

# FOOD SUMMIT 2024

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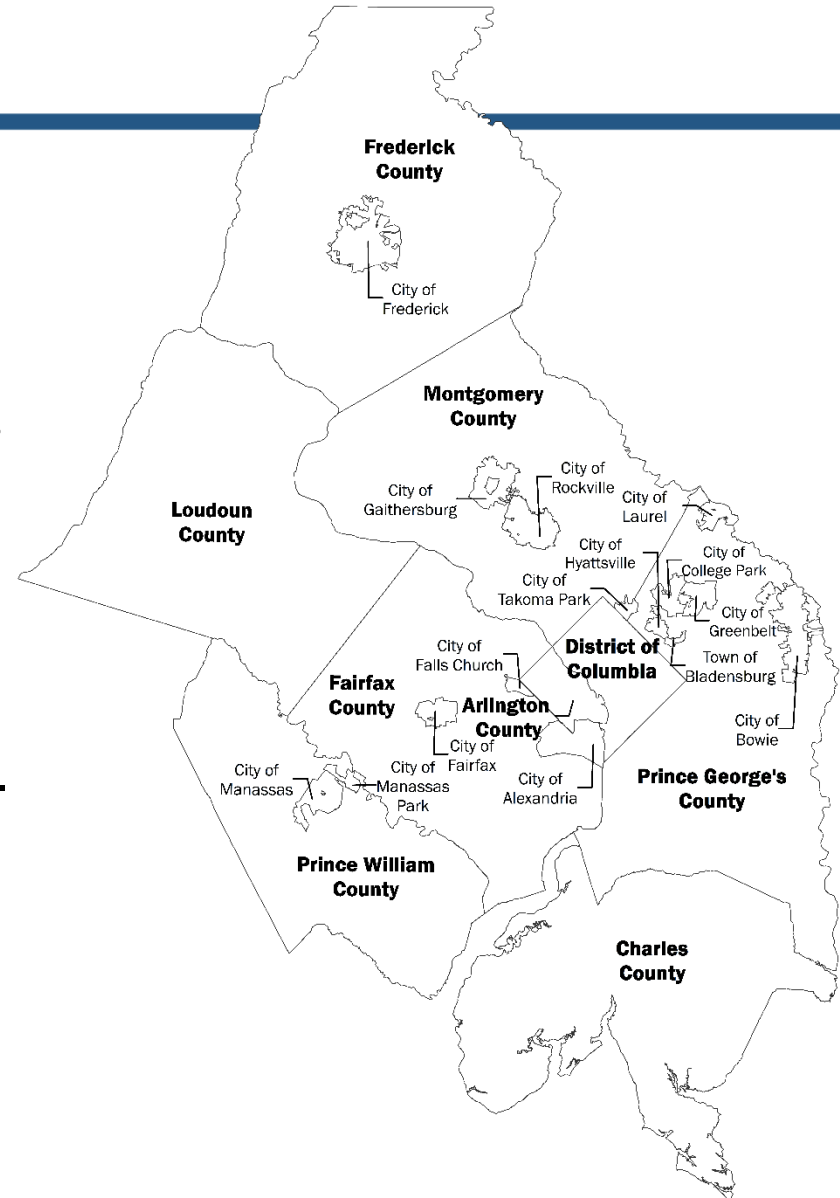
## Food Systems Policy, Planning, and Collaboration in the DMV

Lindsay Smith  
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Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

March 19, 2024

# About COG

- An independent, nonprofit association founded in 1957.
- Brings leaders together to address regional issues.
- Membership comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.
- 125+ staff.



# Hub for Regional Partnership

- Elected officials
- City and county managers
- Police, fire chiefs, and emergency managers
- Housing directors
- Environmental experts
- Transportation planners
- Local government staff
- Private, nonprofit partners



