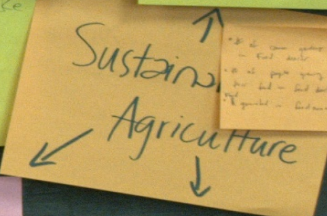


**How do we create the
conditions for people and
communities doing this work to
create change in complex
systems?**

Vibrant Farm

Community Food Security

Resilient Ecosystems



Strengthening community links to provide access to fresh local produce for everyone.

Community Identified (primary & secondary)

Young educational options, that lead to community action.

Harvesting & Creating & Cultivating the passion - especially among young people (for farming and food)

Trust - depth & of aspects of trust - of programs/people

Grow Strong Communities
Farm → Table

of New Farms/Startups
↓
implementing new farm plans

Balancing household food security and farm security.

What is the problem and plan to make this happen?

Defining the problem LOCALLY
(because the answer has to come locally, with lots of help)
WHAT IS THE LOCAL NARRATIVE?

Improving Access and Availability

Protection of arable land - Soil Quality Index

Shrink distance between food supply source & consumers

- N.B. Sediment + Bacteria load
- TMDL delisting
- 800 Home in 1000th

% Local food in Communities/Stores

of farmed food based jobs

- Change in Import Substitutes - Local for dollars

Building Trust and Respect

Principles of local food systems

of partnerships grow or involve

Who wants to see hungry people? Misconceptions about who is food insecure or health impacts future generations

Food insecurity negatively impacts society

How many people are at risk of food insecurity

within all areas

of new farms/food producers - Vibrant Farms

* # of new farms in last 5 years
* # of people growing their food in back yards
* # of people growing their food in back yards

Foreign production for food products (imported)

- # of distributors/retailers by metro - Healthcare businesses

Creation of local food potential and accompanying skills

number of customers at farmers markets

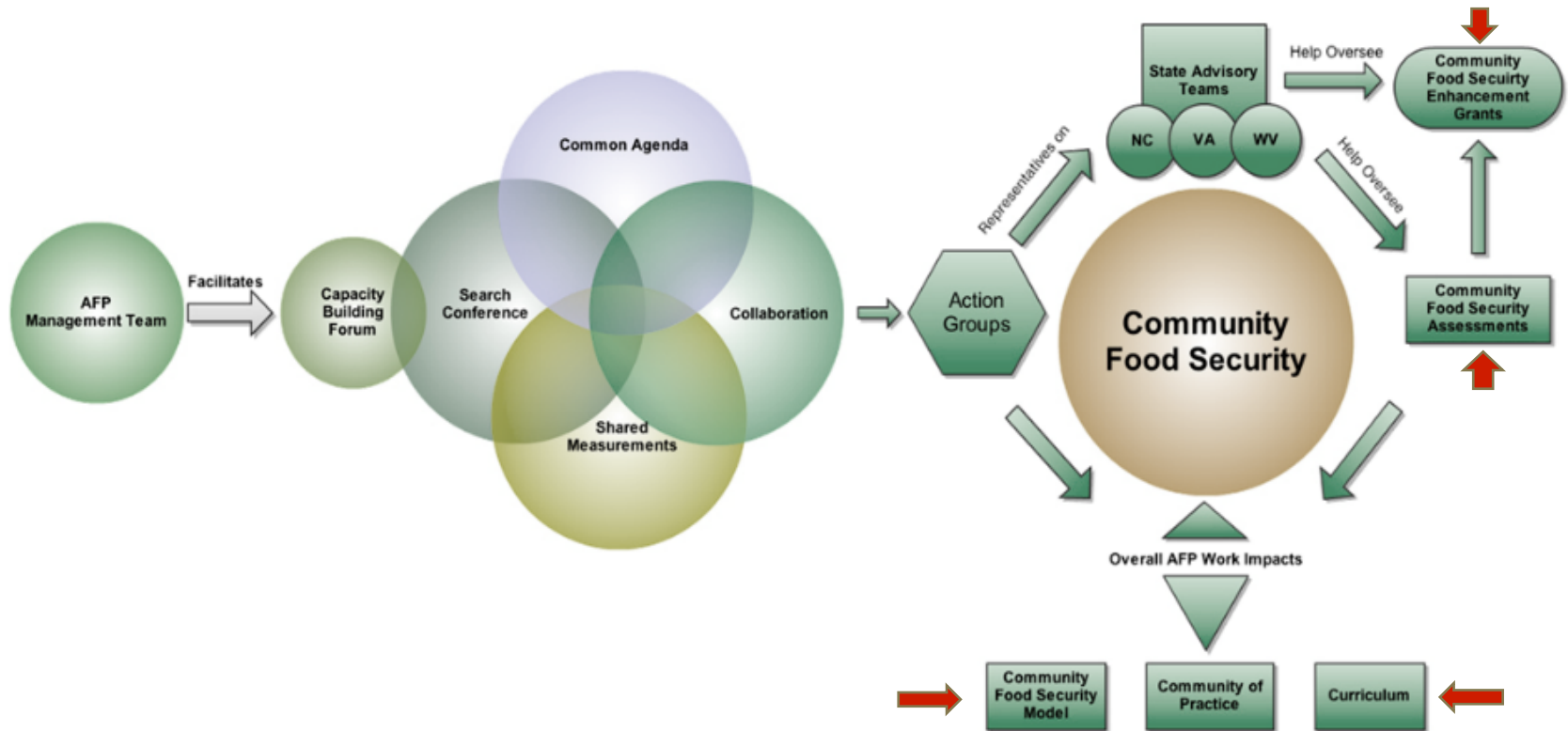
2017 SNAP sales at farmers markets

According to our participants, COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY involves:

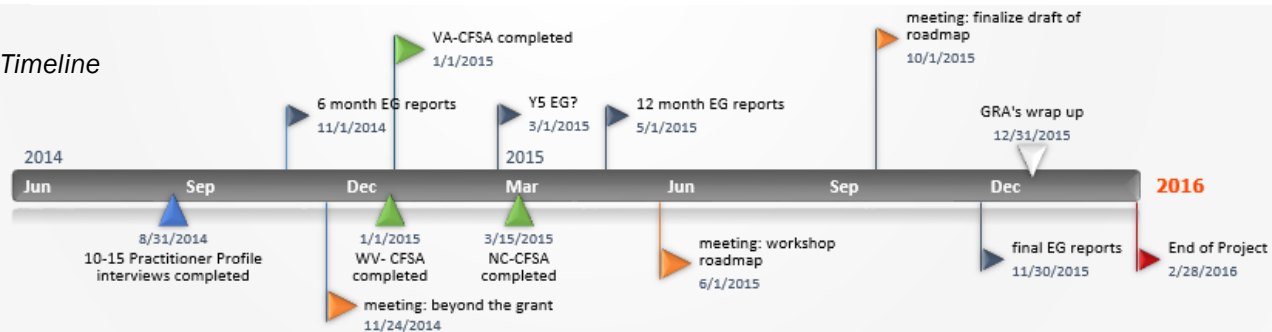
- *Ensuring that healthy food is accessible and available to all community members*
- *Empowering local communities to determine where and how to focus work for food system change*
- *Cultivating sustainable agriculture*
- *Balancing food security and farm security*
- *Engaging youth and young people*
- *Fostering a healthier community*
- *Working for justice and equity*

