

# Envisioning a Just and Sustainable Food System:

A Dining Services Worker Cooperative at TESC

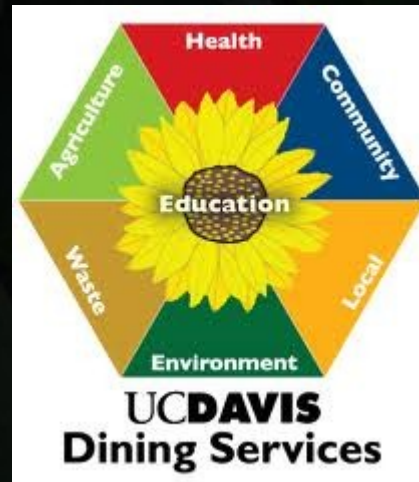
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# Can Evergreen be fed on local food...?



Why not?! Other schools are giving it a try,



and in fact....



...when it comes to food, bigger usually isn't better.

For example: In 1972, the USDA reported that the optimum size for California Vegetable crops was 440 acres, but the majority of farms were 3,206 acres due to corporate takeovers.

So farms that look like this:



Can produce more crops per acre than ones that look like this:



Source: "Food for People, Not for Profit" (1975)



## So why a worker cooperative?

- ◉ Decreased isolation for food service workers from Evergreen community
- ◉ Local, democratic control over workplace and business practices, particularly food sourcing
- ◉ Evergreen fulfillment of mission to be a lab for sustainability\*
- ◉ Educational and work-study opportunities for students
- ◉ Partnerships with local farmers and stronger link to local economy

Source: [www.evergreen.edu/sustainability](http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability)







## Key Ingredients for success:

- Institutional support and investment
- Workers who understand cooperative model
- Reward students academic credit for providing research and support tools
- Close gap between Evergreen Organic Farm and students plates
- Build partnerships and agreements with local farms

