



Citywide Accomplishments 2008-present

The Local Food Action Initiative establishes goals, creates a policy framework, and identifies specific actions to strengthen Seattle and the region's food system in a sustainable and secure way. Resolution 31019, passed by the Seattle City Council in April 2008, outlines the Initiative. It aims to improve the local and regional food system, and in doing so, advance the City of Seattle's interrelated goals of race and social justice, environmental sustainability, economic development, and emergency preparedness.

Healthy Food for All

- Continuing efforts with the anti-hunger community to develop a long-range campaign for healthy food for all and to end hunger and poor nutrition, and a strategy for working with food banks to align their work towards increasing the food self-sufficiency of their clients
- Increased funding and outreach through the City's PeoplePoint program to increase enrollment in federal food assistance programs
- Joined with United Way to develop a strategy to address hunger, including increased use of Basic Food assistance
- Added \$200,000 in the 2009 budget and \$200,000 in the 2010 budget for bulk buying of food for food banks
- Assisting home-based childcare providers to plan for and provide nourishing meals through the Child Care Nutrition program
- Incorporating new nutrition and physical activity standards into child care program assessments and contracts for businesses operating on Housing Authority property
- Supplemented the Summer Food Service Program free meals with farm fresh produce bags for participants to take home
- Provided no-cost meals to school-age youth during summer months through the Summer Food Service Program
- Supporting cooperative food purchasing through the Farm-to-Table Partnership, which aims to make healthy foods more affordable for meal programs like senior congregate meals, home-delivered meals, and childcare settings by connecting providers directly with farmers



Citywide Accomplishments, continued

- Providing operational funding to senior centers, which offer community kitchens, cooking classes, nutrition education, food banks, CSA drop-sites, and meals
- Added \$200,000 in the 2009 budget and \$200,000 in the 2010 budget for home food delivery services for the disabled and elderly
- Providing healthy congregate and home-delivered meals for older adults and low-income residents throughout King County
- Providing congregate meal services to older immigrant and refugee communities through the Food & Fitness program
- Renovated congregate meal space in the International District's Bush Hotel community facilities
- Delivering over 2,000 local produce bags per year to homebound elders throughout King County
- Linking community centers with local food sources to provide healthy foods at low cost, via bulk buying, for center participant meals
- Increasing the availability of healthy food in Department of Parks and Recreation vending machines, facilities, and programs as well as other City facilities, as well as food provided at programs such as after school programs and City-sponsored events
- Developing a set of statistics on hunger in Seattle to help guide future investments and policies, through the Human Services Department
- Coordinating with Lettuce Link and non-profit partners to encourage donations of surplus P-Patch garden produce to area food banks and hot meal programs
- Supported community food system innovation by providing more than \$500,000 in Neighborhood matching fund awards to more than 30 projects that range from the Edible Garden Tour of South Seattle to the South Park Community Kitchen to the Phinney Sustainable Fruit Tree Harvest to multiple community garden projects
- Acting as a sub-contractor with the Washington Department of Social and Health Services for Basic Food outreach and enrollment
- Participating in the Soda Free Sundays campaign



Citywide Accomplishments, continued

Grow and Eat

- Operating over 130 food systems programs through Parks and Recreation
- Supporting community kitchens at community centers, which these programs teach cooking techniques, food purchasing skills and healthy nutrition skills to where participants cook and store food enough for multiple servings in a cost effective manner
- Operating a Top Teen Chef cooking program at 14 Teen Recreation sites, which send delegations of teens to compete for top honors in a citywide quarterly competition where they prepare healthy meals for a panel of judges
- Conducting culturally appropriate nutrition and health education sessions at City-supported ethnic senior nutrition programs
- Ensuring that healthy eating is supported in the Families and Education Levy as an important element in ensuring student success
- Encouraging community centers to become Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop off sites
- Established a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop-off site at the Seattle Municipal Tower
- Funding community-based food production projects, like the Jefferson Park Food Forest, through the 2011 Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund
- Creating nine People's Gardens at community centers on Parks and Recreation property, as part of a pilot program that supports community-based food system programs, including gardens in underserved communities
- Creating an Urban Fruit Tree stewardship program to engage residents in the care and stewardship of fruit trees at five existing orchards on Seattle Parks and Recreation property, through collaboration with Parks staff and fruit tree organizations
- Converted the seven-acre, City-owned Atlantic Street Nursery into Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands
- Included \$2 million in the Parks for All Levy for expanding and developing new community gardens and P-Patches, approved by the voters
- Expanded community garden space in twelve neighborhoods and developed new community gardens in nine communities

To learn more, see the Initiative's website at http://www.seattle.gov/council/conlin/food_initiative.htm and the City's food page at <http://www.seattle.gov/environment/food.htm>



