

Regions Connecting
for Rural Innovation



Northeast Region



Implementation Plan and
Management Chart

<i>Work Area: Energy</i>			
Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Explore creation of a mega-network hub for the Northeast Region	<p>Research and catalog existing efforts, partnerships and networks involved in energy to explore the creation of a mega network-hub.</p> <p>The idea behind the hub would be to connect and leverage the tremendous work that numerous grassroots, state, regional and national organizations are involved with in addressing energy efficiency, renewable energy development and climate change.</p> <p>Survey interested stakeholders from the Northeast Summit for their input.</p> <p>Develop a rough feasibility plan that contemplates the resources necessary to launch the hub.</p> <p>Capture momentum and focus efforts by using the PRA website to link participants, post findings.</p>	<p>Mary Ann Hayes, Maine Rural Partners</p> <p>USDA Rural Development & NRCS & Ag Statistics</p> <p>National Renewable Energy Lab</p> <p>Clean Energy States Alliance</p> <p>State governments</p> <p>Housing organizations</p> <p>Environmental advocates</p> <p>Universities</p> <p>grassroots organizations</p> <p>local stakeholders</p> <p>Bill Dunnington, VT Energy Project L3C</p>	<p>9/16/10: Northeast SRDC's conference call to determine resources and budget for project</p> <p>11/1/10 – 3/1/10: Create a list serve, begin linking participants Develop a page on the PRA website</p> <p>1/15/10 – 4/1/11: Conduct research with local and regional organizations, producers and other interested parties to determine critical issues to discuss and/or resolve; encourage new partnerships</p> <p>1/1/11 – 3/1/11: Develop questions for and focus of survey that will be sent to Northeast Summit participants and interested stakeholders</p> <p>3/1/11: Send survey to interested stakeholders, compile and post results on PRA website</p> <p>3/1/11 – 5/1/11: Based on survey input, begin exploring the feasibility of creating a mega network-hub</p> <p>5/1/11 – 6/1/11: Complete analysis of creating a mega network-hub; post results on PRA website</p> <p>6/1/11 – 8/1/11: Solicit feedback, funding ideas through list serve; post any ideas on PRA website</p>

			9/30/11: Feedback provided to USDA
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<i>Work Area: Local Foods</i>			
Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Build a stronger Northeast regional structure of food system communication and networking	<p>Identify a broad diversification of participants to provide input on strengthening communication and networking in the Northeast. Participants will be asked to analyze existing areas of strength and outliers that need help, along with where “silos” exist and ideas for building links to generate interaction and partnerships.</p> <p>Leverage partner networks to identify what actions are being implemented on a state by state basis, or multi-county basis, addressing farm to plate strategies. Utilize the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group’s annual conference to bring interested parties together and to address the relationship between federal efforts and the advancement of regional food systems. Connect PRA web site with the regional working group web sites to foster collaboration.</p> <p>Identify areas where synergies exist across state or county lines that could be used to focus and spearhead a</p>	<p>Stephan Goetz, Northeast Center on Rural Development Center</p> <p>Mary Ann Hayes, Maine Rural Partners</p> <p>Gerry Bertrand, Rhode Island Rural Development Council</p> <p>USDA Rural Development</p> <p>Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group</p> <p>National Good Food Network</p> <p>Vermont Farm to Plate</p>	<p>7/31/10 – 8/15/10: Solicit input from NESAWG on opportunities for a partnership with PRA/Northeast Region SRDC’s based on outcomes from the Northeast Region Summit</p> <p>8/15/10 – 11/1/10: Develop a strategy for working with NESAWG and leveraging their annual conference to address greater communication, networking and what role the federal government can play in regional food system advancement</p> <p>11/12/10 – 11/13/10: NESAWG’s Annual Conference in Albany, NY</p> <p>11/15/10 – 1/1/11: Analyze feedback from NESAWG’s conference, develop strategy for increasing communication and how efforts could be intertwined with federal priorities on food systems</p> <p>1/1/11 – 9/1/11: Utilize PRA’s website to support the 4 sustainable agriculture regional working group sites to share food system information on a state and regional basis that promotes networking and partnerships</p> <p>9/30/11: Provide ideas and feedback to USDA on how the federal government could partner with local, state and regional entities to build a stronger food</p>

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<i>Work Area: Rural Economic Development</i>			
Strategic Outcome	Action Steps	Who is working on it?	Benchmarks
Advance a cluster development, place-based economy in the Northeast that promotes arts/culture/tourism/agriculture	<p>Develop a strategy for determining what factors contribute to the success of a cluster development and place-based economy.</p> <p>Utilize attendees from the Northeast Summit as target audience. NERCRD will develop a survey to target participants to determine what relationships were created from the Summit; how partnerships can be leveraged to advance cluster development.</p> <p>Engage volunteer team created during Northeast Summit (Allan Matthews, Tracy Michaud Stutzman, Susan Hammond).</p> <p>Successes and failures realized during the pilot project will be documented and used as a model for other regions interested in pursuing cluster development as an economic development tool.</p> <p>Share survey results with USDA Rural Directors in Northeast.</p> <p>Post findings on PRA's website</p>	<p>Stephan Goetz: Northeast Regional Center on Rural Development</p> <p>State Rural Development Councils</p> <p>USDA Rural Development</p> <p>stakeholder organizations</p> <p>Volunteer Team created at Northeast Summit: Allan Matthews, Tracy Michaud Stutzman, Susan Hammond</p>	<p>9/16/10: Conference call with Stephan Goetz to discuss strategies for how to advance a cluster development, place-based economy in the Northeast Region</p> <p>10/1/10 – 11/1/10: Develop survey; target questions to partnerships created as a result of the Northeast Region Summit; how partnerships could be leveraged to help advance cluster development</p> <p>11/1/10 – 3/1/11: Survey participants from Northeast Summit; strong response rate needed in order to develop modeling, multiple requests for participation and follow up may be needed</p> <p>3/1/11 – 5/1/11: Analyze survey results, develop modeling and assumptions identifying factors that drive cluster development and place-based economies</p> <p>6/1/11: Send survey results out to participants and USDA State Rural Directors</p> <p>7/1/11: Post findings on PRA's website</p> <p>9/30/11: Feedback provided to USDA</p>