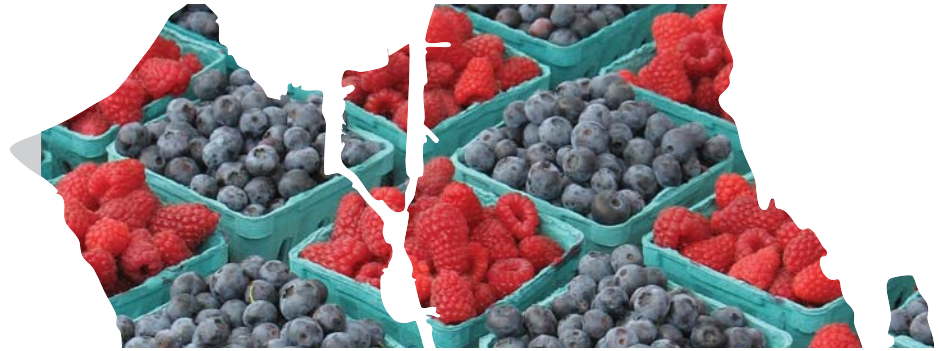




City of Seattle

FOOD ACTION PLAN



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Seattle Food Action Plan was prepared by the Office of Sustainability and Environment in partnership with the Seattle Food Interdepartmental Team, and with input from the wider community. Thank you to everyone who attended listening sessions, contributed ideas for improving Seattle's food system, and participated in the process of developing this plan.

City of Seattle Food Interdepartmental Team

Brenda Anibarro	Seattle Office for Civil Rights
Fe Arreola	Human Services Department, Transitional Living and Support Division
Bob Baines	Department of Parks and Recreation, Parks Division
Jeanie Boawn	Office of Sustainability and Environment
Rebecca Deehr	Office of Mayor Mike McGinn
Erin MacDougall	Public Health - Seattle & King County
Rebecca Herzfeld	City Council Central Staff
Maria Langlais	Human Services Department, Aging and Disability Services Division
Sharon Lerman	Office of Sustainability and Environment
Rich Macdonald	Department of Neighborhoods
Shanyanika McElroy	Department of Parks and Recreation, Parks Division
Corey Myers	Department of Parks and Recreation, Recreation Division
Allison Schwartz	Seattle Department of Transportation
Phyllis Shulman	Office of Councilmember Richard Conlin
Brennon Staley	Department of Planning and Development
Natalie Thomson	Human Services Department, Youth and Family Empowerment Division
Tina Vlasaty	Office of Economic Development
Carl Woestwin	Seattle Public Utilities

Primary Author

Sharon Lerman

Research Support

Katy Haima

Editing

Kristin Mehus-Roe

Graphic Design

Katy Haima

Cover & Footer Photos

Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

About this Plan

Healthy food is integral to the health and well-being of our communities. Healthy food is defined as food that is fresh and nutritious and grown without harming its producers or our air, water, or soil. In a healthy food system, healthy food is available and accessible for all community members; there is a strong network of successful and culturally appropriate businesses that produce, process, cook, transport, and sell that food; there are opportunities to produce food locally; and food waste is prevented.

The Food System

The food system comprises all the ways in which food moves from farm (or producer) to table (consumer). That includes the farms on which it's grown, the manufacturers who process and produce foods, the venues in which the foods are delivered to the public, and the way the consumer receives and consumes food.

Seattle has made a healthy food system a priority. To support our food system in Seattle and the region, the City has created the Seattle Food Action Plan.

The City of Seattle cares about our local food system for many reasons. Rising obesity and diet-related diseases increase health care costs and decrease life expectancy. One in five children in King County does not always have enough to eat, and growing economic inequality makes healthy food even harder for many to afford. Chemically intensive agriculture degrades the quality of our land, our air, and our water. Food sales, restaurants, food products and food service are a growing sector of the local economy. Food inequities disproportionately affect low-income residents, children, seniors, and communities of color. Growing, eating, and sharing food brings local communities together.



