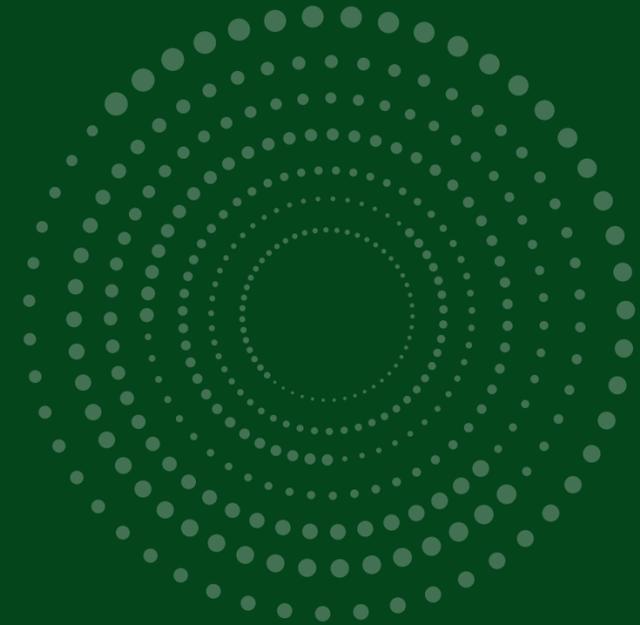




City of Seattle

Food Action Plan 2024 Progress Report

Resilient Futures



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Introduction

One year ago, the City of Seattle updated its Food Action Plan with a clear and ambitious goal: To advance an equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system that nourishes all residents while supporting a thriving community and environment. Since then, we have worked in close partnership with community members, food system stakeholders, and other City departments to move this vision forward.

This annual report shares the outcomes and impacts of work in 2024. It highlights the City’s efforts to strengthen access to healthy food, support local farmers and food businesses, prevent food waste, and embed equity into every aspect of food policy and practice. By documenting the status and progress of every action in the Food Action Plan, this report responds to community requests for a fuller understanding of how the City invests in and supports the food system.

Across the 47 Food Action Plan actions, we made steady progress in 2024. Of these actions, 6 were not initiated and 6 were in the early stages of initiation. The majority (25 actions) demonstrated moderate progress, reflecting meaningful activity and emerging outcomes across multiple strategies. An additional 8 actions showed significant progress, with major milestones completed and clear signs of impact.

The title of this report, *Resilient Futures*, reflects the urgency of these times as well as our shared hope. Rising food insecurity, climate-related impacts on food, federal efforts to restrict eligibility for SNAP, and economic pressures underscore the need for bold, coordinated action. At the same time, the creativity and leadership of communities in Seattle and the region continue to demonstrate that it is possible to build a food system that is fairer, stronger, and more sustainable. This report captures how we are together laying the foundation for a food future that can withstand uncertainty and still provide abundance, equity, and dignity for all who call our city home.



Click on a heading to navigate to that section of the report.

While this report highlights accomplishments from the previous year, it also captures ongoing initiatives and emerging priorities to ensure readers have the most current view of our food system work.

In addition to last year’s outcomes, here are highlights of current work underway in 2025:

- Recipient of the [National Civic League’s All-America City award](#). The Food Action Plan was a feature in the City’s application.
- Completion of a report for Seattle City Council on strategies to attract food retailers to underserved areas of the city.
- Mayor Harrell [proposed and City Council approved \\$12 million in new funding](#) to support food security and access.
- Planning for a [\\$4 million Participatory Budgeting project](#) to activate public greenspaces for new urban agriculture sites.
- Planning and pilot testing strategies to prevent food waste during large-scale events, in preparation for the 2026 World Cup and beyond.
- Creation of a [new online map](#) that enables users to explore City-supported food programs and services throughout Seattle.
- Published [Buying with Purpose: Seattle’s Guide to Food Purchasing](#), based on work completed in 2024 with community leaders and food program partners.
- Active engagement with federal and state policymakers to respond to reduced federal budget
- Additional training and resources for emergency/disaster preparedness, including resource sharing with coalition partners and development of communication protocols for food emergencies.
- Mobilized [\\$3 million](#) in rapid funding and coordinated with community food providers to provide [three weeks of emergency food assistance in response to SNAP funding uncertainty](#) during the federal government shutdown.

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Why This Work Matters

Seattle’s Food Action Plan is committed to increasing food security, supporting urban agriculture, creating economic opportunities for local food producers, improving fair labor practices, and preventing food-related waste and climate pollution.

