

# Plant-Based Menu Policy for Environmental Organizations

## 1. Policy Overview

*[Organization Name]* is dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability, animal welfare, and healthier communities. As part of our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, supporting ethical practices, and fostering a compassionate lifestyle, we have adopted a plant-based menu policy for all of our events, fundraisers, and internal functions. This policy reflects our dedication to reducing our ecological footprint, promoting sustainable food systems, and encouraging food choices that contribute to a more sustainable and compassionate world for all.

## 2. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all food and beverages served at:

- Fundraising events and community outreach events
- Volunteer gatherings and internal meetings
- Catering for special events (such as environmental education days, staff training, etc.)
- Breakrooms and other workplace food offerings
- Other public-facing events hosted or supported by the organization

The policy covers meals and beverages provided directly by the organization.

## 3. Definition of Plant-Based

For the purposes of this policy, "plant-based" means that all food and beverages served will be free from animal products, including:

- Meat, poultry, and seafood
- Dairy products (milk, cheese, yogurt, etc.)
- Eggs
- Honey
- Any other animal-derived ingredients or by-products (e.g., gelatin, rennet, etc.)

All meals and beverages served at organization-sponsored events will be made from plant-based ingredients such as fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, nuts, seeds, and other plant-derived products.

## 4. Objectives

- **Promote Environmental Sustainability:** By choosing plant-based foods, we reduce the environmental burden associated with animal agriculture, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and land depletion.

- **Support Animal Welfare:** This policy reflects our commitment to animal welfare by eliminating the use of animal products and preventing the exploitation of animals for food.
- **Encourage Healthier Communities:** Offering plant-based meals encourages individuals to explore food choices that are more sustainable and beneficial to health, reduces zoonotic disease and detrimental health risks caused by animal agriculture pollution, and supports a culture of well-being and responsibility.

## 5. Implementation Guidelines

- **Menu Planning:** All meals for internal and external events, including fundraising events, volunteer gatherings, and educational activities, must be plant-based. Event planners or catering teams are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.
- **Vendor Coordination:** We will collaborate with catering services and food vendors who specialize in or are willing to offer plant-based menus that meet our policy requirements.
- **Educational Support:** We will offer educational information on the benefits of plant-based eating to event participants, volunteers, and supporters, to help raise awareness and understanding of the organization's plant-based policy as needed.

## 6. Exceptions

- **Donated or Third-Party Food:** The plant-based menu policy applies solely to food purchased using organizational funds and does not extend to in-kind donations or third-party contributions. While we encourage plant-based options, we recognize that donated food may not always comply with the policy. We will work with event partners and donors to communicate our preferences and prioritize plant-based choices where possible.
- **Special Dietary Needs:** If certain dietary needs (for volunteers, staff, or event attendees) cannot be met with plant-based options, reasonable exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. However, plant-based options will remain the default offering.

## 7. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed and updated as needed to ensure it remains effective and aligned with the organization's mission and goals. Any changes to the policy will be communicated clearly to all relevant stakeholders.

**Updated: January 2025**