A LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICY SHOULD...

- PURCHASE FOOD SOURCED FROM WITHIN A LOCAL REGION (E.G., WITHIN 100 MILES)

- SUPPORT ORGANIC, SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-CONSCIOUS FOOD PRODUCERS

- PURCHASE FOOD FROM FARMS THAT SUPPORT STRONG STANDARDS FOR THE TREATMENT OF FARMWORKERS

- PURCHASE FOOD SOURCED FROM FARMS THAT PROMOTE THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF FARM ANIMALS

GET INVOLVED AND ACTIVE!

- ASK YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK ON DEVELOPING A LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICY

- ENCOURAGE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, EMPLOYERS, ETC. TO IMPLEMENT OR ADOPT LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICIES

- ENCOURAGE LOCAL SCHOOLS TO CREATE FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAMS TO EDUCATE CHILDREN ABOUT FARMS AND NUTRITIOUS, LOCAL FOOD

EDC IS A NON-PROFIT LAW FIRM WORKING THROUGHOUT THE TRI-COUNTIES TO PROTECT OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING LONG-TERM PRESERVATION OF LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND OPEN SPACE.

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FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT PROVIDED BY:

Photo courtesy of Kristi Curtis
Local Food Purchasing Policies—Good Food Values and How They Work

Successful Policies

A great example of a successful local food purchasing policy is the Los Angeles Food Policy Council’s “Good Food Purchasing Program.”

This voluntary policy, which has been adopted by the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District, helps major institutions support local food by identifying clear standards for food purchasing, including features such as:

- A tiered, points-based scoring system, much like LEED green building certification
- A baseline commitment in all 5 “good food” value categories
- A process for encouraging increased purchasing of good food over time

Schools Seeing Success

In addition to adoption of local food purchasing policies, schools can also make a big difference in supporting local food by working with local farms and farmers to strengthen connections to the local food economy.

The USDA’s Farm-to-School Program and other non-profit programs like the National Farm to School Network work to bring local farmers together with school districts in an effort to improve children’s nutrition and to educate children about farms and good food, implementing projects like school gardens and farm field trips.