Project Deliverables

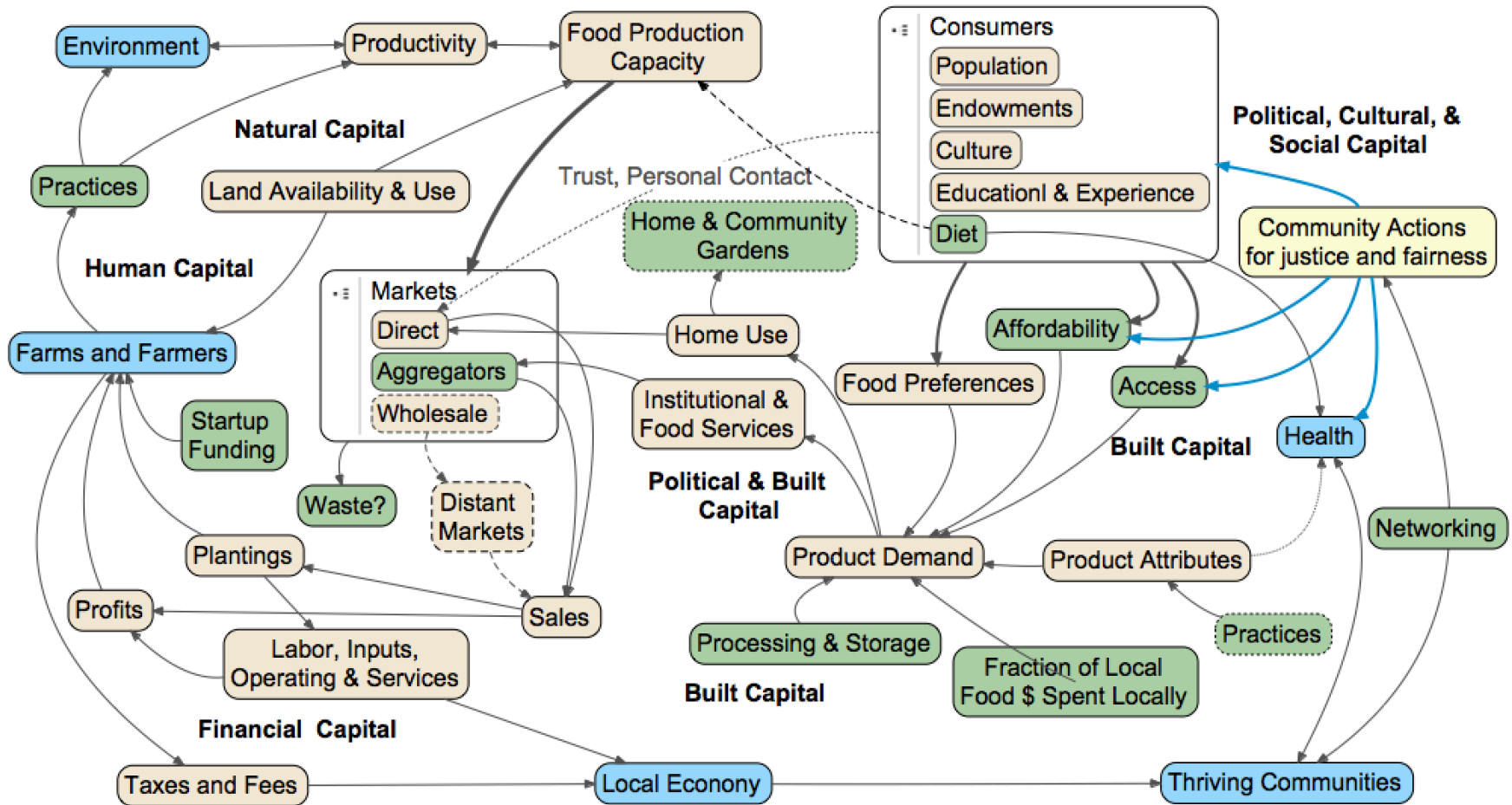
Year 5 of 5 year project



Timeline



The AFP Community Food Security Concept Map



Components identified as potential leverage points for food system enhancement are shown in green, Whole Measures indicators in blue or yellow, Community Capitals in bold black.

