

Maine Food Convergence 2023 Event Forges Connection and Action

The Maine Food Convergence convenes organizations, networks, groups, and individuals to catalyze collective action towards a thriving Maine food system that is equitable, just, and regenerative. We envision a food system that fosters the wellbeing of people, planet, and communities.

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Maine Food Convergence is "to develop deeper relationships and greater trust as we co-create an equitable and thriving food system for Maine." We work toward this through conversations, trust-building, formation and support of focused workgroups. In addition, we facilitate large statewide gatherings that highlight the perspectives of a breadth of food systems voices, to explore how shifts in the food system can advance social and racial equity while also increasing climate resilience. As a partner in statewide coalition building, Healthy Androscoggin staff represents the Maine Gleaning Network in the Convergence's collaborative efforts and decision-making. We bring the priorities, interests and strengths of the Maine Gleaning Network to the table, as well as a food security and food waste lens to conversations.



2023 Convergence Event!

The 2023 Convergence Event was a two-day gathering in May, one day virtual and the second an in-person day of **connections, learning, and celebration** with particular focus on centering voices of those who have experienced inequities within our food system. Made possible by statewide multi-scale sponsorship as well as guidance from an Advisory Committee, sessions included **story-telling** (including through song), topics of **climate resilience** in food production, **political action, cross-sector collaborations**, building **culturally-relevant food supplies, collaborative funding** opportunities, **challenging biases, collective narratives, food justice** in Maine's carceral system, and **local production and processing**.

A total of **207 registrants** gathered to foster collective action at the 2023 Event. Virtual sessions are available in recorded form [here](#), and in-person festivities included **local food trucks**, live music from **Golden Oak**, and working sessions to **catalyze action** and influence future priorities and workgroups to be funded and supported by the Convergence community.