

# LAND PRESERVATION AND THE LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

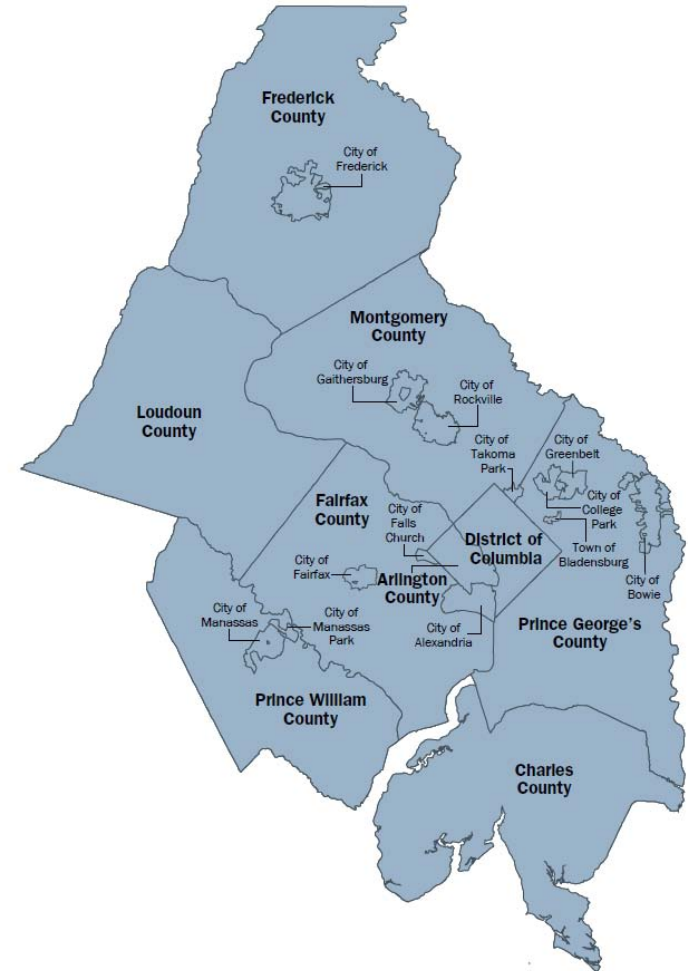
## COG's Role

Lindsay Smith, AICP  
Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator

2017 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference  
February 4, 2017

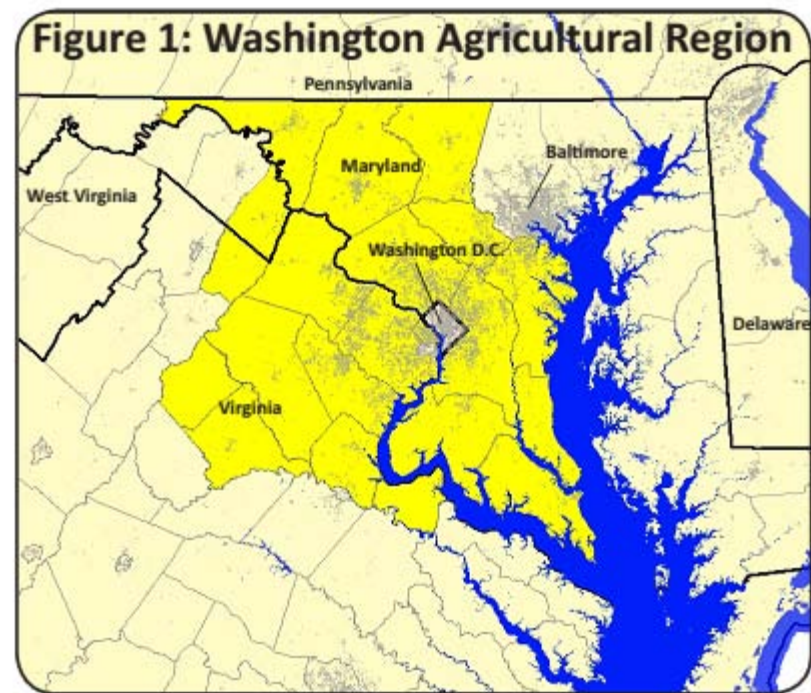
# About COG

- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association
- Brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia
- Membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 22 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress



# Food & Agriculture in the National Capital Region

- COG's 2012 [What Our Region Grows Report](#) found 28% of 8,629 sq mile Washington Agricultural Region in ag land use
- Preserves critical open space, contributes approx \$1 billion/year to economy
- Commodity farming predominates, growing interest and production of a range of other agricultural products, local seafood



Washington Agricultural Region from  
*What Our Region Grows*

“A surge in consumer demand for locally-produced food is creating jobs and opportunity throughout rural America for farms as well as the small businesses that store, process, market and distribute food locally and regionally. **Industry data indicate that local food sales totaled at least \$12 billion in 2014 and estimate that the market value could hit \$20 billion by 2019.**” (emphasis added)

USDA Results: Local and Regional Food Systems

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=usda-results-local.html>

Growing number of food policy councils, nonprofits, local governments, businesses, and more, *making* food system improvements in the COG region and larger Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Local food is a regional issue.