Assessments as snapshots in time

...but they ripple out

spaces for

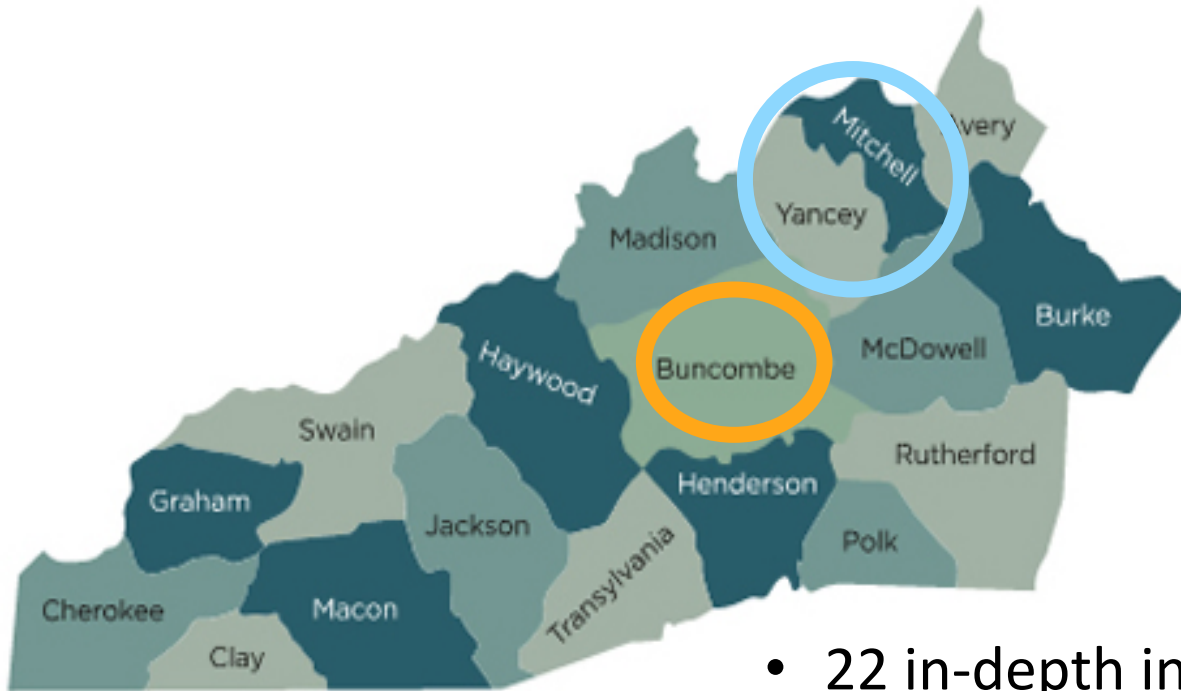
dialogue

strategy

building trust

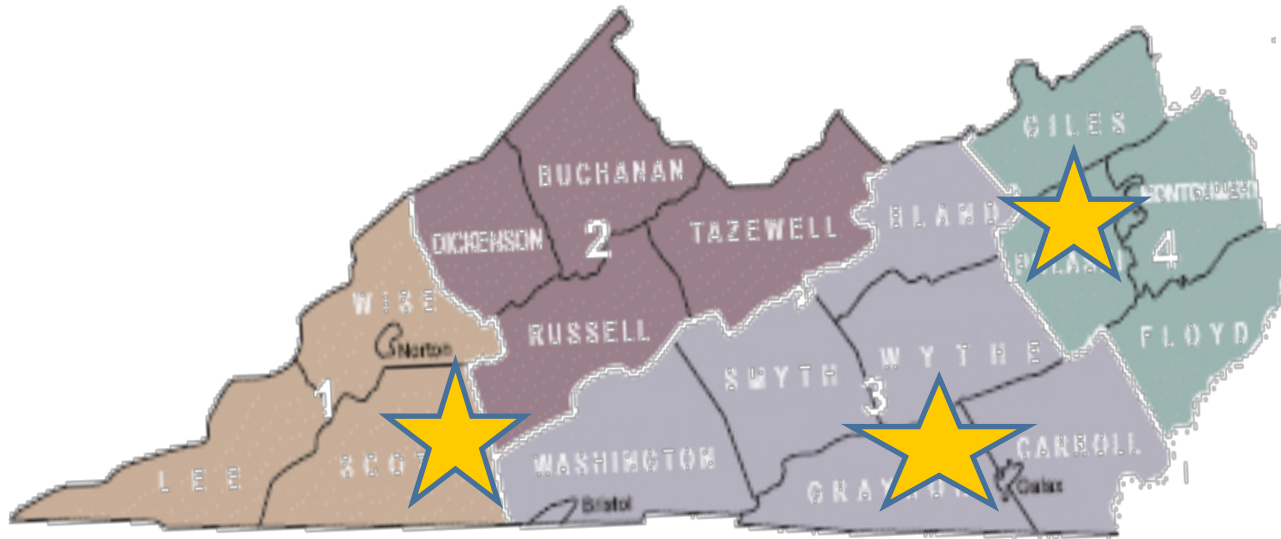


Western North Carolina Assessment



- 22 in-depth interviews, questions decided by the Western North Carolina Food Security Advisory Council
- 5 focus groups with people who experience food insecurity
- 3 years of WNC meetings