Picardo P-Patch. Photo Credit: Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

How this Plan was Developed

In 2008, the Seattle City Council passed the Local Food Action Initiative, which aims to improve the local and regional food system. Since then, the City has advanced this goal in a number of ways, including convening the Food Interdepartmental Team (IDT) to coordinate food system work across departments, updating the land-use code to support urban agriculture, making more City-owned land available for food production, and hiring a food policy advisor.

The Food Action Plan is the next step in this work. To initiate work on the plan, the city convened meetings with community members, as well as individuals and organizations currently working on food system issues. Through these meetings, food priorities were established. The Food IDT used these priorities to establish goals, review current activities and recommend new actions, and establish criteria through which to filter recommendations. The criteria include factors of feasibility, potential reach, inclusivity, and community health impacts. The final goals, and recommended current and potential activities, were filtered through these criteria.

Goals and Values

The City has outlined four goals for achieving a healthy food system in Seattle:

Healthy Food for All:

All Seattle residents should have enough to eat and access to affordable, local, healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate food.

Grow Local

It should be easy to grow food in Seattle and in our region, for personal use or for business purposes.

Strengthen the Local Economy

Businesses that produce, process, distribute, and sell local and healthy food should grow and thrive in Seattle.

Prevent Food Waste

Food-related waste should be prevented, reused, or recycled.

Strategies

This section lists the strategies and actions the City recommends to achieve the four goals identified, and our approach to achieving those goals.

Approach

- Create and sustain strong interdepartmental and intergovernmental coordination on food issues.
- Enhance partnerships with the public and private sectors and community-based organizations in the City and across the region.
- Stimulate collaboration among community organizations, institutions, neighborhoods, and governments.
- Focus on racial and social equity and support the communities most at-risk for food insecurity and diet-related disease.
- Increase inclusive communication and engagement opportunities for the public.
- Use data to assess conditions, inform priorities, and track progress.

Goal 1: Healthy Food for All

Strategy 1: Promote the location of healthy food access points that can be reached by walking, biking, or transit by all residents.

Strategy 2: Use the City's purchasing and contracting power to support healthy, local, sustainably produced food.

Strategy 3: Support programs, policies, and projects that help get more healthy food to children and youth.

Strategy 4: Increase affordability of healthy, local food for low-income Seattle residents.

Strategy 5: Promote healthy food, especially in low-income communities and with youth, through education and collaborative efforts.

Goal 2: Grow Local

Strategy 1: Prioritize food production as a use of land.

Strategy 2: Develop and support programs to produce food on City-owned land.

Strategy 3: Support efforts to expand urban food production on privately owned land, including residential, commercial, and institutional properties.

Strategy 4: Explore opportunities to expand rooftop and building-integrated agriculture.

Strategy 5: Work jointly with other jurisdictions to conserve agricultural land.

Goal 3: Strengthen the Local Economy

Strategy 1: Support businesses that grow, distribute, process, and sell local and healthy food.

Strategy 2: Celebrate and enhance local food as an element of Seattle's economy and identity.

Strategy 3: Support farmers markets and small retailers that sell healthy and locally produced food.

Goal 4: Prevent Food Waste

Strategy 1: Prevent edible food from entering waste stream.

Strategy 2: Increase composting of non-edible food.

