

The State of Food Systems Planning, Governance and Network Connectivity in North America

Social Sciences, Education, and Business
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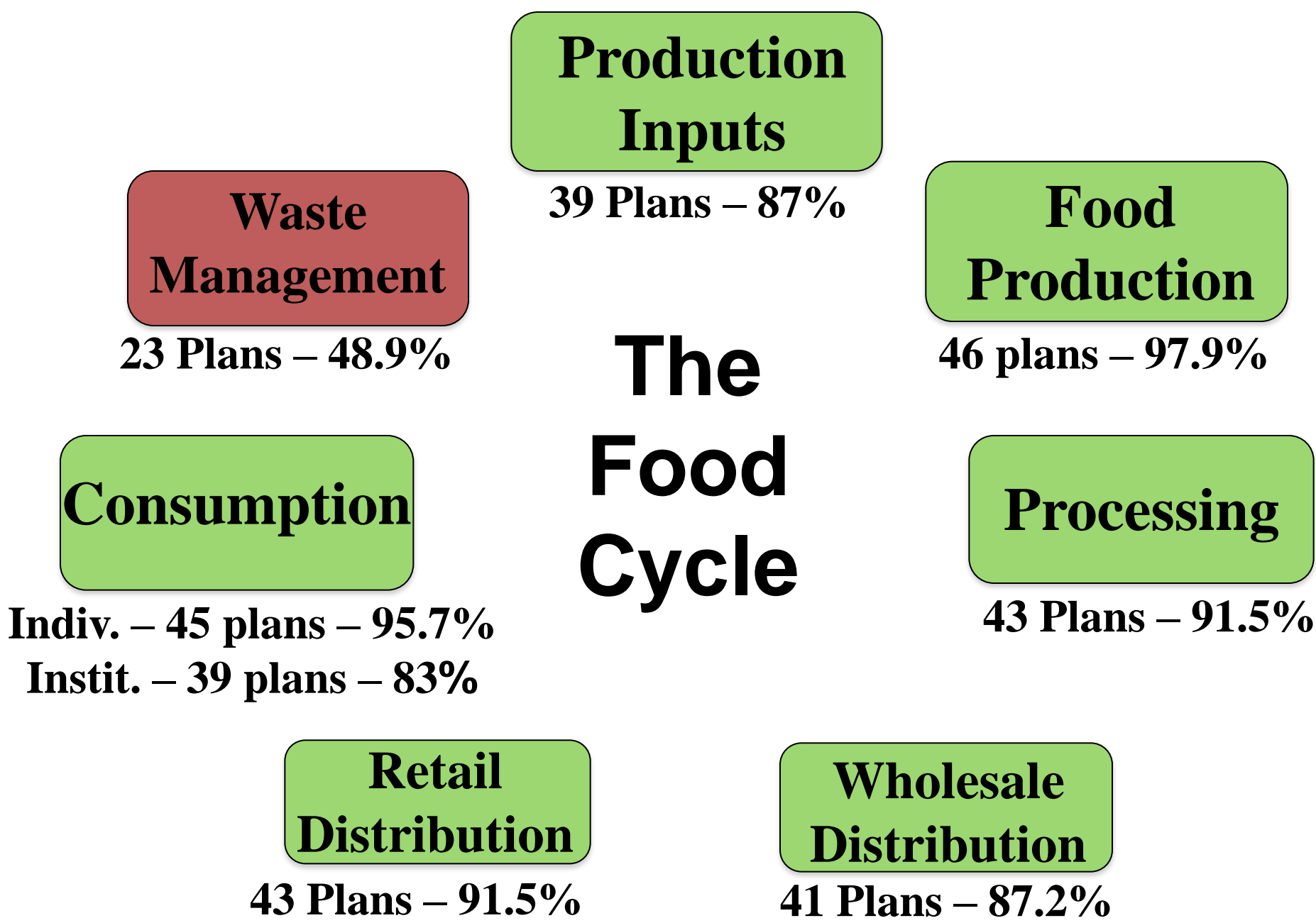
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CDAE, College of Agriculture and Life Science

Research Questions

- What is the state of food system planning in North America?
- How are food system plans being implemented? What social networks make up implementation?
- How are food systems governed?

