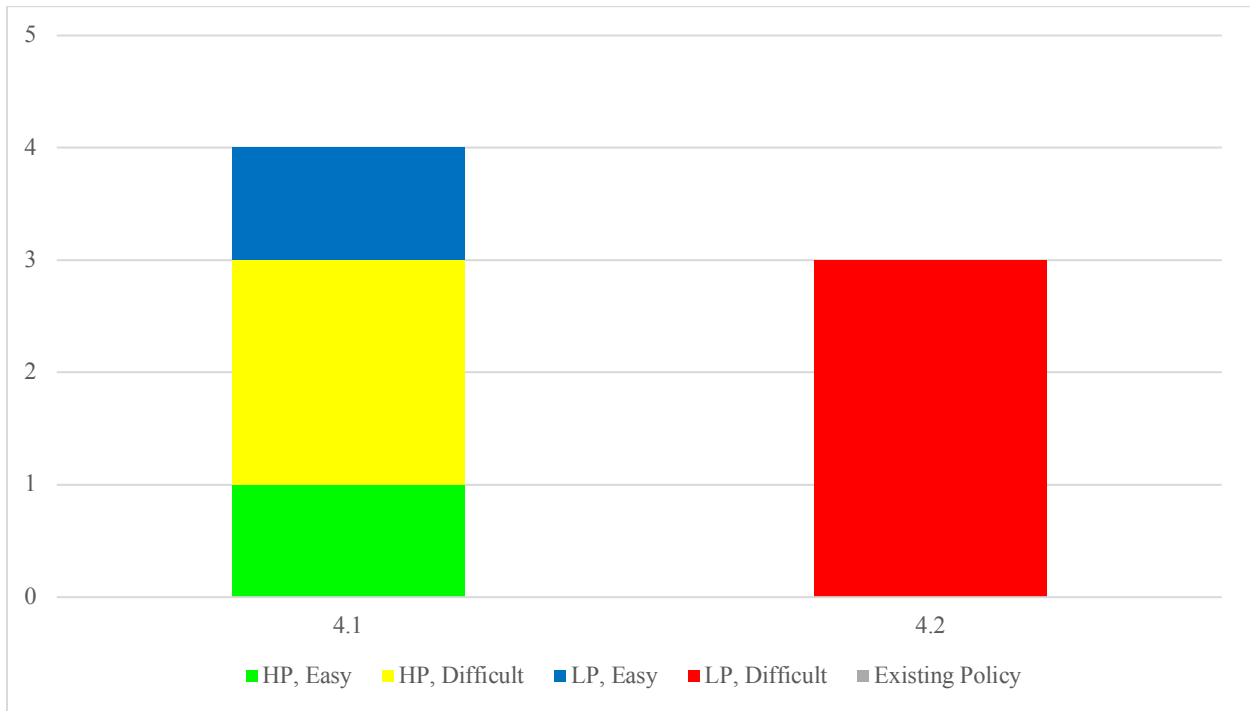


Figure 10. Section 4: Fostering Social Equity

Recommendations for Next Steps

The qualitative classification of our results into various levels of priority and attainability are the most abstract form of our recommendations for next steps. This categorization however, acts as a key for closer examination of the audit tool results.

These results are based off the knowledge of our resource persons, which was limited by their familiarity with city policy and within the scope of their affiliate organization's interaction with the given issue. For this reason, we recommend that the GFCLA look into actual policy outlined in city documents before pursuing any policy change or implementation project. Finding and interpreting the wording written in city policy can be extremely challenging. For example, in interviews with planning and code officials in the Lewiston government, they did not always know exactly where a policy existed in the literature despite having a general understanding of policy implications. Depending on what the GFCLA sees fit, researching written policy could be done on a case by case basis (ie before starting a new advocacy project) or as a large project to identify written code for every question on the audit. The GFCLA can partner with a future Bates Environmental Studies (ES) capstone group to conduct this policy examination.

To account for the fact that our policy tool only gathered data through city government officials and local advocacy groups, we recommend an interview project in which local community members would provide input on proposed policy changes. This would avoid situations in which our results led us to believe there should be a policy change and or our resource persons have indicated there should be a policy change, but community members would not support said change. For example, one of our resources complicated the ideas of agricultural zone preservations. At first glance it would seem that extending agricultural preservation policies would benefit the food system, however, it might result unfair to local community members. Our

resource person explained that some farmers would want the option of selling their land when they retire, however a proposed re-zoning policy would hinder their ability to sell (fig 8. section 2.4, audit question #71). Evaluating the pros and cons of changing such a policy would result in fair policy recommendations, and uncover important advocacy projects for the GFCLA.

In Lewiston, the permit process for high tunnels (or hoop houses) follows the same expensive and complicated process for that of a permanent structure (fig 8. section 2.2, audit question #54). High tunnels are impermanent greenhouse structures that are vital for year-round cultivation in Maine's harsh winter climate. These greenhouse structures while large, never make the ground impervious in the way traditional structures do, and thus some resource persons expressed their opinion that changing the permitting processes for high tunnels would be beneficial to local growers and increase production of local food year-round. Further research on the history of this policy and possible educational strategies surrounding these agricultural structures would be a great next step.

In a similar set of zoning questions, we learned that in Lewiston a permit is required to sell food grown on private property to anyone, including friends and family (fig 8. section 2.4 audit tool question #65). Our resource person indicated that expanding Lewiston's food sovereignty policy, similar to the one in Auburn, could be beneficial in allowing these sales to take place without a permit.

