
Helen Rortvedt. [\(Hear me pronounce my name.\)](#)

ABOUT ME *(pronouns: she/her)*

Since moving to Vermont in 2011, I have worked to build a more collaborative, resilient, and equitable food system. I believe that we can (and must) keep each other fed. And I believe that we can do it joyfully and with integrity!

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE *(the recent & relevant highlights)*

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT), Richmond, VT

Mission: We promote organic practices to build an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just Vermont agricultural system that benefits all living things.

Deputy Director, Programs & Operations | 2023 - Present

- Oversee the strategic and smooth operation of our programs to maximize impact
- Design and implement long-term strategies to achieve organizational goals
- Supervise program directors, ensuring that programs are advancing organizational goals and working strategically together
- Lead internal systems and communications improvements to support a growing team
- Lead the annual organizational budget development process
- Oversee grants management across the organization
- Represent NOFA-VT in various coalitions and networks, such as the Vermont Food Security Roadmap Coalition and the Vermont Farm to Plate Network Steering Committee

Farm to School & Local Food Access Programs Director | 2019 - 2023

- Oversaw the Local Food Access team, which seeks to ensure that all Vermonters have equitable access to local and organic food in both consumer and institutional settings while simultaneously supporting farm viability
- Served as project co-director for Vermont FEED, NOFA-VT's Farm to School partnership project with Shelburne Farms, supporting local food purchasing and advancing agricultural literacy in Vermont schools
- Stewarded collaborative partnerships and coalition-building efforts throughout the Vermont food system, including among institutional food service professionals, charitable food system and anti-hunger organizations, state agencies, federal congressional offices, and various networks such as the Vermont Farm to School and Early Childhood Network, and Farm to Institution New England.

KidsGardening.org, Burlington, VT

Mission: We create opportunities for kids to play, learn, and grow through gardening, engaging their natural curiosity and wonder.

Executive Director | 2018 - 2019

- Oversaw programming, curriculum and publications development, strategic planning, fundraising, strategic marketing, human resources, and financial management
- Identified collective impact opportunities with peer organizations

Vermont Caribbean Institute, Burlington, VT *(now the Caribbean Agroecology Institute)*

Mission: We catalyze knowledge exchange, build capacity, and support transitions to resilient agroecological systems that provide for sustainable livelihoods rooted in justice and equality in the Caribbean.

Program Officer | 2017 - 2018

- Coordinated professional and educational exchange programs between the US and Cuba for sustainable agriculture and agroecology leaders, advocates, and graduate students

Food Connects, Brattleboro, VT

Mission: We envision healthy families, thriving farms, and connected communities in Southern VT.

Co-Founder & Farm to School Programs Manager | 2012 - 2017

- Designed and delivered professional development and technical assistance for teachers and school nutrition professionals to sustain Farm to School programs, and to improve the quality of and increase participation in school meal programs in Southern Vermont
- Contributed to statewide and regional collective impact and coalition-building efforts

A FEW OTHER THINGS I'VE DONE *(not food systems work, per se, but experiences that have shaped my worldview, helped me grow, and given me some great memories!)*

- Taught Spanish at **The Compass School** in Westminster, VT, and English in Nicaragua
- Led rugged, immersive **Where There Be Dragons** study abroad programs in Bolivia & Peru
- Served as an Environmental Education **Peace Corps** Volunteer in Bolivia
- Taught kids how to rock climb, kayak, and start friction fires at **Adventure Links** in Virginia

EDUCATION *(at least the formal kind)*

SIT Graduate Institute, Brattleboro, VT

M.A., Sustainable Development | 2014

Saint Olaf College, Northfield, MN

B.A., Spanish & Latin American Studies | 2004

BOARD SERVICE *(et cetera)*

- Farm to Institution New England (*Network Advisory Council*) | 2023 - Present
- Vermont Farm to Plate Network (*Steering Committee*) | 2023 - Present
- School Nutrition Association of Vermont | 2019 - 2022
- Caribbean Agroecology Institute (*formerly: Vermont Caribbean Institute*) | 2018 - Present