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SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR A CHANGING WORLD

## Local Food in Your Institution and the Community

The growing economy of local food is being supported by institutions across the country. Northeast Ohio institutions are realizing the benefits of connecting with students, faculty, staff, and the local community through food. Supporting local food embraces all of the traditional components of sustainability through enhancing social, environmental and economic interests in communities. Recently, a few NEO institutions have gone the extra mile to bring exciting markets, urban and rural farming, and better health to their organizations.

For example:

- Cleveland State University started the "CSU Earth 2 U Farmer's Market" on Thursdays through a partnership with North Union Farmer's Markets. All farmers are local with certified soil and food through the OSU extension. All of the food sold is picked or produced fresh and sold directly from the individual farmers. Collaboration has occurred with CSU, Playhouse Square, and other local businesses. The market was initially student- and faculty-driven and is primarily supported through CSU's Health and Wellness budget as part of the campus Sustainability Plan. <http://www.csuohio.edu/news/releases/2010/04/14814.html>
- Oberlin College has the "Farm to Fork" program and a partnership with George Jones Farm since 2001. In 2006, 30% of the total food on campus was purchased locally within 150 miles of campus and that percentage continues to grow. The farm also serves as an educational outreach center and place for student and community involvement in the local food growing process. <http://www.oberlin.edu/cds/social/LocalFoods.html>

The support of local farms and food through the creation of new farmer's markets and sustainable food purchasing policies continues to increase countrywide with many NEO institutions taking the lead. The reconnection of students, faculty, and communities to the food process is a great way to build strong relationships across institutions and healthier, more sustainable campuses and communities. Start on the path toward sustainability through the creation of local food purchasing policies or provide a place for people to make healthier choices for the planet and themselves

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Affinity Consultants, Inc. can also assist your institution on its road to sustainability by conducting detailed sustainability assessments, greenhouse gas inventories, cross-sectional committee implementation, development of a sustainability programs, climate action plans, and reporting activities.

For more information or to discuss other sustainability planning options, please contact Affinity Consultants, Inc. at anytime. We look forward to working with you!

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