

La Plata HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

About the Program

The La Plata Healthy Soils program will fund regenerative agriculture in La Plata County by collecting voluntary donations from consumers at participating restaurants and food businesses, which then support farmers in implementing climate-beneficial soil practices like cover cropping and composting. This program is an essential part of the 2025-2030 [La Plata County Food Systems Plan](#). Led by The Good Food Collective, Table to Farm Compost, and Local First Foundation, and supported by Zero Foodprint and local technical assistance providers, the program will provide grants for farms to improve soil health, conserve water, and sequester carbon, with the goal of creating a resilient food system by reconnecting consumers with local producers.

How to Get Involved: Business Opt-In

We are seeking 20 participating businesses to include the optional 1% fee on their bills to jump start this program in 2026, and 50 businesses by the end of 2027. Our goal is to raise \$1M for distribution in 2027.

The opportunity to regenerate and rehydrate hundreds of thousands of acres of working lands must become a societal priority. We can lead the way in La Plata County by closing nutrient cycles and bridging urban-rural economies through regenerative farming practices, supporting our agricultural businesses, and rural way of life.

For more information, email Monique at Table to Farm Compost:

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TABLE TO FARM
COMPOST



LOCAL
FIRST
FOUNDATION



THE
GOOD
FOOD
COLLECTIVE

Zero Foodprint leads collaborations with the CO Dept of Agriculture, CO Restaurant Association, and hundreds of businesses and their customers to actually regenerate. ZFP was named one of The Most Innovative Companies in the World by Fast Company and has already teamed up with 55 farms across Colorado to deploy \$800,000 for regenerative agriculture projects.

How it Works

- 1 Consumer & Business Contribution**
Customers contribute a small, optional (opt-out) 1% fee on their bill at participating restaurants and food businesses. These contributions will be collected into the Restore CO program with a goal of establishing a La Plata Healthy Soils fund in 2027.
- 2 Grant Distribution**
Once a formal La Plata program is launched, Zero Foodprint will deploy the funds on behalf of the program to farmers and ranchers serving La Plata County by implementing healthy soil projects. Awards will be decided by a local Committee of regional experts.
- 3 Regenerative Farming and Climate Benefits**
Farmers use the grants to deploy climate-smart practices such as planting perennials, spreading compost and connecting compost to end users, cover cropping, managed grazing, water efficient irrigation. These practices restore soil health, conserve water, sequester carbon from the atmosphere, and produce more nutritious food.



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The Healthy Soils Program is part of the La Plata County Food System Plan's Water, Land, and Soil Stewardship Action Committee

About the Food System Plan

The La Plata County Food System Plan identified stewarding land, soil, and water as one of four key priorities to strengthening our local food system. Stewarding, protecting, and preserving these resources for the benefit of present and future generations is a legacy La Plata County can leave through the launch of the La Plata Healthy Soils program.

Why Does it Matter?

Restoring over 500,000 acres of agricultural lands in La Plata County could create an extra 1 billion gallons of soil-water holding capacity while improving resilience, biodiversity and farmer well-being. To make that happen, we need to transform agriculture to align with nature and conserve water—especially as extreme weather becomes normal. Real progress depends not just on government programs, but on neighbors and communities working together toward shared conservation goals.



How to Get Involved: Join the Action Committee!

We will meet once a month to develop action-oriented work to support the land, water and soil health of La Plata County. Our first goal will be to launch the La Plata Healthy Soils program.

Benefits and Challenges Identified by the LPC Food System Plan

Benefits

- Promote biodiversity by protecting various species and their habitats
- Ensure survival of diverse ecosystems
- Preserve essential areas for animals to thrive and reproduce
- Protect the environment and maintain soil and water quality
- Prevent pollution, ensuring cleaner air, water, and soil for future generations
- Foster economic benefits by attracting tourism and enhancing property values
- Improve climate resilience

Challenges

- Additional resources and incentives are needed to spur action
- Land managers can't bear the full risk and full cost of transition
- Citizens did not previously have a mechanism for creating these resources and teaming up with farmers.
- Changes around eating behavior and consumption are slow and ineffective, requiring a new approach like Collective Regeneration.



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