

Food Action Plan **DRAFT** Outline – Version 7.0

Notes

- This is an outline of **DRAFT Strategic Priorities** and **Actions** currently under consideration for the updated Food Action Plan. This content was developed in consultation with research, engagement with communities most impacted by food system inequities*, and City departments.
- *Regarding **community engagement**: Since September 2021, the Office of Sustainability & Environment has been engaging with a wide range of food system stakeholders with diverse expertise and who represent frontline communities most impacted by [racial inequities in our food system](#). Key themes from these community engagements are summarized in these select reports and presentations:
 - [Community Engagement Report Back Presentation](#) (from July 12 & July 15, 2022)
 - [Community Engagement Full Report](#)
 - [Community Leader Interviews Report](#)
- Strategies and Actions do **NOT** appear in order of priority.
- Strategies and Actions **focus on new or expanded work** and do not intend to capture all existing work.
- This version is the basis for the consider.it online forum:
<https://seattlefoodactionplan.consider.it/?tab=About>

Vision

City of Seattle's Food Action Plan envisions an equitable, sustainable, resilient local food system in which all can fully participate, prosper, and benefit and that supports healthy, vibrant communities.

We have outlined four Goals for achieving this vision:

Goals

<p>Ensure Equitable Food Access</p>	<p>Prevent Food Waste & Climate Pollution</p>
<p>All Seattle residents—regardless of race, place, housing status, citizenship, or income— have enough to eat and easy access to fresh, affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food.</p>	<p>Our local food system protects and even improves the environment, prevents food-related waste, and minimizes further impacts on the climate.</p>
<p>Support Locally Grown Food</p>	<p>Ensure Equitable Economic Opportunity & Fair Labor Practices</p>
<p>Our local food system strengthens the connection between local farmers and consumers, supports gardening, urban farming, and other community food production, prioritizing those communities which were historically excluded from land access and ownership.</p>	<p>Our local food system and land use policies, from farm to fork, create economic opportunities and a valued workforce, centering workers and communities most impacted by racism.</p>

Strategic Priorities

The following is a list of seven **Strategic Priorities** we have identified in pursuit of these goals.

1. Increase access to food and meal programs that are culturally responsive and promote health and food security. **[FOOD & MEAL PROGRAMS]**
2. Increase access to land for growing food and for community and economic development projects that involve food, prioritizing communities most impacted by historically racist policies and practices. **[LAND ACCESS]**
3. Expand access to culturally relevant and empowering food and nutrition education for youth, adults, and older adults. **[EDUCATION]**
4. Create an equitable, fair, and healthy local food economy for Seattle workers, businesses, and residents. **[ECONOMY & LABOR]**
5. Foster equitable, environmentally sustainable, and strengthened local supply chains. **[SUPPLY CHAINS]**
6. Prevent food waste, rescue (redistribute) surplus food for people who need it and compost the rest into new natural resources. **[FOOD WASTE]**
7. Reduce climate pollution associated with Seattle’s food system and support food production that improves the environment. **[ENVIRONMENT]**

Strategic Priority 1 – [Food & Meal Programs]

Strategic Priority 1: Increase access to food and meal programs that are culturally responsive and promote health and food security.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
1.A	<p>Revised Action: Increase investments in community-led innovations and actions that support an equitable and resilient local food system, prioritizing impacted communities.</p> <p>Background & Rationale: Investing in community-led initiatives through grants, contracts, and other funding is an important way the City of Seattle supports community wellbeing and resilience. Currently, the City offers several ongoing grant programs focused on food: Department of Neighborhoods’ Food Equity Fund and Human Services Department’s Food and Nutrition RFP and Farm to Table Support Services RFP. Requests for funding through to these programs often exceed available funding.</p> <p>Other City grant programs that not focused on food but do occasionally fund food-related projects include: Department of Neighborhoods’ Neighborhood Matching Fund and Duwamish River Opportunity Fund; Office of Planning and Community Development’s Equitable Development Initiative; Office of Sustainability & Environment’s Environmental Justice Fund; the King Conservation District-Seattle Partnership Grant.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and increase funding for community grant programs that support community-led food and agriculture projects. • Contract with culturally connected and skilled technical assistance consultants to help community organizations apply to City funding opportunities and manage contract administration. • Implement grantmaking policies and practices that reflect the values of the Race and Social Justice Initiative to reduce barriers on grant seekers, ensure equitable distribution of funds, help organizations build their capacity, center community priorities, and build trust-based relationships between the City and grantees. • Develop a strategic funding initiative focused on direct, sustained financial support for urban farmers and community-led gardens.
1.B	<p>Revised Action: Invest in food assistance programs that increase access to nourishing and culturally relevant meals and food sourced from local food businesses and farms, prioritizing partnerships with BIPOC-owned businesses and farms.</p> <p>Rationale: Food assistance programs that purchase food from local farmers and businesses create community benefits across the food system: food access to people experiencing hunger, needed revenue for farmers, and economic stability to local businesses</p>

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	<p>and their employees. Purchasing from local growers, producers, and other food businesses also helps to strengthen local food supply chains. Prioritizing economic partnerships with growers and entrepreneurs of color as well as immigrant businesses can reduce income and wealth disparities between people of color and whites. Additionally, food assistance programs that provide culturally relevant foods offered by BIPOC businesses play a unique role in anchoring cultural communities and increasing residents’ sense of belonging.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback: Expand current efforts that combine food assistance, economic development, and local food resilience. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund BIPOC and immigrant chefs/caterers and other local food makers and suppliers to provide food and prepare culturally specific meals for those in need • Fresh Bucks (see Action 1.C) and SNAP Match • Healthy Food in Schools (see Action 1.D) • Farm to Table programs (see Actions 1.E, 1.F), with guidance that seasonal planning and purchasing be in coordination with BIPOC farmers and any of their intermediaries (co-ops, etc.) • Equitable Food-Centered Community and Economic Development (see Action 4.A) • Provide funding for food access organizations to use in compensating farmers, particularly BIPOC farmers, for farmers market or other direct-market surplus foods to make it easier for farmers to donate; assist farmers with tax write-offs for any donations made
1.C	<p>Revised Action: Expand Fresh Bucks to serve additional income-qualified households and to incorporate additional retailers who sell culturally specific, sustainably produced, and/or locally grown fruits and vegetables.</p> <p>Rationale: Fresh Bucks is a healthy food program that helps Seattle residents afford fruits and vegetables. The program provides income-eligible and enrolled households \$40 each month to buy fruits and vegetables at any Fresh Bucks retailer. By increasing the purchasing power of lower-income households, Fresh Bucks directly addresses a top food access barrier consistently cited by food-insecure communities—the cost of buying nutritious food. Meanwhile, Fresh Bucks spending is good for the local economy: every \$1 spent in Fresh Bucks is estimated to generate \$1.54 in the local economy, based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s estimate for SNAP.</p>

