



Enterprise Services Policy No. POL-DES-090-09

Purchases of Washington Grown Food

Applies to: Any state office or activity of the executive branch of state government, including state agencies, departments, offices, divisions, boards, commissions, institutions of higher education as defined in [RCW 28B.10.016](#) and correctional and other types of institutions.

Authorizing sources:

- State Law [RCW 39.26.090\(9\)](#)
- State Law [RCW 39.26.125\(8\)](#)
- State Law [RCW 15.64.060](#)

Related Statutes:

- State law RCW 15.155

Effective date: November 15, 2024

Last update: February 20, 2019

Sunset review date: November 15, 2029

Approved by:  Tara C. Smith, Director

Reason for Policy

This policy encourages agencies to purchase Washington grown food and supports the state’s Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) goals by promoting equitable access to state food purchasing opportunities for all Washington producers.

Policy

- A. Food purchases shall be made in accordance with RCW 39.26.090 and RCW 39.26.125.
- B. “Washington Grown Food” means food that is grown and packed or processed in Washington (RCW 15.64.060(4)).
- C. Agencies are encouraged to purchase Washington grown food to the maximum extent practicable except when:
 1. it is inconsistent with international trade commitments (see FAQ 5-7).
 2. application of the policy would violate any federal laws or risk the loss of any federal funding.
- D. Agencies must use existing Department of Enterprise Services (DES) statewide contracts or DES approved cooperative contracts for purchases of food unless the contracts cannot justifiably satisfy agency needs as documented by the agency.
 1. If specific Washington grown food is not available through an existing DES statewide or DES approved cooperative contract, agencies may make off-contract purchases of those Washington grown foods as an exception from competitive solicitation under RCW 39.26.125(8).

2. If Purchasing Washington grown food outside of a DES statewide or DES approved cooperative contract, the food must be of an equivalent or better quality than similar food available through the statewide contract.
- E. All food contracts must include, to the maximum extent practicable, a plan for acquiring Washington grown food except when it is inconsistent with international trade commitments. All food contracts must include, to the maximum extent practicable, a plan to maximize the availability of Washington grown food purchased through the contract.
 - F. Where applicable, agencies must conform to the Supplier Diversity Policy and best practices. See [DES-POL-090-06, Supplier Diversity Policy](#).
 - G. Agencies shall report and track their purchases of Washington grown food, including data on purchases from historically underrepresented producers. This data shall be reported through the Washington Electronic Business Solution (WEBS) system. The data will be used to establish a baseline and identify areas for improvement in creating a more equitable food purchasing system.
 - H. Compliance with this policy will be a consideration in the agency's procurement risk assessment and may influence the agency's procurement delegation of authority.
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History

[Adopted](#)

February 19, 2019