

LOCAL FOOD PROCUREMENT POLICY PROJECT UPDATE

2019 NEW ENGLAND FARM TO INSTITUTION SUMMIT

APRIL 4, 2019

Farm to Institution New England (FINE) and the **Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School (CAFS)** are collaborating to identify and analyze state institutional local food procurement policies across New England. Students enrolled in CAFS' Food and Agriculture Clinic are researching relevant state policies and conducting interviews with key stakeholders to gain an understanding of the success and challenges related to each state's local food procurement policies. Interviewees include university procurement specialists, government representatives, community organizers, and food producers across the New England states. The project focuses on demand-side policies that impact food purchasers, and includes relevant information on additional initiatives that enhance producers' capacity to meet institutional purchasing demands. The information from the project will be organized into six state policy snapshots, as well as a final cumulative report that will compare and analyze best practices throughout New England.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS:

- State policies have the most significant impact when they include specific timelines and metrics for accomplishing goals.
- Existing procurement structures and customs, such as going through distributors to purchase large volumes and reduce the need to coordinate with multiple vendors, create efficiencies and savings for purchasers. However, these same practices can limit the effectiveness of state law, such as price preference policies that mandate local purchasing.
- Policies such as small- and micro-purchase thresholds can simplify procurement of locally grown foods. However, their utility is limited when institutional logistics -- including around staffing, processing, and distribution -- make it impractical for institutions to utilize these policies. Moreover, demand-side local procurement initiatives are not always applicable to the capacity and operational realities of small scale producers, processors, and distributors in our region.
- In the absence of impactful state law, state agency advocates, institutions, community groups, and local government are advancing innovative strategies to increase institutional procurement of local food.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Policy snapshots summarizing our analysis of local food procurement policy for each of the six New England states will be completed in late April, 2019. FINE and CAFS will host a virtual conversation to discuss initial snapshot findings, answer questions, and solicit input on April 23. In addition to the snapshots, FINE and CAFS will produce a report evaluating regional trends by the end of Summer 2019. Once complete, FINE and CAFS will host a webinar to share research findings and will make all materials available on the FINE and CAFS websites.

We welcome insights into how state institutional local procurement laws affect you, and any other input you have to share on the project.

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LIST OF NEW ENGLAND'S CODIFIED LOCAL PROCUREMENT LAWS

CONNECTICUT:

- [Gen. Stat. § 22-456](#) (1997)*
Connecticut Food Policy Council
- [Gen. Stat. § 4a-51](#) (2004)*
State agency local purchasing preference
- [Gen. Stat. § 22-38a](#) (2004)*
Connecticut-Grown Certification program
- [Gen. Stat. § 22-38D](#) (2006)
Farm to school program and Connecticut-Grown for Connecticut Kids Week
- [Gen. Stat. § 10-215j](#) (2016)
School local purchasing preference
- [Gen. Stat. § 4a-57](#) (2016)
Small purchase threshold
- [Gen. Stat. § 10-215D](#) (2016)
School nutrition guidelines update to align with farm to school policy

MASSACHUSETTS:

- [Gen. L. Ch. 30B § 4d](#) (2006)*
Local food purchasing threshold
- [Gen. L. Ch. 7 § 23B](#) (2006)*
Price preference for local products
- [Gen. L. Ch 2. 20 § 6C](#) (2010)
Massachusetts Food Policy Council
- [Gen. L. Ch. 6 § 15BBBBBB](#) (2016)
Farm to school month

RHODE ISLAND:

- [Gen. L. § 37-2-8](#) (1989)
Local purchasing preference
- [Gen. L. § 37-2-22](#) (1989)*
Local food procurement threshold
- [Gen. L. § 21-4.1-8](#) (1992)
Local purchasing preference for in-state milk producers and distributors
- [Gen. L. § 44-30-27](#) (2007)
Income tax credit for purchases of produce grown in-state
- [Gen. L. § 21-36-4](#) (2012)
Inter-Agency Food & Nutrition Policy Advisory Council

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

- [Rev. Stat. Ann § 21-I:11-b](#) (2010)*
Local business preference
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. § 425:2-A](#) (2014)*
Granite State Farm to Plate Program

MAINE:

- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 7 c 8-A sub-c 1 § 211](#) (1983)
Local purchasing preference
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 7 c 8-A sub-c 1 § 213](#) (1983)
Local food preference for state agencies and schools
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 7 c 8-A sub-c 1 § 214](#) (1983)*
Local food coordinator and supporting advisory committee
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 5 c. 155 sub-c. 1-A § 1825-B](#) (1989)*
Small purchase threshold
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 7 c 8-A sub-c 2\(3\) § 219\(3\)](#) (2015)
Local food preference for elderly or low-income persons enrolled in benefits programs
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 20-A sub-c 7 § 6602\(12\)](#) (2001)*
Grant program for local food purchasing in schools
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 20-A sub-c 7 § 6602\(13\)](#) (2015)
Grant program for staff training to increase school local food procurement
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 20-A sub-c 7 § 6602\(15\)](#) (2015)
Program to recognize creative and effective use of local food products
- [Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 7 c. 8-A, sub-c. 3 § 220](#) (2017)
Promotion of local foods procurement

VERMONT:

- [6 V.S.A. §§ 4719-4724](#) (2007)*
Roza Mclaughlin Farm-to-school Program; includes a local foods grant program, technical assistance from the Department of Education, and a supporting position at the Agency of Agriculture
- [10 V.S.A. § 330](#) (2009)*
Farm-to-Plate Investment Program
- [29 V.S.A § 909](#) (2011)
Local purchasing preference
- [16 V.S.A. § 559](#) (2017)*
Small purchase threshold

*Indicates that amendments have occurred since the initial enactment of the legislation, or that the date listed is the date in which local procurement language was inserted into an existing law.

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www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/centers-and-programs/center-for-agriculture-and-food-systems