



# Food Policy: A Pathway to Sustainability

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Emma Sirois, MS

HCWH Program Director

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility



# Presentation Goals

- ✓ **Sustainable Food Systems and Policy Approaches**
- ✓ **Institutional Policies**
- ✓ **Association Policies**
- ✓ **Legislative Policies**

# Sustainable Food Defined

A **sustainable food system** is one in which the **environmental, social, and economic** impacts of our decisions both sustain the needs of the current generation and allow for future generations to do the same.

## **Sustainable foods are:**

- ⊗ Produced, processed, stored and transported with the minimization of non-renewable energy use
- ⊗ Produced and handled in a way that supports strong regional economies
- ⊗ Healthy as part of a balanced diet and not containing harmful biological or chemical contaminants
- ⊗ Fairly or cooperatively traded between producers, processors, retailers, and consumers
- ⊗ Non-exploiting of employees in the food sector in terms of rights, pay and conditions
- ⊗ Environmentally beneficial or benign in production and processing
- ⊗ Accessible both in terms of geographic access and affordability
- ⊗ High animal welfare standards in both production and transport
- ⊗ Socially inclusive of all people in society
- ⊗ Encouraging knowledge and understanding of food and food culture

# Healthy Food in Healthcare

As places of healing, hospitals have a natural incentive to provide food that's healthy for people and the environment in which we live.

Food supply can be met in a variety of ways which have consequences in terms of nutrition, disease risk, public health, environmental health, social and economic well being.

These are linked in complex ways. From the way food is grown, to the way it's packaged, shipped, consumed and discarded, **hospitals' food purchasing decisions can play an important role, both directly and indirectly, in our ecological health.**

# Oregon Healthy Food in Healthcare

- ⚙ Roundtables
- ⚙ Working Groups
- ⚙ Direct Technical Assistance
- ⚙ Policies and Action Plans
- ⚙ Case Studies
- ⚙ Policy Advocacy



# Hospital *Sustainable* Food Policies

- ☼ Health Care Without Harm is working with hospitals to adopt food procurement **policies** that:
  - ☼ provide **nutritionally improved** food for patients, staff, visitors, and the general public, and
  - ☼ create food systems which are **ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible**.
- ☼ By adopting food procurement **policies** that are **ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible**, health care systems demonstrate an understanding of the **inextricable links between human, public, and ecosystem health**.

# Healthy Food in Healthcare Pledge

## A Pledge for fresh, local, sustainable food.

- ☼ The Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge is a framework that outlines steps to be taken by the health care industry to improve the health of patients, communities and the environment.
- ☼ Over 250 facilities from across the US have signed the Pledge.

## Healthy Food in Health Care

A Pledge for Fresh, Local,  
Sustainable Food



“We pledge to encourage our vendors...to supply us with food that is, among other attributes, produced without synthetic pesticides and hormones or antibiotics given to animals in the absence of diagnosed disease....”

# Green Guide for Health Care – Food Service Credits

## FS Credit 1.1: Sustainable Food Policy Plan

FS Credit 1.2: Nutrition

FS Credit 2: Sustainable Food Education and  
Promotion

FS Credit 3: Local, Sustainably Produced Food  
Purchasing

FS Credit 4: Reusable & Non-Reusable Products

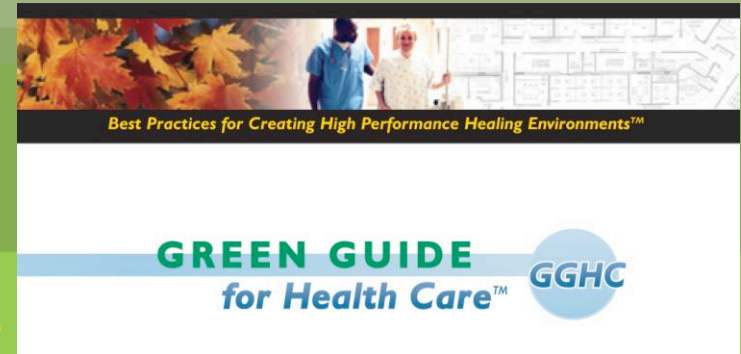
FS Credit 5: Hospital Supported Agriculture:  
Food and Farm Linkages

FS Credit 6.1: Food Donation and Composting

FS Credit 6.2: Food Services Recycling

FS Credit 7: Food Vendors

FS Credit 8: Chemical Management for Food  
Services



# Sample: Policy Vision Statement

Hospital Food and Nutrition Services department is committed to adopting operational practices that:

- ⦿ Integrate health, research and service through ethically sound practices, doing no harm.
- ⦿ Prevent disease and promote health and healing, based on scientific research.
- ⦿ Provide educational services to patients, staff, visitors, and the general public.
- ⦿ Establish ecologically sound , economically viable and socially responsible principles.
- ⦿ Demonstrate an understanding of the inextricable links between human, public and ecosystem health.

# Sample: Procurement Policy - Poultry

**Ultimate goal:** Certified Sustainable ,  
Certified Humane, regionally purchase

☼ 1<sup>st</sup> priority: Food Alliance

☼ Next : Organic

☼ Next : No non-therapeutic abx used- in feed or water (or injected)

☼ Next : No arsenic in feed or water

☼ Next : “Certified Humane Raised and Handled”  
or “Animal Welfare Approved”

☼ Next : Regionally Grown

# Association Policies

- ☼ American Medical Association: **Resolution Supporting Sustainable Food System, 2009**
- ☼ American Public Health Association: **Resolution Towards a Healthy Sustainable Food System ,2007**
- ☼ American Nurses Association: **Resolution for Healthy Food in Health Care, 2008**

## **Importance:**

- ☼ Provide authority for action in healthcare facilities/practice
- ☼ Provide practical guidance and resources for implementation
- ☼ Deliver unified healthcare voice to decision and policy makers

# Legislative Policy: Antibiotic Overuse in Agriculture

## Issue: **Confined Animal Feeding Operations: CAFOs**

- ⊗ Require constant use of non-therapeutic antibiotics to prevent disease outbreaks in confined spaces
- ⊗ Factory farms emphasize high volume and profit
- ⊗ Produce millions of animals yearly
- ⊗ Often result in inhumane treatment of animals
- ⊗ Produce 1.3 billion tons of waste/year



# Protecting the Antibiotic Toolkit

- ☼ Support the Preservation of Antibiotics Medical Treatment Act
- ☼ Stop the routine use of non-therapeutic antibiotics and keep antibiotics working for human therapy and sick animals.
- ☼ Sign-on Letter



[www.protectantibiotics.org](http://www.protectantibiotics.org)



# CleanMed2010

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## SAVE THE DATE!