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	<p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll eligible households from the Fresh Bucks waitlist. • Expand the Fresh Bucks retailer network, prioritizing local businesses owned by people of color and immigrants (see also Actions 1.B, 4.A). • Deepen and expand partnerships with community health systems to implement Food is Medicine strategies, offering Fresh Bucks in healthcare settings to eligible patients with diet-affected chronic disease (see also Action 1.I). • Provide in-language support to participants and implementing partners to adjust to new e-benefit technology. • Provide transportation assistance to access Fresh Bucks retailers.
1.D	<p>Revised Action: Continue work with Seattle Public Schools to increase student access to fresh, nutritious, sustainable, local, and culturally relevant meals and snacks.</p> <p>Rationale: School meals are a crucial food access point in our communities, especially for low-income and food-insecure families. School meals are critical to students’ well-being and readiness to learn. Seattle Public Schools (SPS) Culinary Services provides 27,000 meals per day to students across the district, at least 37% of whom are on Free & Reduced-Price Lunch (FRL). For years, Seattle’s school community has asked for higher quality and culturally relevant menu items in SPS. Additionally, school food service presents a prime opportunity to increase equitable procurement and environmental sustainability through targeted purchasing and sourcing of ingredients.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback: This action will continue and build upon the City of Seattle’s current work with Seattle Public Schools (SPS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund a supplemental Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in SPS. • Increase purchases of fresh, sustainably produced ingredients from local and BIPOC-owned farms and food producers. (see also Action 5.A) • Expand universal meals by increasing SPS participation in the Community Eligibility Provision. • Provide more food and meal options that are appetizing, culturally relevant, and in larger portions, in collaboration with students. • Provide more resources, funding, support, and infrastructure to the SPS Culinary Services program and school kitchen staff • Improve the cafeteria environment so students have enough time and space to eat their meals.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly engage students for feedback and input to help develop school meal menus and recipes. • Provide more food and nutrition education to students, especially by involving students in school kitchens and the SPS meal program to learn from and support culinary staff.
1.E	<p>Revised Action: Expand Farm to Early Care and Education as well as Farm to Summer Meals, programs that increase access to nutritious, local foods in childcare, preschool, and summer meal programs and provide hands-on educational opportunities around food, nutrition, and agriculture. Focus expansion within underserved communities.¹</p> <p>Background: Farm-to-School programs strengthen the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools and early care and education settings. Read more on this concept here.</p> <p>Rationale: Early childhood development is an ideal time to learn about healthy food, try new types of food, learn gardening and cooking skills, and understand firsthand where food comes from. Child care and preschool programs provide spaces where children can explore food and learn in a supportive, supervised setting. This action helps ensure that programs have capacity, knowledge, and resources to deliver quality farm-to-table instruction.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the amount and quality of local, seasonal, farm-to-table food for children. • Build on existing effective programs such as Farm-to-Preschool and the Child Care Nutrition Program. • Incorporate farming and gardening, cooking, and nutrition education practices at participating childcare, preschool, and summer meal programs • Identify capacity and service gaps within underserved communities and bridge those gaps.
1.F	<p>Revised Action: Increase access to nutritious, culturally relevant food and programming for older adults (ages 60+) in community and home settings.</p>

¹ CLI ID 1540685

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	<p>Rationale: Community meal programs for older adults (age 60+) provide free, nutritious, culturally specific, and well-balanced meals in communal and care settings. However, these programs deliver much more than just a meal to their clients; their menu of offerings also includes nutrition services, social companionship, and other community-based services to promote their health, safety, food security, and independence in their own homes and communities as they age.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further increase access to food through social connectivity activities such as nutrition education, farm-to-table field trips, cooking classes and other community-building activities. • Support digital literacy for older adults to increase their access to activities provided through digital technologies. • Focus on culturally relevant food and activities to specific cultural communities. • Increase food sourced from BIPOC-led and local businesses (see also Action 1.B).
1.G	<p>Revised Action: Develop a comprehensive, integrated response across City departments and community partners to improve food access for unsheltered populations.</p> <p>Rationale: People experiencing unsheltered homelessness have unique food access needs, due in part to location (sometimes changing), lack of transportation and services, absence of safe cooking facilities, medical needs, and dietary restrictions. People living unsheltered are reluctant to leave their possessions unprotected for long periods while they seek out food. Substantial meals are usually not included as part of homeless outreach (workers often only provide snacks and water), and donations do not always meet people’s needs and may be wasted. The City’s current investments in food and meals for people experiencing homelessness focus on sheltered populations, whether in shelters, “tiny-house villages,” or temporary hotels through King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA).</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback: People experiencing homelessness provided several recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen trauma-informed homeless outreach services to include healthy food, hygiene and food waste removal resources, and food-related gift cards. • Engage mutual aid groups to co-develop strategies that ensure food and meal distribution efforts are allowed to operate and distribute food safely. • Educate donors about health, medical, and cultural food needs to better serve people’s needs and minimize waste. • Create pop-up community kitchen spaces for people to cook their own food safely.

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1.H	<p>Revised Action: Strengthen meal program and food bank capacity to provide person-centered and culturally responsive services and food.</p> <p>Rationale: Meal programs and food banks are a foundation of the emergency food system, providing a front door to free food access for people in need or in crisis. Program staff and volunteers engage with highly diverse, food-insecure communities while experiencing fluctuations in supply chain, food and fuel prices, staffing shortages, availability of in-language resources, and more. Programs need additional capacity to adapt to meet the needs of communities. If food and services are not person-centered, clients will expend additional time, money, and fuel to seek out resources.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support strategies to hire, train and retain a culturally competent workforce. • Increase purchasing power to cover culturally relevant and local foods and unplanned cost spikes. • Add refrigeration, storage, and other useful spaces in key centralized/shared locations as well as at meal programs and food banks. • Respond to person-centered food access needs such as expanded hours, home or hub delivery, and pop-up services. • Support the work of local meal and food coalitions providing member organizations ongoing quality training, service coordination, and effective food distribution. • Support the development of nutrition policies for donated and purchased food (see also Action 6.D).
1.I	<p>New Action: Partner with community health systems to pilot new (and scale existing) “Food Is Medicine” programs, focusing on individuals at risk for or coping with diet-affected chronic illness.</p> <p>Rationale: Lack of reliable access to sufficient, nutritious food is a key driver to health outcomes and related costs. “Food is Medicine” interventions provide healthy foods that are tailored to meet the specific needs of individuals living with or at risk for serious health conditions affected by diet. Addressing nutritional needs within the context of healthcare is an important strategy to prevent and/or manage chronic illnesses. A growing number of community health clinics and healthcare payers (insurers) are exploring how they can integrate “Food is Medicine” interventions into patient-centered models of care for individuals living with or at risk for complex chronic illnesses.</p>

