



New Release: Transforming School Food Politics Around the World

MIT Press Releases New Book with Contributions from the Center for Ecoliteracy

BERKELEY, CA (May 28, 2024) – Transforming School Food Politics Around the World is being released today and is available for free from MIT Press.

This compilation of essays from editors Jennifer Gaddis and Sarah A. Robert explores how to successfully challenge and transform public school food programs to emphasize care, justice, and sustainability, with insights from eight countries across the Global North and South. The Center for Ecoliteracy contributed a chapter on our approach to school food systems change. We share our successful advocacy efforts that helped secure California as the first state to offer free breakfast and lunch to all public school students — permanently. As described in the introduction:

“Anne Moertel, from the Center for Ecoliteracy, a California-based nonprofit organization that has been engaged in school food systems change for more than twenty-five years, tells the story of how California became the first state in the US to create a universal school meal program in 2021. Moertel articulates core strategies and lessons from this campaign that secured government-funding and policy commitments to provide every student with free, freshly prepared, California-grown school meals and food education opportunities.”

The chapter details the Center for Ecoliteracy’s six strategies for achieving free school meals in California:

- Seize the moment
- Build strategic partnerships
- Use a systems change approach
- Leverage a powerful network
- Present research and data
- Design a campaign brand

School food can and should be a part of the infrastructure of daily life, rooted in care for people and the environment. We are honored to share our story and provide a model for changemakers worldwide who are transforming school food.

Purchase the book:

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262548113/transforming-school-food-politics-around-the-world/>

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The Center for Ecoliteracy advances change in TK–12 education and school food systems to support students and the people who nourish them. We create original resources, collaborate on advocacy, and cultivate a growing network of leaders in our California Food for California Kids® initiative. Our 30-year history of successful systems change has resulted in millions of public school students receiving more fresh, local food and education about sustainability and food systems. Learn more at ecoliteracy.org.