

Community Food Connections



Overview

Explore local food businesses and community initiatives that support sustainable practices. Reflect on how these connections contribute to environmental sustainability and community resilience.

Learning outcomes

- Identify local businesses and other community players that contribute to sustainable food systems.
- Understand the role of community connections in supporting sustainability and resilience.

Curriculum Connections

- Geography: Mapping, communities, local food systems
- Social Studies: Community development, local economies, resilience
- Science: Food systems, sustainability, environmental impacts
- Mathematics: Mapping, counting, organizing information

Proof to submit

- A map or list of local food businesses and community players
- Student reflections or posters

Materials

- Internet access for research
- Map of your community (digital or paper)

Activity

Grades K to 6

Students work as a class to identify local food businesses and community players in their neighborhood or town (e.g., farmers' markets, bakeries, farms, community gardens, restaurants). They mark these locations on a map and discuss how these places benefit the community, such as providing healthy food. Students then choose a favorite place and create a poster inviting others to learn about or visit it.

Community Food Connections



Grades 7 to 12

Students research and map local food businesses or community players in their area that demonstrate sustainable practices (e.g., sourcing local ingredients, reducing packaging, composting, contributing to food rescue). Students analyze the benefits of these practices and write a reflection on how stronger community food connections can reduce environmental impacts and build resilience.

Challenge Extension: Students may visit a local business, volunteer with a related initiative, or host a guest speaker to learn more about sustainable practices in their community.

Accessibility: The meaning of “local” will vary between communities. Students can explore businesses or initiatives in their neighborhood, town, region or wider community, depending on what is available to them. If there are few local food businesses or initiatives nearby, students can research a community organization, food program, farmers’ market, farm, or other food-related initiative in their broader region or use a teacher-provided example.

Resources for teachers

Visit the [Live Net Zero Classroom Challenge website](#) for additional resources and information.