One project that could help make significant progress toward environmental sustainability in Lewiston would be to implement composting in Lewiston Public Schools (fig 7. section 1.7 audit tool question #37). Such a project would likely need to take state and federal regulations into account and possibly receive support from the local Lewiston government. Our contact person at Lewiston public schools was really interested in compost but lacked the time to

do a full feasibility assessment. Another resource from Lots to Gardens pointed out that multiple schools in the greater Portland public school system actually send their food waste to We Compost It in Auburn. Partnering with We Compost It is one way that Lewiston Public Schools could compost food waste. It is our hope that a future capstone group undertake a feasibility assessment and or implementation project for composting in Lewiston public schools. This could be work done in the form of background research and or a pilot program in one of the schools. We have spoken with Bates College Sustainability Manager, Tom Twist, an expert in sustainable waste management who is excited by the prospect of assisting this project.

We strongly recommend advocating for policy that supports and necessitates the Hunger Vital Signs program currently being piloted by St. Mary's and Central Maine Medical Center in partnership with Healthy Androscoggin (fig 10. section 4.1 audit tool question #95). In this program, medical care providers look for signs that the patient is food insecure. If the person is identified as food insecure, they leave St. Mary's with a package of healthy food. The requirement of this program as dictated by city policy would be a huge improvement for reducing hunger and serve as an entry point for extending emergency food services to those who need them.

One commonality between many of the resource persons we talked to was a consistent desire for greater education and outreach about the work being done with their affiliate organizations. Many of our contacts expressed that even when programs exist they are underutilized or that the city's help in distributing information would be extremely useful. Researching ways that the city can help advertise and educate the community about the local food system and opportunities that exist for local involvement would be incredibly useful. In this

vein, one type of educational material that the city could provide would be a “Guide to Local Food” (fig 7. section 1.4 audit tool question 17) (fig 9. section 3.3 audit tool question 84).

In 2017, Lewiston won the “All-America City” award, in part due to the success and vibrancy of our community gardens. Community gardens have provided local food to many people in the downtown area, for which food access is an issue. The success of these gardens has been recognized by locals, and as of this year, there are 14 parties in the waiting list for gardens for the upcoming spring. To ensure that these community gardens stay intact, and are a constant source of food in Lewiston, we recommend that new policy surrounding garden contracts be evaluated (fig 8. section 2.1 audit tool questions 45 and 46). Specifically, experts in Lewiston community gardening indicated the need for extending leasing agreements with the city for community garden plots from 5 years to a longer time frame. Additionally, more community gardens can be created through joint-use agreements, in which schools partner with organizations such as Lots to Gardens to ensure that these gardens are permanent fixtures at schools. Both of these recommendations would improve the stability of community gardens, and therefore also help improve food security in Lewiston. Advocating for longer community garden lease agreements is a project that could be undertaken by a variety of interest groups, including the GFCLA, Lots to Gardens and also a Bates ES capstone group.

Finally, there is a large amount of both overlap and opportunity for collaboration between Lewiston and Auburn regarding food policy. It would be useful to conduct a similar food policy audit in Auburn.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Contact Persons

Misty Parker, Economic Development, City of Lewiston

Rebecca Secrest, Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

Holly Lasagna, Healthy Androscoggin

David Jones, Department of Public Works, City of Lewiston

Alisa Roman, Lewiston Public Schools,

Denis D'Ateuil, Lewiston City Government

David Jones, Department of Public works, City of Lewiston

Katie Boss, Healthy Androscoggin

Joan Walton, Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin County Soil and Water Conservation District

David Hediger, Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston

Tori Jackson, Maine Cooperative Extension

Sheri Blumenthal, Lewiston Farmers' Market and St. Mary's Nutrition Center

Doug Greene, Department of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston

Bridgette Bartlett, Lots to Gardens, St. Mary's Nutrition Center

Appendix 2: Initial Contact Email

From: [Group member responsible]

Subject: Request for contact regarding Lewiston food policy

Dear _____,

Our names are [order will depend on who is contacting] and we are working with the Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn (GFCLA). We are currently working on a project that will help the

GFCLA determine the city's policy climate for developing a sustainable food system and supporting food-related projects.

We are reaching out to you because we've identified you as someone who is likely to understand certain county-level policies and initiatives that could affect the work of the council. We would very much appreciate, if you have the time, if you could answer the questions on the document attached and discuss your perspective on the issues.

The questions on the document are simply intended to aggregate information about existent policies and projects in Lewiston; they are not meant to criticize the work of any individual or organization. Findings will only be shared with the members of the GFCLA. If the GFCLA wishes, for any reason, to make this information public, your permission and approval will be sought.

If possible, we would greatly appreciate if you could respond to these questions before October 26th. Please note that we may also contact you further questions if we need more information to accompany one of your answers. With respect to any follow-up contact, feel free to answer at your earliest convenience. Additionally, if you feel that someone else in your organization might be better equipped to answer these questions, we would greatly appreciate your help in identifying and contacting that individual.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to respond to this email or call me on my cell [###-####]. Thank you very much for your time, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Sincerely,
Katie Kelley, Hadley Moreau, and Yeymi Rivas
GFCLA Partners, Bates Class of 2019
Appendix 3: Follow Up Email

Dear (name),

I hope this email finds you well. __, __, and I are reaching out to you to ensure that you saw the email sent last week requesting contact for the Lewiston Food Policy Audit.

Currently, we are in the process of scheduling interviews for this project and are hoping to ask you some questions that will provide critical information for the audit. **We hope to conduct interviews before or on Monday, November 12th. Attached to this email are the questions we'd like to discuss.**

Please feel free to reach out to us with any concerns.

Sincerely,
Katie Kelley, Hadley Moreau, and Yeymi Rivas
GFCLA Partners, Bates Class of 2019

Appendix 4: *Completed Audit Tool*

See following page.

Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
1. Promoting Local Food, Sustainability, and Community Food Security					
<i>1.1. Systemic Approaches</i>					
1	Does the city support or participate in a Food Policy Council?	Good Food Council of Lewiston Auburn	Yes	1	N/A
2	Does the city have a policy or goal to reduce its community environmental "foodprint"?	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	No	0	Red
3	Does the city have a policy that its citizens have a "right to food security"?	Healthy Androscoggin	No	0	Green
4	Does the city have a declaration of food sovereignty?	City Administration	Yes	1	N/A
<i>1.2. Supporting Sustainable Agriculture</i>					
5	Does a policy or program exist to encourage transition to low-spray, sustainable, or organic agricultural methods, to reduce human and environmental exposure to potentially harmful chemicals?	Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	No	0	Red
6	Is there a local policy or program that offers incentives to farmers to switch to more sustainable growing methods?	Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	No	0	Green

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
7	Is there a local government policy or preference for local agencies to purchase low-spray, sustainably grown, or organic food?	Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Jocelyn Lahey and Terri Teller	No	0	Green
8	Does the city have a policy, program, or goal to reduce nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations?	Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Jocelyn Lahey and Terri Teller	Yes	1	N/A
9	Does the city have a policy, program, or goal to manage the harmful effects of animal manure?	Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Jocelyn Lahey and Terri Teller	Yes	1	N/A
10	Does the city support an organization or agency that can advise farmers on sustainable growing practices?	Cooperative Extension	Tori Jackson	No	0	Red
1.3. Encouraging Production for Local Markets						
11	Does the city have a clear goal that supports the production and distribution of local food?	Capstone Group	Independent Research	No	0	Yellow

	Item	Agency, or Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
12	Does the city have economic development goals to support regional food production?	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Red
13	Is there a support system to supply existing farmers with steady and seasonal farm labor	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Red
14	Are there local government or other programs to inspire and train new farmers, including assistance to immigrants who may come from farming families?	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Red
15	Is there a USDA-inspected community cannery, kitchen, or other processing facility open to local farmers, food entrepreneurs, and the public?	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Red
16	Does the city support an organization, agency, or individual who is able to provide farmers with technical assistance regarding financial solvency, and/or regulatory compliance?	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Red
<i>1.4. Creating Markets for Local Foods</i>						
17	Does the city publish or support a public guide to local food?	Capstone Group	Independent Research	No	0	Green
18	Is there a local government policy recommendation for purchase of local food when available?	Lots to Gardens, St. Mary's Medical Center	Bridgette Bartlett	No	0	Red
19	Are there economic development programs, incentives or other tools for retailers to favor purchasing local food?	Capstone Group	Independent Research	No	0	Red

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
20	Are there financial or other programs to support or incubate food-related businesses?	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Red
21	Does the city have a policy to allow local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	Lewiston Farmer's Markets	Sherie Blumenthal	No	0	Green
22	Does the city provide institutional support for local farmers' markets or tailgate markets?	Lewiston Farmer's Markets	Sherie Blumenthal	Yes	0.5	Yellow
23	Is there economic development support for businesses that provide regional distribution of local food, such as a Food Hub?	Karp Resources and Grow L+A	Lewiston-Auburn Regional Food Hub Feasibility Study	No	0	Red
24	Does the city provide tax incentives, leasing agreements, or other incentives to support development of businesses using locally produced food?	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Red
25	Does the city support, or are there programs for, mobile farm stands and food carts?	Lewiston Farmer's Markets	Sherie Blumenthal	Yes	1	N/A
1.5. Making Local Food Accessible to Low-Income Populations						
26	Does the city support the purchase/use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards to provide low-income access to farmers' markets?	Healthy Androscoggin	Katie Boss and Holly Lasagna	No	0	Green
27	Does the city support a locally-available program for matching or doubling funds for every EBT dollar, when EBT is used at grocery stores or market venues for fresh, local foods?	Healthy Androscoggin	Katie Boss and Holly Lasagna	Yes	1	N/A

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
28	Do farmers' markets and/or grocery stores accommodate WIC coupons, Senior Nutrition coupons, or EBT machines?	Lots to Gardens, St. Mary's Nutrition Center	Bridgette Bartlett	Yes	1	N/A
1.6. Emergency Preparedness and Food Provisions						
29	Does the city have an emergency preparedness plan that includes contingency plans for short-term interruptions of food deliveries?	Good Shepard Food Bank	Kristen Miale	No	0	Red
30	Does the city support the provision of a central directory of all emergency food providers?	Good Shepard Food Bank	Kristen Miale	No	0	Red
31	Does the city support coordination and cooperation among emergency food providers?	Good Shepard Food Bank	Kristen Miale	No	0	Red
32	Does the city employ strategies for increasing food donations for emergency provisions and food banks?	Good Shepard Food Bank	Kristen Miale	No	0	Red
33	Does the city support a method, structure, or storage facility for donations of fresh foods to emergency providers?	Good Shepard Food Bank	Kristen Miale	No	0	Red
1.7. Diverting and Recycling Food Waste						
34	Does the city support a policy or program to divert a given percentage of bio-waste away from landfills?	Department of Public Works, City of Lewiston	David Jones, Director of Public Works	No	0	Yellow
35	Does the city support a compost pick-up program that processes food waste for recycling? Or does the city provide another method of recycling/disposing of non-edible food waste?	Department of Public Works, City of Lewiston	David Jones, Director of Public Works	No	0	Yellow

	Item	Agency, or Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
36	Does the city allow for storage and pick-up of compostable items at commercial establishments?	Department of Public Works, City of Lewiston	David Jones, Director of Public Works	No	0	Yellow
37	Does the city support commercial composting or anaerobic digester facilities for food waste recycling?	Department of Public Works, City of Lewiston	David Jones, Director of Public Works	Yes	1	N/A
38	Does zoning code allow community gardens to bring food waste from off-site sources for composting?	Lots to Gardens, St. Mary's Medical Center	Bridgette Bartlett	No	0	Green
39	Does the city support educational programs encouraging backyard composting of food wastes?	Lots to Gardens, St. Mary's Medical Center	Bridgette Bartlett	No	0	Yellow
40	Does the city support programs to encourage synergies for byproduct use among food producers and processors?	Independent research	ES capstone group	No	0	Yellow
41	Does the city have a purchasing policy requiring that all disposable serviceware is compostable?	Independent research	ES capstone group	No	0	Yellow
42	Does the city provide economic or tax incentives for establishment of facilities for processing/recycling food waste (composting, anaerobic digestion, etc)?	Independent research	ES capstone group	No	0	Yellow
44	Does the city support a program to redistribute viable uneaten food from commercial establishments to hungry, malnourished, or low-income populations?	Good Shepard Food Bank	Kristen Miale	No	0	Red
2. Zoning and Land Use						
2.1. Urban Agriculture on Public Land						

