

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE FOOD POLICY

CITY OF ALBANY

1.0 STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Albany to:

- purchase foods that are produced organically,
- purchase foods that are produced within the local region,
- purchase foods that are seasonally consistent with Albany's regional climate, and
- encourage the production of food within Albany and in nearby regions
what does "encourage" mean? Offer incentives? Prefer commercial food production on land in Albany? Facilitate private food production to be shared beyond the household? What does this look like?

2.0 PURPOSE

This Policy is adopted in order to:

- minimize staff and community exposure to residual chemical pesticides that may be consumed with food products,
- increase nutritional content and taste of food products consumed by workers and the community,
- reduce agricultural uses of petro-chemicals and toxic substances that pollute the environment,
- reduce transportation and refrigerant sources of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions,
- strengthen the regional economy by supporting local farmers,
- provide education opportunities for the community and youth, and how?
- reduce dependence on distant food sources that leave the community vulnerable to supply disruptions and fuel cost influxes,

3.0 SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Organically Produced

- 3.1.1 City of Albany shall purchase foods and food products certified as organic by the United States Department of Agriculture or regional certification bodies such as CCOF, whenever feasible within budgetary constraints, when food is purchased for internal City events and City sponsored public events.
- 3.1.2 A detailed explanation of organic production practices that are consistent with USDA certification requirements may be provided by non-certified vendors as a substitute for certification.

3.2 Locally Produced

- 3.2.1 City of Albany shall purchase fruits and vegetables that are grown within 250 miles of Albany whenever logistically and financially feasible, when food is purchased for internal City events and City sponsored public events.
- 3.2.2 City of Albany shall purchase processed food products that are sold by companies within 50 miles of Albany whenever logistically and financially feasible, when food is purchased for internal City events and City sponsored public events.
- 3.2.3 City of Albany shall make adjustment to its food selections to reflect the seasonal availability of produce in the local region, as a means to increase the amount of food sourced locally.

3.3 Food Production

- 3.3.1 City of Albany shall consider and report the costs and benefits of food producing vegetation in all landscaping and land use decisions regarding public lands. Suggest our report does a cost/benefit study and evaluates pros and cons whether Albany wants to go in the direction of any foodproducing vegetation in any of its landscaping.
- 3.3.2 City of Albany shall voice its support for local food production in the region within 250 miles of Albany, whenever discussion on foodsheds arise in the regional context.

4.0 PRIORITIES

- 4.1 When purchasing decisions cannot fulfill the criteria of both 3.1 and 3.2 due to logistical and financial feasibility, priority will be placed on 3.2, locally produced foods. Due to the typical size and characteristics of food production sites in the Bay Area region, local food is likely produced with less chemicals than food from distant regions. Sourcing local foods will also ensure seasonality, as non-seasonal foods will not grow readily in local climates. As such, prioritizing local food sources will likely result in partial fulfillment of the other criteria.

- 4.2 Nothing contained in this policy shall be construed as requiring a department, purchaser or contractor to procure product that pose an undue burden on staff time and budgetary constrains, without explicit allowances made to mitigate additional costs and time.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 The Community Development Department shall implement this policy in coordination with other appropriate City of Albany personnel.
- 5.2 Other food providers and vendors shall be encouraged to comply with the purchasing sections 3.1 and 3.2 of this policy when serving food at City sponsored or permitted public events.
- 5.3 City of Albany shall request information from vendors and food sources regarding the origin and organic or non-organic content of produce and food product ingredients, regardless of whether the information provided will lead to the purchase of local and organic foods.
- 5.4 The origins of and organic or non-organic contents of foods served by the City of Albany to the public shall be made available to the public upon request, whenever such information is known by City staff. Which is every time given 5.3; this seems to be a burden to City staff
- 5.5 Upon request, City of Albany personnel purchasing food shall be able to provide justification for food choices that do not meet the organic and local purchasing criteria in this policy. Even more of a burden

6.0 PROGRAM EVALUATION

- 6.1 The Sustainability Committee shall conduct a baseline study of the food production potential within Albany and food procurement potential from sources within 250 miles of Albany. The study shall include a report of overall production potential, and food production project recommendations with each project's the environmental, educational, economic, and health benefits, costs, and unintended consequences. (Do not understand "food production project," and some word is missing in this sentence.) The study shall include a report on current commercial food production occurring within Albany as a baseline for production policy 3.3, and food production occurring within the region as a baseline of availability for purchasing policy 3.2. This study shall provide a recommendation for feasible degree of implementation of this policy.
- 6.2 The Community Development Department shall periodically evaluate the success of this policy's implementation.

