

Membership Application

MEMBER BUSINESS

- Please enroll my business or nonprofit organization as a member of Capital District Local First.
- I am enclosing a check for annual membership dues. \$100 for businesses with up to 5 locations, \$250 for businesses with 6 or more.
- My business or nonprofit organization is locally owned, independently operated, and headquartered in the New York counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, or Schenectady.
- My business is not a formula business (e.g. franchise), publicly traded, or a retail outlet owned by a publicly traded corporation.

Individual Supporter

- Please enroll me as an individual supporter of Capital District Local First.
- I am enclosing a check for \$25 or more for annual dues.
- Everyone is welcome to become an individual supporter, including those not eligible to join as member businesses.

Contact Name:

Business/ Organization Name:

Address:

Phone:

e-mail:

Web URL:

- Do not list me on CDLF website.
- Do not include me on CDLF mailing list.

Make check payable to Capital District Local First.
Send completed form and payment to

Virginia Ruggiero
c/o SEFCU
700 Patroon Creek Blvd
Albany, NY 12206

Your contribution is not tax deductible as a charitable contribution.

Ten Reasons to Think Local, Buy Local, Be Local

1. Significantly more money re-circulates in the Capital District when purchases are made at locally owned, rather than nationally owned, businesses.
2. Non-profits receive greater support.
3. Our one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of our distinctive character.
4. Reduced environmental impact.
5. Most new jobs are provided by local businesses.
6. Better customer service.
7. Local business owners invest in the community.
8. Public benefits far outweigh public costs.
9. Competition and diversity leads to more choices.
10. Encourage investment in the Capital District.

CAPITAL DISTRICT



LOCAL
FIRST

CAPITAL DISTRICT



LOCAL
FIRST

**Keep your capital
in the Capital District
SUPPORT LOCAL
BUSINESSES**

www.capitaldistrictlocalfirst.org

Background

Capital District Local First is a 501c6 organization that raises public awareness of the benefits of a sustainable local economy. Our mission is to promote the common business interest of, and to improve the business conditions of, the locally owned, independent business community of the Capital District of the State of New York: Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga Counties.

BALLE Member

Capital District Local First is one of 59 independent, locally-owned business networks that holds membership with Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), an international nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering communities' local living economies. Learn more about BALLE at www.livingeconomies.org.



Activities

- Open meetings every two months provide opportunities to network and discuss current business conditions and opportunities.
- Website communicates the importance of a strong local economy and ways to support it.
- Annual “Local First Day” promotes the locally owned, independent business community.
- Dissemination of research results quantifies the value of the locally owned independent sector of the economy.
- Speakers series provides a platform for leaders of the local economy movement.

Contact Capital District Local First at www.capitaldistrictlocalfirst.org

Membership Benefits

- Opportunities to meet with other independent businesses.
- Help develop public awareness of the significant contributions of the locally owned, independent business and nonprofit sector to the economic health and vitality of the region.
- Voting rights in the organization’s board and opportunities to participate in its governance.
- Participation in “Local First Day” and other independent-business-focused events that highlights the importance of the locally owned, independent sector of the economy.
- Storefront window logo to identify you as an independent business or nonprofit organization.
- E-mail notification of meetings, conferences, and events.
- Other activities that you will help determine.

Support Local Businesses

Economic studies show that more of the money you spend stays in your community when spent at locally owned businesses.



Locally owned businesses offer many other advantages:

1. Studies show that a strong local business sector is associated with higher nonprofit activity, social capital, and voter turnout.
2. Local businesses often provide better service and unique products, including products from other small businesses around the world.
3. Local businesses do not pull up and leave the community in search of higher profits elsewhere; they are pillars of the community.
4. Locally owned, independent businesses are not driven solely by profits. They are better able to balance their business needs with investments in people, the planet, and the community.
5. Local businesses pay taxes and generate new jobs without seeking unnecessary tax breaks and subsidies from local governments.