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
45	Does the city clearly allow the use of public space or land for nonprofit community food gardens?	Lots to Gardens, St. Mary's Medical Center	Bridgette Bartlett	Yes	1	N/A
46	Is the city currently employing or considering a "joint use" agreement to open the use of school land for food production (school gardens, community gardens, community urban farms)?	Lots to Gardens, St. Mary's Medical Center	Bridgette Bartlett	No	0	Yellow
47	Does the code allow for and support protection of open space for community gardens?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger, Director	No	0	Blue
48	Does the code allow for temporary and conditional use of abandoned lots for neighborhood gardens and/or urban farms?	Lots to Gardens, St. Mary's Medical Center	Bridgette Bartlett	Yes/No	0.5	Red
49	Does the city sponsor or work with an area community land trust or land bank in setting aside land for community or nonprofit gardens, or gardens where low-income residents can grow produce for sale?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger, Director	No	0	Red
50	Does the city minimize height restrictions on thru-way vegetation? If low vegetation is preferred, does the city give preference to edible landscaping?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger, Director	No	0	Blue

2.2. Urban Agriculture on Private Land

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
51	Does the city utilize zoning tools (such as overlays or subdistricts), or include language in the zoning code to support commercial urban agriculture operations on small plots and residential lands?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger, Director	No	0	Red
52	Does the city utilize zoning tools (such as overlays or subdistricts), or include language in the zoning code to support non-commercial community gardens on private lands?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Bridgette Bartlett	No	0	Green
53	Does the city allow for on-site sale of products by urban agriculture operations?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger, Assistant Director of Planning and Code enforcement	No	0	Red
54	Do zoning codes pertaining to urban agriculture on private lands allow for construction of associated structures?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston		Yes	1	N/A
55	Does the city support a program to facilitate soil testing on private lands for conversion to community gardens? Or does the city require raised beds for community gardens?	Lots to Gardens, St Mary's Medical Center		No	0	Green
56	Are there funding streams for urban food production projects, such as Community Development Block Grants?	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Blue

2.3. Home Gardening and Agricultural Use of Residential Land

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
57	Does the zoning code allow small-scale beekeeping on residential land?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger	No	0	Blue
58	Does the zoning code have language that supports residential "farm" animals: chickens, goats, roosters, etc.?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger	Yes/No	0.5	Red
59	Does the zoning code allow for the construction of structures associated with backyard agriculture?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger	Yes	1	N/A
60	Does the zoning code minimize restrictions on lawn vegetation height?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger	Yes	1	N/A
61	Does the zoning code allow for the sale of homegrown produce on residential property?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger	No	0	Red
62	Does the zoning code allow for the sale of value-added products on residential property?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger	No	0	Red
63	Does the city have restrictions on yard waste (compostables) in residential areas?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	David Hediger	No	1	N/A

2.4. Traditional Agriculture and Rural Land Use

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
64	Are there regulations allowing flexibility for food producers to engage in minimal on-site processing?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Red
65	Does the zoning code allow for the sale of unprocessed farm products on agricultural lands?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Green
66	Does the zoning code allow for the sale of value-added products on agricultural lands?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	Yes	1	N/A
67	Does the city offer working farmland tax incentives, such as agriculture/forestal districts?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Red
68	Does the city have a policy or program (such as conservation easements) to support land conservation for food production?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Green
69	Are there creative leasing or financing models to reduce start-up farming debt?	Economic Development Department, City of Lewiston	Misty Parker	No	0	Red
70	Does the city have a map of its prime agricultural lands for conservation?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Green

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
71	Does the city limit development potential in prime agricultural land through purchase of development rights, transfer of development rights, establishment of agricultural districts, or through other means?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Red
3. Addressing Public Health and Food Access						
3.1. Healthy Food, Wellness, and Physical Activity						
72	Does the city express a concern or goal for improving public health?	Healthy Androscoggin	Holly Lasagna	No	0	Yellow
73	Does the city mention a goal to reduce obesity and/or chronic illness?	Healthy Androscoggin	Holly Lasagna	No	0	Yellow
74	Does the city have an overall wellness plan?	Healthy Androscoggin	Holly Lasagna	No	0	Yellow
3.2. Food Offerings in Schools and Other Public Institutions						
75	Does the city clearly allow, support, or advocate for Farm to School (or similar) programs?	Lewiston Public Schools	Alissa Roman, Nutrition Director	No	0	Yellow
76	Does the city have other provisions for school purchasing of local or organic foods?	Lewiston Public Schools	Alissa Roman, Nutrition Director	No	0	Red
77	Does the city clearly have a policy to reduce availability of junk food in schools and other public buildings (e.g. vending machines and purchasing options)?	Lewiston Public Schools	Alissa Roman, Nutrition Director	No	0	Red
78	Do the schools have a policy or program to educate cafeteria workers on preparation of fresh, local food and/or nutrient-rich food?	Lewiston Public Schools	Alissa Roman, Nutrition Director	No	0	Yellow

