

Appendix 1

Foodshed Vision

A foodshed may be defined as the geographic area within which the food for a specific population originates, as well as a mechanism for understanding the systems in place that drive the flow of that food supply.¹ Thus, the scale of our foodshed from smallest to largest includes:

- Local: yard, block, neighborhood, city, county
- Regional: Portland, OR region; Willamette Valley; State of Oregon; Columbia Basin;
- West Coast
- United States
- Mexico and Canada (The North American Free Trade Agreement guides trade in North America)
- All other countries

While our local and regional foodshed does include flows of supply and demand at all the above scales, this report is concerned with the Portland Metropolitan Foodshed. The geographical extent of the foodshed could be justifiably defined in a variety of ways. This report defines the foodshed as Columbia, Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill Counties and the systems that support the food supply.

The four components of the food economy are:

- Producers (Growers, Farmers) are the places and their owners that grow food. From the smallest to the largest scale, these include: yards; community gardens; public planting strips, medians and other small places; nature/the wild; and farms.
- Processors are the methods and facilities where raw foods and byproducts are processed and packaged for distribution. The extended cluster is a mix of commodity producers, specialized, niche producers, processors, distributors and packagers. From smallest to largest, these include individual processors, shared facilities/equipment, mobile processors, small-scale processors, large processors, and byproduct processing facilities.

¹ Blum-Evitts, Shemariah, *Designing a Foodshed Assessment Model: Guidance for Local and Regional Planners in Understanding Local Farm Capacity in comparison to local food needs*, Master's Thesis, May, 2009

- Distributors are the various delivery methods by which food gets to consumers, including: food clubs; community supported agriculture operations (CSAs); farm stands; farmer's markets; corner groceries; gleaners; restaurants; catering, regional markets; supermarkets; and commercial wholesale distributors.
- Consumers ingest and utilize food and its byproducts made by producers and processors at all scales and delivered by the various distribution methods described above. Consumers include: individuals/households; the landscape; institutions; animals; and fuel-based machines.

These four components of the food system economy are closely related and interact in a dynamic fashion with growers engaging directly and indirectly with consumers, processors, and distributors. The system produces several “products:” or outputs including: ecosystem services (e.g., clean water and air), incomes profits and tax revenues, regional and community identity and projects (e.g., farmers markets), increase urban and rural connections, healthy food to prevent disease, and importantly for this project – food and food products.