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	<p>Example approaches from community feedback and elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community-based Healthy Food Programs:</i> Provide access to nutritious foods for people who currently have or are at increased risk for chronic disease associated with food insecurity. • <i>Nutritious Food Referrals:</i> Provide nutritious food referrals or “food prescriptions” (for free or discounted nutritious foods) to individuals identified as being at-risk for diet-related diseases (see also Action 1.C). • <i>Medically tailored food:</i> Offer medically tailored food packages and meals, developed by a qualified nutrition professional or Registered Dietitian, as part of a treatment plan for an individual with a defined medical diagnosis. • Advocate for expanding health insurance reimbursement for “Food is Medicine” interventions.
1.J	<p>Revised Action: Support coordinated disaster preparedness planning to ensure communities have access to food in an emergency.</p> <p>Rationale: The COVID pandemic showed how Seattle communities can innovate and adapt in emergencies; it also exposed risks of unexpected disruptions throughout the food system. The City conducts ongoing preparation for earthquakes, weather events and more. Additional planning is needed to prepare an effective food response during future pandemics, natural disasters, and other emergencies.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support coordinated disaster preparedness planning and contingencies for supply chain, production, distribution, and staffing/volunteer disruptions. • Integrate with broader regional response efforts. • Provide training and experiential “tabletop” exercises for key partners. (A tabletop exercise is a disaster preparedness activity that take participants through the process of a simulated disaster scenario.) • Include special focus on equity planning and support for underserved neighborhoods.

Strategic Priority 2 – [Land Access]

Strategic Priority 2: Increase access to land for growing food and for community and economic development projects that involve food, prioritizing communities most impacted by historically racist policies and practices.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
2.A	<p>Revised Action: Develop avenues to increase community land ownership for food and agricultural projects on public and private land within Seattle.</p> <p>Rationale: Land ownership and land access to grow food were common themes in community engagement focused on strategies to support self-determination and equitable food access. Property ownership in Seattle, as throughout the U.S., is rooted in many historical harms including colonization and theft of indigenous lands, control of land and resources through redlining, displacement, and other racist policies and practices.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback: Leverage existing City tools to support accessible avenues for community land ownership, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition financing through the Equitable Development Initiative, to support land stewardship and ownership that advances Equity Drivers from the EDI action plan • Land disposition and transfers • Work with community leaders and equitable land use consultants to explore accessible avenues for community land ownership, access, and stewardship on a range of land use topics including equitable development, food, environment, alternatives to private land “ownership”, and housing.
2.B	<p>Revised Action: Increase land access and stewardship rights for community groups to grow food on public, City-owned land and support a continuum of culturally relevant, food and nutrition educational activities to reach diverse communities.</p> <p>Rationale: Community agriculture has many social and health benefits: it increases access to fresh, nutritious food; boosts physical and mental health; promotes civic engagement and land stewardship; builds and strengthens intergenerational social networks; provides leadership opportunities for community members, including youth and older adults; and contributes to open greenspaces in urban areas. While there are many pressures on land use, there are opportunities to activate small, under-used sites for food production and to establish more community gardens at places where residents and community groups already gather, such as community centers, parks, Seattle Housing Authority properties, and schools.</p>

Strategic Priority 2: Increase access to land for growing food and for community and economic development projects that involve food, prioritizing communities most impacted by historically racist policies and practices.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<p>Turning property into a productive community garden or urban farm site takes planning, resources, and interdepartmental coordination.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess potential properties and land sites suitable for growing food, considering features like soil health (or the need to reduce and/or mitigate soil contaminants), adequate sunlight, water access, and alignment with community priorities. • Assess land use and land management policy considerations and the need and costs for capital improvements. • Direct resources (such as grants and contracts) to support community groups that effectively steward the land and grow food (see also Action 1.A). • Streamline and simplify support for urban farms and community gardens provided by Seattle Parks & Recreation, Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections, and Seattle Public Utilities to allow building of more on-site garden infrastructure and ensure affordable access to water. • Work with Seattle Parks & Recreation, Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Police Department, and other public safety partners to improve safety for gardeners and community members and improve community and police relationships. <p>Current examples of community groups growing food on City-owned land include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marra Farm • Rainier Beach Farm and Wetlands • Beacon Food Forest • Yes Farm in Yesler Terrace • P-Patch Community Gardening and Market Garden Program • BIPOC-led and -serving community groups grow food at multiple community center locations throughout the city
2.C	<p>Revised Action: Identify, develop, and implement opportunities to equitably support local food production, processing, and distribution chains within major land use decisions such as transportation planning, the Comprehensive Plan, neighborhood planning, and property reuse and disposition policies.</p> <p>Rationale: Land use decisions related to the food system can help promote environmental and social justice, economic opportunities, and community access to healthy and culturally relevant food. Benefits include creating and sustaining jobs through development of sites for food production, processing, and sales; preserving existing and supporting new opportunities for urban</p>