We track a variety of **population-level indicators** to help us understand how the whole community is doing and the state of our food system today. We pair these indicators with community stories and lived experiences to help guide how we design and implement the programs in the Food Action Plan, how we set priorities, and how we measure impact.

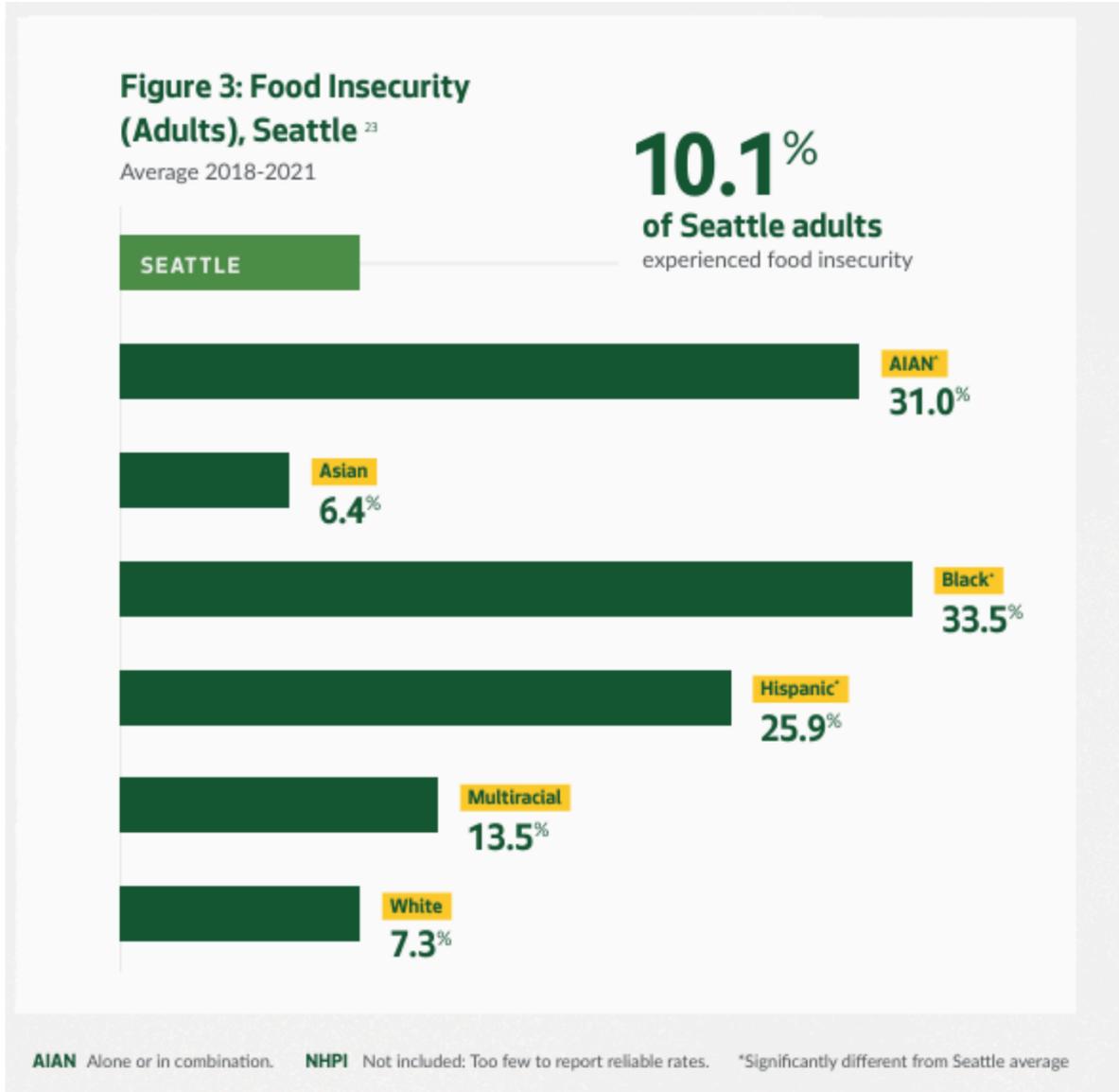
Population indicators give us the big-picture view of how the whole community is doing. For example, overall rates of food insecurity, access to healthy food, how local farms and food businesses are faring, or how much food is wasted are population-level indicators. These data help us understand long-term trends and whether conditions in the local and regional food system are improving. These indicators reflect outcomes that no single program or department controls on its own, but that many efforts contribute to over time.

