

10 Reasons Why Supporting Local Business Is Important

Local Character and Prosperity

In an increasingly homogenized world, communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character have an economic advantage

Community Well-Being

Locally owned businesses build strong communities by sustaining vibrant town centers, linking neighbors in a web of economic social relationships, and contributing to local causes.

Local Decision-Making

Local ownership ensures that important decisions are made by local people who live in the community and who will feel the impact of those decisions

Keeping Dollars in the Local Economy

Compared to chain stores, locally owned businesses recycle a much larger share of their own revenue back into the local economy, enriching the entire community

Jobs and Wages

Locally owned businesses create more jobs locally and, in some sectors, provide better wages and benefits than chains do.

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship fuels America's economic innovation and prosperity, and serves as a key means for families to move out of low-wage jobs and into the middle class.

Public Benefits and Costs

Local stores in town centers require comparatively little infrastructure and make more efficient use of public services relative to big chain stores and strip malls.

Environmental Sustainability

Local stores help sustain vibrant, compact, walkable town centers—which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use, habitat loss, air and water pollution.

Competition

A marketplace of tens of thousands of small businesses is the best way to ensure innovation and low prices over the long-term.

Product Diversity

A multitude of small businesses, each selecting products based, not on a national sales plan, but on their own interests and the needs of their local customers, guarantees a much broader range of product choices.

*From *Why Vermont's Homegrown Economy Matters*, by Stacy Mitchell