



## Fast Facts about Sustainable Food

- President Lyndon Johnson enacted the 1946 National School Lunch Act as a “measure of national security, to **safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation’s children.**”
- Today the National School Lunch Program **feeds 31.6 million children each day** with meals supplied through the school cafeteria. 18 million of those children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. (Food Research and Action Center)
- **One child in four is overweight or obese, and one in three will develop diabetes in his or her lifetime.** For African-American and Hispanic children, that number rises to one in two. (Slow Food USA)



- School districts are reimbursed \$2.68 for every meal served to a child who qualifies for free lunch. **After paying for overhead costs, schools are left with only \$1.00 to purchase food.** As a result, most can only afford to serve highly processed foods that harm children’s health and keep them from performing well in school. (Slow Food USA)
- More than 23 million Americans, including 6.5 million children, live in low-income urban and rural neighborhoods that are **more than a mile from a supermarket.** (Let’s Move)
- A recent USDA report showed that in 2008, an estimated **49 million people, including 17 million children, lived in households that experienced hunger** multiple times throughout the year. (Let’s Move)
- The world **produces enough food to feed everyone.** World agriculture produces 17% more calories per person today than it did 30 years ago, despite a 70% population increase. This is enough to provide everyone in the world with at least 2,720 kilocalories (kcal) per person per day. The principal problem is that **many people in the world do not have sufficient land to grow, or income to purchase, sufficient food.** (Food and Agriculture Organization)
- It is estimated that 854 million people in the world suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition. This means that **nearly 1 in 7 people do not get enough food** to be healthy and lead an active life, making hunger and malnutrition the number one risk to health worldwide – greater than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. (World Food Programme)
- A typical carrot **travels 1,838 miles to reach your dinner table.** (Pirog, Rich, and Andrew Benjamin. "Checking the Food Odometer: Comparing Food Miles for Local versus Conventional Produce Sales in Iowa Institutions." Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, July 2003.)
- Farmers' markets enable farmers to keep **80 to 90 cents of each dollar** spent by the consumer. (Pretty, Jules. "Some Benefits and Drawbacks of Local Food Systems." Briefing Note for TVU/Sustain AgriFood Network, November 2)