Program performance measures, by contrast, tell us how individual programs or initiatives are working, such as how many people participated in a program, what services were delivered, how satisfied participants were, and whether program goals were met.

Both types of data are essential. Population indicators show us whether we are moving the needle at a citywide level; performance measures help us understand the contribution of specific strategies and where to adjust or strengthen our efforts.

The population-level data show us that challenges and disparities in the food system are persistent. Without local action, these disparities and hardships will deepen, especially as the impact of cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reach tens of thousands of families and individuals in Seattle alone.

By grounding Seattle’s Food Action Plan in this data, we ensure that our food-related work across City departments responds to real community needs and moves us closer to a food system that is equitable, sustainable, and resilient.



A chart from the [Food Action Plan](#) shows rates of food insecurity in Seattle adults by race/ethnicity.

Visit our [webpage](#) to learn more about the population-level food system indicators we track.

Snapshot of Food System Indicators

Below is a snapshot of indicators by key focus areas in the Food Action Plan. Visit our webpage to learn more about the food system indicators we track.

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Food Security & Access

- **9.6%** of adults in Seattle experience food insecurity, but the rates are *two-to-three times* higher for people of color and in certain neighborhoods ([Source](#))
- **30%** increase in food prices since 2019, according to Consumer Price Index data ([Source](#))
- **34.5% (17,868)** of Seattle Public School students participate in the federal free and discounted school meals program, but not all who are eligible apply due to barriers ([Source](#))
- **126,000+** households in King County use Basic Food/SNAP, a **25%** increase since 2019 ([Source](#))
- **Neighborhood-level access to grocery retailers** is not the same across Seattle. South Park, Georgetown, Delridge, High Point and smaller areas in the north end are places with where there are more lower income residents, longer travel times, and higher percentage of unhealthy food retailers ([Source](#)).

Food Economy & Labor

- **172,000+** people employed in food-related occupations in Seattle metropolitan area ([Source](#))
- **People of color own a disproportionately low share of businesses in Seattle.** Close to a third of the adult residents in Seattle are people of color but less than a quarter of firms here are owned by people of color. ([Source](#))
- **In Seattle, food services and retail are the top industries for 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 ordinances. In 2024, Seattle Office of Labor Standards (OLS) resolved **81** total investigations, and **35** of those investigations (**42%**) were with "Food Services and Drinking Places". ([Source](#))

Locally Produced Food

- **849** farms in King County with **13,351** acres of harvested cropland ([Source](#), Table 1)
- **\$102,690,000** was the market value of King County agricultural products sold in 2022, a **37%** decrease from 2017 ([Source](#), Table 2)
- **56+** acres in food production in Seattle through City-supported programs (Sources: [P-Patch](#) + [Urban Food System Program](#))

Food Waste & Climate

- **20%** of residential garbage is composed of food waste ([Source](#))
- **19%** of commercial garbage is composed of food waste ([Source](#))
- **24%** of Seattle's consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions come from food, making food the second largest category of Seattle's consumption-based emissions ([Source](#))

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Outcomes from 2024

This report shares the outcomes and impacts of work to advance Seattle’s Food Action Plan in 2024.

The Food Action Plan is organized by **8** Strategic Priorities and **47** Actions. You can review 2024 outcomes by clicking on a:

- **Strategic Priority** for highlights from all the actions within that priority
- **Action-level Progress Chart** for a snapshot of progress on each of the 47 Actions
- **Action-level Outcomes** for a description of key outcomes for each of the 47 Actions

Highlights in 2025

While this report highlights accomplishments from the previous year, it also captures ongoing initiatives and emerging priorities to ensure readers have the most current view of our food system work.

Highlights of 2025 work include:

- Recipient of the [National Civic League’s All-America City award](#). The Food Action Plan was featured in the City’s application.
- Mayor Harrell [proposed \\$12 million in new funding](#) to support food security and access.
- Planning for a [\\$4 million Participatory Budgeting project](#) to activate public greenspaces for new urban agriculture sites.
- Planning and pilot testing strategies to prevent food waste during large-scale events, in preparation for the 2026 World Cup and beyond.
- Creation of a [new online map](#) that enables users to explore City-supported food programs and services throughout Seattle.
- Published the [Buying with Purpose: Seattle’s Guide to Food Purchasing](#) based on work completed in 2024 with community leaders and food program partners.
- Mobilization of [\\$3 million](#) in rapid funding to provide [three weeks of emergency food assistance in response to SNAP funding uncertainty](#) during the federal government shutdown.



