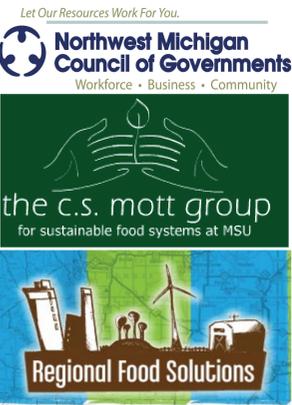




Food Innovation Districts

A Land Use Tool for Communities Seeking to Create and Expand a Regional Food Industry

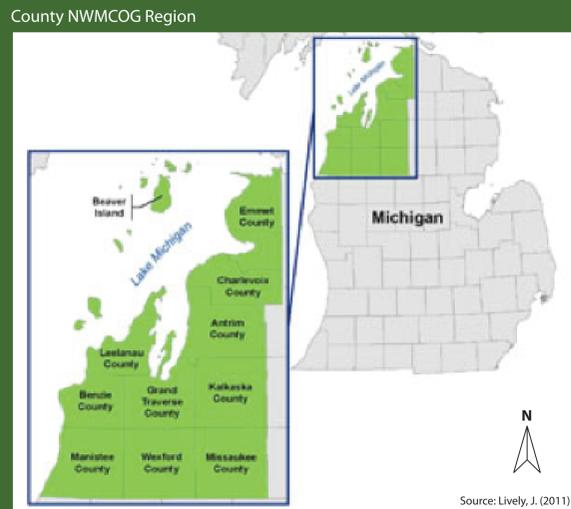


Introduction

Local food systems are an important asset to the community, local economy, and the environment. This has led urban planners to have an increased role in food systems. There are various types of local food infrastructure that can help bring producers closer to the consumer. The Food Innovation District (FID) is a new concept that would help in bringing local food businesses together and provide healthier food for the surrounding community. Our research covers the background, definition, and features of an FID. Using this research, the MSU Practicum Team investigated the various business and regulatory strategies that can be implemented in order to advance and implement FIDs.

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Definition of an FID

“A Food Innovation District is a network composed of diverse, connected, and mixed food-oriented businesses and services. Together, the network promotes a positive environment, spurs economic growth, and increases access to local food.”

~MSU Center for Regional Food Solutions 2012~

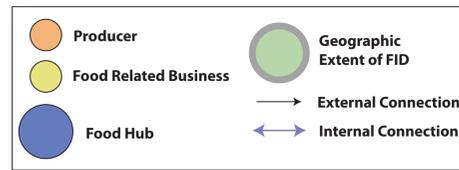
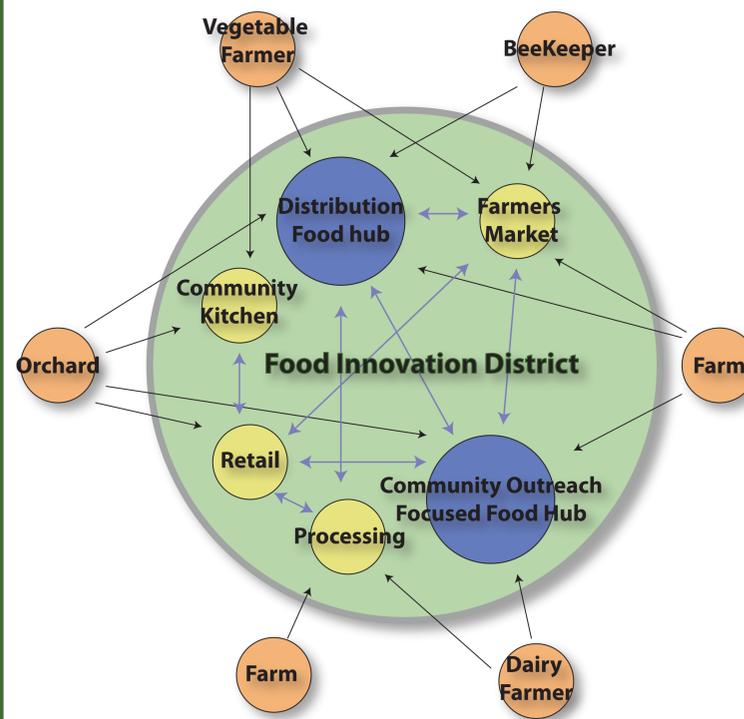


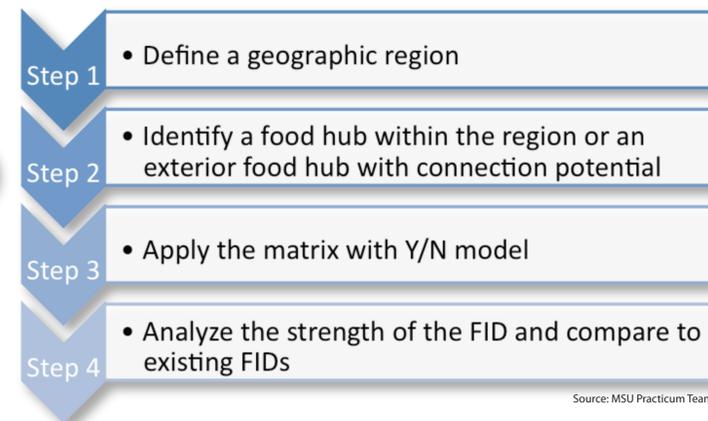
Figure 1. The Basic Layout of a Food Innovation District

Businesses in an FID benefit from the exchange of ideas, goods, services, facilities and resources within the network. Producers benefit by having their goods and services more accessible to the consumer.

Is Your District an FID?

To assist local government units in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of a potential FID, a matrix was developed. It provides a helpful way for jurisdictions to identify food-related opportunities that might assist in incorporating FID aspects into their communities. Figure 2 shows the step by step process of assessing an area.

Figure 2. Step by Step Process for Matrix



Source: MSU Practicum Team

Elements of Matrix

Producer-Oriented

Facilities that help bring producer goods to consumers and sale of goods.

Community-Oriented

Facilities and programs that help to promote local food, farming, and health amongst residents in and near the FID.

Place-Oriented

Policies, attractions, and strategies that help give an FID a sense of place.

Strategies for Implementation

Regulatory Actions

Short Term

- Incorporate FIDs into master plan/subplan
- Utilize permitted use
- Tailor zoning to community needs

Long Term

- Creation of special zone
- Offer incentives
- Create eco-industrial parks

Economic Actions

Short Term

- Incorporate local authorities for partnerships with businesses
- Connect clusters with outside markets
- Implement tax strategies where applicable

Long Term

- Amend legislation to include FID tax incentives
- Develop placemaking programs
- Connect businesses to promote synergy in the New Economy
- Capitalize on existing clusters and regional branding

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