Aspects of Food Cycle Addressed in National Sample (n=47)

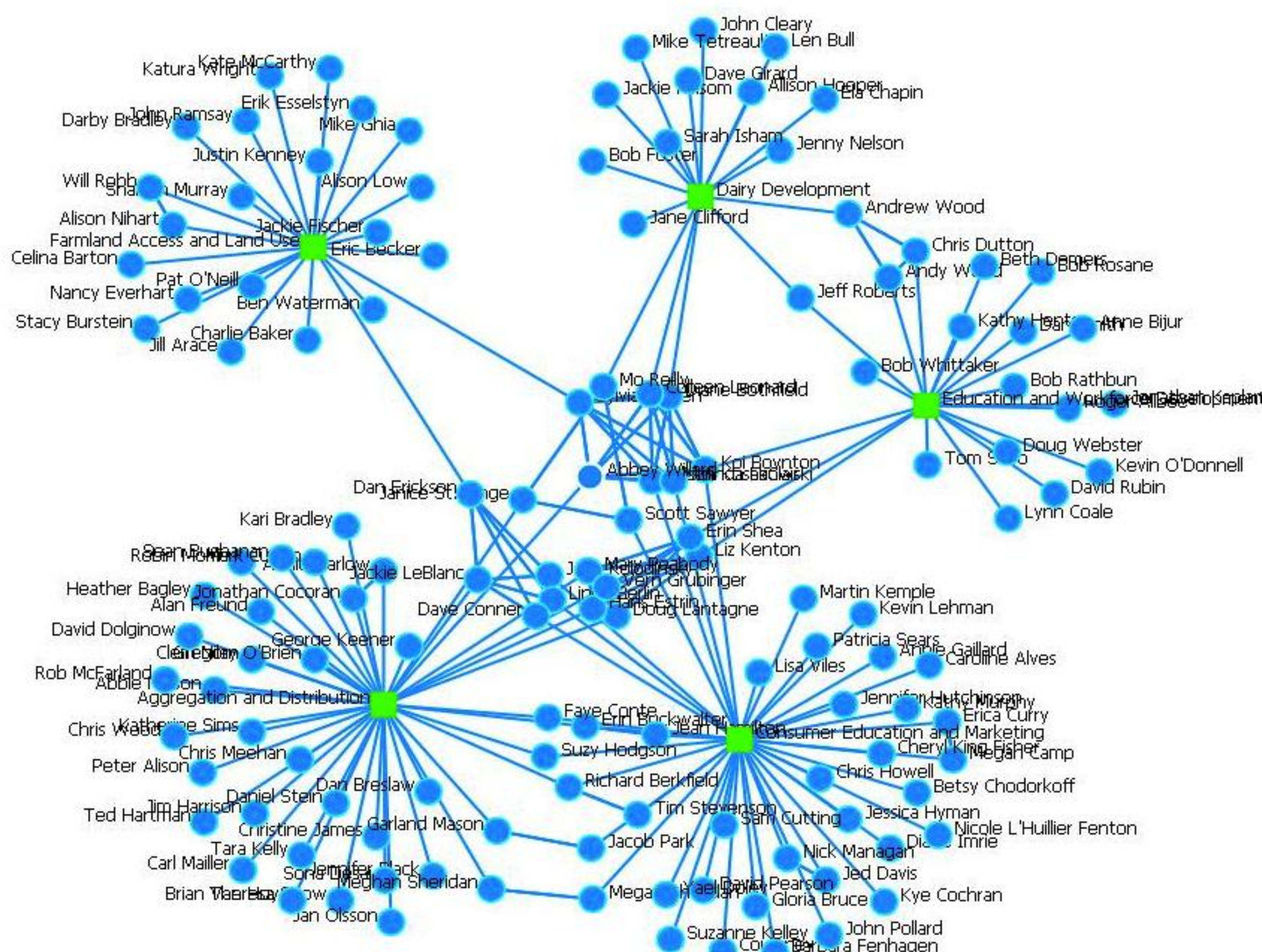


Links Made in FS Plans to Other Policy Issues (n=47)