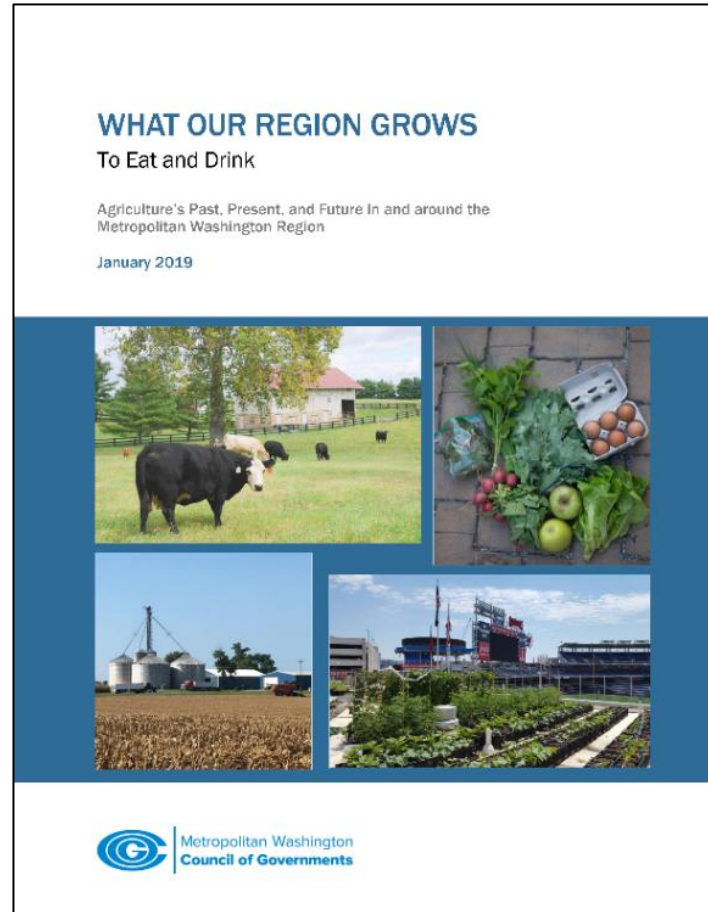
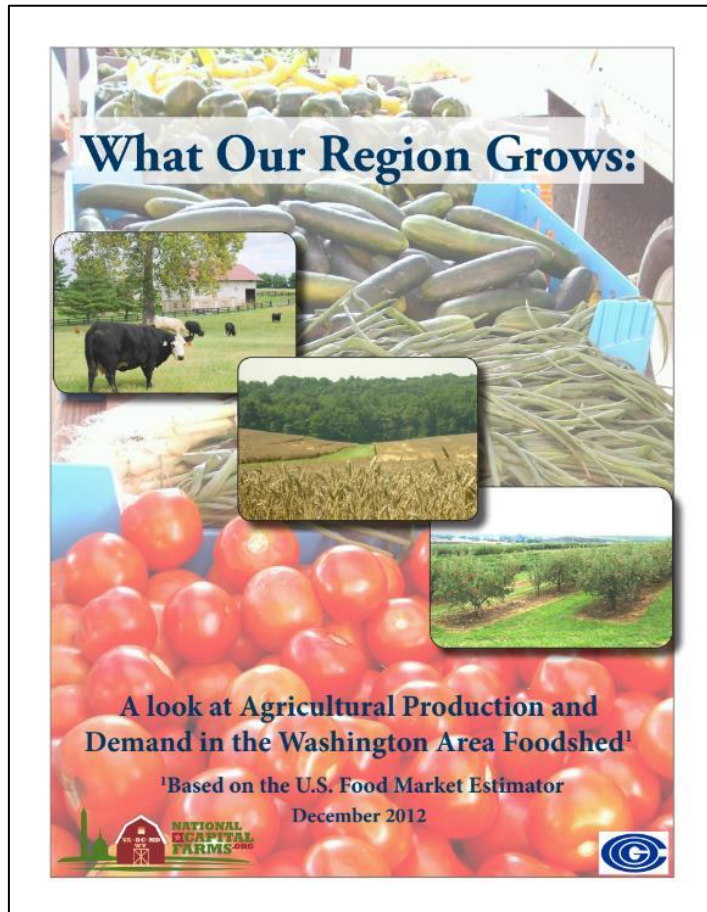
# Regional Food Security Context

- Food insecurity levels remained flat from what CAFB found in 2022.
- 1/3 of the region experienced food insecurity at some point in the prior year. Drivers include:
  - Slow, inequitable recovery from Covid-19
  - Inflation
  - Retraction of government benefits

Right: Capital Area Food Bank's (CAFB) *Hunger Report 2023*  
<https://hunger-report.capitalareafoodbank.org/report-2023/>



# Regional Agricultural Work



COG's *What Our Region Grows* reports led by the Regional Agricultural Work Group and published in 2012 and 2019. <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2019/01/18/what-our-region-grows-farmers-market-farming-urban-agriculture/>



# FARM Policy Committee

## Mission

To support the development of long-term regional direction and collaboration toward a more secure, equitable, resilient, connected food and farm economy (food system) across Metropolitan Washington's urban, suburban and rural communities to provide more of the region's food needs.



FARM Committee virtual meeting in 2021: Members and speakers (COG)

**Work Groups:** Regional Agricultural Work Group, DMV Food Council Collaborative, Catalytic Opportunities Work Group

# Food System Priorities

- Improving food security in the region
- Supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and small farmers
- Focusing work on farmland preservation, land use regulations, environmental sustainability, regional food system infrastructure & resilience
- Leveraging procurement to support equity and the region's food and farm economy
- Improving and communicating regional food system data and leading practices

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2022/06/10/healthy-food-access-policy-compendium-for-metropolitan-washington/>

## HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS POLICY COMPENDIUM FOR METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

A compilation of laws, policies and select publicly funded programs to improve healthy food access and food security.

June 2022, First Edition



# Other COG Committees

## COG's Solid Waste and Recycling Program

- Recycling Committee meets every other month.
- September 2024: Annual Compost Update



DC's Food Waste and Composting Collection Pilot.  
(Lindsay Smith/COG)



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