

Deep Bioregionalism as Antidote to the Illusion of Local Food

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Where thought meets action

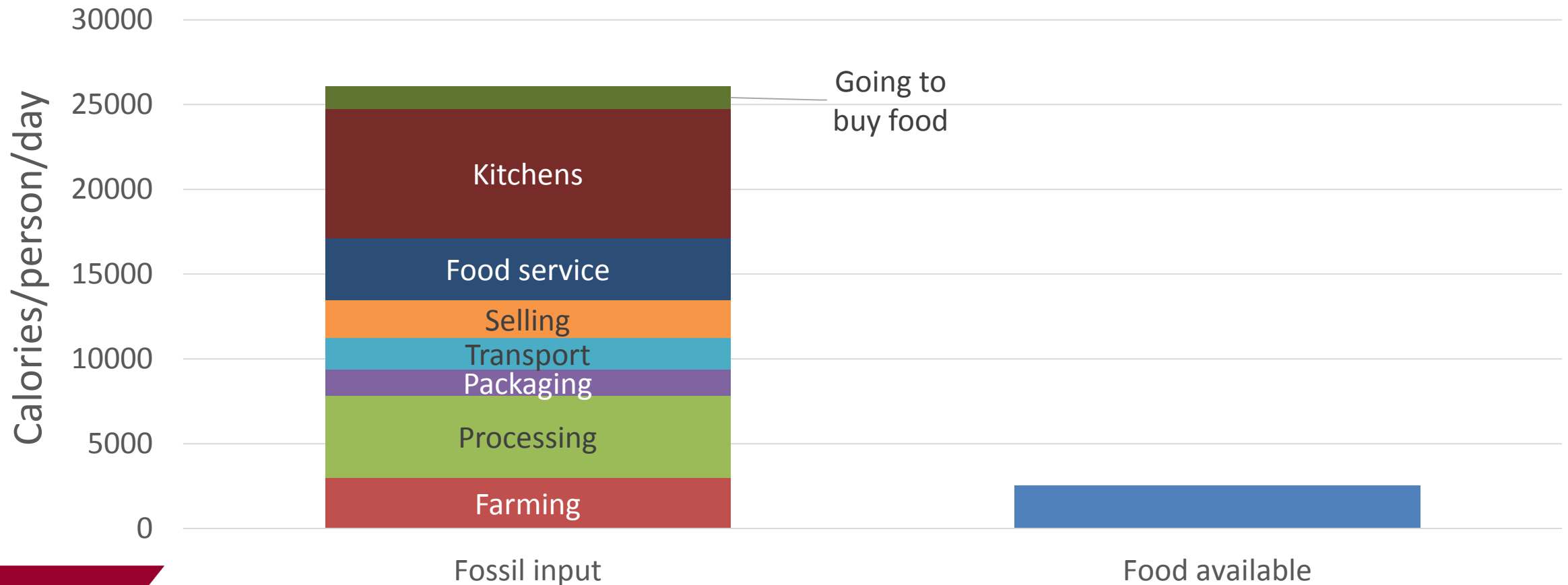
The local advantage

- Food security
 - Fresh, nutritious food
 - Decentralized, resilient production systems
 - Strong connection between farmers and eaters
- Resource cycling
 - Keep dollars circulating locally
 - Greater share to local farms, farmers and farm workers
 - Human scale, personal connections
 - Less dependence on fossil energy and imported fertilizers
 - Greater use of locally-available renewable resources (sun, rain, soil, compost, people) instead of imported and extracted non-renewables (oil, coal, natural gas, groundwater, rockwool, synthetic N, mined P, mined K etc.)
 - Less transportation
 - Less pollution and greenhouse gas emissions
- Vibrant, resilient, decentralized local economies



