

# Healthy Food Environment at Work



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### Overview

- Healthy food environment positively impacts the workplace
- Supporting healthy eating in the workplace is good for the bottom line
- Best practices in promoting healthy eating in the workplace
- Making it happen in your workplace
- Sample photos of healthy workplaces in action
- Resources

# It's More Than the Food

- Average person makes 227 food decisions daily
  - Those decisions are impacted by:
    - Physical environment
    - Social environment
    - Knowledge of food
    - Personal Situation
    - How food is presented





# Food at the Workplace

- People spend 8 hours a day at work:
  - One meal
  - Two snacks
- Employees can have access to many eating opportunities:
  - Cafeteria, vending
  - Treats in lunchroom, candy/snack dishes in work areas
  - Food at meetings and events
  - Lunch options nearby





# Healthy Eating Makes Good Cent\$

- Can reduce the risk of chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, cancer)
- Provide energy throughout the day
- Healthy employees are more likely to be at work ar
- Improved employee morale
- Retain key employees and attract new talent



# Healthy Eating at Work: What it Takes

#### A Comprehensive Approach:

- Supportive environment
  - Access to healthy food, space & time to eat
- Policy development
  - Catering, vending, meetings
- Social support
  - Raise awareness, build skills



\*Assess, Plan, Prioritize, Act, Measure\*

# Strategies that work

- Vending machines increase inventory of healthy food and beverages
- Cafeteria assure healthy options are available; adjust pricing
- Meetings & Events develop policies that encourage healthy food and beverages
- Limit treats in common areas, replace with healthy options
- Encourage people to share healthy foods in their work space and at potlucks
- Include access to a dietitian/nutritionist/health coach as part of your health benefits

# Vending Machines

- Consider adopting a vending policy minimum standard for healthy options
  - Contact Vending Company Are they able to offer healthier options?
  - If healthy options are offered, what guidelines do they use (note: there are many, and not all are created equal.)
- 2. Work with vending company on product placement
  - Ask for an analysis to determine top sellers keep top sellers in BUT
    - put healthier options in place of what doesn't sell
  - Move healthier options at eye level
  - Gradually move less healthy options out
- 3. Request vending company to modify pricing structure



# Cafeteria

- Meet with cafeteria manager about options 1.
  - Assess current environment for healthy food & beverage options
    - Is there a current value meal option? Be mindful of portion sizes / portion distortion
    - Are there healthy grab –n- go options?
  - Can pricing structure be adjusted
  - Adjust product placement with healthier options up front (making the healthy choice the easy choice!)
- Make the road to change a collaborative effort 2.
- Take time to promote and implement the changes, be flexible

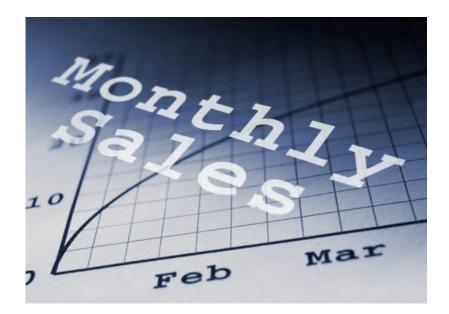






# Pricing

- Vending study
  - Reductions of 10%, 25% and 50% on low fat snacks increase purchases by 9%, 39% and 93%
- Cafeteria study
  - Increased cost of regular soft drinks by 35% decreased purchases by 26%



# Policies – why do you need them?

- Shows a company's COMMITMENT to providing a healthy work environment
  - Gives credibility and ensures sustainability to the environmental change
  - Communicates to all employees the importance and intent behind the changes
  - Can more easily be incorporated into vending contracts and requests for bids
- There is no "one size fits all" for food & beverage policies; each organization must consider its own culture and needs
- Ideally, the policy would cover:
  - Meetings & events, snack stations, items sold in cafeterias & vending machines

# Create the Change

- Comprehensive wellness programs get better results
- Employee involvement is critical
- Management support is critical
- Creating a company culture of health is a game changer.



# Create the Change

- 1. Gather key players involve employees and leadership
- 2. Use the results from your CDC SoreCard
- 3. Form a wellness committee a good team will go far!
- 4. Plan and identify areas for improvement; prioritize
- 5. Put the plan into action: set specific attainable goals
- 6. Evaluate efforts solicit employee feedback

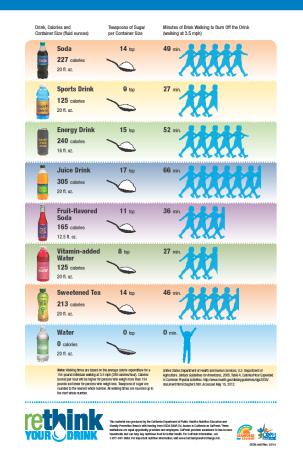
# Keeping it Going

- Social Support raise awareness and build skills
  - Choose activities that give employees the information / skills they need to make healthy food choices
    - Company newsletter on a scheduled basis
    - Post nutrition/health/wellness tid bits on bulletin boards and other high traffic areas
    - Events: company contests & challenges can be fun and boost employee morale
    - Health screenings
    - Point of decision prompts healthy messaging!
    - Share recipes / cooking demos





