

Local and Sustainable Food Purchasing Policy
Friday, June 3, 2011
Noon – 2 p.m.
City Hall Room 333

AGENDA

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Background on the working group efforts to date
- 3) Call for comments on sections I – III of document
- 4) In-depth discussion – Section IV: Implementation
- 5) Wrap-up and next steps

City of Minneapolis
Local and Sustainable Food Purchasing Policy
DRAFT May 2011

I. PURPOSE

This policy directs City of Minneapolis departments and agencies to make best efforts to purchase local and sustainable food. City employees, vendors, contractors and grantees – as well as all public and private institutions in the city – are likewise encouraged to purchase local and sustainable food.

Local and sustainable food purchasing can support the City's efforts toward economic, social and environmental sustainability. Benefits potentially associated with the growing, processing, distribution and consumption of local and sustainable food – and the management of food waste in these systems – include the following:

- **A stronger local economy** – A local food system supports small farms and local jobs, creates new business opportunities and encourages the recirculation of financial capital within the city.
- **Healthier residents** – Increasing consumption of healthy foods contributes to improved nutrition and reduced levels of obesity and other chronic diseases.
- **A more food-secure population** – The ability for residents to grow, sell or easily obtain a consistent, adequate supply of fresh, local foods can empower families and communities to be more self-sufficient and enhance community cohesion.
- **An enriched environment** – Producing and buying local food can improve air quality and pollution by reducing the amount of transportation and packaging required to bring our food from farm to table. Local foods grown in a sustainable manner can also reduce chemical and water usage.
- **A safer food system** – A local food system is typically less vulnerable to disruptions due to its smaller scale and decentralized setup. A local food system encourages individuals to share resources in order to provide for the collective needs of their neighbors and the community as a whole. Food grown locally can be processed and distributed by small- and mid-size operations where careful attention can be paid to food quality and safety measures.

II. DEFINITIONS

“Food” means all foods and beverages. Cutlery and other food-related supplies should be procured according to the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy.

“Local food” is food produced, processed and distributed within a particular geographic boundary that consumers associated with their own community.

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR97/ERR97.pdf

“Sustainable food” is produced (“sustainable agriculture”), distributed, consumed and recycled to: 1) make the most efficient use of non-renewable resources, 2) maintain high levels of nutrition, 3) minimize waste and recycle it into the food system, 4) enhance the environmental quality and natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends, 5) sustain the economic viability of farm operations and accessibility for consumers, and 6) enhance the quality of life for farmers, consumers and society as a whole.

http://www.sfgov3.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/sffood/policy_reports/DPH%20Sustainable%20Food%20Policy.pdf

“Healthy food” is defined in the City’s Health Food Policy and includes fruits and vegetables, reasonable portions, vegetarian options, water, and low-fat and low-calorie items.

“Organic agriculture” is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony.

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/ofp/ofp.shtml>

“Environmentally preferable” is defined in the City’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy and includes products that are biodegradable, compostable, recycled/recyclable, nontoxic, reusable, energy and water efficient, marketed with little packaging, associated with reduced greenhouse gas emissions or available locally.

“Sustainable food and agriculture” can also include...

(I’m wondering whether we should add additional production methods – no till, low input, etc. – or labeling schemes – natural, pastured, cage free, etc. Maybe David and Rhys could weigh in.)

III. AUTHORITY

This policy supports multiple City resolutions, policies, initiatives and goals.

A. Homegrown Minneapolis

Homegrown Minneapolis is an initiative of the City of Minneapolis to improve the growing, processing, distribution, consumption and waste recovery of healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods within the city and the surrounding region.

1) Homegrown Minneapolis Final Report – This report contains recommendations that emerged from the stakeholder-driven first phase of the initiative.

Recommendation 2 (Policy): “Develop City policies that support increased growth, sales, distribution, and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced, and locally grown for all Minneapolis residents and create the necessary internal structure to support these efforts.”

Sub-recommendation: Increase the local food served at City-controlled facilities.

2) City Council Resolution 2009R-283 – “Recognizing the Importance of Healthy, Sustainably Produced and Locally Grown Foods and Creating the Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force”

B. Sustainability Initiative

The City’s Sustainability initiative includes an indicator for Local Foods, and local and sustainable food purchasing can support other indicators, including Healthy Weight, Climate Change, Green Jobs, Waste Reduction and Recycling, Community Engagement, and Employment and Poverty.

C. City Goals

Local and sustainable food purchasing can support the City Goals of Jobs and Economic Vitality; Livable Communities, Healthy Lives; and Eco-Focused.

D. Policies

The City of Minneapolis Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy encourages and seeks to increase purchasing that reflects the City’s commitment to sustainability. The policy recognizes that purchasing decisions can promote environmental sustainability, social equity and fiscal responsibility.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Statement of Preference

This policy promotes the purchasing of local and sustainable food that is grown, processed, distributed, consumed and disposed of in the following order of preference:

	Geography	Production methods	Enterprise	Additional
Most preferable	Minneapolis	Organic agriculture	Youth involvement	Healthy
^	Within 100 miles	Sustainable agriculture	Locally-owned	Environmentally preferable
	Minnesota		Independent ownership	Culturally appropriate
	Region – WI, IA, SD, ND		Cooperative ownership	Cost-neutral
	Domestic		Women/minority owned	
Least preferable	International	Conventional agriculture	Corporate	

B. Roles and Responsibilities

A City staff person, new Food Purchasing Committee, or new Food Subcommittee of the existing Sustainable Purchasing Committee will oversee the implementation of this policy and perform the following additional functions:

- Developing an approved supplier list that contains the name, contact information and product list for vendors who have indicated that they sell local or sustainable food items. This list will be updated annually.
- Coordinating annual reporting. This may include designating an accounting code for approved vendors that staff will use when ordering food. The Finance Department can then query records once per year for this information, and it can be compared with overall food and beverage purchases.
- Developing best practices for local and sustainable food purchasing by City departments and independent agencies. (Note: See example from 3/23 document)
- Initiating and evaluating pilot efforts.
- Providing technical assistance to purchasing staff.
- Recommending goals, policy amendments and focus areas.
- Interpreting this policy.
- Promoting the policy and providing staff and department training.

All City departments and independent agencies are responsible for implementation of this policy including the following:

- Ensuring that staff and contractors are aware of the policy and supported in its implementation.
- Evaluating purchasing practices and opportunities.
- Facilitating data collection.

C. Effective Date

This policy will take effect on...

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes
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1) Introductions

- Cam Gordon
- David Schlueter
- Emily Stern
- June Mathiowetz
- Kelly Wilder
- David Nicolson
- Rhys Williams
- Jennifer Sheets
- Gayle Prest

2) Background on the working group efforts to date

3) Call for comments on sections I – III of document

- Take out “all public and private institutions”
- What’s the goal?
- Each division should come up with own plan
- Get accounting to drill down into purchasing numbers for food
- Put definitions at end or in footnote
- Organic must mean certified
- “Authority” is confusing
- City goals – add adopted by council

4) In-depth discussion – Section IV: Implementation

- Rework the preferences (see new draft of proposed policy)
- Add in something about “within budget”
- There should be a food committee with a rep on the EPP, committee reports to Homegrown coordinator
- Must be support for departments

5) Wrap-up and next steps