Fuel Your Appetite With Local Food Not Fossil Fuel

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Problem:
Internationally traded food increases fossil fuel use; this causes higher concentrations of harmful gaseous emissions.

Solution:
Encourage private schools in Massachusetts to integrate more locally grown food into their cafeterias.

Who’s involved?
- Farmers
- Teachers
- Students
- School Administrators

Where?
Worcester, Massachusetts

In Perspective:

Model Building Statistics:

- 30 schools from grades K-12 in Worcester.
- 10 farms in Worcester and more than 70 local farms around Worcester.
- Food travels 1,500 miles on average from the farm to the consumer in the U.S.
- Locally grown food travels 29 miles on average from the farm to the consumers in Worcester.

Calculations:

CO₂ emission under U.S average trade:
1500 miles ÷ 30 miles/gallon = 50 gallons gas
50 gallons × 19.4 IB CO₂ = 970 lb. CO₂

CO₂ emission under Worcester local trade:
29 miles ÷ 30 miles/gallon = 0.97 gallons gas
0.97 gallons × 19.4 IB CO₂ = 18.77 lb. CO₂

Benefits:
- Stimulates local economy
- Supports endangered family farms
- Food suppliers are more accessible
- Preserves Genetic Diversity
- Cuts down fuel emissions

Cost:
- Close to market price
- Depends on weather conditions and growing seasons

Procedures:

Step 1 Contact private schools and local farms in Worcester, MA

Step 2 Convince private schools to purchase local food.

Step 3 Use food miles to calculate CO₂ emissions

References:
http://cotap.org/home/calculator/methodology/?gclid=CNKR0viNLMCFegWMgodA2AA8A.

http://www.ext.colostate.edu/soil/farmちな здоровья.jpg