Citywide Accomplishments, continued

- Developed the “Growing Food in the City” educational brochure about food production from the City’s perspective, distributing 10,000 in first six months
- Developing a Municipal Agriculture Program that identifies available land and allows leasing of City-owned land for commercial urban agriculture, with particular emphasis on leasing to low-income, refugee, and immigrant communities
- Created a rooftop garden pilot project to grow food on rooftops in dense urban neighborhoods
- Working with immigrants, refugees, and Seattle Housing Authority through the P-Patch Program to operate community supported agriculture farm and farm stands at two public housing sites
- Operating a pilot market garden project through the P-Patch Program that makes public land available to three low income and immigrant families
- Working with a variety of neighborhood groups in establishing urban food production, including assisting the Freeway Estates Community Orchard in obtaining permits from the Washington State Department of Transportation for use of the land

Strengthen the Local Economy

- Developing opportunities for healthy mobile food vending at the Mount Baker Link Light Rail station, in partnership with Sound Transit
- Increasing access to healthy food at convenience and corner stores in communities of Central, South, and SW Seattle, as well as adjacent areas in South King County, through the Office of Economic Development’s Healthy Foods Here business development program
- Developing a business directory of urban agriculture-related businesses in Seattle, assisting in the development of an urban agriculture business association, and working to improve meeting the needs of emerging businesses
- Developing a policy framework, drafting an application process, and identifying potential parcels to use in a pilot test of leasing city-owned land for commercial agriculture



Citywide Accomplishments, continued

- Working to increase small- and mid-scale regional distribution that supports small farms and farmers
- Identifying opportunities to expand economic activity, marketing, and jobs in the local food economy, including exploring how best to support marketing through Puget Sound Fresh
- Worked with the Washington State legislature to pass “cottage laws” that allow home production of value-added food products
- Offering the 40-acre, City-owned Red Barn Ranch property for the United People’s Farm, a farm incubator program partnership of Seattle Tilth and Burst for Prosperity that works with refugees, immigrants and other low-income individuals to create small farming businesses through access to subsidized land, equipment, and marketing channels along with farm planning and business assistance
- Hired consultants to analyze and provide recommendations on economic development opportunities within the local/regional food system
- Hosting a Seattle Urban Agriculture Business Forum to share information about City services and programs available to businesses, share relevant policies and regulations, and to discuss industry development strategies to promote urban agriculture and its unique needs

Farmers Markets

- Drafted and submitted legislation exempting farmers markets from SEPA environmental review, currently awaiting State approval
- Simplified farmers market permit requirements through the Office of Economic Development and cut permit fees by up to 90% for neighborhood farmers markets
- Established a weekly City Hall Farmers Market, operated by Pike Place Market
- Working to establish stable sites for farmers markets, including assisting Wallingford, Queen Anne, Columbia City, and Capitol Hill farmers markets to find new sites
- Managed distribution of Farmers Market vouchers to low-income elders throughout King County
- Provided Neighborhood Matching Fund awards to develop farmers markets in the Delridge, Cascade, South Park, and Queen Anne

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Citywide Accomplishments, continued

Environment and Waste

- Mandating that multi-family housing units provide food waste collection service for tenants by September 2011
- Doubling of multi-family food waste tons collected from 2009 to 2010
- Achieving a 15% increase in weight of food waste recycled in the commercial sector
- Piloting Food Waste Recycling at Parks and Recreation facilities, including at community centers, special events, and Summer Lunch Sites
- Passing an ordinance that makes clear that quick-serve restaurants and food courts are responsible for providing discard bins for compostables and recyclables in areas where customers are served
- Banning of polystyrene food service containers and a requirement that all single-use food service packaging be either recyclable or compostable
- Offering a Pesticide Reduction Program to eliminate the use of the most potentially hazardous herbicides and insecticides and to reduce overall pesticide use on public lands
- Projecting an additional 11,400 ton diversion of food from the waste stream in 10 years due to grant-funded refrigerators and other equipment for food banks purchased between 2008 to 2010
- Promoting food waste composting/collection and healthy lunchroom choices through Washington Green Schools certification program
- Providing grants to Seattle Public Schools and private schools for food waste composting/collection startup and teacher workshops
- Pursuing a zero waste strategy that increases food waste recycling citywide
- Engaged community groups and individuals in recommending strategies to reduce the food system's carbon footprint, to inform Seattle's Climate Action Plan
- Collaborated with a University of Washington masters student to analyze soil health in planting strips

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Citywide Accomplishments, continued

Emergency Preparedness

- Working with the Office of Emergency Management and partners to strengthen the regional plan for emergency food reserves
- Prioritizing key transportation corridors that connect food warehouses to the City, particularly seismic retrofitting of bridges along Seattle's Major Truck Streets
- Establishing agreements with major supermarkets to distribute fresh food immediately after emergencies

Farmland Preservation

- Passed a resolution to develop a Transfer of Development Rights program to protect farmland in King County that provides produce for Seattle's farmers markets
- Exploring strategies and models for preserving farmland that produces food for Seattle residents, including exploring new partnerships with King County and other entities