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
79	Is the city clearly encouraging or supporting the inclusion of food-based lesson plans in schools?	Lewiston Public Schools	Alissa Roman, Nutrition Director	No	0	Red
80	Does the city clearly encourage and/or directly support establishment of school garden programs at all levels of K-12?	Lewiston Public Schools	Alissa Roman, Nutrition Director	No	0	Yellow
3.3. Community Education and Empowerment						
81	Does the city encourage that chain restaurants provide consumers with calorie information on in-store menus and menu boards?	Healthy Androscoggin	Katie Boss	No	0	Red
82	Does the city have a clear tax or other strategy to discourage consumption of foods and beverages with minimal nutritional value, such as sugar sweetened beverages?	Healthy Androscoggin	Katie Boss	No	0	Red
83	Does the city have educational/promotional materials that encourage high nutrient density, low sugar food/drinks with use of SNAP?	Health Androscoggin	Katie Boss	No	0	Green
84	Does the city develop media campaigns, utilizing multiple media channels (print, radio, internet, television, social networking, and other promotional materials) to promote healthy eating?	Healthy Androscoggin	Katie Boss	No	0	Yellow
85	Are community members involved in the organization of markets or other food opportunities?	Healthy Androscoggin	Katie Boss	Yes	1	N/A
3.4. Transportation Options for Accessing Food						

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
86	Do safe biking and walking paths exist between neighborhoods and food stores and markets? Between low income neighborhoods and food stores?	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	Joan Walton	No	0	Red
87	Does the city have a bus service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets, requiring no more than one bus change?	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	Joan Walton	yes/no	0.5	Yellow
88	Does the city have a low-cost taxi or ride-sharing service that connects neighborhoods directly with food stores and markets?	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	Joan Walton	No	0	Red
89	Are transportation services available in rural as well as urban areas?	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	Joan Walton	No	0	Yellow
90	Are transportation services available at multiple times of the day and evening?	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	Joan Walton	No	0	Yellow
91	Does the city have a bike path or sidewalk plan?	Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments	Joan Walton	Yes	1	N/A
4. Fostering Social Equity						
<i>4.1. Food Security for Disadvantaged Populations</i>						
92	Does the city have a policy to provide access to quality food for all citizens, especially those with greater need?	Healthy Androscoggin	Holly Lasagna	No	0	Blue

	Item	Agency, Department, or Organization	Resource(s)	Answer	Grade	Qualitative Classification
93	Has the city done any infrastructure, transportation or other studies to identify issues of low-income neighborhoods gaining access to quality food, in rural as well as urban areas?	Healthy Androscoggin	Holly Lasagna	No	0	Yellow
94	Does the city have a policy or program to support stores that offer fresh produce, meats, dairy, and eggs to low-income populations?	Healthy Androscoggin	Holly Lasagna	No	0	Yellow
95	Does the city have a system for directing/referring people in need of food to the places that can help?	Healthy Androscoggin	Holly Lasagna	No	0	Green
4.2. Business Incentives for Low-Income Food Access						
96	Does the city have an expedited development and/or permitting process for grocers that will provide healthy, local foods in underserved locations, in rural as well as urban areas?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Red
97	Are there any regulatory incentives, such as relaxed zoning requirements or tax credits, that can facilitate new stores in underserved areas?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Red
98	Does the city offer any predevelopment assistance to developers to expedite the review process for grocery stores in underserved areas?	Office of Planning and Code Enforcement, City of Lewiston	Doug Greene	No	0	Red

Appendix 5:

In this section we present information extending beyond the “yes/no” binary of the audit tool that could be potentially misleading this additional information outlines things that may already be happening in the community to help bridge gaps in the food system. Additionally, it is our intention that this appendix provide both context and evidence for the answer classification. For example, often times we asked resource persons how challenging they thought it might be to implement a policy. We provide such information here. The numbers in this appendix correspond do the question numbers that appear in the audit tool.

1. The Good Food Council of Lewiston Auburn acts as the Food Council for the Lewiston Auburn metropolitan area. Although they are not specifically a "policy" council, their work does involve some policy focus.

2. No policy or goal currently exists

3. In an interview with a public health employee from Healthy Androscoggin policy we were told that incorporating a “right to food security” might be something beneficial and easily incorporated into Lewiston policy.

4. The city’s declaration of food sovereignty can be found here:

<http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3582>

5. The state policies on pesticide use are regulated down from the EPA, and regulations specified by the state pesticide board act as a baseline from which localities can create more stringent rules. Some towns in the state, for example, have decided to allow homeowners to request “no spray” on their property. More research needs to be done as to if Lewiston would benefit from implementing more specific policies.

6. An example of a sustainable practice is more effective manure storage. Resources such as the farm bill that provide financial incentives to farmers or fund educational programs on sustainability exist at the federal or state level. The NRCS, a federal agency, hosts a local working group in the area and solicits community feedback to determine where funding should go. Due to poor advertising and outreach, however, turnout is usually low. It is recommended that Lewiston work with MOFGA or Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), both non-profits, to advertise and increase grant opportunities available for farmers in the area.

7. “Local agencies” refers to restaurants and grocery stores in the city. The closest program that exists in the state is the emergency food assistance program created by the Department of Agriculture. While it doesn’t provide incentives, it does ensure local food gets to pantries, churches, etc. throughout the state.

8. MS4 (municipal storage sewage system) policy allows the city to give permits that authorize waste discharge into the Androscoggin river. This might be a problem in the future if urban agriculture becomes more prominent in Lewiston as stormwater that would contain runoff from these operations is untreated. Same reason for which high tunnels were targeted by policy, as

they are considered a potential nonpoint pollution source if used for agriculture in the downtown area.

9. Lewiston has a nutrient management program, however that is broad and doesn't directly apply to animal waste. Stormwater management and erosion control are also mandated through city code, but these are the closest comparable policies or programs existing at a local level. Larger farm operations, like those potentially found in the Rural Ag zone, are required by the state to have approved nutrient management plans. State stormwater program targets phosphorus pollution, the majority of which is sourced from agricultural operation. The state of Maine also has a Fertilizer law and Nutrient Management law.

