

# GOOD FOOD CAMPUS COMMITMENT



We, the undersigned representatives of \_\_\_\_\_, are committed to ensuring that our campus makes healthy, just, and sustainable food available to all students by providing affordable and accessible food that upholds the pillars of Good Food: Community-Based, Socially Just, Ecologically Sound, and Humane.

To achieve this goal, we commit to purchasing 20% Good Food by 2025, while making Good Food more affordable and accessible for all students, recognizing that:

- Student wellbeing and success are dependent on the ability to to eat with dignity, and access nutritious and culturally appropriate food. However, student food insecurity is prevalent, and in response, our campus must work to make Good Food more affordable and accessible for all;
- Students are concerned about the impact that their food choices have on their wellbeing, communities, food producers, the planet, and our shared future. As campuses that control food options on campus, we are responsible for ensuring that students have access to food that upholds their values, as well as our campus' institutional values of sustainability and corporate social responsibility;
- Campuses have a unique opportunity as thought leaders for innovation, critical thinking, and societal change, as well as large purchasing power that could positively influence our food systems to be more equitable, healthy, and just for consumers, producers, and the planet. Our campus has the responsibility to use this position and privilege to drive positive change and impact throughout the food system; and
- This Good Food Campus Commitment places our campus at the leading edge of innovation and influence within the wider food system, and that this Commitment brings us into alignment with leading institutions across the world.

Accordingly, upon signing the Commitment, we commit our campus to taking the following steps in pursuit of increasing access to Good Food on campus:

1. Annually increasing procurement of Good Food that is Community-Based, Socially Just, Ecologically Sound, and Humane, as defined by the **Good Food Guide** and measured by the **Good Food Calculator** - so as to meet or exceed 20% of total annual budget spent on food by 2025;
2. Forming a **Good Food Campus Committee** (comprised of students, staff, faculty, food service managers, and food service workers) responsible for developing and coordinating the implementation of the Commitment;
3. Making Good Food more affordable and accessible for all students, and working with the student leaders on the Committee and your student union to co-create the solutions that work best for your campus (Ex. affordable Good Food meals in the cafeteria, food plan bursaries, affordable produce markets or boxes, free meal programs, etc);

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4. Developing meaningful relationships with Indigenous organizations on campus in order to identify how the campus can promote the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous voices in campus food decisions and programs, including on the Committee;
5. Confirming with relevant parties that the Commitment has been signed, and that all contracts with distributors, food service providers and on-campus vendors may be amended in future RFP or renewal processes to align with the Commitment and Multi-Year Action Plan;
6. Within one month of signing the Commitment, submitting an **Implementation Strategy** to Meal Exchange for approval, as a high-level overview of the Campus' Commitment and timeline (see the Campus Guide for instructions);
7. Developing and managing a comprehensive **Multi-Year Action Plan** with annual benchmarks, reported on annually to Meal Exchange through the **Annual Progress Report**, and made publicly available online. If food services are externally operated, these reports should be completed in partnership with campus staff;
8. Establishing a transparent reporting system by facilitating a student-led assessment of campus food procurement, using the Good Food Calculator every two years;
9. Releasing, in collaboration with Meal Exchange, a substantive communication piece announcing the signature of the Commitment and subsequent pieces celebrating ongoing efforts;
10. Building support for Good Food across the country by encouraging our colleagues at peer institutions to join this effort and adopt the Commitment; and
11. Increasing awareness about Community-Based, Socially Just, Ecologically Sound, and Humane food systems on campus through co-curricular activities, cafeteria-based education, and other appropriate means.

Signatories:

President / Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Student Organizations:

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# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE GOOD FOOD CAMPUS COMMITMENT



## Signing the Good Food Campus Commitment

1. Core values integral to the Commitment include student involvement, collaboration, and reforming contracts to prioritize values of social justice and sustainability. By becoming a signatory of the Commitment, and throughout its implementation, institutions become champions of both the letter and spirit of these values.
2. The Commitment must be signed by at least three parties:
  - The most senior campus decision-maker, such as the President or Principal;
  - A Secondary Signatory who is a campus staff person that will directly oversee and participate in the implementation process, such as a Director of Ancillary Services, Director of Food Services, or equivalent; and
  - At least one student organization, such as a student government representative, Meal Exchange chapter coordinator, or other relevant club coordinator.
3. The Campus signs the Commitment and submits a signed copy to Meal Exchange ([gfc@mealexchange.com](mailto:gfc@mealexchange.com)).

## Support from Meal Exchange

- Meal Exchange provides campuses that sign the Commitment the following support:
- Review of the Campus' Implementation Strategy, Multi-year Action Plan, and Annual Progress Reports;
- Instructions and resources to support Campus implementation of the Commitment, outlined in the Campus Guide;
- Connections to peer institutions that are also signatories, businesses that provide Good Food, and other organizations advocating for Good Food;
- Access to participate in the Good Food Coalition, which is a national forum comprised of food systems experts, non-profits, and other key actors influencing our food systems at a macro-level in support of Good Food For All;
- Ability to participate in the Food Services Working Group, which is a group of food service providers and sustainability office staff who meet semi-regularly to share insights on their Good Food procurement achievements and barriers;
- Individual support from Good Food Challenge program staff in implementing the Commitment and developing solutions;
- Training and supervision of students, including researchers running the Good Food Calculator and leaders on the Good Food Campus Committee;
- Access for students to learning opportunities and a national network of students; and
- Opportunities to promote your Campus' commitment to Good Food (Ex. media, marketing materials, events etc).

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE GOOD FOOD CAMPUS COMMITMENT



## Defining Good Food

For the purposes of assessment and tracking, Good Food is defined by the certifications and other criteria found in the most recent version of the Good Food Guide. The Good Food Calculator organizes these criteria into four pillars: Community-Based, Socially Just, Ecologically Sound, and Humane. Items that meet the standards of any one of the four pillars and are not otherwise disqualified are counted. For example, a Fair Trade Certified beverage would be considered Good Food under the Socially-just pillar.

## Inclusion in Contracts

Distributors and foodservice management companies are essential partners in the successful implementation of the Commitment. RFP and contract renewal processes are therefore important mechanisms for aligning an institution's procurement criteria and expectations with the transparency, purchasing and educational targets mandated by the Commitment. Good Food language in contracts further establishes accountability measures and a way for Good Food policies to be institutionalized. Refer to the Campus Guide for recommendations on how to include Good Food in RFPs and contracts.

## Student Involvement

The Committee convenes a wide variety of stakeholders to make decisions about campus food and provides a forum student leadership. Students are uniquely positioned to educate the campus community about Good Food and to rally support around new campus initiatives, making their active participation critical to successful implementation of the Commitment. Furthermore, by employing students to conduct the Good Food Calculator, schools complete an essential step in the Commitment process while also giving students an opportunity to conduct research on just and sustainable food systems.

## Campus and Researcher Guides

Upon signing the Commitment, campuses will be given access to the Campus Guide, which contains detailed instructions on implementing the Good Food Challenge and supporting document templates. See the Campus Guide for a glossary of key terms listed in this document.

Students running the Good Food Calculator will be provided with a Research Guide, which contains detailed instructions and a toolkit of resources to complete the assessment.