

Seattle Food Action Plan 2013 Progress Report



Seattle's Food Action Plan lays out strategies to get more healthy food to more Seattle residents, expand opportunities to grow food in the City, strengthen our regional food economy, and reduce food-related waste.

- The Food Action Plan (FAP) calls for incorporating food system planning into the City's ongoing planning and programmatic activities like comprehensive planning and neighborhood planning
- The FAP calls for expanding initiatives like Farm to Table and Fresh Bucks that get healthy food into the hands of low-income residents while supporting local farmers and strengthening what is already working, like the P-Patch community gardening program and cooking education at Community Centers.
- The FAP recognizes that Seattle's food system does not stop at the City's borders, and that partnerships with businesses, community organizations, and other governments in the region are essential to creating a resilient, equitable, and prosperous food system.
- The Food Action Plan is a five-year plan that was adopted by the Mayor and City Council in 2012. The plan contains 40 actions that are recommended to be implemented by 2017. Coordination and monitoring of plan implementation is led by the City's Office of Sustainability and Environment.

Seattle Food Action Plan Goals

Healthy Food for All

All Seattle residents 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 and 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 Waste

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



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2013 Program Highlights

Healthy Food for All: Fresh Bucks

Fresh Bucks makes healthy food more affordable to low-income families by doubling federal food assistance benefits (SNAP, or food stamps) at Seattle farmers markets. In 2013, over 3000 low-income shoppers ate more fruits and vegetables as a result of this program. Fresh Bucks is a collaboration between the Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment, the Washington State Farmers Market Association, and Seattle's farmers markets.

Grow Local: Seattle Farms

In 2013, four City departments came together to create Seattle's first opportunity for commercial urban farmers to lease farmland from the City of Seattle. Through a competitive application process, three urban farming entrepreneurs were selected to test out three different models of urban farming, in the process providing community benefits in the form of job training, access to healthy food, and activation of public space.

Strengthen Local Food Economy: Farms and Food Roundtable

In 2012, the City of Seattle, King County, and Pike Place Market convened over 35 food and farming experts to develop strategies to protect farmland and expand marketing and distribution opportunities for local farmers. In 2013, the Farms and Food Roundtable released the recommendations from this stakeholder group. OSE is working with King County, Pike Place Market, and other stakeholders advance these recommendations.

2013 by the numbers

42	Farm to table childcare and senior meal sites purchasing food directly from local farmers
6	Good Food Bag sites (low-cost CSA at childcare and senior meal sites)
5905	King County seniors receiving Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers
28,000	Pounds of produce donated by P-Patch community gardeners
3.39M	Invested into the anti-hunger system to support food banks, home food delivery, and emergency food system support
17	Farmers markets accepting Fresh Bucks
3000	Low income shoppers using Fresh Bucks, including 1144 that had never before used SNAP at a farmers market
\$181,000	Dollars Fresh Bucks brought into the local food economy
90%	Fresh Bucks shoppers who reported eating more fruits and vegetables
6329	P-Patch Community gardeners
17	Low-income gardeners gaining income and opportunity through P-Patch Market gardening program
3	New farm plots on City-owned land opened to urban farming entrepreneurs
7	Public orchards stewarded through Parks Orchard Steward Program
18,000	Pounds of food grown in gardens, orchards, and farms on Parks property
75	Fruit trees distributed for neighborhood planting through Trees for Neighborhoods