

# The Good Food Purchasing Pledge



## WE COMMIT OUR INSTITUTION TO TAKING THE FOLLOWING STEPS IN SUPPORT OF GOOD FOOD:

1

As outlined in the *Good Food Purchasing Guidelines for Food Service Institutions*, we commit to **annually increasing our procurement of Good Food** to meet multi-year benchmarks at the baseline level or beyond for five value categories – local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition.

2

**Establish** supply chain accountability and a traceability system with vendors/distributors to verify sourcing commitments, assess current food procurement practices, and compile assessment results in a progress report.

3

**Report** annually on implementation progress of the *Good Food Purchasing Guidelines*.

## TO GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION, WE COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING TIMELINE:

1

**Complete** a baseline *Good Food Purchasing* survey within one month of signing the *Good Food Purchasing Pledge*.

2

**Communicate** Good Food commitment to all suppliers, including distributors and food service companies within one month of the adoption of the *Good Food Purchasing Pledge*.

3

**Complete** an assessment of food purchasing practices within six months of the adoption of the *Good Food Purchasing Pledge*.

4

**Develop** and adopt a multi-year action plan with benchmarks to comply with the *Good Food Purchasing Guidelines* within the first year of the adoption to the *Good Food Purchasing Pledge* and share action plans with the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.

5

**Incorporate** the *Good Food Purchasing Guidelines for Food Service Institutions* into new RFPs and contracts, where applicable.

IN PLEDGING OUR SUPPORT FOR GOOD FOOD, we will use our purchasing power to encourage the production and consumption of food that is healthy, affordable, fair, and sustainable. We recognize that the adoption of food procurement policies has the power to reform the food system, create opportunities for smaller farmers to thrive, provide just compensation and fair treatment for workers, support sustainable farming practices, reward good environmental stewardship, and increase access to fresh and healthy foods.

We pledge to leverage our purchasing power to support the following values:

- **Local Economies:** support small and mid-sized agricultural and food processing operations within the local area or region.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** source from producers that employ sustainable production systems that reduce or eliminate synthetic pesticides and fertilizers; avoid the use of hormones, antibiotics, and genetic engineering; conserve soil and water; protect and enhance wildlife habitat and biodiversity; and reduce on-farm energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Valued Workforce:** provide safe and healthy working conditions and fair compensation to all food chain workers and producers, from production to consumption.
- **Animal Welfare:** provide healthy and humane care for livestock.
- **Nutrition:** promote health and well-being by offering generous portions of vegetables, fruit, and whole grains; reducing salt, added sugars, fats, and oils; and by eliminating artificial additives.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- **Multi-Year Benchmarks:** Purchasers are asked to meet benchmarks in years one and five, recognizing that the shift towards Good Food purchasing will take time, and purchasers will need to make incremental changes.
- **Tiered-Value System:** A tiered-value system has been developed to evaluate the potential contribution of purchases to a Good Food Purchasing initiative. For each of the five values, foods are ranked from Level One (baseline) through Level Three (highest). Higher tiers of achievement are rewarded with more points accordingly.
- **Ranked Criteria:** For most value categories, third-party certifications and label claims allowed by USDA or FDA are used to determine the level of “Good” achieved by an institution’s purchases. These third-party certifications are used to rank Good Food purchases as Levels One (baseline), Two, or Three within each value category.
- **Baseline Requirements:** A baseline in each category is established that must be maintained throughout participation in the program.
- **Good Food Recognition:** Purchasers are scored and recognized at different levels to reward higher Good Food sourcing commitments within value categories. Purchasers that meet the baseline level for each category receive Good Food Purchaser recognition (one star). Additional levels (two to five stars) are awarded to purchasers to recognize the most dedicated supporters of the *Good Food Purchasing Guidelines*.
- **Traceability:** Purchasers are asked to work with suppliers to establish transparent reporting systems to verify product source.
- **Compliance Plan:** If vendor and/or suppliers do not have a current capacity to meet food purchasing targets, the vendor may submit a plan to achieve full compliance at a baseline level by the end of year one.
- **Annual Report:** Purchasers are asked to report annually on their progress.
- **Promotion:** The City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Food Policy Council will regularly promote and celebrate Good Food institutional commitments. Successful participants in the *Good Food Purchasing Pledge* program can also serve as an inspiration and positive role model for other institutions in our region.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW: GOOD FOOD PURCHASING GUIDELINES

Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC), in collaboration with public, private, and non-profit partners, developed *Good Food Purchasing Guidelines*, model guidelines for food service establishments in assessing and purchasing Good Food — food that is healthy, affordable, fair, and sustainable.

Scaled similarly to LEED green building certification, the *Good Food Purchasing Guidelines* emphasize five key values:

- (1) Local Economies
- (2) Environmental Sustainability
- (3) Valued Workforce
- (4) Animal Welfare
- (5) Nutrition

### About the Los Angeles Food Policy Council

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC) is a collective impact initiative created by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in January of 2011. LAFPC’s mission is to build a Good Food system for all Los Angeles residents. Such a system ensures that food is healthy, affordable, fair, and sustainable in order to improve the health and well-being of our residents, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color; promotes a thriving Good Food economy for everyone; and strengthens agricultural and environmental stewardship throughout the region. LAFPC coordinates the expertise and leadership of public, private, nonprofit, and academic partners to strengthen connections across the food system. The Food Policy Council and its staff serve as the “backbone” organization for the initiative, which has an extended reach of approximately 300 individuals and over 150 organizations.

LAFPC leverages its unique structure and placement as an independent multi-stakeholder initiative within the Mayor’s Office to advance innovative food policies. LAFPC combines coalition-building, leadership development, and issue and policy advocacy to advance food policies and programmatic innovations. The council’s goal is to shift our regional food system to promote local growers, sustainable agriculture, and fair working conditions for all food workers, and to ensure access to healthy affordable food in underserved communities.

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