Project Description

This is a two phase research project concerning the state of food systems planning nationally and the networked implementation of Vermont’s own food system plan: Farm to Plate.

Findings relative to national plan analysis:
• While food system plans do a relatively good job of addressing all aspects of the food cycle, there is a gap in focus on waste management and in ‘closing the loop’.
• Many plans make links to a number of other policy issues, but plans tend to ignore climate change and emergency management.
• Food system plans are mostly sub national.

Social network analysis of plan implementation:
• Project connects the conceptual practice of planning with the realities of policy and program implementation and governance.
• Outcomes of Farm to Plate Network analysis will inform the future design and function of that network, and will help optimize efforts to improve Vermont’s food system.

Acknowledgments
Funding for this research project was provided by the James M. Jeffords Center for Policy Research at UVM, with additional support from the Complex Governance Research Group, Erica Campbell and Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.