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	<p>agriculture (see Action 2.B); supporting local and regional food value chains and related infrastructure involved in the processing, packaging, and distribution of food (see Action 5.D); increasing community access to healthy and culturally relevant food through community gardening (see Action 1.B), improved transportation, and establishing new healthy food retailers in underserved neighborhoods (see Action 2.D).</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use projects for food should prioritize communities most burdened by institutional racism, food system inequities, and exclusion from land access and ownership. • Facilitate coordinated food systems planning across all major City of Seattle planning initiatives via the Food Action Plan Interdepartmental Team, looking for opportunities to advance Food Action Plan strategies and actions through land use planning. • Expand access to space for urban farming, community gardening, and fresh food retailers, especially those that carry culturally relevant, ethnically diverse foods. • Track and integrate opportunities to support the local food systems through coordinated efforts with regional, state, and national partners and agencies. Include special focus on community and stakeholder engagement, assessment of equity impacts, and support for underserved neighborhoods and demographic groups. • Transportation planning should address lack of transportation to grocery stores, farmers markets, and other food access sites by Seattle’s most vulnerable communities.
2.D	<p>Revised Action: Identify and implement opportunities to co-locate equitable food-oriented development projects (such as affordable, healthy, culturally relevant food retail) with affordable housing and transportation projects, prioritizing neighborhoods and communities that are underserved.</p> <p>Background & Rationale: Small food retailers and other businesses are an important part of the local economy—these enterprises generate jobs and economic opportunity with low barriers to entry. Local research shows there are areas in Seattle that lack access to nutritious and culturally relevant food. Equitable food-oriented development (EFOD) is a community-anchored development strategy that centers BIPOC food and agriculture projects and businesses as mediums for cultural expression and community building. This action calls for mixed-use affordable housing and transportation development that includes healthy food retail designed to increase access to healthy food and support equitable economic development.</p>

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Ref.	Action & Detail
	<p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new commercial or general-use first floor spaces within City-supported affordable housing or transportation development projects dedicated to equitable food-oriented development projects, such as healthy food retailers and those that carry culturally relevant foods (see Action 4.A). • Integrate into funding agreements or development RFPs requirements to assess and develop proposals to increase access to healthy, affordable, culturally relevant food. • Work with communities, businesses, and associations to identify critical food retail businesses at risk of being displaced and develop strategies to preserve at-risk businesses. • Contract with a nonprofit or public development authority to manage the space(s) and connect them to funding sources for tenant improvements.
2.E	<p>Revised Action: Increase the number of low-maintenance or passive food production (food forests, fruit trees) and foraging opportunities within Seattle, stewarded and directed by Native and Indigenous communities and other community partners.</p> <p>Rationale: Foodways within Native communities often include stewardship, harvesting, processing, and preparation of food sources endemic to the natural landscapes of traditional territories – in contrast to the more intensive, row-crop agriculture associated with colonization. Restoring, stewarding, and increasing endemic, naturally occurring food sources (such as plants, trees, or seafood) has an added benefit of requiring less maintenance and upkeep, while providing an additional fresh food access point. The cultural importance of these food production practices, sites, and sources for Native and Indigenous communities requires leadership, scoping, and implementation by those communities.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify parks and other City-owned greenspaces that might be good candidates for restoring low-maintenance, passive food production • Work with Native and Indigenous communities to identify important cultural spaces for food, medicinal herbs, and perennial use production sites to restore or preserve within the city limits. • Provide funding to Native and Indigenous communities for staffing and other resources to develop, manage, and steward traditional, ecological food production sites, prioritizing access for Native and Indigenous communities (particularly to foraging spaces).

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2.F	<p>Revised Action: Preserve and facilitate connections to peri-urban and rural farmland for local, sustainable food production that feeds Seattle-area communities and protects water resources and salmon habitat, working in partnership with County and State agencies.</p> <p>Rationale: King County has prime agricultural soils and has historically been a productive agricultural region. Rich agricultural areas support hundreds of families and provide an abundant local food source. While farming still has a major presence in the region, increased land prices, regulations, urban pressures, and drainage problems have all significantly contributed to the reduction of farmland in King County. Preserving farmland and connecting urban farmers to farmland, prioritizing BIPOC farmers, contributes to a vibrant, equitable economy, maintain a vibrant regional farm economy and abundant local food source.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with King County and the Working Farmland Partnership to develop and support the City of Seattle’s role in policies and actions that preserve and activate farmland. • Provide land and infrastructure access to local farmers in alignment with the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative, Equitable Development Initiative, Food Action Plan goals, and Climate Action Plan goals. • Identify and support opportunities for farmland preservation or acquisition by priority communities, including public-private partnerships and BIPOC-led land trusts.
2.G	<p>Revised Action: Develop and disseminate toolkits and trainings for new and experienced urban farmers and gardeners in collaboration with local urban agricultural leaders, to enhance and increase urban food production.</p> <p>Rationale: Gardening and urban farming has numerous benefits, including fresh food access, improving natural resources, growing community connections, and nutrition education. Both individual gardeners and community farms can improve their sustainable practices, increase the amount of food grown, improve personal and environmental health, and more through peer-to-peer learning about various practices and techniques. A wealth of expertise exists locally to both develop toolkits and trainings as well as disseminate them to priority communities and reach a wide variety of audiences.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with local urban agriculture leaders, especially those from priority communities, to develop and disseminate educational tools.

Strategic Priority 2: Increase access to land for growing food and for community and economic development projects that involve food, prioritizing communities most impacted by historically racist policies and practices.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover topics such as organic, sustainable, and regenerative farming practices, crop rotation, testing soil for contaminants and improving soil health, mitigating soil contaminants, composting, and climate adaptation.

Strategic Priority 3 – [Education]

Strategic Priority 3: Expand access to culturally relevant and empowering food and nutrition education for youth, adults, and older adults.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
3.A	<p>Revised Action: Expand the Urban Food System Program/BLOOM Fellowship to increase opportunities for young adults to gain valuable work experience via an urban agriculture platform of social justice skill building opportunities.</p> <p>Rationale: The Urban Food System Program provides coordinated opportunities for young adults of color to engage actively in the outdoors and to build community. The program also provides valuable work experience via urban agriculture platform of social justice skill building opportunities. These experiences are designed around community priorities to promote food sovereignty, social justice, health, and wellness.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide access to healthy food and active recreation opportunities. Community engagement with parkland used for food production. Provide coordinated recreation and learning opportunities focused on the Urban Food System. Outreach and engagement of youth, seniors, and other underserved communities.
3.B	<p>Revised Action: Support culturally relevant health promotion and nutrition education programs led by and for communities most impacted by diet-related illness.</p> <p>Rationale: Racism and systemic oppression strongly influence health outcomes by impacting social conditions and access to education, housing, employment, nutritious food, and health care. In Seattle and nationwide, race, place (geographic location), and income are strong predictors of health, including who is coping with chronic illness like obesity, cancer, type 2 diabetes, heart</p>