Community Food Security 2024 Highlights

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Community Food Security is a core priority of Seattle’s Food Action Plan. This reflects the City’s commitment to ensuring that all residents can access fresh, local, affordable, sustainable, and culturally relevant food. To advance this vision, we are pursuing **11** individual actions across a wide range of community settings, including grocery stores, farmers markets, schools, preschools, child care programs, community centers, food banks, and meal programs. Together, these efforts aim to increase food security where people live, learn, and gather, and build a food system that meets community needs while supporting long-term resilience. **In 2024, Food Action Plan efforts generated the following outcomes and impacts.**

Cash Assistance for Food

- **\$5,931,487** in cash assistance for food was distributed to a combined **23,913** households through Fresh Bucks, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and the Food Rx Pilot (*Actions [1.B](#), [1.G](#), [1.H](#)*)
- Together, these food assistance programs generated **\$10,083,527** in the local economy (every \$1 spent on local food creates \$1.70 in community benefits) (*Actions [1.A](#), [1.B](#), [1.G](#), [1.H](#)*)

Food & Meal Programs for Children (ages 3-18)

- **1,241,472** extra servings of fresh fruits and vegetables were provided to **6,382** children at Seattle Public Schools and preschools. (*Action [1.E](#), [1.D](#)*)
- **177,335** meals were served to children through afterschool, summer meals, and child care nutrition programs. (*Action [1.F](#)*)
- **157,966** weekend hunger backpacks were distributed to students at **103** schools. (*Action [1.F](#)*)

Hunger Relief

- **2,844,457** meals were served in group settings; **94%** of guests reported a welcoming experience and **92%** liked the foods available (*Action [1.G](#)*)
- **817,670** people (duplicated count) accessed food banks; **91%** of guests surveyed reported a welcoming experience and **84%** liked the foods available (*Action [1.G](#)*)

Food & Meal Programs for Older Adults (ages 60+)

- **15,201** older adults were served **399,726** meals in group settings (*Action [1.G](#)*)
- **189,772** grocery bags were distributed to **9,132** older adults (*Action [1.G](#)*)
- **20,381** transportation trips (serving **1,118** clients) were provided to meal programs, grocery stores, farmers markets, and food banks (*Action [1.I](#)*)



Land Access & Use 2024 Highlights

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Land Access & Use is about making sure more people have the chance to grow, harvest, and share food in ways that respect both culture and the environment. This work supports traditional foods, regenerative farming practices, and community-led food and agriculture projects. It focuses especially on communities that have been left out of land and water access in the past and honors the rights and leadership of Tribal Nations. Through eight (8) actions, the City and its partners are creating more opportunities for people to connect with land, practice stewardship, and build a food system that is fair and sustainable for everyone. **In 2024, Food Action Plan efforts generated the following outcomes and impacts.**

Land Access for Community-Based Organizations

- 6 food projects won **\$1,947,000** in funding through the Equitable Development Initiative managed by the Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD) ([Action 2.A](#))
- **\$4 million** in Participatory Budgeting funds were authorized by Seattle City Council to Department of Neighborhoods (DON) to activate at least two (2) new publicly owned greenspaces to lease for community-led urban agriculture projects ([Action 2.C](#))

Community Projects on Healthy Soil and Urban Agriculture

- 3 community projects that improve soil health won a combined **\$235,000** through the Office of Sustainability & Environment's (OSE's) Environmental Justice Fund ([Action 2.F](#))
- 7 community projects that build the knowledge and skills of urban agriculture practitioners won a combined **\$638,720** through OSE's Environmental Justice Fund and Department of Neighborhood's Food Equity Fund ([Action 2.G](#))

P-Patch Community Gardening

- **3,750** community gardeners grew food on **14.9** acres and provided stewardship for an additional **18.8** acres of public land for a total of **33.7** acres ([Action 2.E](#))
- P-Patch gardeners donated **42,000** pounds of food in 2024
- **\$62,997** in plot fee assistance was provided to **744** low-income gardeners

Laying the Groundwork for Future Land Access for Food

- OSE worked with OPCD to integrate food system priorities throughout the [One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Update \(May 2025\)](#), including in the environment, land use, utilities, and climate elements of the plan.
- OPCD worked with Native consultants and Indigenous communities in the development of the [Northgate Regional Center Plan](#) which includes a future action to cultivate a food forest in Barton Woods and introduce more foraging friendly plants throughout Northgate.



