DVRPC
Food Systems Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2009
10:00am – 12:00pm

Small Group Discussion Results

First Question (11:10am to 11:20am)
What do you mean when you say Local or Regional? What values, attributes or geography do you associate with these word(s)? example [IF NEEDED]: Mid-Atlantic, direct from the farmer, fresh, etc.

Local
- half day trip/how far produce travels in a day
- 50-150 mile radius/within hour of point of sale
- walking distance to market/accessibility
- direct contact/personal connection to produce/face-to-face
- emotional
- social 'relatability'
- education/awareness
- land use decisions
- political boundaries
- freshness/time from field to table
- less processed
- limited products/seasonal
- localized production/process/distribution
- small farm
- farm land preservation
- responsibility to support farmers
- single community/municipal (houses of worship, school, stores)
- 352 municipalities
- because of density = small geography for goods/services
- smaller regions (ex. North Jersey/South Jersey)
- state
- community oriented—job creation/business development

Regional
- full day trip/less than a day, more than an hour
- driving distance to market
- multiple states
- broader access
- weaker relationships
- self reliance
- economic access/where people travel, shop work, live
- because of density = larger geography for goods/services
- Mid-Atlantic/NE Region
- county or collection of counties
- food related to geography/personality of region
- larger-scale operations/mid-size
- more complete supply/'fill in the gaps'
- watersheds between Susquehanna and DE Rivers
- food that can be grown in an area/climate/soil
- flexible platform to address change
- network
- clinical
- scale of system (market supply)
- transportation/distribution/infrastructure
- need/limited production capacity
- mouths to feed
- Greater Philadelphia vs. Delaware Valley (hard to define boundaries)

Both Regional and Local
- HOW PEOPLE IDENTIFY
- SENSE OF BELONGING/COMMUNITY
- interchangeable
- urban-local/rural-regional (and vice versa)
- healthy food
- ecologically sustainable
- quality of life
- transparency
- affordability
- seasonality
- culturally appropriate
- fair price/worker equity
- on-farm conditions

Second Question (11:20am to 11:30am)
What do you mean when you say Sustainable or Resilient? What values, attributes or geography do you associate with these word(s)? example [IF NEEDED]: Adaptable, long-lasting, equitable, etc.

- Sustainability
- not depleting natural resources for future generations
- balance between human/natural systems
- eco viability (env/social)
- inter-relationships between environment/social
- scaling up to be efficient
- by choice
- idealized/cliché
- devalued/misunderstood
- proactive
- static
- more comprehensive
- co-optive/systems/linkages
- governmental regulation (ex. DDT/pesticide)
- inputs at a manageable scale
- expanding/maintain demand
- survive in perpetuity
- long term/sustained over time and generations
- fairness (social, values, transparency)
- is it immediately affordable?
- green building
- biological
- technical
- change—human, economic, ecological (ex. Walmart's 'sustainability')
- blend of economic, social, and environmental responsibility
- efficiency from human nutrition perspective
- local—sustainable agriculture
- not adding non-local resources on farm
- insular from global trends

Resiliency
- operational planning (day to day)
- fair access to capital and power
- flow of information/transparency (-power for systemic change)
- not 'future-thinking' – how do we adapt to provide for current generation
- responsive/reactive – adaptive/elastic/flexibility
- 'oh, crap'
- resiliency built into sustainability
- beyond sustainability
- being efficient
- externally thinking/visionary/innovative
- ability to withstand unforeseen changes
- one aspect of a sustainable approach
- governmental regulation (ex. shoes @ airport)
- self-correcting (ex. not the housing market)
- mechanism to survive short term
- redundancy in a network
- alternative approaches
- an inherently unfair system may not be resilient
- regional—system
- broader (economic, social, etc.)
- economic – making things stretch
- independent of global market
- capacity of infrastructure
- good choices/practices
- flexibility
- robust
- makes you think
- few barriers to entry
- potential to be new 'sustainability'
- equitability for stakeholders

Both Sustainability and Resiliency
- clear political directives—VISION
- longevity
- adaptability
- interchangeable
- strategic planning
- decentralization/inclusion
- diversity
- closed loop (ex. food waste reduction)