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Ref.	Action & Detail
	<p>disease/hypertension, and stroke—all of which are associated with poor nutrition and leading causes of death. Communities of color most impacted by health disparities have called for empowering health promotion and nutrition education that is culturally relevant, offered in participants’ preferred languages, and addresses social determinants of health like barriers to accessing healthy food.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback: Support community-based organizations to design and lead culturally relevant health promotion and nutrition education programs in collaboration with other funders.</p>
3.C	<p>Revised Action: Support culturally relevant paid youth and young adult job training opportunities in urban farming, food justice, and sustainable food systems.</p> <p>Rationale: Young adults are underrepresented in food production and food systems work. The average farmer demographic in the U.S. is over 55 years old, white and male. Engaging young people in culturally relevant food systems work has co-benefits: Opportunities provide job training and professional development for a new pipeline of leaders, invite diversity and new ideas, and offer community-based organizations needed capacity for food-related projects.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide paid internships, apprenticeships, and job placements to young adults ages 18-24. • Provide mentorship and coaching for career opportunities at all levels in the food system, from food production to food access to food justice and food sovereignty. • Identify and develop partnerships in the public, private, education and nonprofit sectors. Collaborate with existing internship and job training programs to create a food systems track.
3.D	<p>Revised Action: Invest in holistic, culturally relevant food and nutrition programming for youth.</p> <p>Rationale: Childhood and teenage years make up a critical time to build awareness of the many ways food and food choices impact our lives. And yet, food and nutrition topics are not adequately taught or discussed in traditional classroom settings. This action would deepen and broaden youth understanding of the relationship between food and culture, how food choices impact our health, community, and the environment--and recognizing that these impacts are not experienced equitably.</p>

Strategic Priority 3: Expand access to culturally relevant and empowering food and nutrition education for youth, adults, and older adults.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund youth-focused food justice organizations to design and deliver holistic, culturally attuned curricula for youth audiences in a variety of formats and settings. • Empower youth to lead on the design, development, and delivery of the curricula. Sample topics include nutrition, sustainable agriculture, food justice and community organizing, food culture, traditional local foods, household food budget, and more.

Strategic Priority 4 – [Economy & Labor]

Strategic Priority 4: Create an equitable, fair, and healthy local food economy for Seattle workers, businesses, and residents.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
4.A	<p>Revised Action: Develop and implement community and economic development initiatives that expand access to fresh, local, affordable, culturally relevant food and create economic opportunities in underserved communities.</p> <p>Rationale: Local research shows there are areas in Seattle that lack access to nutritious and culturally relevant food. Meanwhile, small food retailers and markets are an important part of the local economy—small food retailers generate jobs with low barriers to entry and give a high potential for individuals to climb the “wage ladder.” This action intentionally blends food access and economic development to increase neighborhood-level access to nutritious and culturally relevant food while supporting economic development and revitalization.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide grants (see also Action 1.A), technical assistance (see also Action 5.C), and referrals to small business resources (see also Action 4.B) to new and existing food entrepreneurs focused on increasing access to nutritious, culturally relevant food through farm stands, neighborhood stores, and microbusinesses.

Strategic Priority 4: Create an equitable, fair, and healthy local food economy for Seattle workers, businesses, and residents.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate healthy food affordability programs such as Fresh Bucks (see Action 1.C), SNAP, and WIC into the business operations. Partner with community organizations to generate support and a customer base for the new or emerging food retailer. • Support the establishment of an Indigenous Marketplace, a community enterprise that anchors Native and Indigenous artists, food producers, and entrepreneurs, re-establishing their crafts as integral to the Seattle economy while offering economic and workforce development opportunities.
4.B	<p>Revised Action: Work with regional partners and agencies to increase access to capital and financing for local food and agricultural businesses, focusing on businesses and enterprises owned by people of color, women, and other underserved communities.</p> <p>Rationale: Small food businesses are an important part of the local economy, pairing lower barriers to entry than other industries with opportunities for upward mobility. People of color and women own a disproportionately low share of businesses in Seattle (Equitable Development Community Indicators Report). Small and startup businesses need affordable financing, financial services, and access to capital. Supporting the small and startup food businesses that offer healthy and culturally appropriate foods can increase access in underserved areas (see Action 4.A)</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in King County’s efforts to develop a Food Financing Strategic Plan. • Invest and/or partner with organizations that offer affordable financial services and access to capital for people of color, women, and other underserved communities through Community Development Financial Institutions and community-based lending organizations. • Develop and maintain referral networks and technical assistance provider networks (see also Action 5.C). • Prioritize support to businesses that demonstrate strong community connections and include social benefits in their business models (see also Action 1.A). • Create accessible financing options for farmers and food producers to repay loans for infrastructure in the form of food donations
4.C	<p>Revised Action: Streamline the permitting and regulatory experience for startup and existing farmers markets, farm stands, and mobile food businesses² in Seattle.</p>

² CLI ID 1540680

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Ref.	Action & Detail
	<p>Rationale: Farmers markets and farm stands provide opportunities for local farmers and small food businesses to sell their products, create public awareness of local food, and foster connections between local growers and producers and consumers. They also serve as food business incubators, providing low-risk, low-cost opportunities for small entrepreneurs to expand their businesses or test new businesses and products. Mobile food vending operations, catering businesses, and food manufacturing businesses are additional ways for entrepreneurs to expand operations or create another revenue stream. Farmers market organizations and small food businesses have shared that the City of Seattle’s permitting processes is overly burdensome, requiring coordination with more than eight City and County departments responsible for permitting, traffic planning, neighborhood outreach, and food policy.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess efficiency and effectiveness of the permitting processes across City and County departments responsible for permitting farmers markets, farm stands, and mobile food business with a goal of reducing burdens for applicants, particularly for those from BIPOC, immigrant and refugee communities. Include an assessment of permit fees, use allowances, and permit timelines. • Create a process flow chart and other public-facing information that clearly communicate all the important permit process details, contacts, and fees to City and County departments as well as prospective applicants. • Consider a multi-year or master permit for longstanding markets and farm stands operating in public spaces. • Identify opportunities for tax relief (such as from B&O taxes), licensing fee waivers, or employee retention credits for small, locally owned food businesses, especially BIPOC, immigrant, or refugee owned businesses and those committed to sustainable, equitable business practices (see also Action 4.F).
4.D.	<p>Revised Action: Increase the Labor Standards Community Outreach and Education Fund to expand the capacity of community-based organizations to enforce Seattle’s labor laws for food system workers, focusing on people working low-wage jobs.</p> <p>Rationale: According to Office of Labor Standards (OLS) data, food services and retail are the top industries for OLS complaints and investigations of unfair labor practices, including violations of Paid Sick and Safe Time, Wage Theft, Minimum Wage, Fair Chance Employment, and Secure Scheduling. COVID-19 has exacerbated workplace inequities and increased labor standards violations in low-wage food industry jobs. Demographic populations most likely to occupy low-wage jobs and experience workplace violations</p>