#### **Choose health. Drink water.**







# Keeping it Going

- Supportive Environment
  - Assure surroundings foster healthy behaviors make the healthy choice the easy choice!
    - Increase availability of healthy foods (fruits & vegetables)
    - Make healthy choices convenient and competitively priced
    - Consider value meals reduced portion sizes with healthy side options
    - Assure employees have enough time to eat
    - Assure employees have a clean and attractive eating environment away from their work space

# **Evaluating Your Efforts**

- It is important to evaluate if your efforts are working:
  - Look at vending and cafeteria sales to see if the healthier options are selling (the vendor should be able to tell you)
  - How often to you fill up the snack station
  - Use employee survey to determine if employees are eating healthier (eating more produce, grains, etc.) and if they find the options beneficial

# Resources: Food Guidelines for Vending

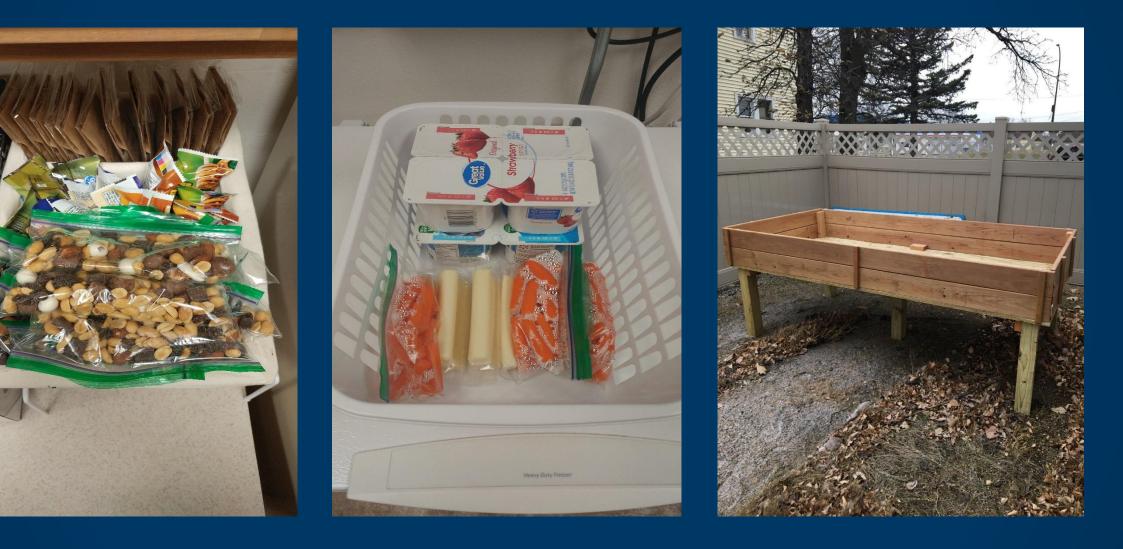
- NEMS Vending Assessment Tool (NEMS-V)
  - http://nems-v.com/Index.html
- National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA)
  - http://cspinet.org/new/pdf/final-model-vending-standards.pdf
- American Heart Association (AHA)
  - http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heartpublic/@wcm/@fc/documents/downloadable/ucm\_465693.pdf

#### OSPTI Staff Wellness Day with Local Chef

-healthy cooking instruction with ingredients being purchased from local farmers market-







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Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Fergus Falls Healthy Snack Station



#### Government Services Center, Fergus Falls Mini Farmers Market Fresh Vegetable Vending





#### PartnerSHIP 4 Health Collaborative Gathering - catered lunch -





### Resources

- Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2015 at: <u>www.cnpp.usda.gov/DGAS2010-PolicyDocument.htm</u>
- Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities, 2017 at: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/guidelines for federal concessions and vending operations.pdf</u>
- <u>NANA Model Beverage and Food Vending Standards at: https://cspinet.org/resource/nana-model-beverage-and-food-vending-machine-standards</u>
- CDC worksite scorecard at: <u>http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/pubs/worksite\_scorecard.htm</u>
- Wisconsin worksite wellness toolkit: <u>http://dhmh.maryland.gov/healthiest/Documemts/Wisconsin%20Worksite%20Wellness%20Resource%20Kit.pdf</u>
- Eat Well Work Well at: <u>http://www.eatwellworkwell.org/</u>
- SHIP worksite wellness implementation guide at: <u>http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/ship/implementation/worksite/worksitewellnessguide01092012.pdf</u>
- More on behavior economics: <u>http://www.choicesmagazine.org/magazine/article.php?article=87</u>



# Thank you!

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