

LOS ANGELES FOOD POLICY TRACKER 2018

The Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy and the Los Angeles Food Policy Council actively follow Los Angeles food policy actions. In this Los Angeles Food Policy Tracker 2018, substantial policy actions undertaken at both the City and County level are identified. Specifically, the tracker documents policies that were adopted, administratively closed, or are currently pending during the time period from January 1, 2017 to July 1, 2018. The tracker is divided into three sections: City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Unified School District. Within each section, policy actions are listed alphabetically in rows. For each policy action, the acting body, the policy status, a food system classification, and a brief description are provided.

The tracker is updated and re-released as frequently as resources allow in order to monitor food policy developments in Los Angeles. This is the third Los Angeles Food Policy Tracker. The previous Los Angeles Food Policy Trackers documented food policy actions undertaken in Los Angeles from October 24th, 2012, when the City of Los Angeles made a significant food policy commitment in the form of adopting the Good Food Purchasing Pledge, to December 31, 2016.

JURISDICTION	ACTOR	FILE NO.	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	HYPERLINK
DEVELOP FOOD PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES / HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS AT CITY FACILITIES						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	11-1678	ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	On August 25, 2017, Councilmember Jose Huizar moved to request that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of other city departments as necessary, develop food procurement policies and practices that ensure the availability of healthy food options at city facilities. It was approved by the Health, Mental Health, and Education Committee, and adopted by City Council on May 9, 2017.	ADOPTED	Link
PROHIBIT FOOD PROVIDERS FROM DISPENSING PREPARED FOOD IN A POLYSTYRENE SERVICE CONTAINER						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	17-0002	ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	Noting that food containers made of polystyrene (more commonly referred to as Styrofoam) cannot be recycled, take decades or centuries to decompose in landfills, and is often broken down and carried to the oceans, where it poses a danger to marine animals, Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Bob Blumenfeld resolved to prohibit their use by food providers within city limits. This motion would comply with the zero waste goal set by RecycLA. This motion is currently pending in the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.	PENDING	Link
PROHIBIT THE GROWTH OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS WITHIN CITY LIMITS						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	13-1374	ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	On October 18, 2013, Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Mitch O'Farrell moved to request the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that would prohibit the growth of genetically modified crops within city limits. The City Attorney submitted a draft ordinance to City Council on November 11, 2014. On January 6, 2017, this file was administratively closed.	EXPIRED	Link

JURISDICTION	ACTOR	FILE NO.	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	HYPERLINK
PROCLAIM MAY 2017 "CALFRESH AWARENESS MONTH"						
L.A. COUNTY	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	17-1996	FOOD ACCESS & SECURITY	Supervisor Sheila Kuehl submitted a recommendation on May 2, 2017 to proclaim May 2017 as "CalFresh Awareness Month," urging all county employees and citizens to share information about CalFresh and good nutrition. The Board unanimously approved the motion.	ADOPTED	Link
STREET VENDING / SPECIAL SIDEWALK VENDING DISTRICT PROGRAM						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	13-1493	GOOD FOOD ECONOMY, LAND USE	On November 6, 2013, Councilmembers Jose Huizar and Curren D. Price moved for the City to adopt an ordinance that would permit food vending on sidewalks in Los Angeles. The motion resulted in the production of several reports by the Chief Legislative Analyst and the submission of various public communications and community impact statements. The Economic Development Committee held hearings, and then transmitted the council file to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee in October 2015. Councilmembers Joe Buscaino and Curren D. Price, as Chairs of the Economic Development Committee and Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee respectively, used the collected stakeholder input and jointly submitted for Council's consideration a sidewalk vending framework with recommendations. The Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee held a public hearing for the proposed framework on December 12, 2016 at which time they approved the framework proposed with recommendations for Council to establish an amnesty provision for existing sidewalk and vendor misdemeanors, and to direct the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer to research sidewalk vending policies and report as to how other cities take into consideration nearby businesses when issuing sidewalk vending permits. The report was submitted on November 3, 2017, recommending Business Tax Classification for street vendors, a small-business loan program by the Economic and Workforce Development Department, and prioritize hiring from WorkSource and YouthSource Centers. On November 8, 2017, the Economic Development Committee and Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee approved as amended.	PENDING	Link
FARMERS MARKETS / ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) CARDS						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	15-1511	FOOD ACCESS & SECURITY	On December 16, 2015, Councilmember Jose Huizar moved for the Department of Public Works to report on the City's authority to require EBT (CalFresh) access at farmers markets and develop a policy for monitoring and enforcing an EBT access requirement at farmers markets and requiring proof of EBT card acceptance when applying for a special events permit to operate a farmers market on City property. The Council adopted the motion on May 13, 2016. The City Attorney submitted a draft ordinance including an amendment to the municipal code requiring EBT card acceptance at farmers markets on City property or on City streets. The Department of Building and Safety also submitted a report which documented the procedure for issuing special event permits to farmers markets on private property to require markets to accept EBT cards as well. The Entertainment and Facilities	ADOPTED	Link