Strategic Priority 4: Create an equitable, fair, and healthy local food economy for Seattle workers, businesses, and residents.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<p>include female workers, workers of color, immigrant and refugee workers, LGBTQ workers, workers with disabilities, veterans, and youth. The Labor Standards Community Outreach and Education Fund supports community organizations with deep ties to populations most vulnerable to Seattle labor violations.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing funding to community-based organizations made available through the Labor Standards Community Outreach and Education Fund. • Increase workers’ awareness and understanding of their rights—defined by Seattle’s labor standards and developed via methods that are community centered, culturally relevant, accessible, and in-language. • Expand workers’ access to resources that enforce labor standards and ensure their rights are protected. • Build capacity among community organizations to provide labor standards services and information to a diverse range of workers.
4.E.	<p>Revised Action: Increase outreach and education about Seattle’s labor laws to food businesses by integrating labor standards and workforce equity provisions into relevant City contracts and agreements.</p> <p>Rationale: According to Office of Labor Standards (OLS) data, food services and retail are the top industries for OLS complaints and investigations of unfair labor practices, including violations of Paid Sick and Safe Time, Wage Theft, Minimum Wage, Fair Chance Employment, and Secure Scheduling. City contracts and agreements involving food services and retail are a powerful tool to integrate labor standards and workforce equity provisions. Integrating labor standards into relevant food contracts and agreements can increase awareness of and compliance with Seattle’s labor standards.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate labor standards and workforce equity provisions in all City food program contracts and agreements. • Integrate labor standards and workforce equity provisions in all City food procurement contracts and agreements. • Educate small businesses about labor protections through the City’s Small Business Supports program.
4.F.	<p>Original Action: Develop a High Road Employer Program to help food businesses understand, promote, adhere to, and exceed Seattle’s labor laws to transition to a more equitable workplace. Celebrate and recognize High Road Employers in public communications and consider offering tax or licensing incentives for participating employers.</p>

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	<p>Rationale: According to Office of Labor Standards (OLS) data, food services and retail are the top industries for OLS complaints and investigations of unfair labor practices, including violations of Paid Sick and Safe Time, Wage Theft, Minimum Wage, Fair Chance Employment, and Secure Scheduling. COVID-19 has exacerbated workplace inequities and increased labor standards violations in low-wage food industry jobs. Demographic populations most likely to occupy low-wage jobs and experience workplace violations include female workers, workers of color, immigrant and refugee workers, LGBTQ workers, workers with disabilities, veterans, and youth.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p>
4.G	<p>Revised Action: Support stronger labor protections, worker safety, and dignity for agricultural workers.</p> <p>Rationale: Agricultural and food workers in the United States have long been among the most exploited laborers in the country. Seattle is connect to a vibrant agricultural region, and has a role in advancing just, equitable food policies in solidarity with farmworkers in rural Washington who feed our communities, by ensuring they have safety, the right to organize, dignity, healthcare, and livable wages in their workplaces.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with farmworker advocacy efforts and labor unions to support policy recommendations. • Work with federal and State agencies and policymakers to develop and support policies that align with farmworker advocacy efforts, such as protections from heat stress, improvements in field sanitation, housing conditions, fair pay and compensation (including hazard pay),³ pesticide safety, and protections when working in high-risk environments.

³ CLI ID 1604264

Strategic Priority 5 – [Supply Chains]

Strategic Priority 5: Foster equitable, environmentally sustainable, and strengthened local supply chains.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
5.A.	<p>Revised Action: Develop and implement a values-based food purchasing program to advance equity and sustainability goals through food procurement within key City food programs and large foodservice institutions, such as hospitals, schools, and universities, and interested small food businesses.</p> <p>Rationale: Procurement and purchasing standards are an influential way to ensure public dollars support an equitable and sustainable food system. The purpose of a values-based food purchasing program is to align spending with core values such as equity, health, local economy, fair labor, cultural relevance, and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a working group of internal and external stakeholders to provide input on food purchasing standards and policy development. • Develop standards and policies based on core values including equity, health, local economy, fair labor, cultural relevance, and environmental sustainability. • Set procurement goals and plans for implementation and monitoring, adaptable to a variety of food purchasers. Report on goals and impacts made by participating food service programs. • Create supplier lists. • Incorporate standards into RFPs and contract language. • Work with a consultant who brings expertise on food procurement policies.
5.B.	<p>Revised Action: Invest in a range of hard-asset infrastructure that is energy efficient, sustainably built⁴, and designed to support a diverse pool of local food system stakeholders.</p> <p>Rationale: Local research with food system stakeholders has assessed and clarified the need for local food system infrastructure in Seattle and throughout the region to support robust local supply chains and a vibrant food economy. Meanwhile, on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent supply chain disruption, new federal funding opportunities to strengthen the food system are anticipated. Examples of infrastructure needs include single- and multi-purpose facilities with dry and cold storage; commercial kitchens; processing, aggregation, and distribution under the same roof; delivery trucks and refrigerated transportation;</p>

⁴ CLI ID 1527794

Strategic Priority 5: Foster equitable, environmentally sustainable, and strengthened local supply chains.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<p>greenhouses; and collaborative meeting space. Public investment, coordination, and support are needed to bridge the food system infrastructure gap to ensure access by small-scale, BIPOC-owned farms and food businesses, food access programs, and other suppliers.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with small and medium-sized farms, food access and meal providers, small food businesses and entrepreneurs, mutual aid groups, and other stakeholders to further the discussion around needs and opportunities, centering BIPOC-led stakeholders. • Organize and collaborate with community partners to pursue external funding opportunities, including funding for capital investments, infrastructure buildout, and ongoing operating costs. • Identify and develop pathways to activate current City-owned facilities with under-utilized food infrastructure (such as community centers and kitchens) to fulfill specific needs of community food projects. • Fund small and micro food system infrastructure through existing City grant programs (see Action 1.A), and/or provide technical assistance on infrastructure buildout.
5.C.	<p>Revised Action: Provide technical assistance, resources, and workshops to support new and existing food- and farm-related small businesses.</p> <p>Rationale: Small, locally owned food businesses are a key sector of Seattle’s economy, not just in terms of generating revenue and employment opportunities, but also for creating fresh and culturally relevant food access points and using more environmentally sustainable business practices. Many food and farm businesses, particularly small, immigrant, and BIPOC-owned businesses, need assistance navigating the various internal and external aspects of starting and growing a viable, thriving business.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the Small Business Program at the Office of Economic Development (OED) • Strengthen departmental referrals and coordination with OED, and contract with partnering agencies and organizations to provide affordable (low- or no-cost) assistance, resources, and training for small food businesses, prioritizing small and micro fresh food retailers located in underserved neighborhoods. • Continue to increase access to assistance and support for BIPOC-owned businesses through culturally relevant, in-language, and community-led outreach and staffing representative of BIPOC communities.

