

1 **RESOLUTION # 08-16**

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

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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

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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

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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4 **WHEREAS**, schools should serve fresh, locally produced foods that are organic  
5 or sustainably produced using least-toxic means wherever possible; and

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

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13 **WHEREAS**, a community-based food policy that engages public and private  
14 entities and citizens in the discussion of food and agricultural issues and the education of  
15 public and private sectors about food issues can provide significant improvement to the  
16 City’s food system ; and

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

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

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

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1           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City recognizes the benefits  
2 of local food systems, including those for sustainability, environmental health, public  
3 health, economic diversity, and educational opportunity; and be it  
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5           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City amends its Environmentally Preferable  
6 Purchasing Policy to specify local and organic food where possible for procurement by  
7 the City; and be it  
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9           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City undertakes a study of local and regional  
10 food production potential; and be it  
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12           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council charges the Sustainability Committee  
13 with the execution of the study, may include components such as:

- 14           1) total potential agricultural acreage and total potential volume/mass of food  
15           production within Albany,
  - 16           2) recommendations of possible local food system projects and their environmental,  
17           educational, economic, health, and other benefits, costs, and unintended  
18           consequences, and
  - 19           3) potential partnerships with organizations and governments in the region.
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