Education & Training

2024 Highlights

Education & Training is a key priority of Seattle’s Food Action Plan, focused on expanding access to food and nutrition education that is both culturally relevant and empowering. Through four (4) actions, the City and partners are creating opportunities for youth, adults, and older adults to build knowledge and skills about food in ways that connect to their culture and lived experiences. These efforts recognize that education is not one-size-fits-all and that learning is most impactful when it reflects the diverse traditions, languages, and experiences of Seattle’s communities. The following section highlights the outcomes and impacts of this work. **In 2024, Food Action Plan efforts generated the following outcomes and impacts.**

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Supporting Young People to Gain Food Systems Jobs

- HSD employed **43** young people through the Seattle Youth Employment Program. Interns supported a wide range of food-related projects across **20** community-based organizations, city programs, and small businesses, contributing both to direct food access and to the broader food system (*Action [3.A](#)*)
- **5** community-led projects empowered young people to lead through paid internships in a variety of fields--from hands-on farming and circular economy projects to intergenerational learning to climate and STEM career pathways (*Action [3.A](#)*)

Food & Nutrition Education for Children and Youth

- **170** food and nutrition education classes were provided to preschoolers through the Seattle Farm to Preschool program (*Actions [1.D](#), [3.C](#)*)
- **14** classroom field trips to local farm were led by the Seattle Farm to Preschool program (*Actions [1.D](#), [3.C](#)*)
- **11** Seattle Public Schools hosted food justice workshops put on by Nurturing Roots, funded by the City’s Healthy Food in Schools initiative (*Action [3.C](#)*)

Urban Food Systems Program

- BIPOC youth participated in urban agriculture activities on **8** garden sites located on Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR) properties (*Action [3.B](#)*)

Food & Nutrition Education for Adults

- **9** community groups led food and nutrition education for adults in spaces where elders, immigrants, refugees, and Indigenous communities could share meals, preserve traditional knowledge, and strengthen cultural identity (*Action [3.D](#)*)



Economy & Labor 2024 Highlights

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Economy & Labor is a central focus of Seattle’s Food Action Plan, with six (6) actions dedicated to creating a food economy that is equitable, fair, and healthy for workers, businesses, and residents alike. This work strengthens the local food system by supporting small and emerging food businesses, advancing labor rights and fair wages, and ensuring that food-related jobs provide safe and sustainable livelihoods. By investing in the people and businesses that make up Seattle’s food economy, the City is working to build a system that not only feeds our communities but also creates shared prosperity and long-term resilience. **In 2024, Food Action Plan efforts generated the following outcomes and impacts.**

Supporting New and Existing Food Businesses

- **180** small food businesses or entrepreneurs in Seattle took advantage of the many programs and resources available through the Office of Economic Development (OED). Over **86%** of participants were women and minority-owned businesses; **75%** were small businesses (0-4 employees); and **50%** had revenues less than \$100,000 per year (*Action 4.E*)
- **14** food businesses secured **\$1,120,900** in awards through OED’s Tenant Improvement Fund (TIF). Food businesses represented 37% of the 2024 TIF awards granted to a total of 38 businesses (*Action 4.E*)

Connecting Food Access & Community Development

- **6** projects secured a total of **\$799,808** to partner with restaurants, caterers, farmers markets, farmers, or chefs to increase equitable access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food. Funds were awarded through the Food Equity Fund and Equitable Development Initiative. (*Action 4.D*)

Supporting Food Worker Protections

- Office of Labor Standards (OLS) resolved **81** total investigations, and **35** of those investigations (**42%**) were with “Food Services and Drinking Places”. Eleven (**11**) of the cases resulted in settlements for food workers, recovering **\$679,492.39** financial remedies for **512** workers (*Action 4.A*)
- 2024 ushered in new worker protections for app-based/ gig workers. The [App-Based Minimum Payment Ordinance](#) provides covered app-based workers right to minimum payment, transparency, and flexibility. The [App-Based Paid Sick & Safe Time Ordinance](#) provides paid sick and paid safe leave for app-based workers from covered network companies.



