

Eating Locally

There is a global movement to eat locally. What does “eating locally” mean? Eating locally means you try to eat the food that farmers near you grow, instead of buying food that comes from a different county or country. Why is eating locally so important?

Firstly, eating locally supports the local farmers. They spend so much time and energy patiently growing the food that we eat every day. Let’s support these farmers by buying vegetables and fruit directly from them when we can, instead of buying at the supermarket.

Secondly, eating food that is grown nearby means the food is fresher and tastes better. When food is shipped far away, it must be put in a refrigerator so it doesn’t spoil. The longer food is kept cold, the more flavor it loses.

Lastly, local food doesn’t have to travel a long way to get from the farm to your house. This saves on gas, which is better for the environment.

Changhua* is a county with a lot of farmlands. Almost every city, town, and small village in Changhua County has one or more daily markets. For anyone who would like to eat foods without a lot of pesticides and chemicals, there are twelve certified farms in Changhua that grow healthy and pesticides-free vegetables, mushrooms, fruits, herbs, and fish.

Taiwan is a small country, so eating domestically produced foods is also more environmentally friendly than eating imported foods. For example, a baker named Shi Ming-huang* in Changhua County used to use imported flour to make his breads, but in 2007 after international flour prices increased, he started planting his own wheat. In 2010, he already had farmers using 24 hectares all over Taiwan to grow wheat for him. The farmers do not use any pesticides or chemicals, so the wheat is organic. Most of Mr. Shi’s bread uses at least 20% Taiwanese wheat, and some varieties use 100% Taiwanese wheat. Impressive, right?

Eating locally or domestically is better for everyone and the environment. Let’s all jump on the bandwagon!

* Changhua (彰化)

* Shi Ming-huang (施明煌)

Changhua County's Offshore Wind Farm Project

Changhua County is a leading producer of wind power in not just Taiwan, but in the world. What is wind power and why it is important? Why is Changhua County a great place for building offshore wind farms? Let me tell you!

Wind turbines are tall posts with blades. The blades turn when the wind blows. When the blades turn, they create power, and we can use that power to do other things. This is wind power! When we use a renewable energy source like wind power, we can avoid burning fossil fuels. Renewable energy sources are limitless, free, and are less bad for the environment.

A wind farm is a place where there are a lot of wind turbines. In some countries, like the USA and China, wind farms are built on flat land where the wind blows very strongly. In Taiwan, because there isn't a lot of land space, many of the wind farms are offshore, or in the water.

There are other reasons to use offshore wind farms. The wind is stronger over the sea, so offshore wind farms can harness more wind and generate more power. Also, because there is more space in the water, the offshore wind turbines can be bigger, which means they will be able to capture more energy.

The first offshore wind farm in Taiwan started operating in April 2017. Of the world's top 20 wind farms, 16 are in the Taiwan Strait. The Taiwan Strait, which is just to the west of Changhua County, is a great place for building wind farms because the seabed is flat and not very deep. In 2017, Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs decided that Changhua County was the most suitable county to erect wind farms. Now, Changhua County is producing 63 percent of Taiwan's total wind power.

Future plans are to build 1,000 wind turbines in Changhua County in the next ten years. These offshore wind farms will provide enough energy for 5.8* million people in Taiwan every year! Changhua County is lucky to be a windy place. Let's take the lead and help Taiwan move away from fossil fuels and turn towards cleaner air and brighter skies!

* Changhua (彰化)

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