



community
involved in sustaining
agriculture

Strategic Plan

Mission

CISA strengthens farms and engages the community to build the local food economy.

Values

Respect, Equity, and Collaboration

Vision

The three counties of the Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts are home to a resilient, equitable, and diverse local food economy. We envision a community where farms are thriving, where wages and working conditions are fair and just, where farmers care for the land and water, and where locally grown food is available to all. We envision an informed and engaged community that recognizes local agriculture as essential for responding to climate change and for connecting to this place and to each other.

Strategies

1. Growing Strength and Resilience in Farming

- Support farmers in managing productive and viable farms that can withstand crises and disruptions, adapt to climate change, and build a more equitable food system.
- Support the wide array of new and established farms in our region and encourage diversification of farm structure, ownership, products, and markets.

2. Growing Strength and Resilience in the Local Food Economy

- Support local businesses that source and sell locally grown farm products.
- Amplify farmers' voices and advocate for policies that support farm owners and workers.
- Engage the community to be active supporters of local agriculture.
- Increase access to local food for people with limited financial resources.
- Employ a holistic approach of the local food system to research gaps and find solutions.

3. Growing Strength and Resilience in our Organization

- Prioritize collaborative partnerships and support organizations led by and serving people of color.
- Diversify our funding sources to withstand fluctuations in public funding.
- Recognize that CISA is successful because of our people; continue to invest in staff who further CISA's mission and create a workplace that is productive, sustainable, and welcoming to all.
- Cultivate a board and staff that reflect the community and the local food system.