The Hardwick Story:
Using Food and Agriculture and Community as our Foundation
Food Systems Thinking:

- By-Product MANAGEMENT
- SOILS
- WATER
- AGGREGATION
- FARM VIABILITY
- SEEDS
- PROCESSING
- DISTRIBUTION
- CONSUMER BEHAVIOR
- RETAIL MARKETS
- FOOD SAFETY
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- FOOD BUSINESSES
- CONSUMPTION
CONTEXT: Hardwick History and Culture
Hardwick’s Critical Factors
ACTION STEPS: Out of Crisis
CHALLENGES

• Economics: the challenge of feeding ourselves
• Complacency: resting on what we’ve done
• Competition: local food is ‘hot’
• Maintenance: ensuring sustainability
Impacts: What’s changed? Is anyone better off?

- Employment up by 5.8%
- 75 establishment, 654 workers
- Average annual wage 4% higher than regional average
Growing Food Economy
The Next Challenge
Next Challenge

• Market Size
  • Local Markets
  • External Markets

• Land Access
  • Within 9 towns
  • Affordability
  • Coordination of our Lenders
  • Land Conservation and farm growth

• Community Building
  • Community Center – place-based education and agriculture
  • Food, history and shared resources
Center for an Agricultural Economy

Home of the **Vermont Food Venture Center**

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