Fossil energy input to food system far exceeds food energy delivered

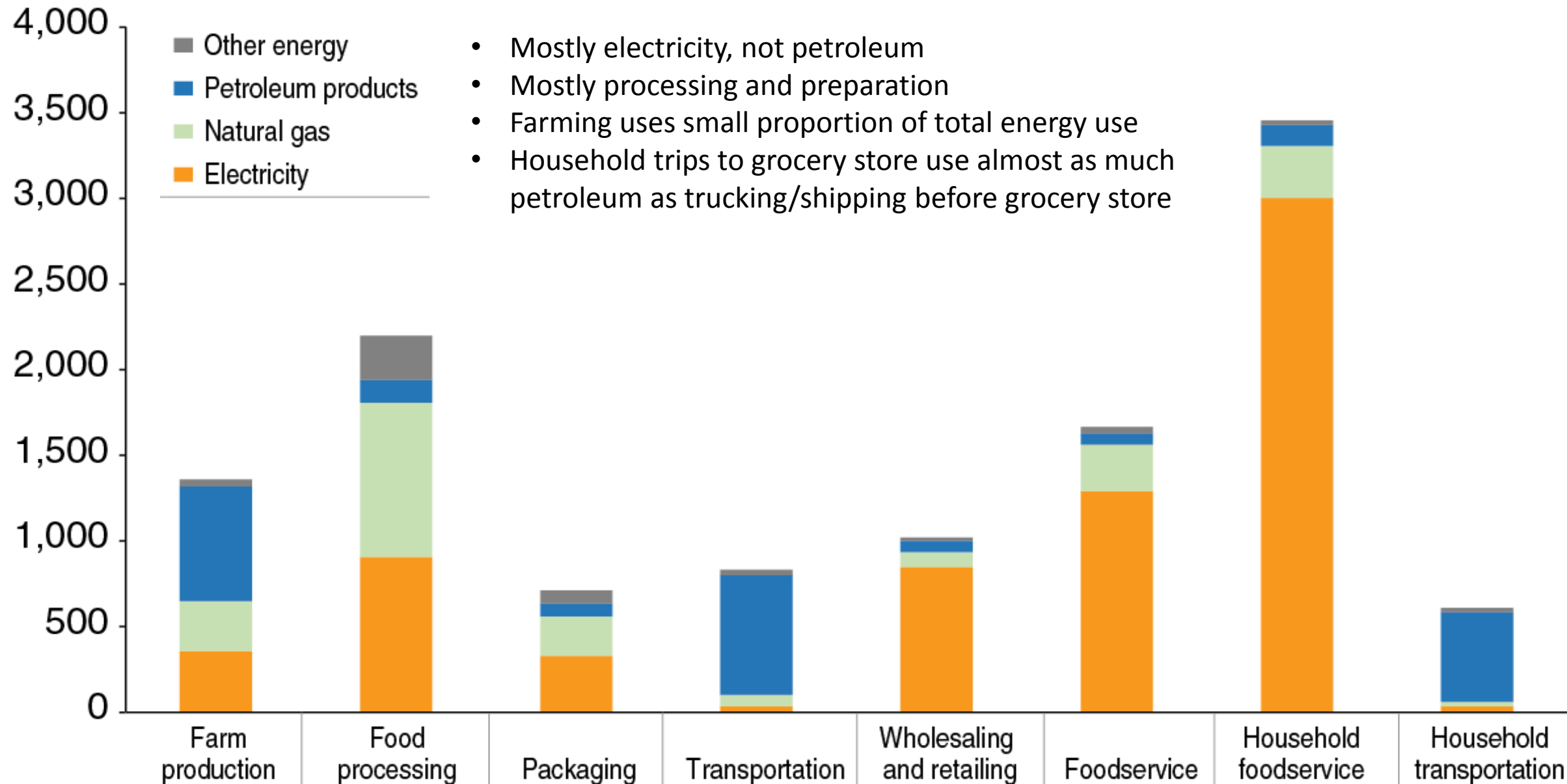
Fossil energy input and food output for US food system, 2012



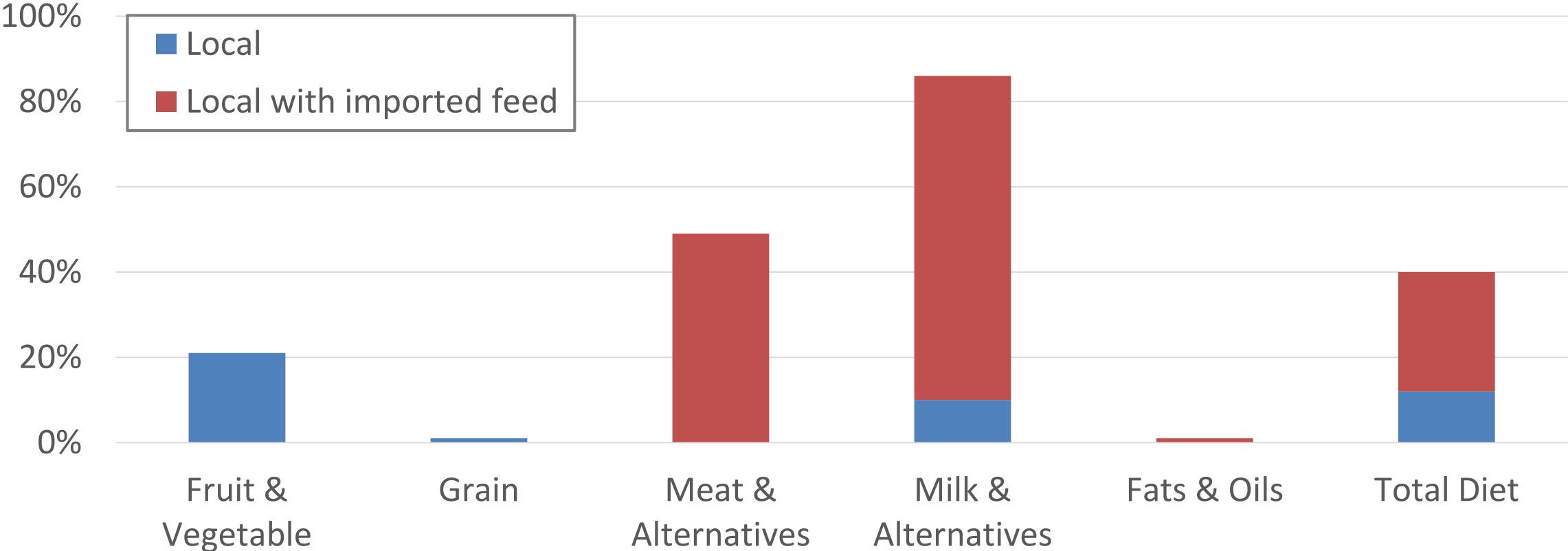
Fossil energy used to put food on US plates in 2012