7.0 DEFINITIONS

- 7.1 “CCOF” is a certification body for organic agricultural crops, including 750 distinct crop varieties. CCOF standards are similar to USDA standards. They also offer certification of meeting international organic standards.
- 7.2 “Events” includes any officially noticed gathering of more than one person, at which food is served. This includes meetings, workshops, celebrations, etc.
- 7.3 “Local” or “locally produced” refers to produce that is grown on land that is within 250 miles of the site of consumption.
- 7.4 “Mitigation” for costs and staff time means an explicit allowance made through a budget item that supplies the necessary funds for the project or purchase, or explicitly reallocates staff time priorities from other duties to the project or purchase.
- 7.5 “Organic” or “organically produced” means produced in compliance with standards set forth by certification bodies that include criteria of non-toxic, non-synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Standards from the USDA may be found at www.usda.gov.
- 7.6 “Practical” or “practicable” means whenever possible and compatible with local, state and federal law, without reducing safety, quality, or effectiveness and where the product or service is available at a reasonable cost in a reasonable period of time.
- 7.7 “Seasonal” produce includes crops that grow in outdoor, unregulated circumstances within the specific region. A list of seasonal crops for the Northern California region is available at <http://www.ferryplazafarmersmarket.com/seasonality/charts/vegetable.php>
- 7.8 “United States Department of Agriculture” is the federal authority on agricultural standards and regulations.

8.0 EFFECTIVE DATES

- 8.1 This policy shall take effect on _____, 2009.

1 **RESOLUTION # 08-16**

2
3 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHING AN**
4 **ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE FOOD POLICY**

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the City of Albany (City) is committed to policies that promote the
7 health and well-being of our community and of our environment; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, on July 16, 2007 City Council reviewed and endorsed the Clean and
10 Green Task Force Recommendations which include encouragement of local food
11 production and planning and securing local food production as a part of a long-term plan
12 for a carbon neutral City; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the City has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25%
15 below 2004 levels by the year 2020; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, conventional food systems (using chemical and carbon fuel based
18 farming systems with unspecified produce shipping distance) use 4 to 17 times more fuel
19 and emit 5 to 17 times more carbon dioxide than local and regional food systems; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, Albany is located within a thermal belt considered one of the finest
22 horticultural zones in California; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, 29% of the low-income adult population of Alameda County are
25 food insecure, meaning they lack reliable access to healthy foods, which can cause
26 malnutrition and hunger; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, local governments can alleviate such conditions through policies
29 and programs that promote community food security, such that all residents are able to

1 obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet while maximizing
2 community self-reliance and social justice; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, schools should serve fresh, locally produced foods that are organic
5 or sustainably produced using least-toxic means wherever possible; yes and we should let
6 AUSD grapple with that and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, community and school gardens provide hands-on entrepreneur
9 opportunities by fostering business, academic, and life skills that can help the City’s
10 youth become more self sufficient and productive adults, and “Edible Gardens” at
11 schools in other cities have provided students with a garden-oriented, standards-based
12 curriculum in math, science, and art; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, a community-based food policy that engages public and private
15 entities and citizens in the discussion of food and agricultural issues and the education of
16 public and private sectors about food issues can provide significant improvement to the
17 City’s food system (what is meant by “food system” is it more than what the City buys
18 for City events? ; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, food policies established in other counties, cities and states have
21 provided government officials and stakeholders with a forum to identify policies that
22 harness the potential of the food system to foster economic development, provide
23 children and those in need greater access to fresh and nutritious foods, and support
24 stewardship of finite land and water resources; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, approximately eighty cities and regions have established advisory
27 bodies called Food Policy Councils to address the issue of food production; and

28
29

1 **WHEREAS**, a Sustainability Committee was founded in 2007 to provide advice
2 and recommendations to the Albany City Council (Council);

3
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City recognizes the benefits
5 of local food systems, including those for sustainability, environmental health, public
6 health, economic diversity, and educational opportunity; and be it

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8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City adopts an Environmentally Preferable
9 Food Policy to encourage local food production and procurement by the City and the
10 community, and be it

11
12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council will consider the possibility of food
13 production in discussions of any uses of land that come before Council (this is too Big
14 Brother for me); and be it

15
16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City will work with other public entities_
17 (whom? Does this mean to get the other public entities to adopt EPFP's?) to assist the
18 adoption of an Environmentally Preferable Food Policy, and be it

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20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City undertakes a study of local and regional
21 food production potential; and be it

22
23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council charges the Sustainability Committee
24 with the execution of the study, which is to include a report of total potential agricultural
25 acreage and total potential volume/mass of food production within Albany and
26 regionally, and recommendations of possible local food system projects and their
27 environmental, educational, economic, health, and other benefits, costs, and unintended
28 consequences.

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