Local Supply Chains

2024 Highlights

Local Supply Chains is a key focus of Seattle’s Food Action Plan, with three (3) actions designed to foster a food system that is equitable, environmentally sustainable, and resilient. This work supports values-based purchasing initiatives that direct public dollars toward food producers and businesses aligned with community priorities. It strengthens coordination along the value chain so that local farmers and food producers can connect more easily with buyers and invests in the infrastructure needed to move food efficiently from farm and sea to table. **In 2024, Food Action Plan efforts generated the following outcomes and impacts.**

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Building Stronger Connections Across Our Food System

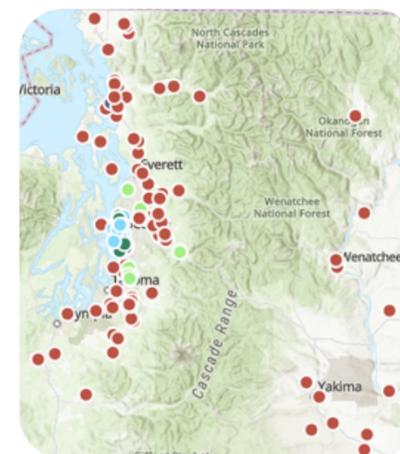
Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) and other departments worked together on several efforts that will move the City closer to a coordinated, citywide sustainable and equitable food purchasing campaign (*Action 5.A*).

Efforts included:

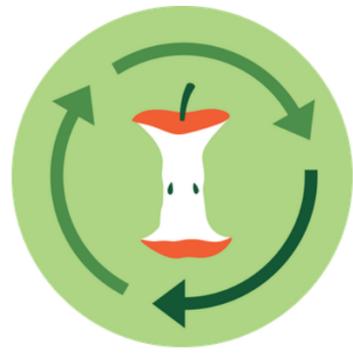
- Drafting Core Value definitions and criteria to provide a common framework for programs and vendors to understand what “sustainable, local, and equitable” purchasing means in practice (*Action 1.A*)
- Mapping food purchasing opportunities across programs to identify points where food programs and organizations could pool demand and work collectively with vendors.
- Hosting focus groups with food program partners that will inform the development of future technical assistance and tools designed to connect buyers with local and diverse suppliers.

Local Farms and Producers Supplying City Food Programs

OSE and other departments coordinated new efforts to analyze procurement data from City food programs to understand how current food purchasing aligns with the values developed for the new [Buying with Purpose](#) guide released in 2025 (*Action 1.A*). Through this work, OSE determined that at least **\$906,000** was spent by City food programs on food grown and produced in Washington, generating **\$1.54 million** in local economic benefits. This included spending with **145** Washington farmers and food producers.



Explore Seattle’s statewide “foodshed” by visiting the [Local Supply Chain section of the new Food Action Plan map](#).



Food Waste Prevention 2024 Highlights

Food Waste Prevention is a central priority of Seattle’s Food Action Plan, with six (6) actions focused on preventing wasted food and composting what cannot be eaten. The City works across residential, commercial, and nonprofit sectors to prevent food waste before it happens, rescue surplus food so it can be redistributed to people who need it, and compost the rest. Together, these efforts conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen food security by ensuring that edible food is not lost. **In 2024, Food Action Plan efforts generated the following outcomes and impacts.**

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Outreach to Families, Individuals, and Businesses

- Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) partnered with Department of Neighborhoods Community Liaisons (CLs) to conduct in-language residential outreach on food waste prevention. Over **4,500** residents were engaged through **55** events and **10** different languages. *(Action [6.A](#))*
- Seattle leveraged large-scale partnerships to prevent commercial food waste through its involvement in the [Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment \(PCFWC\)](#). As of 2024, unsold food rates have decreased by **30%** for PCFWC retailers, compared to 2019 when data was first collected. *(Action [6.B](#))*
- In addition to preventing wasted food, SPU worked with residents, businesses, and schools on how to sort waste to keep food scraps out of the garbage and into the compost. Efforts included outreach and tailored technical assistance for **275** restaurants, **26** schools, and **324** apartment buildings. *(Action [6.E](#))*

Food Rescue Innovation

- Seattle Public Utilities awarded **\$200,000** to three (**3**) grantee teams who could "move the dial" in reducing food waste and increasing access to good food for people experiencing food insecurity in Seattle. Each of the grantees focused on addressing food rescue transportation and data gaps in unique ways. *(Action [6.C](#))*

Logos of the Food Rescue Innovation grantees awarded to lead project teams focused on addressing food rescue transportation gaps.