10. The cooperative extension is a program that exists through the University of Maine, and provides research-based information to people who need it. It is most commonly associated with agriculture, and operates at a county level, independent of the cities that it services. The program provides information varying from plant identification to sustainable farming techniques to business management. It is primarily funded by the USDA and the University of Maine

11. This policy can take shape in many forms, such as the increased production of food in community gardens, increased ag land zoning, etc. Research should be done on whether this policy would be beneficial.

12. Although policy does not specifically mention regional food production, policy that supports growth of small businesses is intentionally vague to encompass as many sectors as possible.

Food production can fit into this as it is.

13. There is currently not a huge demand for farm labor. In Lewiston we have partner “career center” as well as “adult-ed” whom are tasked with supporting employers with workforces.

These organizations are not specific to farm labor but could be used for this purpose. Several

years ago, Backyard Farms in Madison reached out because they believed Lewiston had a

potential workforce that they needed. They wanted to help collaborate to get people to get to

Madison (a little bit of an hour north of here). Backyard Farms grows tomatoes year-round and

have been very successful in growing but because they are in a very rural area they have had

difficulty finding work force. They partnered with the Portland workforce to get transportation of

immigrants living in Portland to Madison. People have not been super interested in Lewiston,

which is in part due to the distance. Our resource person is not sure if the program section of this

program is still up and running.

14. There is no city program currently in place. The Cooperative Development Institute (CDI)

has provided significant assistance in the area, including helping to fund and develop New Roots

Farm. The CDI has also supported other businesses that focus on assisting local farm operations.

New farming operations and programs like those specified in this question receive support from

the city in completing the permit process. Additionally, Cooperative Extension and AVCOG

provide more local access to state and federal programs and services available to small

businesses.

15. Nothing has been specifically designed by the city to help farmers in Lewiston. A space like this would have been located in the Bates Mill #5 Food Hub, but that was not found to be feasible for the city at the time. Some local institutions that have FDA inspected kitchens, such as Bear Bones Beer, have relationships with local food producers and allow them to use those inspected spaces. It has not been determined, however, if these producers are using the kitchens to prepare packaged food or if the food being prepared will be consumed at the time of purchase. The city does not advertise or support these relationships.

16. AVCOG, cooperative extension, and similar agencies and organizations provide this type of support.

17. No additional information obtained.

18. While Lewiston does not have a policy recommendation in place, the city has taken action to promote and improve local farmers markets, making it easier for its citizens to access local food. For example, the downtown farmers market now has wifi available to vendors to use programs like square, whereas they previously did not have reliable electricity. Additionally, farmers markets in the city now accept SNAP. The implementation of a government recommendation would be difficult as it would put a burden on some small businesses, and thus providing some sort of monetary or tax incentive is recommended.

19. No additional information obtained.

20. The City of Lewiston currently offers no financial incubation programs specific to the type of businesses.

21. The City of Lewiston does not have something specific set up for farmers' markets. Some local interest groups have tried off and on again to get something on the books with not much luck. They have an arrangement instead where the Lewiston Farmers Market has to submit an Events Application on behalf of the market and the Clerks Department issues us something called a "Roving Diners License" to cover vendors with perishable food items and a "Peddlers License" for craft people at the market. They have to submit state licensing of all vendors selling food products other than veg (i.e. fish, meat, dairy etc.) to the City to keep on file. They also fit us under their "Flea Market" umbrella and permit the Lewiston. Altogether for the licenses and the flea market permit the market pays close to \$400 per season.

22. There is still room for improvement. The St. Mary's Nutrition Center has had a very good working relationship with the City over the years and they are supportive of the market. The Nutrition Center provides fiscal and operational support for the market. The lot where the market is located is City owned and an MOU is updated and signed each season to use the space. Some ways in which the City supports the market is by allowing the equipment and supply storage in a cage in the garage, providing in kind electricity for events and also troubleshooting anything that happens when the electric shuts off. The City works with the market to put up a big banner at the location each year. Some years they have waived the fees for permits but not for the last 3 years. Technically they partially waive the fees since they give one license for the whole market rather

than licensing individual vendors, which would be very expensive. The Nutrition Center has appealed to the City for financial support for different programs but as a rule they have stopped providing cash to programs and non-profits for the last few years. Instead they give in kind support. Some more support outreaching for the market through their channels would be appreciated.

23. A study was completed in 2015 determining that it was not feasible to create a food hub in Bates Mill #5 in downtown Lewiston (the most likely space for this kind of operation). While a food hub would be practical to establish in Lewiston, currently it would only complicate processes for local food producers and is not financially practical.

24. The city does not provide tax incentives specific to businesses that use locally produced food. There are tax incentives available based on financial investment, if the business has invested at least 2 million dollars, or are hiring at least 25 new employees or fit one other unspecified criteria. As is evident, these are most applicable to businesses coming in and looking to develop such as Walmart.

25. The Good Food Bus and the mobile market project have fallen under the Roving Diners' License.

26. EBT is used at Farmers' markets by low income people, but the city does not specifically support the purchase/use of EBT. This sort of support can/does come through Healthy Androscoggin.

27. The city supports and local farmers markets accept WIC and SNAP/Harvest Bucks.

28. The Lewiston farmers market accepts SNAP/Harvest Bucks.

29. The Good Shepard Food Bank provides emergency food provision to individual cases or if a food pantry closes in a high-need area. Their protocol is to act as fast as possible and draw from available resources in nearby food pantries. They work with the nearby pantries to absorb the clients who are still in need of pantry services, and collect information on the clients such as phone numbers. This is a state-wide service, and no similar plan has been implemented by the city of Lewiston.

30. More research is needed on this topic.

31. The city does not aid in coordination of emergency food providers, the food bank is responsible for this. Might be helpful to have some city aid, but our contact from the Good Shepard Food Bank is unsure what role the city would play.