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				Committee approved the ordinance with these amendments on December 13, 2016. The motion was adopted on January 11, 2017.		
STRAWS-ON-REQUEST / ORDINANCE						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	18-0053	ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	On January 17, 2018, Councilmembers Mitch O'Farrell and Nury Martinez introduced a motion requiring restaurants and food-service providers to withhold plastic beverages straws unless requested by customers. It further instructed the Bureau of Sanitation to report on alternative straw options. It was approved by the Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee on April 17, 2018, and adopted by the Council on April 27, 2018.	ADOPTED	Link
PROCLAIM MARCH 2018 NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH						
L.A. COUNTY	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	18-0949	FOOD ACCESS & SECURITY	On March 13, 2018, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl introduced a motion to proclaim March 2018 as National Nutrition Month in L.A. County and to encourage all citizens to observe the month by participating in activities that promote reducing hunger and making informed food choices. The Board unanimously approved the motion.	ADOPTED	Link
FARMER MARKETS IN THE R (RESIDENTIAL) ZONE						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	10-1832	GOOD FOOD ECONOMY	On November 19, 2010, Councilmember Herb Wesson introduced a motion requesting that the Planning Department prepare a report on the feasibility of allowing farmers' markets to be permitted in residential zones, thus increasing potentially available sites and communities' access to fresh and healthy produce. Between 2011 and 2017, the Department of City Planning and the Planning and Land Use Management Committee submitted, reviewed, and approve several amendments to the original motion. Changes include the extension of allowable hours of operation and permission to use parking lots of institutions such as schools and churches as farmer's market sites. The Council adopted the measure on April 25, 2018.	ADOPTED	Link
URBAN AGRICULTURE INCENTIVE ZONE ORDINANCE FOR L.A. CITY						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	14-1378	URBAN AG, LAND USE	On October 8, 2014, City Councilmembers Felipe Fuentes and Curren Price introduced a motion for City Council to instruct the Department of City Planning and the Department of Building and Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare and present an ordinance establishing Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones in accordance with AB 551, which had been previously approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 5, 2016. The motion was referred to the Planning and Land Use Committee which approved the recommendation in the motion on May 6, 2015. On December 7, 2016, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission submitted a report with a proposed ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to add a definition for Urban Agricultural Incentive Zone and establish an Urban Agricultural Incentive Zone Program. The report was referred to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, which approved the item on February 28, 2017. The City Attorney submitted a report defining eligibility	ADOPTED	Link

JURISDICTION	ACTOR	FILE NO.	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	HYPERLINK
				criteria and contract provisions. These items were approved by City Council on June 20, 2017.		
GOOD FOOD PURCHASING GUIDELINES / STATUS OF DEPARTMENTS ADHERENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION / MAYORIAL DIRECTIVE NO. 24						
CITY OF L.A.	CITY COUNCIL	11-1678-S2	GOOD FOOD ECONOMY	On August 25, 2017, City Councilmembers David Ryu, Paul Koretz, and Mitch O'Farrell moved to instruct city departments to report on their adherence to the Good Food Purchasing Policy and Guidelines. They further moved that the Department of Aging report on the implementation of the guidelines, food provision contracts, and costs. The motion was amended by the Health, Education, and Neighborhood Councils Committee to request the reporting of all of the Department of Aging's purchasing data from all suppliers and the Council adopted the item on March 9, 2018. On May 17, 2018, the Department of Aging submitted a report detailing increased costs in producing meals that complied with the Good Food Purchasing Guidelines that were particularly burdensome for the non-profit kitchens and caterers that produce meals that are kosher, ethnically diverse, and culturally sensitive. The Center for Good Food Purchasing reviewed the report and submitted communication that the financial reporting was incomplete. The Health, Education, and Neighborhood Council Committee recommended the Department of Aging to submit a Fiscal Impact Statement for review by the Budget and Finance Committee. This motion was adopted by the Council on June 8, 2018. Reports from other city departments are still pending.	ADOPTED	Link
ENFORCING OF SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES TO STOP MARKETING OF JUNK FOOD TO STUDENTS						
L.A. UNIFIED	BOARD OF EDUCATION	RES. 077-16/17	GOOD FOOD ECONOMY	On March 14, 2017, the Board of Education approved a motion introduced by Board Member Steven Zimmer, restricting sponsorship by corporations that market, sell or produce products that may be harmful to children, including high fat and calorie foods and drinks. It directs the Superintendent to submit a plan with specific action steps to ensure teachers, students, and school administrators comply. It also directs the Superintendent to issue a letter to the McDonald's Corporation to stop hosting McTeacher's Nights, wherein L.A. Unified teachers promote and work at McDonald's restaurants to fundraise.	ADOPTED	Link
IN FAVOR OF VEGAN OPTIONS IN SCHOOL MENUS						
L.A. UNIFIED	BOARD OF EDUCATION	RES. 086-16/17	ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	On April 18, 2017, Board Member Scott Zimmer sponsored a resolution to ensure vegan meal options are available at select Los Angeles schools beginning in August 2017. The resolution was unanimously passed by the Board. This resolution was introduced to address dietary preferences and sensitivities, a sustainable solution to the ecological burden of animal agriculture, and the health benefits of increasing fruit and vegetable consumption and reducing meat and dairy. As of December 2017, the vegan lunch options were added to an additional 35 schools.	ADOPTED	Link