Environment & Climate

2024 Highlights

Environment & Climate is an essential focus of Seattle’s Food Action Plan, with three (3) actions dedicated to reducing the climate pollution linked to our food system and supporting regenerative practices that restore and protect the environment. This work recognizes that what we eat and how it’s produced has major impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, soil health, and biodiversity. By advancing climate-friendly food strategies and promoting sustainable production, Seattle is working to build a food system that not only nourishes residents but also helps safeguard the planet for future generations. **In 2024, Food Action Plan efforts generated the following outcomes and impacts.**

Supporting Climate Friendly Food Through City Purchasing

- Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) and Seattle Public Utilities SPU developed a grant proposal to expand sustainable, climate-friendly food purchasing across large food service institutions by increasing purchases of plant-based, local, sustainable, and regeneratively produced foods. Although this proposal was not awarded, it laid important groundwork for future action. (Actions [7.A](#), [7.C](#))
- The new [Buying with Purpose: Seattle’s Food Purchasing Guide](#) helps City food programs and local institutions make food purchasing decisions that align with core values, including environmental sustainability. (Action [7.C](#))
- Based on the City’s food spending that could be analyzed across the core values in the *Buying with Purpose* guide, City food programs spent at least **\$650,000** on organic, sustainably grown food. This is in addition to at least **\$440,000** that customers spend on organic food using their Fresh Bucks benefits. (Action [7.C](#))

Building Community Awareness

- With funding from OSE’s Environmental Justice Fund, two community organizations led culturally relevant food justice education projects using media, storytelling, and community voices to teach and inspire action. (Action [7.B](#))
- Through the [Healthy Food in Schools Initiative](#), OSE partnered with Nurturing Roots to bring food justice workshops to **11** Seattle Public Schools, engaging students in conversations about food systems, equity, and sustainability. (Action [7.B](#))

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Food Action Plan Stewardship 2024 Highlights

Stewardship of the Plan ensures that Seattle’s Food Action Plan is more than a vision—it is a coordinated, accountable, and community-centered roadmap for change. Through six (6) actions, the City is building the structures and processes needed to effectively carry out the Plan in alignment with both community and City values. This includes investing in community-led work, creating opportunities for meaningful engagement, tracking and reporting outcomes, and monitoring state and federal policies that affect our food system. Together, these efforts strengthen transparency, coordination, and long-term impact, ensuring that the Plan remains responsive and effective over time. **In 2024, Food Action Plan efforts generated the following outcomes and impacts.**

Investments in Community-Led Solutions

\$4,488,300 awarded to **42** community-led food projects via the Food Equity Fund, Equitable Development Fund, and Environmental Justice Fund (*Action 8.A*). These community-led efforts reflected the cultures, languages, and priorities of communities most impacted by food system inequities.

Language Access, Cultural Relevance, Inclusive Outreach

Significant progress was made to ensure food programs and related services are accessible to residents in the languages they use and through culturally relevant approaches. In-language outreach, transcreated materials (in **15** languages), and community-based partnerships expanded access to food assistance programs, gardening resources, and food waste prevention efforts, helping residents engage with City services in ways that feel practical and respectful (*Action 8.C*).

Relationships and Cross-Sector Collaboration

In 2024, the City deepened relationships with community organizations, businesses, Tribes, and regional partners to advance shared food system goals. Through advisory boards, working groups, and government-to-government engagement, partners helped shape purchasing practices, nutrition access, food waste prevention, and implementation of the Food Action Plan (*Actions 8.C, 8.E*).

Systems for Coordination, Transparency, Accountability

In 2024, the City strengthened internal coordination and public transparency around food system work. Departments collaborated closely through an interdepartmental structure to release the updated Food Action Plan, developed shared tools such as the [Food Action Plan map](#), and coordinated on the development of this report (*Action 8.B*).

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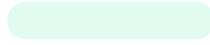
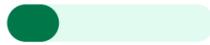
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Action-Level Progress Chart

Seattle’s Food Action Plan is made up of **47** specific actions that guide the City’s work toward building an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system. The chart on the following pages provides a snapshot of progress on each action. It includes a reference label within the Plan (**FAP Ref.**); a short action title (**Action**); time frame for implementation (**Time Frame**); the lead department(s) responsible (**Lead Dept(s)**); and the current level of progress (**Progress**).

To give a clear and transparent view of where work stands today, progress is tracked along a continuum:

- Not Initiated in 2024 
- Initiated 
- Moderate Progress 
- Significant Progress 

Department (Dept) Acronyms Used in the Chart:

- **DON** – Department of Neighborhoods
- **KC DNRP** – King County Dept of Natural Resources & Parks
- **KCRHA** – King County Regional Homelessness Authority
- **HSD** – Human Services Department
- **OED** – Office of Economic Development
- **OEM** – Office of Emergency Management
- **OLS** – Office of Labor Standards
- **OPCD** – Office of Planning & Community Development
- **OSE** – Office of Sustainability & Environment
- **PHSKC** – Public Health – Seattle & King County
- **SPR** – Seattle Parks & Recreation
- **SPU** – Seattle Public Utilities
- **TBD** – To Be Determined

Progress Scale Definitions:

Not Initiated in 2024

The City did not begin work on this action in 2024. No planning, scoping, partner engagement, or resource allocation occurred.