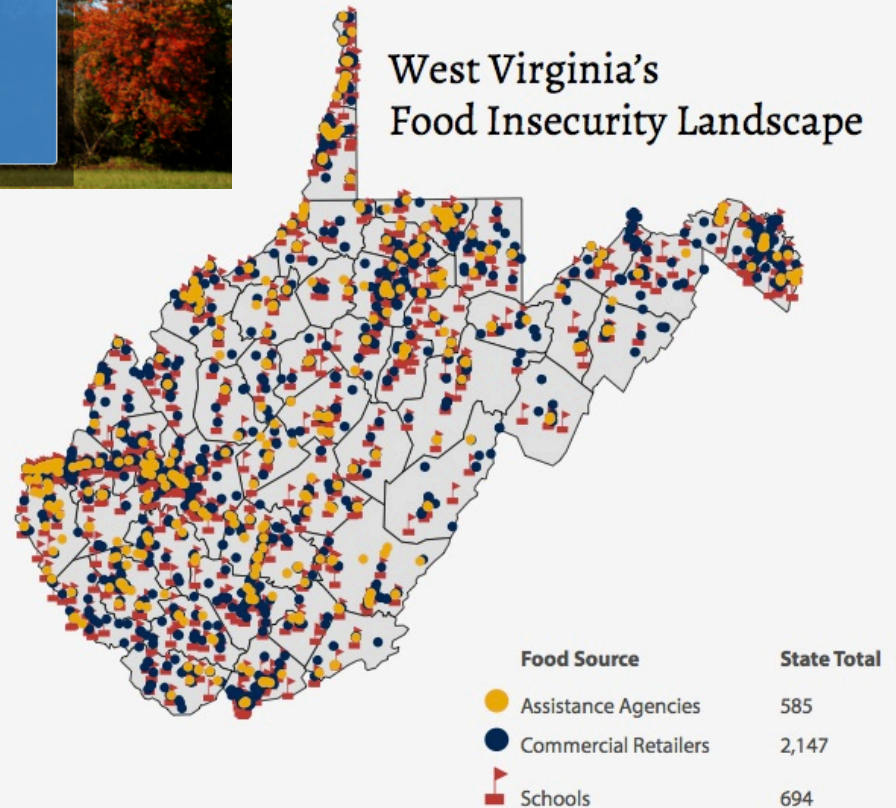
Southwest Virginia Assessment



- Grayson LandCare & SustainFloyd for the **Blue Ridge Plateau**
- SoFresh with Virginia Cooperative Extension for the **New River Valley**
- Appalachian Sustainable Development for **far Southwest Virginia**
- **Virginia Tech** as university partners across all three sessions
- A function of the developing **Appalachian Virginia Food Systems Network**



WV Food Environments



Learnings from the AFP

https://localwiki.org/bburg/Report%3A_Learnings_from_the_Appalachian_Foodshed_Project

- **Community complexities**

https://localwiki.org/bburg/Working_Through_Community_Complexities

- **Grassroots Action and Institutional change**

https://localwiki.org/bburg/Grassroots_Action_%3E_%3E_Institutional_Change

- **Creating spaces for Transformation**

https://localwiki.org/bburg/Creating_Spaces_for_Transformation

Complex

the relationship between cause and effect can only be perceived in retrospect

probe – sense - respond
emergent practice

Complicated

the relationship between cause and effect requires analysis or some other form of investigation and/or the application of expert knowledge

