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BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL DECLARES ALL MONDAYS WILL BE “GREEN MONDAY”
City-Operated Institutions to Serve Plant-Based Foods every Monday

BERKELEY, Calif. — Tonight, the Berkeley City Council unanimously approved a [resolution](#) to implement a Green Monday program. This means that all facilities owned and or managed by the city of Berkeley will provide only plant-based foods on Mondays (or another day of the week). It also means that the Berkeley City Council itself will procure vegan food for all of its meetings.

Other aspects of the Green Monday program will include: Green Monday educational programs, posters, and literature at libraries, community centers, and schools, as well as the distribution of “Green Monday approved” certificates to restaurants as a way to incentivize the inclusion of vegan items on their menus.

Earlier this summer, the city [declared](#) a climate emergency and resolved to become carbon neutral by 2030. In the same spirit, the Green Monday resolution invokes numerous environmental reasons for the measure. According to the [resolution](#), animal agriculture is responsible for over three quarters of rainforest devastation, and an enormous contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

“UN Food & Agriculture Organization [found](#) that animal agriculture creates more greenhouse gases than the entire transportation sector—that’s more than all the planes, trains, and cars in the world combined!”, stated advocate Amy Halpern-Laff, co-founder of the Berkeley Coalition for Animals (BCA), in support of the measure. She also pointed out that around 80% of the world’s rainforest devastation is due to animal agriculture and livestock grazing.

BCA secretary Dr. Jay Quigley added other figures: “a single burger requires [660 gallons](#) of water--more than a month’s worth of [showers](#).” He also was keen to add that a vegetarian diet uses only [one sixth](#) of the amount of land as the diet of a typical meat eater, with a vegan diet using only one third of that.

Sponsoring Councilmember Kate Harrison indicated that she had been influenced by a documentary, which Dr. Quigley inferred was [Cowspiracy](#), a popular conveyer of voluminous [information](#) regarding animal agriculture’s influence on the earth and climate.

Implementation of the program is now the responsibility of City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley.

To learn more about Green Monday USA, visit <https://greenmondayus.org/>.

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