Fall 2016 Key Indicator
Food Systems

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Federal Poverty Level (FPL): in 2013, the FPL was $23,050 per year for a family of four, it follows that 200% of the FPL was $46,100 and 400% of the FPL was $92,200.

Diabetic: high levels of glucose (sugar) in the blood results in various health problems, including heart and kidney disease. This survey does not include gestational diabetes during pregnancy.

Obese: Body Mass Index (BMI) equal to or greater than 30. According to the National Institutes for Health, the BMI may overestimate body fat in athletes and under estimate body fat in the elderly or others who have lost muscle.

Overweight: Body Mass Index (BMI) between 25 and 29.
40% of food produced in the US goes to waste, while a significant number of people are food insecure. Food waste is also a waste of the water and energy used to produce and transport the food. In the US, food is the single largest waste stream in landfills, resulting in greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the Center for American Progress, the cost of hunger in California in 2010 was $165 billion. The calculation considers lost economic productivity, education costs associated with educational outcomes hampered by hunger, hunger related healthcare costs, and charity to alleviate hunger. This does not include the cost of federal food assistance programs.
Despite an increase in the median household income, the poverty rate in San Mateo County increased by 16% in 2015.

The Santa Clara County poverty rate was 8.2%, and Marin’s poverty rate of 7.1% was the lowest in the nine-county Bay Area in 2015.

The median household income increased by 0.22% in 2015. San Mateo County had the second highest median income in the nine-county Bay Area; Santa Clara County had the highest median income of $102,340.

To spread the word about opportunities for urban agriculture, Sustainable San Mateo County joined forces with OpenSMC (opensmc.org), a civic hack-for-good group part of Code for America. This fall, we will launch our 3 B’s Map (Birds, Bees, and Beans) to encourage residents to grow their own food by informing them of the zoning rules in their neighborhood. Find the map on our website: sustainablesanmateo.org/3bs.