sense – analyze - respond
good practice

DISORDER

novel practice

no relationship between cause and effect at systems level

act – sense -respond

Chaotic

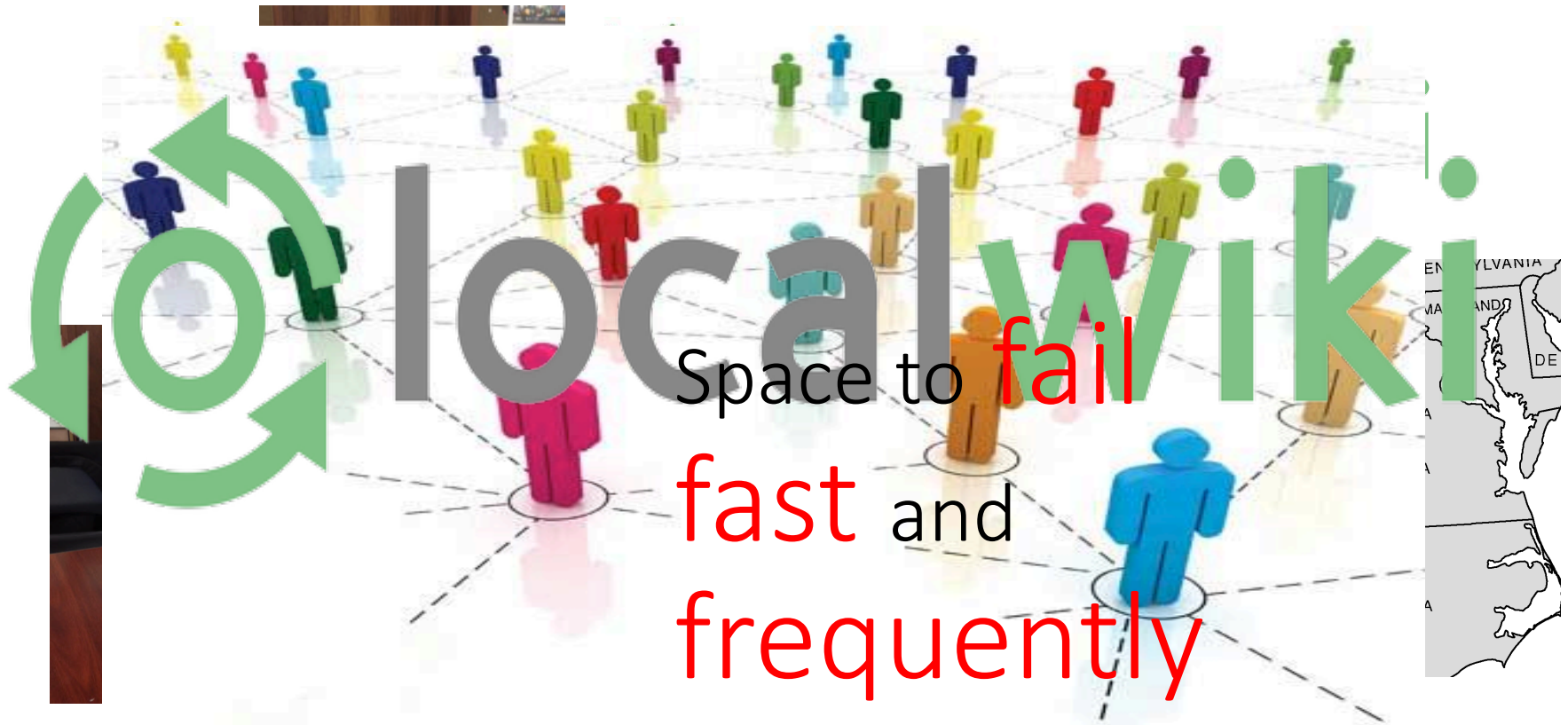
best practice

the relationship between cause and effect is obvious to all

sense – categorize - respond

Simple

Moving Forward: Appalachian Foodshed Partnership



What do Wikipedia, Zip Car's business model, Barack Obama's presidential campaign, and a small group of lobster fishermen have in common? They all show the power and promise of human cooperation in transforming our businesses, our government, and our society at large. Because today, when the costs of collaborating are lower than ever before, there are no limits to what we can achieve by working together.

-Yochai Benkler, Yale Economist

AFP Team and Roles

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Kim Niewolny, CoPD

Steve Hodges, CoPD

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Dig In Yancey Community Garden

Darcel Eddins, Bountiful Cities

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Elizabeth Spellman, WV Food and Farm Coalition

AFP Community Partners

North Carolina

National Environmental Modeling and Analysis Center
 Toe River Health District
 WNC Healthy Kids
 Bountiful Cities
 Health & Human Services
 NC Center for Health & Wellness
 North Fork Farm
 Community Food Strategies
 Appalachian District Health Department
 Community Table
 Dig In Yancey County Community Garden
 Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
 Youth Empowered Solutions!
 Healthy Vessels, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
 Organic Growers School
 NC Choices, Watauga County Farmers Market
 Community Foundation of Western NC
 Rutherford-Polk-McDowell District Health Department
 Blue Ridge Food Ventures
 Be Active NC
 Growing Minds Program
 MANNA Food Bank
 NC Cooperative Extension
 Toe River Food Security Network

Virginia

Appalachian Sustainable Development
 VA Cooperative Extension
 Feeding America South West (SW)VA
 SWVA Health Departments
 New River Health Dept.-WIC Garden
 Grayson Landcare
 SoFRESH
 PLENTY!
 SustainFloyd
 Farmer in Alleghany County
 VA Department of Health
 VA Food Systems Council
 Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence
 VA Dept. Agriculture & Consumers Services
 AARP
 VA Tech Family Nutrition Program
 Independence Farmers Market
 Blacksburg Farmers Market

West Virginia

Alderson Community Food Hub
 Charleston Area Alliance
 The Shack Neighborhood House
 WV Farmers Market Association
 Heart and Hand
 Region VII Planning and Development Council
 Manna Meal
 Charm Farm
 WV Department of Education Fresh Fruit and Vegetable
 Program
 Tygart Valley Growers Association
 WV Food and Farm Coalition
 WV Small Farm Center
 WVU Extension Service-Monongalia
 Dept. of Agricultural & Resource Economics
 Center for Economic Options

Thank you!



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Toe River Food Security Network



www.appalachianfoodshedproject.org

www.facebook.com/AppalachianFoodshedProject

<https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/afpblog>

https://localwiki.org/bburg/Appalachian_Foodshed_Project

WV FOODLINK



APPALACHIAN
sustainable
DEVELOPMENT

