



NC GROWING TOGETHER

Connecting Local Foods
to Mainstream Markets

LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT RESOURCES FOR LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

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OVERVIEW OF LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local governments have a critical role in developing strong local food economies. In addition to planning, zoning, and economic development strategies that support local farms and expand local food markets, cities, counties, and towns can provide leadership through procurement of local foods.

Local food procurement can take many forms:

- *institutional procurement*, by single local government-run entities like jails, hospitals, or schools;
- *percentage procurement*, in which a standard percentage of all food purchased by the local government is from local farms (affecting multiple departments); or
- *contract procurement*, in which a local government commits to a contract with local farmers or restaurants to provide specific services or products on a consistent basis, such as for all County or Town meetings or special events.

This quick guide provides resources for local governments interested in working toward local food procurement policies of any kind.

NORTH CAROLINA RESOURCES FOR PROCUREMENT POLICIES & EXAMPLES

NC 10% Campaign

<http://www.nc10percent.com/resources>

The NC 10% Campaign provides resources and assistance for anyone in North Carolina wishing to purchase more local products, including marketing and promotional materials, where to find local farms and foods, and additional sourcing information.

North Carolina Local Governments who have signed the NC 10% Pledge:

Orange, Forsyth, Rockingham, Brunswick, Onslow, Chatham & Tyrell counties

Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District

City of Goldsboro, City of Columbia, and Town of Knightdale

UNC School of Government

<https://www.sog.unc.edu/search/#%21/search/local%20food>

The UNC School of Government has many centers that assist counties, cities, and towns with the development of draft policies, and recently added local food economies to its list of regular blog topics.

SAMPLE POLICIES FROM STATES, COUNTIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES

Cabarrus County, NC: Local Food Purchasing Policy

[https://www.cabarruscounty.us/government/departments/sustainability/local food/Pages/Local-Food-Purchasing-Policy.aspx](https://www.cabarruscounty.us/government/departments/sustainability/local%20food/Pages/Local-Food-Purchasing-Policy.aspx)

It is the policy of Cabarrus County to promote economic vitality, support the health and safety of its employees and citizens, and to preserve and protect our natural resources so that future generations will have an opportunity to thrive. The Local Food Purchasing Policy is intended to grow our local food economy, and to make fresher, more nutritious and better tasting food available at all County events that are catered. Policy: Cabarrus County Government

Employees shall locally source at least 10% of all food served at county catered events and small department-sponsored meetings from food producers within North Carolina.

State of Washington

<http://www.psrc.org/assets/9560/procurement.pdf>

This state-level procurement policy provides language that utilizes different strategies, including geographic and price percent strategies, to require local food procurement from state and regional governments.

City of San Francisco, CA

http://www.sfgov3.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/sffood/policy_reports/MayorNewsomExecutiveDirectiveonHealthySustainableFood.pdf

This Executive Directive on Healthy Sustainable Food provides policy and guidance to City departments about the San Francisco procurement commitment.

City of Los Angeles, CA | Los Angeles School District

http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/edtk_local-food-procurement.pdf

This policy provides procurement strategy and guidance for both City departments and school districts governed by the City.

NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND EXAMPLES

SUNY Buffalo Local Food Policy Database

<http://growingfoodconnections.org/tools-resources/policy-database/general-search-policy-database/>

Change Lab Solutions

Guide to Local Government Procurement Policy:

<http://www.changelabsolutions.org/publications/local-food-local-government>

Analysis of Potential Legal Issues in Local Government Procurement:

<http://www.changelabsolutions.org/publications/buy-healthy-buy-local>

State of Colorado: National Review of Government Purchasing Preferences that Support Local Farmers

<http://coloradofarmtoschool.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/11/State-food-procurement-report-FINAL.pdf>

Center for Good Food Purchasing

<http://goodfoodpurchasing.org/resources/>

USDA Economic Impact of Local Foods Toolkit

www.localfoodeconomics.com

MORE INFORMATION

The guide is co-produced by the NC Growing Together Project, a five-year USDA NIFA project aimed at increasing the sale of local products into mainstream markets, and the NC 10% Campaign, an initiative that tracks statewide spending on local food and advocates for local food purchasing. Both are housed at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems, a partnership between North Carolina A&T State University; North Carolina State University; and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. For more information, visit

www.ncgrowingtogether.org or www.nc10percent.com.



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