



CAFPC Case Study in Collaboration:

Los Angeles Food Policy Council's Good Food Purchasing Policy

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC) developed a Good Food Purchasing Policy (GFPP) that was adopted by the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District in fall of 2012. Procurement policies have become an increasingly popular way to support healthy regional food systems by shifting the purchasing power of large institutions to support producers that contribute to a healthier environment, and to ensure that healthy foods are available in institutions. GFPP differs from many other procurement policies in that it set out to influence the entire spectrum of the food chain from farm to fork, and includes specifications for safe and healthy working conditions for food chain workers.

GFPP is made up of five key values: local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition. Through these five values, GFPP goes beyond promoting health in terms of nutrition, but also addresses additional public health concerns including environmental health, routine use of antibiotics in meat production, and occupational health and safety. Targeting institutions with food budgets over one million dollars, and using a metric-based system to track purchases, GFPP is an ambitious undertaking.

LAFPC worked with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) to develop the nutrition component of the policy. LACDPH provided content expertise in developing the policy, and provided expert testimony on the nutrition component of the policy. Through this partnership, the Department of Public Health contributed its knowledge, lending its credibility to the policy to ultimately obtain a policy that achieves public health goals. LAFPC, with a robust network of stakeholders, identified a policy need to improve health in the city, and was able to create and pass the policy without needing to become experts themselves on nutrition. In this way, both entities were able to fulfill respective roles to establish GFPP that supported a mutual goal.ⁱ

ⁱ For more information on the Good Food Purchasing Pledge and the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, go to: <http://goodfoodla.org/policymaking/good-food-procurement/>