Virginia Farm to Table

What Our Region Grows:

Agricultural Production and Demand in the Washington Area Foodshed<sup>1</sup>  
Based on the U.S. Food Market Estimator  
December 2012

URBAN AGRICULTURE

A Tool for Creating Economic Development and Healthy Communities in Prince George's County

December 2012

SUSTAINABILITY

DC

SUSTAINABLE DC PLAN

JANUARY 2016



GOOD FOOD FOR ALL  
AN ASSESSMENT  
OF FOOD SYSTEM EFFORTS IN  
THE CHESAPEAKE FOODSHED

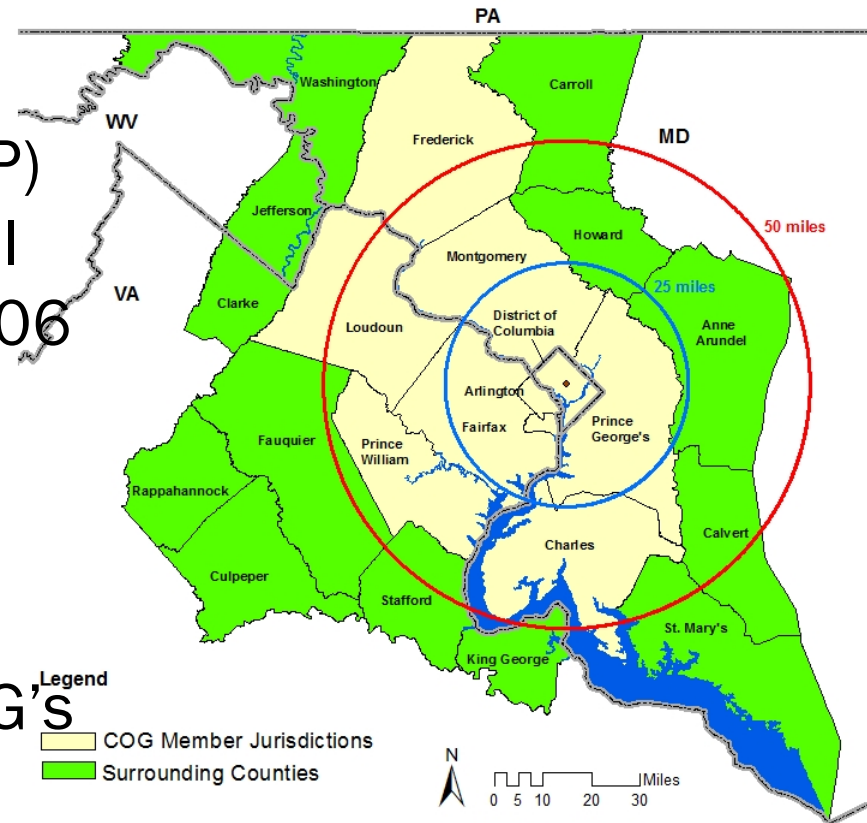
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ADVISORS



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

# Food & Agriculture at COG

- COG's Department of Environmental Programs (DEP) hosted a Regional Agricultural Workgroup since 2006
- Selected to participate in USDA's new Food LINC pilot
- Programming aligns with COG's [Region Forward](#) vision





# Regional Food System Value Chain Coordination

## Priorities:

- Foster Local Food Business Connections
- Support Food and Agriculture Policy and Infrastructure
- Expand Market Opportunities
- Increase Access to Local Food



# Foster Local Food Business Connections

## Regional Food Distribution Work Group: a “Local Food Chamber of Commerce”

- Background Issues
- Key Stakeholders
- Objectives



Regional farm products at Arcadia’s Mobile Market serving low-income communities in DC and Northern VA



# Support Food and Agriculture and Policy Infrastructure

- Regional Data and Information

*Region Forward Goal:  
Maintain 450,000 acres  
of the Region's land in farms*

- Working and Ad-Hoc Groups
- Emerging Issues and Best Practices



Rooftop garden at Bread for the City in downtown Washington, D.C.

# Expand Market Opportunities

Example: Employee Community Supported Agriculture Incentive: “The Farm Card”



## More Information

Lindsay Smith, AICP

Regional Food Systems Value Chain Coordinator

(202) 962-3307

[lsmith@mwcog.org](mailto:lsmith@mwcog.org)

Brian LeCouteur, Principal Environmental Planner,  
Agricultural Program Liaison

(202) 962-3393

[blecouteur@mwcog.org](mailto:blecouteur@mwcog.org)

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20002

[mwcog.org](http://mwcog.org)