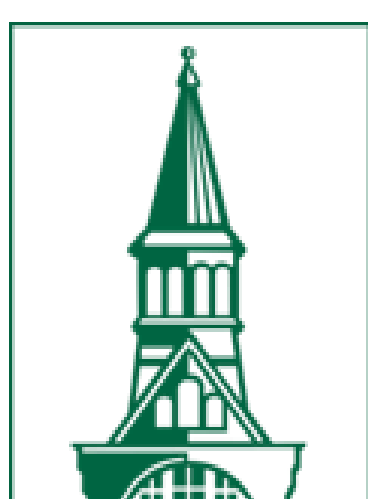
Policy Issues	Number of Plans	Percentage
Health Care	42	89.4%
Land Use	42	89.4%
Education	41	87.2%
Food Security	40	85.1%
Transportation	30	63.8%
Energy	28	59.6%
Climate Change	20	42.6%
Emergency Management	20	42.6%

Note. N=47.

Social Network Analysis Visualization of Vermont Farm to Plate Governing Network



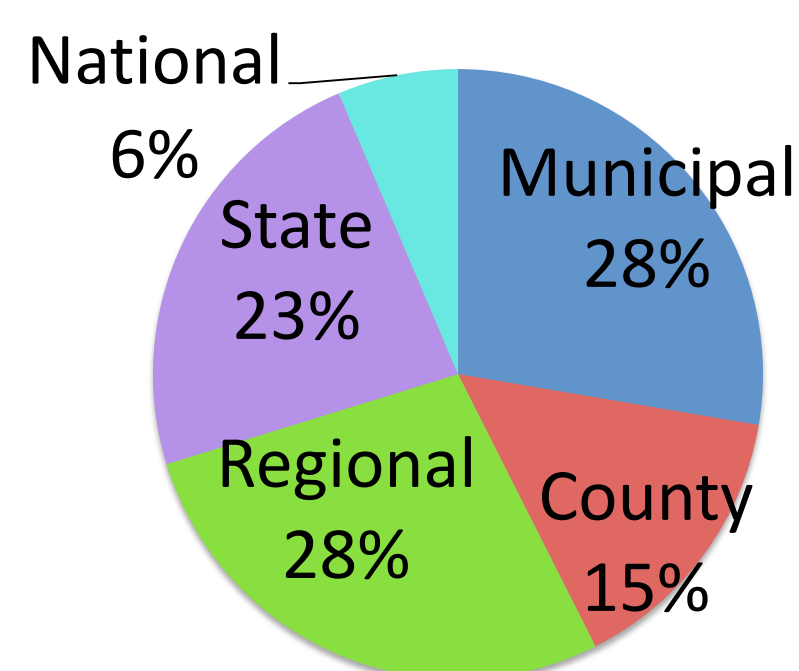
President E. Thomas Sullivan
Presidential Installation Ceremony
Student Scholars Poster Competition
University of Vermont, October 2012



Methods

- Forty-seven food system planning documents analyzed at various geographic levels analyzed for content related to plan components, stages of the food cycle addressed, and links to other policy issues.
- Each indicator assessed for presence or absence, and coded into database.
- SPSS utilized to draw out trends, commonalities, and divergences between and among plans.
- Document analysis of Farm to Plate Network working group meeting minutes to create social network analysis of governing network.

Plan Distribution (n=47)



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

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