Our main aim with ArcGIS was to help spatially visualize the impact of green certification as it currently stands in Chicago. To construct the map of currently certified green restaurants in the Chicago area using ArcGIS, the data sets of Licensed Retail Food Establishments (from the City of Chicago Data Portal) were used along with the most recent boundary map of the city’s wards. In ArcGIS, these two items were overlaid in order to provide a number of food establishments within the boundaries of each ward. The locations of the Green Restaurant Association certified restaurants in the Chicago area were then plotted on the map over the shaded layer depicting the number of restaurants within each ward.

In addition to the overview map with GRA restaurants, we also plotted a map with farmers’ markets, in an attempt to visualize the proximity of potential readily accessible sources of local food for the restaurants nearby. For these maps, which include a full Chicago map, detailed Northside map and detailed Southside map, specific locations of Licensed Retail Food Establishments are plotted onto the ward map layer, with GRA certified restaurants also marked for reference. With these maps, it would be possible to see which restaurants might be good targets for future green certification expansion, as the convenience of nearby farmers’ markets would provide ease of local food procurement.

The data sets used in this analysis are:


