

MOTION

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The popularity of vegan food is exploding worldwide for a variety of reasons including greenhouse gas emission reduction, animal welfare, and air and water quality issues associated with industrial/agricultural meat production. There is also growing awareness of the positive human health impacts of plant-based diets; and the increasing availability of highly palatable vegan food in restaurants and food stores.

According to a recent survey, "Top Trends in Prepared Foods 2017," there has been a 600 percent increase from 2014 to 2017 in the number of Americans who identify as vegan. The global market for vegan alternatives to cow's milk is expected to reach \$16.3 billion in 2018.

A vegan lifestyle has become so popular that most restaurants know that they need to offer vegan meals. Grubhub recently named vegan food the "hottest delivery trend" and the National Restaurant Association President has said, "Any restaurant that does not serve vegan food is burning money. Everyone knows that the vegan chooses where the group eats."

Co-working company WeWork recently affirmed its identity as a leading sustainable business by banning meat from its events and no longer reimbursing employee meals containing meat - noting that the policy would save "an estimated 16.7 billion gallons of water, 445.1 million pounds of CO₂ emissions, and over 15 million animals by 2023.

The City of Los Angeles has become well-known as environmentally conscious and has embraced vegan living. According to the longtime online vegan restaurant and store guide, Happy Cow, the City has over 400 vegan businesses. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) ranked the City number one on its list of the Top 10 Vegan-Friendly Cities.

The City's Good Food Purchasing Policy - which supports City departments in procuring nutritious, sustainable, fair, local and humane food - promotes vegan meal options as a best practice for meeting the following standards: animal welfare, environmental sustainability and nutrition.

The Oakland Unified School District achieved the 3 star level of the Good Food Purchasing Program and realized cost savings by offering more vegan and plant-based options. Additionally, in 2012, the City Council approved a Meatless Mondays resolution encouraging Angelenos to reduce their consumption of meat.

Vegan eating is an effective lifestyle change which the University of Oxford found would have the greatest possible impact on the environment. In the United States alone, if more people adopted plant-based eating, it could cut greenhouse-gas emissions from food sources by nearly 70 percent.

In addition, animal-based agriculture is not sustainable. On average, it provides just 18 percent of caloric intake, but uses 83 percent of available farmland, while causing 60 percent of agriculture's harmful greenhouse-gas emissions.

Global farmland use could be reduced by more than 75 percent - an area equivalent to the size of Australia, China, the European Union and the U.S. combined - and still feed the entire world, if everyone went vegan.

Even the "lowest impact" beef, such as that from grass-fed cows, is still responsible for six times more greenhouse-gas emissions and 36 times more land use than raising legumes. According to the United Nations, a global shift toward vegan eating is necessary to combat the worst effects of climate change.

Yet not all of the entertainment venues citywide, nor the City's facilities and concessionaires, including some at Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), provide vegan protein options in their menus. Nearly 85 million travelers passed through LAX last year. Conservatively, if 6% of people are vegan, then up to 5 million people passing through LAX are seeking high-quality plant-based food options.

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As an international leader in health, food, environmental and animal rights policy, the City should ensure that vegan protein options are widely available to meet the needs of all. City departments can improve their standing within the City's Good Food Purchasing Program by reducing meat from menus and offering more vegan and plant-based options.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Zoo and other relevant departments be directed to report back in 45 days on the vegan protein entrée options available at City concessionaire locations; and ways to ensure that these options are available on an ongoing basis.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Aging be directed to report back in 45 days on the vegan protein entrée food options available for the Meals on Wheels program, food programs for seniors, ways to ensure that these options will be available on an ongoing basis, and the cost savings for doing so.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) be requested to report back in 45 days on the feasibility of adding food concessionaires to each terminal with a plant-based menu; and of having all other restaurants at LAX provide, at a minimum, one easily-identifiable vegan protein entrée.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, Department of Recreation and Parks, the Zoo and the City Attorney report back on drafting an ordinance to require movie theaters and large-scale entertainment venues in the City, which provide food for sale, provide at a minimum one vegan protein entrée food option on their menus.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL