




1AC Inherency


“The industrial methods our society currently uses to produce food are unsustainable. Simply put, they can’t continue for much longer without running into some severe problems...both environmental and economic. There is a solution, however. And it is up to our generation to initiate systemic change, starting close to home—in our own dining halls. What is this solution, you ask? Local foods.” 

Because I agree with this quote by a University Working Group Study, My partner and I must affirm this year’s resolution that the State of Utah should provide incentives to increase the consumption of locally produced foods as a means to reduce energy use and improve air quality. 

Observation One: Inherency – The status quo system is broken. Not enough people are consuming locally grown food and the State has no incentives to encourage more consumption. 

a. Despite proven success in other states, Utah does not encourage food stamp usage at farmers’ markets.

Somsen in 2010 (Christy Gene, "To What Extent Do Local Farmers' Markets, Community Supported Agriculture Programs, and Community Gardens Help Low-Income Families Improve Access to Fresh, Local Produce?" (2010). Undergraduate Honors Theses. Paper 60. <http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/honors/60>)

Farmers’ Markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Programs, and Community Gardens have been developed to help farmers. Many times, they also aim to help low-income families improve access to fresh produce. Often, these programs may end up helping a larger amount of middle class families instead of lower class families. There have been many programs developed to try to better help low-income families such as the Women Infant and Children (WIC) Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and allowing farmers to accept WIC Cash Value Vouchers (CVV), which allows WIC participants to buy fresh produce. Farm to School Programs have also been great programs for helping farmers and improving fruit and vegetable intake in students. Many states have implemented these programs and have given great examples of how these programs can be developed and put into action. Utah has farmers’ markets, a few CSAs, and some community gardens that all could be improved upon. Utah does not employ the WIC FMNP nor allow farmers to accept the WIC CVVS. There are also only a few Farm to School Programs in Utah. These are some great programs that could be implemented in Utah to better help the local farmers and community. 

A good 1AC will start with an attention getting device (AGD) or quote to introduce the topic.

It's important to state the resolution for the judge (they may not be familiar with the topic). You can also introduce yourself if you want.

Every 1AC needs to prove your "stock issues." Inherency proves that something must be done and that your plan has not already been implemented.

Highlighting your evidence will make it easier to read AND will help with your timing of the speech (highlight more or less to get your 1AC to 5 minutes.

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1AC Plan Text

Thus we offer the following Plan:

In order to reduce energy and improve air quality, the State of Utah should create a financial incentive program that doubles the value of food stamps (SNAP) utilized at farmers markets and farm stands.



Make sure the plan text is "topical."
Which means that it fits under this year's resolution.

Plan texts are the most important part of the 1AC. It is your specific idea for affirming the resolution. It summarizes your advocacy and describes the POLICY that your team is supporting (fiating).

Different teams will have different plan texts and policy ideas so make sure you ask and listen.

The second major "stock issue" is Harms. This is the part of the aff where you claim your advantages. Answer the question: What will happen if we don't change from the status quo? These harms should be significant and claim a big impact.

When you read evidence, you need to cite your information. While most judges will only expect you to say the author's last name and year, you want to include ALL bibliographic information for reference.

1AC Harms – Energy/Econ


Observation Two: Significant Harms –

If the status quo continues, we will face serious and significant consequences. We will isolate TWO impacts that become advantages to voting affirmative.

1. Energy prices and their effect on the economy –

Our current energy use hurts our economy in countless ways. Worse yet, other states in the country are beginning to model us which means the spillover could be enormous. The economy is the most important impact you should consider.

a. Mainstream food systems account for a large portion of our energy use. Local food production will reduce dependency.

Slack in 2010 (Jamie, Program Specialist at the USDA, " Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) Food Stamp retailer, How-To Handbook, www.uah.org/.../Utah-Supplement-Food-Stamps-How-To-Handbook.pdf) 

In this section, we examine the conceptual framework for four potential impacts of local food systems compared to mainstream systems, and review the empirical evidence of their existence. These include economic development impacts, health and nutrition benefits, impacts on food security, and effects on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. We selected these impacts because they are the focus of programs and policies that involve local foods or have been the focus of numerous empirical analyses. Programs and policies are commonly focused on economic and business development, health and nutrition, or a combination of these goals. For example, the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is designed to work within the existing framework of the WIC program to provide locally grown produce to participants. Farm to school programs may seek to increase the availability of healthy food options in schools, while also supporting farms and other businesses in the local economy. Studies of relationships between local foods, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions have been the focus of much of the empirical literature on local food impacts. The U.S. food system accounts for about 16 percent of total U.S. energy consumption (Canning et al., 2010; Heller and Keoleian, 2003), and much of this energy is derived from burning fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG). It should be noted that local food systems have the potential to generate other public benefits. It has been suggested that local food systems could reduce food safety risks by decentralizing production (Peters et al., 2008). Eating locally has been viewed as a way to help preserve farmland by allowing new residential communities to be established on farms in urbanizing areas (Ikerd, 2005). Other public benefits include the development of social capital in a community, preservation of cultivar genetic diversity (see, for example, Goland and Bauer, 2004), and environmental quality. This is likely not an exhaustive list. Not all potential benefits of local food systems are discussed in this report because there is not adequate empirical research in 2010 on a particular topic, due to limited applicability to existing government programs, or a lack of a clear conceptual framework that relates local foods to these other potential impacts.

To stay organized, most evidence will have a "header" that includes the school name, the file name, or even the year.

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b. Independent of prices, keeping food local will boost our economy.

Time Magazine in 2009 ("Buying Local: How It Boosts the Economy," By Judith D. Schwartz Thursday, June 11, 2009, <http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1903632,00.html#ixzz1e4xJnRDx>)

A number of researchers and organizations are taking a closer look at how money flows, and what they're finding shows the profound economic impact of keeping money in town—and how the fate of many communities around the nation and the world increasingly depend on it. At the most basic level, when you buy local more money stays in the community. The New Economics Foundation, an independent economic think tank based in London, compared what happens when people buy produce at a supermarket vs. a local farmer's market or community supported agriculture (CSA) program and found that twice the money stayed in the community when folks bought locally. "That means those purchases are twice as efficient in terms of keeping the local economy alive," says author and NEF researcher David Boyle. (See the top 10 food trends of 2008.) Indeed, says Boyle, many local economies are languishing not because too little cash comes in, but as a result of what happens to that money. "Money is like blood. It needs to keep moving around to keep the economy going," he says, noting that when money is spent elsewhere—at big supermarkets, non-locally owned utilities and other services such as on-line retailers—"it flows out, like a wound." Another argument for buying local is that it enhances the "velocity" of money, or circulation speed, in the area. The idea is that if currency circulates more quickly, the money passes through more hands—and more people have had the benefit of the money and what it has purchased for them. "If you're buying local and not at a chain or branch store, chances are that store is not making a huge profit," says David Morris, Vice President of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a nonprofit economic research and development organization based in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C. "That means more goes into input costs—supplies and upkeep, printing, advertising, paying employees—which puts that money right back in the community." One way to really make sure money stays in the community is through creating a local currency. Christian Gelleri, a former Waldorf high school teacher in the Lake Chiem area in Germany, has launched a regional currency, the Chiemgauer, equivalent in value to the Euro. According to Gelleri, the Chiemgauer, accepted at more than 600 businesses in the region and with about \$3,000,000 Euros worth in circulation, has three times the velocity of the Euro, circling through the economy an average of 18 times a year as opposed to 6. One reason for the fast turnaround is that the Chiemgauer is designed to encourage spending: there is a 2% demurrage fee for holding onto the bills beyond three months. As an economic principle, velocity has been considered a constant. According to Gelleri, it was stable in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s but starting in the '80s velocity has decreased as more money has been diverted to the financial sector. This scenario may benefit financial centers, but money tends to drain away from other places. Gelleri says that both the Euro and the U.S. dollar have slowed way down. "In the last several months velocity has declined sharply because there's less GDP and more money," he says. "The money doesn't flow. More money is being printed, but it's not going into circulation." As the nation limps through the recession, many towns and cities are hurting. "Buy-local" campaigns can help local economies withstand the downturn. Says Boyle: "For communities, this is a hopeful message in a recession because it's not about how much money you've got, but how much you can keep circulating without letting it leak out."

c. A failed economic is the worst impact imaginable – If our economy goes into a recession, many people will be without jobs, poverty will increase, and families will be put on the brink of starvation. State economies are interconnected and a collapse here could drive down the national recovery.




Not every argument needs evidence. This is an example of a debater's own words describing why their harm is VERY significant.

Notice how affirmatives are allowed to claim multiple harms scenarios (different reasons why the plan is a good idea).

If you are reading multiple pieces of evidence to support your harms contention (sub-points), it's a good idea to include a small thesis statement as an intro.

1AC Harms – Air Quality/Environment

2. Air quality and its effects on the environment –


Food that comes from outside the state has to be transported thousands of miles and are usually grown ways that pollute our air and water. This causes also causes greenhouse gas emissions, which hurt the environment. Vote affirmative to embrace clean local food options. 

a. Non-local food has to be transported across the country – these “food miles” contribute to air pollution.

Martinez, et. el. In 2010 (Steve Martinez, Michael Hand, Michelle Da Pra, Susan Pollack, Katherine Ralston, Travis Smith, Stephen Vogel, Shellye Clark, Luanne Lohr, Sarah Low, and Constance Newman ALL members of the USDA. “Local Food Systems: Concepts, Impacts, and Issues,” Economic Research Report Number 97, May 2010)


According to Pirog et al., (2001) and Saunders and Hayes (2007), food is traveling further from farmers to consumers as the food system increasingly relies on long-distance transport and global distribution networks. Concerns about fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have increased scrutiny of the environmental impacts of transportation in the food system and the distance food travels to consumers. Advocates of localization of the food system argue that reducing transport distances for food, or food miles, can reduce fossil fuel energy use, pollution, and GHG emissions (e.g., Thompson et al., 2008; Anderson, 2007). This claim has also been cited as a potential benefit of localization among local food system researchers (Brown, 2003; Lea, 2005; Selfa and Qazi, 2005; Vogt and Kaiser, 2008). Distance is clearly a factor that determines energy use and emissions resulting from food transport. Given two otherwise identical supply chains, the supply chain with greater food travel distance will use more energy and emit more pollution. But supply chains of different lengths (i.e., different number of production and marketing stages) are seldom identical; the mode of transport, load sizes, fuel type, and trip frequency all affect energy use and emissions. Saunders and Hayes (2007) reviewed studies that focused on transport elements of the food supply chain, with emphasis on the United Kingdom.²⁸ These studies highlight the importance of transportation mode in determining fuel use and carbon-dioxide (CO₂) emissions. For example, cherries imported from North America had the highest ratio of emissions to product transported, reflecting the use of air freight. On the other hand, apples imported from New Zealand traveled a greater distance, but had a lower emissions ratio because they traveled by sea, a highly energy-efficient means of moving goods. Saunders and Hayes also reviewed several studies that compare energy use and emissions from locally sourced products, domestic products sourced from a mainstream retailer, and imported products. Transportation CO₂ emissions were found to be greater for imported produce than domestic produce.

A good "tagline" is clear, concise, and makes the argument (which will be supported by your evidence). Every piece of evidence needs a tag, cite, and text.

b. Industrial food systems rely on environmentally destructive practices that contribute heavily to air pollution and global warming. 

BeyondPesticides.org in 2011 (A non-profit environmental group, "Healthy Food in Health Care, A Pledge for Fresh, Local, Sustainable Food, www.beyondpesticides.org/.../healthcare%20healthy%20food.pdf)

Nutrition-related chronic diseases are placing new demands on an already overburdened health care system, and taking their toll on human productivity and quality of life. Our current large scale, industrial food system favors animal products and highly-refined, preservative laden, calorie-dense foods, rather than fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and other high fiber foods important for health. It is a system misaligned with dietary guidelines. Moreover, the way our food is produced and distributed impacts our health and the environment in which we live. For example: Antibiotic Resistance The routine use of antibiotics contributes to growing antibiotic resistant bacteria. Each year 20 to 30 million pounds of antibiotics (including related antimicrobials) are used in agriculture—by volume, about 7-10 times the total antibiotics used in human medicine. Industrialized food systems that produce poultry, pork, beef, and farmed fish routinely use antibiotics as growth promoters rather than to treat identified disease. Routinely feeding antibiotics to animals that are not even sick increases antibiotic resistance among bacteria that cause human infections. Injecting dairy cows with recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH or rBST) increases udder infections, requiring more antibiotics and a higher likelihood of increased antibiotic resistant bacteria in milk. Air and Water Pollution Pesticide drift, field dust, waste burning, and toxic gases from degrading manure are all factors of food production that contribute to air pollution. Such air pollution can lead to asthma and other respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, and lung cancer. In the U.S., food is transported an average of 1,500 miles to reach its destination. Through the use of diesel and other fossil fuels, vehicles unnecessarily contribute to global warming


c. Air pollution causes global warming, disease migration and thousands of premature deaths annually 

Bauman in 2008 (Joe, January 16, 2008 Deseret Morning News)

The Energy Information Administration reported that in 1990, American coal-burning power plants emitted 1.5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide; in 2003, the figure was 1.9 billion tons. Air pollution from coal-burning power plants is a deadly scourge, according to Dr. Brian Moench, president of Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment. "The nationwide network of coal plants, which I think is in the neighborhood of 600 or 700, put out a total volume of air pollution that ... has been calculated to cause approximately 22,000 to 26,000 premature deaths every year," he said. On average, he said, one coal plant causes 30 to 50 premature deaths yearly. The most significant pollutants from coal-burning plants are sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide compounds and particulates. Nitrogen oxides and volatile chemicals combine to form ozone, he added. In the summer, nitrogen oxides contribute to ozone, a special concern that time of the year. In the winter, nitrogen oxides contribute to particulates, a main air pollution concern then. "The nitrogen oxide compounds kind of serve as a double-whammy," Moench said. In 2003, a power outage temporarily shut down 100 coal-burning power plants in the Midwest. Researchers had the presence of mind to measure air pollution hundreds of miles downwind from the plants. Sulfur dioxide pollution had decreased about 90 percent within 24 hours. Particulates were down 70 percent, and ozone had decreased about 50 percent, Moench said. Meanwhile, as emissions of carbon dioxide continue to heat up the Earth's atmosphere, Moench said "we're seeing migration of tropical disease further north." Mosquitos, a major disease vector, are living in more northerly and higher locations because the newly warmer areas can support them. Mosquitoes carry diseases as they migrate. Within the past few years, Salt Lake City had its first case of West Nile virus, Moench said. "That wouldn't have happened before."

This is an example of using evidence to make your harms even bigger. The affirmative will use this later to perform "impact calculus," which is proving why your benefits OUTWEIGH the costs of that the negative brings up.

1AC Solvency

Observation Three: Solvency – Our plan is effective and is the best policy option. 

a. The most conclusive study to date proves that Double Value programs increase consumption of locally produced foods.

PR Newswire in 2011 ("Farmers Market Incentive Programs Increase Fruit and Vegetable Consumption," Oct. 11, 2011, <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/farmers-market-incentive-programs-increase-fruit-and-vegetable-consumption-among-food-stamp-recipients-boost-local-economies-results-of-survey-131516198.html>)

Wholesome Wave, a Connecticut-based, non profit organization dedicated to increasing access to and affordability of fresh, locally grown food, released Tuesday, October 11th, 2011, encouraging findings from its national surveys of farmers markets and farmers that participated in its Double Value Coupon Programs in 2010. The surveys, taken from a sample of Wholesome Wave's more than 120 participating farmers markets and 1,700 farmers, found that DVCP significantly increased the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables among food stamp recipients while providing an economic boost to local farmers, farmers market operators and surrounding businesses. The Wholesome Wave surveys, which spanned more than 20 states across the country, found that nearly 90 percent of DVCP customers reported increasing their consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables and said the local produce made a big difference in their diet. DVCP augments the value of federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or food stamp benefits at local farmers markets.

b. A focus on food stamp focus – the plan is a wise investment.

Nischan in 2011 (Let's Make 'Let's Move!' Even Better, By Michel Nischan. The Atlantic, Sep 27 2011, <http://www.theatlantic.com/life/archive/2011/09/lets-make-lets-move-even-better/245669/>)

How the government can nudge people to spend food dollars in a way that benefits local small-scale farms and creates farmers' markets in areas where consumers have no alternative. If there's anything that can serve as a great stabilizer in America's growing financial divide, it is the nation's food assistance programs. The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), better known as food stamps, doesn't only help Americans put food on the table. It serves as a major economic stimulus. For every dollar spent in SNAP benefits, economists say, we see a \$1.84 increase in the overall economy.

Considering that the USDA directed \$68 billion last year to food stamp recipients, taxpayers can rest assured that -- at least in this case -- the government has made a sound investment with their money.

The third "stock issue" is Solvency. This observation proves that your plan (the specific one that you read in the "plan text" is effective and works.