ABOUT THIS TRACKER

Methodology

To collect data for this tracker, the Resnick Program monitored relevant policy issues and conducted systemic term searches in the following data sources: [LACityClerk Connect](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), and [LACity.org](#) search engines, and evaluated the results for their relevance. The following search terms were used: “food,” “agriculture,” “gardening,” “vending,” “soda,” “meals,” “farm,” “grocery,” “hunger,” “nutrition,” “fruit,” “vegetable,” “seed,” and “food policy.” Searches were also conducted on the [County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors](#), [Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education](#), [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#), and [Los Angeles Mayor’s Office](#) websites.

Based on the categories used in the [LA Food System Snapshot](#), a data report drafted by the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, these policies were sorted into the five following categories: food economy, urban agriculture, environment and sustainability, land use, and food security and access. These terms are explained in the following table. Policies in this tracker account for substantial policy announcements, proposals, or changes by governmental bodies that fall under at least one of the five categories listed above. Policies regarding drug or alcohol regulation, ceremonial renaming, commendatory resolutions, permit or grant approvals, or statements of support for federal or state food policy issues, legislation, or proposals are not included in this tracker. Given the volume of activity on matters related to food policy, this tracker may be under-inclusive. Suggestions for additions to tracker, or other feedback, can be sent to resnickprogram@ucla.law.edu. To learn more about food policy in Los Angeles, or to get involved, contact the Los Angeles Food Policy Council at info@goodfoodla.org.

FOOD ECONOMY	Policies that impact food business development, social enterprise, and demand for food through procurement.
URBAN AG	Policies that consider urban agriculture like zoning amendments, water use policy, health and safety regulations, business licenses, and other considerations.
LAND USE	Policies that amend zoning or change regulations that deal with how space may be used in a way that allows or hinders greater access to food.
FOOD ACCESS & SECURITY	Policies that increase or decrease access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food and address the physical, economic, or other barriers that prevent food access.
ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY	Policies that impact the environment, food waste, use and stewardship of land, and conservation.

PRODUCTION

Research

Ellison Griep

Graphic Design

Rudi Vanzin

ABOUT THE RESNICK PROGRAM FOR FOOD LAW & POLICY

The Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy studies and advances breakthrough solutions for improving the modern food system. Based at UCLA Law, the Resnick Program is a national think tank focused on developing key legal and policy strategies, timely research, and practical tools to foster a food system that benefits both consumers and the environment. Covering a wide range of local, national, and global food policy topics and issues, the program seeks solutions in support of a food system that embodies the values of equity, transparency, and good governance and that yields improved health and sustainability outcomes for all through:

- Law and Policy Research and Education
- Leadership Development & Student Training
- Creating Practical Solutions for Food System Challenges

<https://law.ucla.edu/centers/social-policy/resnick-program-for-food-law-and-policy/>

Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy, UCLA School of Law, 385 Charles E. Young Drive East, Los Angeles, California 90095

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ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

The Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC) is a collective impact initiative, working to make Southern California a Good Food region for everyone—where food is healthy, affordable, fair and sustainable.

Through policy creation and cooperative relationships, our goals are to reduce hunger, improve public health, increase equity in our communities, create good jobs, stimulate local economic activity, and foster environmental stewardship. In particular, the LAFPC aims to connect environmental sustainability and local agriculture with efforts to expand access to healthy food in historically disenfranchised communities.

<http://goodfoodla.org/>

Los Angeles Food Policy Council, 305 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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