Strategic Priority 5: Foster equitable, environmentally sustainable, and strengthened local supply chains.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide food businesses with hands-on, end-to-end technical assistance and coaching that is tailored to their stage of growth (new and startup, maintenance, scale-up). This can also include paid mentorship opportunities to connect more experienced business owners to less experienced or new business owners. • Support developing market channels and facilitate opportunities with local grocery chains, distributors, or connections to other, larger markets.
5.D.	<p>Revised Action: Facilitate value chain coordination between City-supported food programs, other aligned institutional food buyers, and vendors to prioritize and increase food sourcing from sustainable, local, and BIPOC-owned farms and food producers.</p> <p>Rationale: Buying food grown locally using sustainable practices, particularly from BIPOC-owned farms and food producers, supports local farmers and strengthens the local food system. Local purchasing can be challenging for new buyers, especially those who have relied heavily on one distributor, and most benefit from technical assistance to help identify available foods, find vendors, conduct procurement, and develop food programs to incorporate more local items.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to prioritize local and sustainable purchasing within City-supported food programs, including partnerships with childcare centers and Seattle Public Schools, and Fresh Bucks small retailers that focus on locally grown produce (see Action 1.B) • Increase or expand investments in staffing support for values-aligned food purchasing programs, such as Farm to School and Farm to Child Care initiatives. • Identify new opportunities for food access programs to prioritize purchases from food producers using fair, equitable, sustainable practices.

Strategic Priority 6 – [Food Waste]

Strategic Priority 6: Prevent food waste, rescue (redistribute) surplus food for people who need it and compost the rest into new natural resources.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
6.A.	<p>Revised Action: Maintain and amplify consumer food waste prevention campaigns to raise awareness about the environmental impacts of food waste and which actions to take to avoid waste in the first place.</p> <p>Rationale: Each year in the U.S., consumers waste more food in homes than any other sector of the food supply chain (ReFED). Locally, food is the single largest material in Seattle's waste stream despite it being banned from the garbage. Wasting food jeopardizes freshwater, land, and energy and contributes to climate change. Food waste causes four percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, making food waste prevention a significant opportunity to reduce climate pollution in the food system.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase consumer awareness about the impacts of food waste and how consumers can make meaningful changes by maintaining and amplifying Seattle Public Utilities' Love Food Stop Waste media campaign. • Consider partnerships with retailers to educate consumers on the issue of food waste.
6.B.	<p>Revised Action: Partner with institutional food services, grocers, manufacturers, distributors, and consumer-facing food service businesses to prevent food waste. Encourage these businesses to track their waste, take action to prevent waste in the first place, and share results. Explore incentives to require or encourage food industry action in Seattle.</p> <p>Rationale: Wasting food jeopardizes freshwater, land, and energy and contributes to climate change. While most food waste occurs at home (see Action 6.A), consumer-facing businesses and institutional foodservices represent the next largest opportunity for food waste prevention. Many foodservice institutions and businesses lack quantifiable information about where and why waste is occurring. Waste tracking helps to pinpoint significant areas of opportunity, such as identifying the volumes and types of food wasted through over-ordering, storage and preparation and serving methods. Once action is taken, it's critical to assess impacts, expand actions, and share these results so that more businesses in Seattle can cut waste occurring in their operations.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p>

Strategic Priority 6: Prevent food waste, rescue (redistribute) surplus food for people who need it and compost the rest into new natural resources.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts with the Pacific Coast Collaborative to work alongside large food businesses with the aim of measuring food waste, taking action, and reporting results. • Partner with providers of waste prevention technology and other technical assistance providers to support food waste prevention in these upcoming and potential sectors: foodservice in hospitality (such as hotels and convention centers), food distributors, Seattle Public Schools (link with Action 1.D), hospitals, universities, and corporate cafeterias. • Connect prevention-oriented technical assistance with Seattle’s Green Business Program, which provides technical assistance for diverting food waste into compost collection.
6.C.	<p>Revised Action: Work with hunger relief organizations and donors to design, test, and adopt innovative changes that reduce wasted food and packaging while increasing the rescue and redistribution of high-quality, nutritious food to people experiencing food insecurity.</p> <p>Rationale: Food rescue is the process of collecting unsold, edible food from retail establishments and redistributing it to people who need it most. While Seattle Public Utilities does not know how much of the food in the City’s commercial garbage or compost was good to eat, the most recent state-wide waste characterization study estimated that 74 percent was edible. Increasing the effectiveness of food rescue operations could keep unsold food at its highest value which is to feed people. Food rescue operations require partnerships between businesses, non-profits, and public agencies to tackle complex problems like transportation, logistics, food safety, communication, storage, and re-distribution.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Seattle Public Utilities’ Food Rescue Innovation work and cross-sector collaborations to design and test new strategies informed by current research on the challenges and opportunities to reduce food waste. • Incorporate food donation nutrition policies and guidance to help ensure the best health impacts from rescued food (see Action 6.D)
6.D.	<p>Revised Action: Streamline and strengthen policies for high-quality, nutritious, and culturally relevant rescued and donated food at food banks and meal programs and avoid donations that don’t meet nutrition guidelines or are near expiration.</p>