32. The city does not have strategies for improving food donations for emergency provisions. Food donation policy is created at a federal level and donations are managed by Feeding America as well as local corporations. In Lewiston, the food bank cooperates with Hannaford's and Wal-Mart.

33. The city does not provide storage aid. However, often, individual pantries go to local towns for support, therefore, this might be something worth looking into.

34. The city would consider programs moving wastes away from landfills once the full costs of the program are known and supported. More research is needed.

35. Currently, compost pick-up programs are not economically feasible. More research should be conducted as many actors in the food system have expressed desire for composting in Lewiston.

36. According to a Lewiston Public works employee, there is no established program at this time.

37. The City supported the anaerobic digester facility at the sewage treatment plant to reduce the amount of solids for that plant. They are aware of a food waste digester in Brunswick that is collecting food wastes and are aware of former farm in Exeter (Agri-Energy) accepting animal and food waste.

38. Compost programs exist in community gardens, although it is uncertain whether there is policy supporting these programs. A handful of community members currently bring food waste and waste from the gardens to compost locations with gardens. Unclear as to where these compost site locations could handle the volume of compost if everyone did this.

39. Lots to gardens has been handling a lot of residential composting implementation. They visited “We Compost It” in Auburn with some kids from the community. Interesting because Portland schools send their food waste to We Compost It, but the public schools in the Lewiston Auburn area doesn’t do that. Lots to Gardens is a small organization, it is within their capacity to maybe teach people how to do their own compost, or a worm bin. The nutrition center has compost on site at but is pretty much at capacity with handling waste from cooking class trimmings, and composted food pantry donations. Our resource person thinks it would be “cool” if the city did something about compost, and that schools would be the best place to start. The mayor has been more interested in residential composting as a strategy to save money.

40. One synergy currently exists at Bates College between Commons Dining and a local pig farmer. Contact Cheryl Lacey for more information about this program.

41. Some local establishments still use Styrofoam for cost saving purposes.

42. Based off our research, the city does not currently offer any economic or tax incentives for establishment of such facilities.

43. Question 43 was removed as it was determined to be irrelevant.

44. The city has no food distribution program, however, must big food donors are aware of who to call, so there is no pressing policy to be implemented at the moment. Additionally, Feeding America, the nationwide hunger relief organization that the Good Shepard Food Bank works

closely with, has created a new app to facilitate the redistribution system. This new system is expected to improve food donation matches in the future.

45. While the city allows for the use of public land and spaces for community food gardens, there is always a need for more gardens. For example, there are currently 14 parties on the waiting list for garden participation in the spring.

46. There is no joint use program, however it would be beneficial to implement this policy as it would make food gardens easier to implement and keep in existing and future schools. Currently, Lots to Garden has been working with grounds and management to ensure that there will be garden space at the school. Joint use programs would prevent the city from selling community garden spaces, which has happened recently in downtown Lewiston.

47. Zoning code allows for community gardens as a type of land use and contains a definition of “community garden.” Language in the code does not intentionally support the protection of land for community gardens, but is supportive of members of the community creating gardens.

48. The city allows for temporal use of abandoned lots for neighborhoods gardens but not for urban farming. Farming is restricted to the Rural Agricultural zone.

49. The city has a relationship with the Androscoggin Land Trust, but not for the purpose of creating space for community gardens. The New Roots Cooperative Farm was created to help

Somali Bantu immigrants learn how to start an agricultural based business and become accustomed to farming in Maine, however their work is not supported by the city.

50. Edible landscaping has been previously attempted, city planted low-bush blueberries at the Grand Trunk depot in downtown. While a good idea in theory, it was a nightmare for public maintenance, as the berries were messy when ripe and the bushes frequently trapped trash such as cigarette butts. Zoning code places a height restriction on weeds, but says nothing specific about thru-way vegetation.

51. Zoning code is not set up to support urban agriculture outside of community gardens. This is most likely because there is a significant amount of under-utilized land outside of the downtown, tree street, and Bates College area of Lewiston. According to our resource persons, the use of this land should take priority over using a lot for a farming operation in the more populated areas of the city. Zoning and Code allows farmers markets, which one could consider as a way to get around.

52. As with the garden on Pine St., community members can already work with city council to get a lot re-zoned to support a community garden.

53. Due to the lot sizes in the downtown area, urban "agriculture" as that term is defined by the city, is not possible. Someone could potentially have a garden or a structure such as a hoop house in their backyard but nothing that would be considered an operation. As such, city government does not see this as necessary to allow.

54. Yes, however, in urban areas the land is the limiting factor for these structures.

55. While there have been instances where the city has recommended that local groups use raised beds to avoid contamination from lead in the soil, there is no specific requirement. Local groups often conduct soil testing but this is not required by the city.

56. There is a commercial loan program that people can access if they want to start a business in the downtown area, but such programs are not specific to urban food production. Lewiston does not have the capacity to provide specific loan programs because it is such a small city. Such loan programs are advertised via the Lewiston Government website, but generally utilized by small restaurants rather than food production businesses.

57. The city does not allow small-scale beekeeping in residential areas. When we inquired the reasoning behind this, we were given the impression that this is largely due to the perception of a potential allergy threat. It should be noted that many other, much larger (NYC) cities do not have such restrictions.

58. No animal husbandry is allowed outside of Rural Ag Zone. A household in the tree streets can have up to 6 chickens if their property is at least 20,000 sq ft.

59. This is allowed but not if structure is constructed to house a commercial operation

60. Weed ordinance for downtown areas states that lawn vegetation must not be more than 12 inches high. This would not apply to something like an herb garden.

61. Depends if the use is active or passive. Having a cooler of eggs on the sidewalk is fine, however full on farm stand operation is not allowed in residential areas.

62. Value-added products are not allowed to be sold out of homes in residential areas. However, if you wanted to sell some sort of homemade baked good you could sell them to a convenience store to then be sold there.

