



CURA Roundtable Discussion

# From Maps to Markets and Movements: Using evidence to identify, develop, and implement food policies

Anne Palmer and Amanda Behrens  
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

Thursday, January 23, 3:00-4:30 pm  
Derby Hall 1080

What does your local food system look like? What roles do local consumption or production play in the larger food system? The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future has created the Maryland Food System Map Project in an effort to understand the answers to these questions in Maryland. The project compiles geographic data on all aspects of food production, processing, distribution and food retail, as well as demographic data such as income, vehicle

availability and health outcomes. Policymakers, researchers and educators then use the data and maps to educate about and advocate for particular food system issues. Geographic data on food systems is increasingly being used to inform food policy and food security. We will discuss this project and ways to use the information specifically in the policy arena, as well as touch on some of the limitations with mapping the food system.



**Anne Palmer** is the Director of the Food Communities and Public Health program at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and a faculty member of the Health, Behavior and Society department. Her research interests include food access, food environments, food policy, local and regional food systems, and community food security. In collaboration with seven other universities in the Northeast, she is a co-investigator on a 5-year, USDA funded research project using regional food systems to improve food security. She holds a Master's of International Affairs in communication and development studies.



**Amanda Behrens** has managed the GIS-based Maryland Food System Map Project at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF) since 2008. Previously, she spent three years working to strengthen the local agriculture system in western Montana, working as an apprentice on an organic produce farm and assistant manager of the Western Montana Growers' Cooperative (WMGC). Amanda holds a Masters of Public Health, in Health Communication, and a Masters in Agriculture, Food and Environment from the Tufts University Schools of Medicine and Nutrition.