Policies and Plans

- Developing and publishing the Seattle Farm Bill Principles and working with local, regional, and national partners to encourage local governments, the National League of Cities, and others to support them and advocate for appropriate policy in the renewal of the 2012 Farm Bill
- Working with the Board of Health to adopt healthy food guidelines for vending machines, including on Parks and Recreation property, and incorporate these standards into vending machine contracts



Citywide Accomplishments, continued

- Adding policies addressing food production, access, distribution, and consumption to the Comprehensive Plan as part of the 2012 update and/or to other policy documents as relevant
- Collaborated with Seattle University to analyze production and foraging of food policy issues on Parks and Recreation property
- Adding policies and strategies addressing food production, access, and distribution to the Transportation Strategic Plan as part of the 2011 update
- Partnered with King County on an analysis to understand the footprint of the goods and services consumed in Seattle and the region, including the food we consume
- Incorporated a “healthy living assessment” into the Neighborhood Planning Process and community discussions, which identifies issues affecting health in a neighborhood, such as inadequate access to fresh produce
- Developing a policy for creating Community Center People’s Gardens on Parks and Recreation property
- Created a City-hosted food website
- Clarified the rules, educated the public, eliminated fees, and promoted the use of planting strips for growing food, through the Seattle Department of Transportation
- Identified and inventoried the most suitable City-owned properties for conversion to use for food production
- Reduced water rates for designated agricultural land in Seattle
- Developing a new P-Patch Strategic Plan, to address demand for community gardens and plan for P-Patch role in urban agriculture
- Modified the Seattle Green Factor (standards for inclusion of green spaces in developments) to provide extra credit for providing fruit trees or food cultivation, including on green roofs, and expanded it to low-rise zones
- Declared 2010 as the Year of Urban Agriculture, organizing events and public engagement programs to increase the number of gardens in Seattle, and providing resources for and encouraging people to grow food



Citywide Accomplishments, continued

- Appropriated \$25,000 to the Department of Planning and Development to review land use code provisions to identify codes that supports or inhibits potential future development of urban agriculture and market gardening and to develop new standards or incentive programs
- Adopted land use code changes that:
 - Define “Community Garden” and allow them outright in all zones
 - Define “Urban Farm” and allow specific appropriate models in each zone
 - Define “Farmers Markets” as an outright permitted use with zoning incentives for permanent markets
 - Allow people in residential zones to grow and sell unprocessed produce on their property
 - Implement urban agriculture as an accessory use through the Living Building pilot program
 - Increase the number of chickens allowed from 3 to 8 per dwelling unit
 - Allow miniature goats as small animals permitted in all zones as an accessory use, with certain provisions
- Developed a Client Assistance Memo (CAM) to educate residents about new urban agriculture legislation

Collaborate

- Funding a consultant’s recommendations for creating the City’s Food System Action Plan in 2012 and 2013
- Establishing the City’s Interdepartmental Team that coordinates work by City departments on food issues
- Established the Parks Urban Food Systems committee to coordinate, develop and advocate for food systems programs and policies at Parks and Recreation, including Parks staff, partners and community organizations
- Developing indicators of success in transforming the food system



Citywide Accomplishments, continued

- Working with Public Health—Seattle & King County on the “Communities Putting Prevention to Work” (CPPW) grant to support community kitchens and market gardens, to take steps to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables in “food deserts,” and to work on the Municipal Lands for Agriculture project
- Secured the \$300,000 Community Food Project grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support community-led actions that provide local, healthy foods in low-income neighborhoods of SE Seattle and West Seattle, including a healthy corner store initiative in Delridge, a new community farm at Seattle Housing Authority’s Rainier Vista, expanded garden education in SE Seattle, and the Clean Greens Farm & Market in the Central Area
- Working with Washington State University Extension to identify opportunities for partnership and connecting its work to urban agriculture
- Finding a new home for the Certificate in Urban Agriculture program, previously housed at Seattle Central Community College
- Established the Regional Food Policy Council, housed at Puget Sound Regional Council
- Assisting to develop and implement the Regional Food Policy Council’s work plan, and assisting to secure funding for the Council
- Preparing to participate in national Food Day in October 2011
- Assisted in developing a Washington State Food Policy Interagency Team
- Convened numerous meetings to engage community participants in providing policy direction, ideas for partnerships, and feedback on programs
- Coordinating departmental mapping projects related to food systems information
- Providing information to numerous municipalities, including Little Rock, Arkansas; Tucson, Arizona; Richmond, California; Baltimore, Maryland; SeaTac, Washington and many others
- Providing presentations at numerous national and local conferences, forums, and strategic policy planning summits
- Engaged students in food-related projects and research
- Provided guest lectures at the University of Washington and Seattle Central Community College

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Citywide Accomplishments, continued

- Organized tours of urban farms for the Federal Farm Credit Bureau
- Organized panels on local food strategies in the Puget Sound for a Sacramento Area Council of Governments study mission