63. There is nothing specific restricting compost. It would become a problem with the city if it violated other ordinances. For example, if you did a bad job with the compost pile, then it could be penalized under an odor ordinance or something of that nature. *Note:* Priority ranking color refers to the implementation of a compost program

64. Our resource persons were not aware of these programs. Additional research required.

65. Applies to agricultural land inside of Rural Ag Zone.

67. Not at the local level, land owners can receive farmland and forestry tax breaks from the state

68. The city has adopted a resolution to support the Good Food Charter (proposed by the GFCLA), however this is not a published document.

69. According to our resources, such a program is not currently supported by the city. Additional research is needed to determine if similar programs exist at the state and or federal level.

70. This information is not available through city's GIS system, similar information is available from the state.

71. According to our resource person in planning and code, the city does not currently have such a policy. In addition, our resource indicated that additional information about the ramifications of implementing such a policy is necessary before advocating change.

72→ 74. The city of Lewiston does not have a public health department to advocate for these needs, further research is needed to examine state and federal programs.

75. The city does not support any Farm to School programs. Food programs in public schools are funded by the Federal government.

76. The city does have provisions for school purchasing of organic foods due to potential issues with food safety as well as the high cost of organic food.

77. This issue is addressed on the federal level. Lewiston Public Schools adhere to federal caloric/nutritional guidelines in order to keep their funding.

78. Staff working at the Lewiston Public Schools are union workers with specific contracts that do not allow time for enrichment education. One way to create more time for enrichment education would be through having volunteers in the kitchen, which could free up time for enrichment. Potentially consider partnering with the Harvard Center at Bates college to get volunteers in the kitchens at the local schools.

79. Food based lesson plans would be created by the school board. The city does not get involved in this process at the present time.

80. According to our contact in Lewiston Public Schools, school committees are responsible for establishing school gardens. The city does not get involved in this process at the present time.

81. It is federal policy that caloric information must be provided in chain restaurants. The city does not have to enact policy on this.

82. According to Public Health Workers at Healthy Androscoggin, placing a tax on food in Lewiston would not be the appropriate response to the high rate of soda consumption because Maine is a poor state and Lewiston has the lowest income census tract in the entire state. However, more information is needed.

83. There is a WIC program that doubles value of SNAP dollars. Harvest Bucks/ Farm fresh rewards. More education about these programs would be useful, but it would likely happen

through SNAP-ed or local nonprofits such as Health Androscoggin. Possibly show on the Somali local health issues show.

84. Media campaigns to promote healthy eating should definitely occur in Lewiston. Research needs to be done on how to effectively spread messages about food issues in the city.

85. While Somali-Bantu communities are involved in creating farmers market programs they do not have many leadership positions within the farmers market community. There might be a policy need to have a set amount of Somali-Bantu people in these positions. More research on this topic is necessary.

86. Bike paths are predominantly recreational. Most large-scale markets require other forms of transportation. This was designated as low priority because it is challenging to carry enough groceries for a family via walking or biking and Maine's climate makes this an undesirable/unsafe form of travel for a large part of the year.

87. This answer depends on where you are coming from. The bus service is concentrated in the downtown area so if you're coming from a rural area, you will have to transfer. Not transferring on the bus makes your trip easier and therefore supermarkets easier to arrive to. However, more research needs to be done in order to understand what areas would benefit from bus route additions or changes.

88. City does not support or sponsor these programs however they do exist through private providers. This was designated as red because the city does not have a taxi/ride share system and it seems more pertinent to focus on further development of City Link (an existing city transportation system) rather than developing a new branch of transportation services or supporting private companies to subsidize transportation expenses.

89. The city does not support transportation in rural areas. People that live in these places rely on taxi, rideshare etc.

90. Lewiston and Auburn jointly own the City Link bus service. It runs 6 days a week. Saturday routes are reduced from overall weekday service. They do not run as many buses on as many routes. There are limited resources to change this despite need.

91. Yes, the city does have a sidewalk plan. According to our resources, the bike path really covers Lewiston, Auburn, and Sabattus, although it is concentrated in Lewiston. There are a fair number of people who bike commute year-round. According to our interviewee, they are more inclined to think that bikes at grocery stores belong to employees rather than shoppers, simply because these bikes are always there. There is not a ton of space for dedicated bike lanes in the downtown. The lower speeds in the downtown area should make it a little safer for bikers. We are under the impression that most of the bike paths in Lewiston (such as the one behind CMMC and the river path) are predominantly used for recreational purposes.

92. Groups not affiliated with local government have been working to address this issue (St. Mary's, Healthy Androscoggin, Lewiston Area Public Health Committee), but no current policy exists. Implementing this as a city policy was designated as “quick fix” simply because stating the wording/goals of the policy would not be a challenging change. Follow through with this policy would be challenging, however.

93. To our knowledge, the only research around transportation barriers was done in the 2013 Community Food Assessment. Based off multiple resource persons from multiple affiliate organizations, the general impression is that we have numerous transportation barriers, need better transportation options, but that there is little policy regarding transportation and little funding to support change.

94. Choice neighborhood grant is working with Healthy Neighborhoods, group paid for expert to look at food security in downtown area. Issue is food access. Could potentially be changed through licensure or an ordinance.

95. There is no program or policy accomplishing this at the city level, in part because the city of Lewiston lacks a Public Health Department. Healthy Androscoggin, in partnership with CMMC created Hunger Vital Signs Program, screens for food insecurity, mandating this could be incorporated in policy.

96. According to our resources in planning and code, no current justification for why a policy would be passed approving this process just for grocers.

97. Not currently, however there is an awareness for the of need to support creation of new neighborhood grocery stores in underserved areas. According to our resource person, many local grocers are either struggling or have been shut down. The city council is interested in having zoning and code look into parking requirements for small commercial retail. No active plans to do that in the future.

98. According to our contact in Lewiston planning and code, everyone wants an expedited permit process, but this is not a realistic goal.