Trillion Btu

Canning et al., USDA-ERS, 2017



Food self-reliance, Southwest BC, 2011



Geographical Appropriation



Why do you need to partner with growers in the U.S. and Mexico?

Growing produce in BC during the winter is costly, since artificial heat and light must be used to overcome cold local temperatures and minimal sun. During this time, we partner with producers in U.S. and Mexico to grow product that meets our exacting standards and mirrors what we produce locally during our growing season. We work closely with our southern partners to make sure best practices in growing and food safety are rigorously followed.

<https://bchothouse.com/faqs/>

Shadow Brands



- Bowen Island Brewing and Hey Y'all Southern Tea are both owned by Northam, which brews in Whistler, BC
- Samuel Adams is owned by the Boston Beer Company, which mostly brews in Ohio and Pennsylvania



Local illusion

- Place-based branding and point-of-origin labeling reveals little (nothing?) about a food product's connection to a place
- “Buy local” campaigns are universal but offer little to assurance of food system sustainability or regional connections
 - Transportation is a small portion of food system energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
 - Locally-grown foods can still be grown in resource-demanding systems, be heavily processed and packaged, or be heavily dependent on imported labour and inputs



Shallow vs. Deep Bioregionalism

Shallow

Investor owned

Migrant farm workers

Deep

Worker owned

Farm families live and work on/near farm



Shallow vs. Deep Bioregionalism

Shallow	Deep
Feed / feedstock imported from off farm	Feed / feedstock grown on farm
Depends on synthetically-fixed nitrogen and imported mined fertilizers	Depends on plant-based nitrogen fixation and nutrient conservation
Generates more waste than farm can absorb	Wastes retained for nutrient conservation without leaching or runoff



Shallow vs. Deep Bioregionalism

Shallow	Deep
Fossil fuel intensive production	Uses renewable energy available on farm
Irrigation from non-renewable groundwater or energy-intensive desalinization	Irrigation from surface waters, rainfall
Depletes soil organic matter or uses soilless growing media	Sequesters carbon in soil by building organic matter

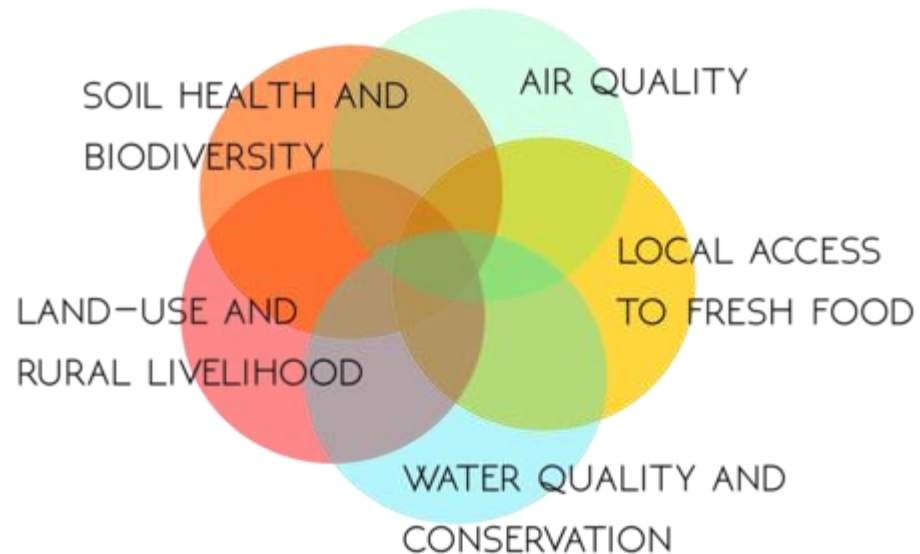


Shallow Bioregionalism

Emphasis on low “food miles”

Deep Bioregionalism

Emphasis on strengthening connections between eaters, farmers, and sustainable agroecosystems



Four levels of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)



Regenerative Organic Certification



Graduated certification of regional claims



SILVER



GOLD



PEACE
RIVER

PLATINUM



101017

ORANGES

NET WT. (150.5kg)



3894072358

IBM Blockchain

PROVENANCE & AUTHORITY

Origin	Quantity	Status
1	1	1
2	1	2