The Blueprint for a National Food Strategy is an 18-month project examining the potential for developing a national food strategy in the United States. Through legal and original research, this project will consider whether a national food strategy is needed, how other countries have developed national food strategies in response to similar food systems challenges faced by the United States, and the process by which the United States has developed national strategies in response to other issues.

As the American public has become more aware of the both the impacts on and of our food system, there has been increasing dialogue about the need for national leadership and coordination of federal laws and policies that impact the food system. While many of these conversations indicate that national reform could be helpful and prescribe the content of such a strategy, this project remains open to conclusions about the substantive content of national food strategy. Consequently, while it provides examples of the content included in other countries’ national food strategies, the project does not reach conclusions regarding the content of such a strategy should one be adopted in the United States. Rather, this project takes an in-depth at specific issues associated with the creation of a national food strategy by examining a set of examples in the international context, as well as the legal mechanisms that could be employed to develop such a strategy in the United States.

WHAT QUESTIONS ARE WE TRYING TO ANSWER?

• What has been the experience of other countries that have developed national food strategies?
• What other U.S. national strategies provide applicable models for a national food strategy?
• What major findings and recommendations can we glean that would prove useful to the development of a national food strategy in the United States?

PROJECT OUTCOMES

• A report that includes an overview of the benefits and critiques of a national food strategy, a discussion of the processes by which other countries have developed national food strategies, an analysis of other U.S. national strategies and legal mechanisms for coordination, and a set of findings and recommendations to guide the development of a national food strategy in the United States; and
• An interactive, educational version of the report for the general public and interested stakeholder groups to learn about the concept of a national food strategy through international examples and the processes by which a national strategy is created, as well as provide feedback through a series of directed questions.