SUMMARY OF RECOMM

Goals	Strategies	Recommendations
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Healthy Food For All</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">All Seattle residents should have enough to eat and access to affordable, local, healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate food</p>	<p>Promote the location of healthy food access points, such as grocery stores, healthy food retail, farmers markets, food gardens, and farms, within walking or bicycling distance from homes, work places, and other gathering places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate policies supportive of food access into City of Seattle plans and efforts. • Explore incentives for locating grocery stores in areas identified as having low food security and poor food access. • As criteria in evaluating transportation projects, include safe and convenient pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections between residential neighborhoods and food access points.
	<p>Use the City's purchasing and contracting power to support healthy, local, sustainably produced food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement best practice nutrition and physical activity standards at Seattle-supported licensed childcare facilities. • Adopt healthy vending guidelines for vending machines on City property. • Adopt healthy procurement guidelines for City contracts, events, and facilities.
	<p>Support programs, policies, and projects that help get more healthy food to children and youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and expand the Farm to Table program. • Support and expand the Good Food Bag program. • Provide free summer meals to children. • Provide operational support to food banks and congregate meal programs. • Provide support to family childcare providers to help improve the quality of food served.
	<p>Increase affordability of healthy, local food for low-income Seattle residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers to older adult and bags of local produce to home-bound seniors. • Support and expand efforts to enroll eligible families in food assistance programs, including SNAP and WIC. • Motivate healthy food purchases by SNAP recipients by working with partners to create a Fresh Bucks program for use at Farmers Markets.
	<p>Promote healthy food, especially in low-income communities and with youth, through education and collaborative efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support sustainable food systems and urban agriculture education for teens, adults, seniors, and children.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Prevent Food Waste</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Food-related waste should be prevented, reused, or recycled</p>	<p>Prevent edible food from entering the waste stream.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a behavior change campaign aimed at reducing edible food entering the waste stream.
	<p>Increase composting of non-edible food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to require food-waste recycling for all residential customers and encourage food-waste recycling for commercial customers. • Explore the benefits of collecting garbage every other week, and yard/food waste weekly. • Establish food-waste recycling or composting at municipal facilities. • Continue to promote backyard composting.

ENDATIONS

	Goals	Strategies	Recommendations
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Grow Local</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">It should be easy to grow food in Seattle and in our region, for personal use of for business purposes.</p>		<p>Prioritize food production as a use of land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate policies supportive of urban agriculture into City of Seattle plans and efforts • Working within the City’s property database, develop additional site criteria to more readily identify vacant or underused parcels suitable for urban agriculture.
		<p>Develop and support programs to produce food on City-owned land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and expand the P-Patch community gardening and market gardening programs, focusing on meeting the needs of all residents interested in growing food in a P-Patch. • Improve management and harvesting of fruits and berries on existing City-owned property. • Where appropriate, consider leasing City-owned land to non-profit community partners to support community goals and produce food for the community. • Lease underutilized City-owned land to urban farmers through the Seattle Farms program.
		<p>Support efforts to expand urban food production on privately owned land, including residential, commercial, and institutional properties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage continued use of the competitive Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund to develop and fund innovative community-based food production projects. • Encourage new developments to include garden or agricultural land through the Seattle Green Factor and Priority Green Permitting. • Include a fruit tree option in Trees for Neighborhoods, a project of Seattle reLeaf, to promote food production on residential property. • Provide education about low-impact, chemical-free home gardening.
		<p>Explore opportunities to expand rooftop and building integrated agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to expand rooftop and building-integrated agriculture.
		<p>Work jointly with other jurisdictions to conserve agricultural land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the Seattle’s role in conserving regional agricultural land through transferring development rights from farmland to urban areas. • Explore innovative ways in which Seattle can help to protect regional farmland.
	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Strengthen the Local Economy</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Businesses that produce, process, distribute, and sell local and healthy food should grow and thrive in Seattle.</p>		<p>Support businesses that grow, distribute, process, and sell local and healthy food.</p>
		<p>Celebrate and enhance local food as an element of Seattle’s identity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the economic development potential of the food system as a local industry cluster. • Identify opportunities to enhance Seattle’s local food business identity.
		<p>Support farmers markets and small retailers that sell healthy and locally produced food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver streamlined permitting services to farmers markets and help existing farmers markets maintain viable locations. • Support existing business owners in increasing healthy foods offered in their stores.



SEATTLE OFFICE OF
Sustainability & Environment

700 5th Avenue, Suite 2748
PO Box 94729
Seattle WA 98124

Phone: (206) 615- 0817
Fax (206) 684-3013

www.seattle.gov/food