Strategic Priority 6: Prevent food waste, rescue (redistribute) surplus food for people who need it and compost the rest into new natural resources.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<p>Rationale: People experiencing food insecurity face a higher risk of chronic illnesses and poorer diets due to inadequate access to healthy food. Because many households experience food insecurity chronically, food banks and meal programs are a regular source of foods that contribute significantly to the overall diets of individuals living in these households, especially over time. Clients have repeatedly and consistently provided feedback on the need for healthier and more culturally relevant food at food banks and meal programs. Nutrition policies are an important way programs can convey responsiveness to client needs and preferences, demonstrate to the community that the program is a responsible food provider, communicate to donors the types of foods programs will accept, and support client health by increase access to nutritious food.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Seattle Food Committee and Meals Partnership Coalition to develop, pilot, and/or strengthen nutrition policies for food banks and meal programs. • Inform policy development by reviewing client-level data on health concerns, food preferences, cultural connections, program inventory data, and any existing program-level policies. • Conduct a post-pilot review and revisit the policy based on program outcomes and feedback from stakeholders, clients, and donors.
6.E	<p>Revised Action: Continue to increase composting of inedible food from businesses and consumers.</p> <p>Rationale: When all strategies to prevent food waste and rescue edible, surplus food have been used (see Actions 6.A, 6.B, 6.C), the remainder (inedible, expired food) must go to compost. Even though food has been banned from Seattle garbage, it still makes up an estimated 20 percent of Seattle’s residential garbage and 25 percent of the City’s commercial garbage. Organic waste in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Composting keeps resources out of the landfill and reduces methane emissions. When compost is returned to the soil, it adds nutrients, retains water, increases yields when growing food, and stores carbon. Using compost on lawns and gardens also reduces pesticide use, mitigates stormwater runoff, and returns important nutrients to the soil so more fruits, vegetables, trees, grasses, and other plants can thrive.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return finished compost for low and no cost to urban farms and community gardens.

Strategic Priority 6: Prevent food waste, rescue (redistribute) surplus food for people who need it and compost the rest into new natural resources.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue reinforcing consumer behavior to put food waste into dedicated compost bins using positive, solutions-based educational messages and outreach in multiple languages as part of future public campaigns. Messaging effort could include more explicit climate impact connections (e.g. “Compost for Climate”). • Increase multifamily composting (and recycling) by reducing barriers for residents to properly sort and dispose of waste, recycling, and compost. • Recommend updates to land use code to require that new construction of midrise and tower multifamily housing provide convenient access to food and yard waste collection. • Strengthen cross-department collaborations to increase composting in public places and facilities. Develop more neighborhood-level, closed-loop food waste and on-site composting systems with urban farms.
6.F.	<p>Revised Action: Reduce single-use food service ware and other single-use plastics among key partners.</p> <p>Rationale: Single-use food service ware and other single-use plastics contribute significantly to food-related waste. Compostable take-out containers make it easier for consumers to compost food waste. Organizations that provide food and meals may lack the access or resources to provide compostable packaging, particularly at large volumes. Some organizations may not be aware of evolving packaging requirements or have other barriers to implementing new methods.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance outreach about food service packaging requirements to food access and emergency food network providers, Seattle Public Schools, and other key City food program partners. • Consider how to facilitate and promote greater use of reusable service ware solutions with these partners. •

Strategic Priority 7 – [Environment]

Strategic Priority 7: Reduce climate pollution associated with Seattle’s food system and support food production that improves the environment.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
7.A.	<p>Revised Action: Identify and develop feasible, high-impact strategies that the City and County can take to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with food production and consumption within Seattle, in coordination with regional, State, and tribal governments.</p> <p>Rationale: Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are the primary cause of recent climate change. According to a 2015 analysis, food represents 13 percent of Consumption-Based Emissions for King County. Consumption-Based Emissions are GHGs that come from the products and services that we buy and consume here in the city, but that may be produced locally or elsewhere. Currently, Seattle is working with a team of local jurisdictions led by King County to develop a Consumption-Based Emissions inventory specifically for Seattle. The analysis will provide fresh insight into Seattle’s key climate pollution sources, as well as pathways for achieving equitable reductions in GHG emissions.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use results from the forthcoming 2022 King County Consumption-Based Emissions inventory to identify which food consumption patterns in Seattle produce the most GHGs. • Work with frontline communities most impacted by the climate crisis to identify potential strategies that would have the greatest impact on reducing food-related GHGs in Seattle. • Related Actions may include 5.A, 7.B.
7.B.	<p>Revised Action: Invest in positive, innovative, culturally relevant, community-led education and awareness campaign(s).</p> <p>Rationale: Seattle residents make daily choices that have impacts throughout the food system—what food to purchase and eat, what companies to support, what to do with unused food. Having enough information to make positive choices is essential. This action intends to increase awareness about the benefits and harms of individual food choices on personal health, the environment, local economy, fair labor, and animal welfare. For meaningful behavior change, solutions should be led by communities, avoiding top-down directives.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support action led by and for communities, especially youth, most impacted by food system injustices.

Strategic Priority 7: Reduce climate pollution associated with Seattle’s food system and support food production that improves the environment.	
Ref.	Action & Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use participatory, empowering, and mixed-method research to inform campaign messages and strategies. • Support approaches that combine education and awareness campaigns with actions that increase access to foods that benefit people and the planet.
7.C.	<p>Revised Action: Develop new City action(s) that support local food producers to use regenerative practices, promote a circular food economy, and slow climate change.</p> <p>Rationale: The way we produce food today harms the environment and people, but it doesn’t have to be this way. Using regenerative practices, food can be produced in ways that don’t just prevent harm to the environment, but even <i>improve</i> it. Regenerative practices can make the soil stable and healthy, improve biodiversity, and improve air and water quality—resulting in land and water that more closely resembles nature. Meanwhile, a circular food economy prevents food waste, redistributes high-quality, surplus food to those who need it, and turns inedible food by-products and food waste into new products (see Strategic Priority 6). Native and Indigenous peoples are leaders in the ways of regenerative practices and for millennia have produced food in harmony with nature. BIPOC communities most impacted by climate change are leading innovative efforts to foster a regenerative and circular local food system, and need support to test their solutions and bring them to scale.</p> <p>Example approaches from community feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the measurement of environmental and climate impacts in food production and manufacturing, as well as leading methods for reducing those impacts. For example, measure utilities (including energy inputs and waste stream outputs) and provide access to advanced analytical tools to guide decisions about highest impact ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by food producers. • Identify needs and opportunities to support local food producers who are using environmentally sustainable practices, focusing on cattle and dairy producers. • Work with diverse stakeholders across the food system (from production, processing, distribution, markets, consumers, and waste management sectors) to identify opportunities and implement changes in local and regional food practices to adopt circular and regenerative principles. • Integrate future actions with food access programs and other community-led food system innovations.

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