

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-0837

City Council Adopts a Greener By Default Policy for Internal Events

WHEREAS, The Denver City Council has declared climate change to be an emergency that must be addressed with urgency; and

WHEREAS, animal agriculture is responsible for 15 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, nearly 80 percent of the Colorado River's water goes to crop irrigation for livestock feed; and

WHEREAS, electing to enjoy a plant-based meal brings a 63 percent reduction in carbon footprint compared to animal-based meals, a simple and effective way to reduce an individual's carbon footprint; and

WHEREAS, a Greener By Default policy creates an inclusive environment taking into consideration team members who have dietary restrictions due to religion or health concerns as well as simple personal preferences; and

WHEREAS, City Council has agreed to institute a Greener By Default policy for internal food purchases adopting a 2 to 1 ratio of plant-based foods to animal product option; and

WHEREAS, Denver's Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (CASR) promotes many important means of decarbonizing various elements of our economy, but as there are no large-scale ranching or animal husbandry operations within our city limits, this policy provides a tool to reduce our carbon footprint in this sector by changing purchasing choices.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council adopts a Greener By Default policy for internal meetings and events, in which a 2 to 1 ratio of Plant based to Animal products is offered.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Denver City Council.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 2, 2025

Amund P. Sandora

PRESIDENT

