**INTRODUCTION** Island Grown Initiative (IGI) was founded twelve years ago to improve the local food system and to support local family farms. This year the Board launched a strategic planning process to set the organization’s direction for the future. The process engaged the staff and many stakeholders representing all aspects of life on the island. Given climate change, the depleting quality of local soil, the limited access to farmland and other environmental challenges, it became clear that sustainability as a goal was insufficient.

IGI is embracing a more proactive approach and one that integrates with other important island systems. Our new regenerative approach envisions a food system that maximizes beneficial interactions between all components and players. It starts with farming principles and practices that increase biodiversity, enrich soils, improve watersheds, and enhance ecosystems. At the same time, it offers increased yields, resilience to climate instability, vitality to the farming community and food security for the island community.

**Sustainable**

*DO LEAST HARM*

System functions at a steady state without depleting long term capacity to operate.

**Resilient**

*BOUNCE BACK*

System is able to recover its essential functions after a disturbance.

**Regenerative**

*CREATE MULTIPLE GOODS*

System is resilient and builds operational capacity over time. Positively impacts other systems.

**VISION**

An island food system that strengthens the relationship between people and the land and sea, promotes a healthy ecosystem, and ensures that all people have the knowledge, skills and resources they need to grow, access, and prepare healthy food.

**MISSION**

Build a regenerative and equitable food system on Martha’s Vineyard that engages, informs, and integrates the community.
GOALS & STRATEGIES

INTERNATIONAL FOOD PRODUCTION

CREATE a demonstration, education, and innovation center for regenerative and resilient agriculture practices and techniques at the Farm Hub at Thimble Farm.

DEVELOP a business model for production at the Farm Hub at Thimble Farm whereby private sales of produce can underwrite food production for equity programs.

PROVIDE educational programs and community garden space for backyard growers to expand the number of Islanders growing food and saving and sharing seeds.

MANAGE education programs at all island schools through hands-on and curriculum-based lessons to help the next generation grow their own food.

REDUCE AND REDIRECT FOOD WASTE

EDUCATE consumers, businesses, and local institutions and encourage them to reduce and redirect their food waste.

GLEAN and collect food waste that can be redirected to feed people.

PARTICIPATE in the development of an island wide solution to food waste.

COLLECT & COMPOST food waste to enrich local soils.

EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL ISLANDERS

PARTNER with island health care providers to make nutrition education and access to healthy food for patients a cornerstone of their practices.

TEACH the next generation how to make healthy eating choices, and ensure they have access to healthy food in school and out of school programs.

LEAD the MV Food Equity Network; develop a Distribution and Processing Hub to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of food distribution to those in need.

DEVELOP and operate food equity programs to ensure healthy food options for all members of the community.

Photo credits from top to bottom: Elizabeth Cecil, Rebecca Haag and Stacey Rappolo
## Current Initiatives: What We Do to Build a Regenerative and Equitable Food System

### Educate

*IGI is committed to raising awareness of the benefits of locally grown food, and educating consumers, children, families, caregivers, gardeners and food producers to grow and prepare healthy food.*

- Island Grown Schools
- Workshops
- Harvest of the Month
- Video Cooking Shows
- Farm Hub Tours
- School Gardens
- Fellowships
- Farmers Market Information Booth

### Advocate

*IGI is a leader in educating decision makers, and garnering community support on critical food policy issues at the local, state, and national level.*

- Island-wide Organics Waste Management Committee
- MV Food Equity Network
- Statewide Buy-Local Coalition
- MA Farm to School Project
- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
- MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources Advisory Board

### Grow

*IGI’s Farm Hub provides land and greenhouse space to expand year round food production and accessibility on the island. It also serves as an innovation and education center, and provides support services and programs for local growers.*

- Greenhouse (hydroponic/aquaponic)
- Winter CSA
- Low cost produce to schools
- Community Gardens
- Licenses to local growers
- Soil Enrichment
- Orchard

### Innovate

*IGI develops new programs and services that increase access to healthy food, engages community input and support of the food system, and encourages new growing techniques that expand food production while maximizing environmental benefits.*

- Mobile Farmers Market
- Winter Produce Delivery
- Community Lunch Program
- Deer Donation Program
- Gleaning Program
- Island Food Rescue
REGENERATION REQUIRES AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

The food system does not stand alone. It is dependent on many other systems on the island. Collaboration will result in a stronger, more resilient island that meets the needs of all its members.

OUR VALUES

EXCELLENCE: Ensure the highest quality of services and programs through continued improvement.

COMPASSION: Show our stakeholders, partners, volunteers, and customers respect, kindness and patience in our interactions.

COLLABORATION: Work with other community organizations to achieve our goals, minimize duplication, strengthen community, and maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

INCLUSION: Recognize, support and respect the differences in our communities on the island through culturally appropriate programs and services and full participation by all concerned.

INTEGRITY: Operate in an environment of ethical behavior, transparency, and honesty.

CREATIVITY: Embrace new ideas and techniques and provide an incubation environment for programs that address the changing needs of our community.

STAFF
Rebecca Haag Executive Director,
Noli Taylor Community Food Education Director,
Sophie Abrams Food Equity & Recovery Director,
Matthew Dix Farm Hub Director,
Taz Armstrong, Alex Parris, Marissa Quell,
Tim Connelly, Jamie Tara O’Gorman, Kaylea Moore, Mary Sage Napolitan, Katie Ruppel,
Ava Castro, Suzie Scordino, Gabrielle Chronister, Kat Soni, Natalie Poole, Emily Armstrong, Aaron Lowe, Olivia Rabbit

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