

# Food Service

1 point

FS Credit 1.1

## Sustainable Food Policy and Plan

### Intent

Create, promote and implement sustainable food purchasing policies and plans that support human and ecological health.

### Health Issues

Shifts in the U.S. food system over the last century are compromising human and ecological health. While total farm acreage has declined, farm size has increased and is more focused on concentrated monocropping. This contributes to declining diversity of food crops necessary to fulfill human nutritional needs, while also leading to a loss of biodiversity. In the U.S., the typical food item now travels from 1,500 to 2,400 miles from farm to plate. This long travel distance disconnects growers from consumers, increases opportunities for food contamination and nutrient loss.

Routine use of antibiotics in animal agriculture has been shown to increase antibiotic resistance among bacteria that cause human infections. Pesticide drift, field dust, waste burning, toxic gases from degrading manure, and diesel exhaust from transporting food long distances are all factors related to food production that contribute to asthma, cardiovascular disease and lung cancer. Commercial fertilizers and pesticides contaminate surface- and ground-water in many locales. Large-scale animal feedlot operations contribute to water pollution with biologically active hormones, nitrates and other breakdown products of untreated animal waste. Calorie-rich, nutrient-poor diets contribute to obesity, diabetes, cancer, and a variety of degenerative diseases. By moving toward a healthier and more sustainable food system, health care can help alleviate human health problems associated with inadequate or inappropriate nutrition, antibiotic resistance, air and water contamination, and global health issues such as climate change.

### Credit Goals

Develop and implement a **Sustainable Food Policy** according to one of the following options:

#### OPTION 1

- Identify support from key stakeholders as indicated through involvement or sign-off.
- Adopt and implement a food policy vision statement that links desired outcomes and values of the program to the institution's broader mission by addressing key issues in the food system affecting the health of individuals, communities and the environment, including:
  - Antibiotic Resistance
  - Air and Water Pollution
  - Worker Health and Safety

OR

#### OPTION 2

- Adopt and implement Health Care Without Harm's *Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge*.

## FS Credit 1.1 continued

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### Sustainable Food Policy and Plan

AND

Develop a **Sustainable Food Plan** with the following minimum components:

- Strategies for execution aligned with Food Service Credits 2-7 (e.g., working with current or alternative suppliers, giving purchasing preference to certified and local foods (defined for the purposes of this credit as sourced from within a 200-mile radius), developing an on-site farmers market, holding seminars).
- Goals indicating what metrics will be tracked and how success will be defined.
- Action plan establishing expectations of everyone involved in implementation (e.g., both in-house and contracted food service staff).
- Evaluation plan that specifies a means and process for evaluating effectiveness and for making adjustments to the plan when necessary.

## FS Credit 1.1 continued

### Sustainable Food Policy and Plan

#### Suggested Documentation

Develop and annually review a written sustainable food policy and plan in accordance with Credit Goals.

Compile and annually update evidence that the policy and plan have undergone an internal approval process by both food service and institutional leadership.

#### Reference Standard

Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge: <http://www.noharm.org/us/food/pledge>

#### Potential Strategies and Technologies

- **Credit Synergies:** *Coordinate implementation of this credit with GGHC IO Prerequisite 1: Integrated Operations & Maintenance Process; GGHC SSM Credit 1: Site Management; GGHC SSM Credit 2: Reduced Site Disturbance; GGHC SSM Credit 5: Connection to the Natural World; GGHC WM Prerequisite 1: Waste Management Plan; GGHC WM Prerequisite 2: Waste Generation Profile and Measurement; GGHC ES Credit 1.1-1.2: Environmentally Preferable Cleaning: Policy Development; GGHC ES Credit 3: Indoor Integrated Pest Management; GGHC FS Credit 2: Sustainable Food Education and Promotion; GGHC FS Credit 3: Local, Sustainably Produced Food Purchasing; GGHC FS Credit 4: Reusable & Non-Reusable Products; GGHC FS Credit 5: Hospital Supported Agriculture: Food and Farm Linkages; GGHC FS Credit 6.1: Food Donation and Composting; GGHC FS Credit 6.2: Food Services Recycling; GGHC FS Credit 7: Food Vendors; GGHC FS Credit 8: Chemical Management for Food Services.*
- RFP and Contract language for contractors and suppliers that clearly incorporate the expectations laid out in the policy.
- A sustainable food policy and plan may encompass a wide array of an institution's food-related sustainability initiatives. These may include, but are not limited to, purchasing of sustainable foods, beverages and bio-based service ware, community initiatives supporting food connections, use of reusable service ware, and education and promotion for these efforts. A food policy and plan will guide the activities related to the other points available under the Food Credit.
- Follow best practices for establishing a successful policy as outlined in the Green Guide for Health Care Food Technical Brief (<http://www.gghc.org>).

## FS Credit 1.1 continued

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### Sustainable Food Policy and Plan

#### Resources

Catholic Health Care West Food and Nutrition Services Vision Statement,  
<http://www.foodalliance.org/sustainablefoodpolicy/samples/Catholic%20Healthcare%20West%20Vision%20Statement.pdf>

Jamie Harvie, Michelle Gottlieb, Roberta Anderson, and Marie Kulick, *Green Guide for Health Care* Food Technical Brief, <http://www.gghc.org>

Health Care Without Harm, Healthy Food Workgroup, <http://healthyfoodinhealthcare.org>

Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge: <http://www.noharm.org/us/food/pledge>

Kaiser Permanente's Comprehensive Food Policy (2006),  
<http://www.foodalliance.org/sustainablefoodpolicy/kaise/Kaiser%20Permanente%20Comprehensive%20Food%20Policy%202006.pdf>

The Sustainable Food Policy Project, <http://www.sustainablefoodpolicy.org>