

San Francisco Food System Policy: Objectives, Policies, and Sample Actions – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Section 1 - Policy Intent

The Board of Supervisors recognizes that the City of San Francisco has specific responsibilities in creating a healthy food system. In San Francisco, this policy aims to put the City, all of its agencies, institutions and community partners on the path to creating and maintaining a sustainable food system with respect to specific goals. Through the San Francisco Food Systems Policy, the City aims to achieve the following:

1. Secure healthy and nutritious food for all residents regardless of economic means
2. Reduce the environmental impacts of food production, transportation, consumption, and disposal.
3. Support urban agriculture through the creation and maintenance of community, rooftop, school and kitchen gardens on arable City and County land.
4. Support regional agriculture through direct marketing to San Francisco
5. Form stronger urban-rural partnerships
6. Increase purchases of locally produced or sustainably produced food by all City and County Departments
7. Educate stakeholders and the general public on nutrition, cooking, and the values of a healthy food system

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Section 2 – San Francisco Food Systems Policy

The following shall be the food systems policy of San Francisco:

Objective 1: Eliminate hunger and improve the health and nutrition of all San Franciscans, including the most vulnerable

Policy 1.1 Maximize the value and the quality of federal nutrition programs

Sample Actions:

- Implement recommendations of the Food Security Task Force
- Create matching funds (private and public) for federal food programs (food stamps, WIC, National School Lunch)

Policy 1.2 New resources for nutritious food for vulnerable populations

Sample Actions:

- Create food enterprise zones in areas lacking healthy food retail

Policy 1.3 Promote healthy nutritional and food system choices

Sample Actions:

- Develop nutritional specifications for food purchased by City contractors using City funds.
- Develop specifications for healthy food in vending machines on city property

Policy 1.4. Educate residents on health, nutrition, food safety, sustainable food systems

Sample Actions:

- Develop a city website for public information about free and low cost food, sustainable food, food safety, urban agriculture, etc.
- Support community based nutrition and cooking programs.

Objective 2 Create a San Francisco food system that reduces the environmental impacts of food production, distribution, and processing.

Policy 2.1 To the extent feasible, food consumed in San Francisco purchased with City funds will come from local sources

Sample Actions:

- Require that all vendors doing business with City departments provide information on place of production and relevant certifications.
- Require that City departments include traceability and sustainability criteria in bidding specifications
- Establish timelines for increasing City purchases of locally produced and sustainably produced foods, including city-sponsored events and/or concessions.
- Establish criteria for determining which certification programs comply with the City's sustainability goals for food.

Policy 2.2. San Francisco agencies shall achieve composting and recycling levels set by the Department of Environment

Sample Actions:

- DOE will set up infrastructure to make composting available in city buildings.

Objective 3 Protect and enhance the regions farmland for the benefit of San Franciscans

Policy 3.1 Promote the use of City owned land for sustainable agricultural production.

Sample Actions:

- Support urban agriculture coordination activities including materials yard, tool lending library, and garden educator programs
- Assess city owned lands suitable for agricultural purposes
- Support the creation of agricultural incubator projects
- Ensure that all public schools have an educational garden

Policy 3.2 Support regional agriculture and preserve fertile farm lands

Sample Actions:

- Support the vendors in the San Francisco Produce terminal, especially those offering sustainably produced food
- Support pest detection and monitoring programs
- Establish an urban-rural roundtable to develop working and planning links between leaders from rural and urban communities;

Objective 4: Monitor progress

Policy 4.1 Submit regular progress reports on key variables

Sample Actions:

- Monitor and report progress on farmers market economic activity
- Monitor and report progress on City purchases of key locally produced and sustainably produced food products
- Monitor and report progress on the creation of matching funds for federal food programs.