6 out of 47 Actions

Initiated

Initial steps began in 2024. This may include early planning or scoping, preliminary engagement with partners or stakeholders, identifying resource needs, or launching foundational activities. Work is underway but remains in the early phase.

8 out of 47 Actions

Moderate Progress

Meaningful progress occurred in 2024. Key activities or deliverables are partially complete, program or policy approaches are taking shape, and early outcomes or system changes may be visible. Continued work is required to reach full implementation.

25 out of 47 Actions

Significant Progress

Substantial advancement occurred in 2024. Major milestones or deliverables have been completed, the action is well underway or near implementation, and there is clear evidence of impact, system improvement, or sustained momentum.

8 out of 47 Actions

Across the 47 Food Action Plan actions, the City made steady progress in 2024. Of these actions, **6** were not initiated and **6** were in the early stages of initiation. The majority—**25** actions—demonstrated moderate progress, reflecting meaningful activity and emerging outcomes across multiple strategies. An additional **8** actions showed significant progress, with major milestones completed and clear signs of impact.

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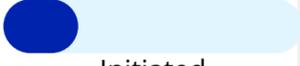
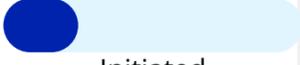
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1. Community Food Security	FAP Ref.	Action	Time Frame	Lead Dept(s)	2024 Progress
	1.A	Prioritize Culturally Relevant & Equitably Purchased Foods in City Food Programs (Click for details)	Ongoing	HSD, OSE	 Significant Progress
	1.B	Strengthen the Fresh Bucks Program (Click for details)	Ongoing	OSE	 Moderate Progress
	1.C	Strengthen the Capacity of Meal Programs & Food Banks (Click for details)	Ongoing	HSD	 Moderate Progress
	1.D	Prioritize Access to Nutritious and Locally Grown Food Served in Preschools (Click for details)	Ongoing	HSD	 Moderate Progress
	1.E	Improve Food Served in Schools (Click for details)	Ongoing	OSE	 Moderate Progress
	1.F	Strengthen Out-of-School Food Programs (Click for details)	Ongoing	HSD	 Moderate Progress
	1.G	Sustain & Strengthen Food & Meal Programming for Older Adults (Click for details)	Ongoing	HSD	 Moderate Progress
	1.H	Support "Food is Medicine" Programs (Click for details)	Ongoing	PHSKC, OSE	 Initiated
	1.I	Support & Strengthen Transportation Services for Food Access (Click for details)	Ongoing	HSD	 Moderate Progress
	1.J	Prioritize Food Access for Unsheltered Populations (Click for details)	Ongoing	HSD, KCRHA	 Initiated
	1.K	Strengthen Disaster Preparedness Efforts (Click for details)	Ongoing	HSD, OEM	 Initiated

Action-Level Progress Chart (continued)

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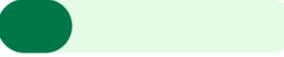
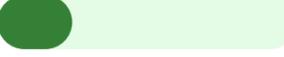
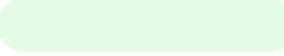
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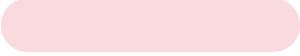
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	FAP Ref.	Action	Time Frame	Lead Dept(s)	2024 Progress
2. Land Access & Use	2.A	Increase Equitable Community Land Access, Stewardship & Ownership of Food & Agricultural Projects (Click for details)	Long term	OPCD	 Moderate Progress
	2.B	Support Land Access for Stewardship by Coast Salish & Urban Native Communities (Click for details)	Long term	Varies	 Initiated
	2.C	Activate More Public Land for Community Food Production (Click for details)	Medium term	Varies	 Initiated
	2.D	Integrate Food Policies & Goals into City Plans & Efforts (Click for details)	Ongoing	OSE	 Moderate Progress
	2.E	Support the P-Patch Community Gardening Program (Click for details)	Ongoing	DON	 Moderate Progress
	2.F	Support Strategies that Improve Soil Health at Community Gardens & Urban Farms (Click for details)	Ongoing	DON, SPR	 Moderate Progress
	2.G	Build Urban Agricultural Knowledge with Farmers & Gardeners (Click for details)	Ongoing	DON, SPR	 Moderate Progress
	2.H	Work With Other Jurisdictions to Conserve Land Outside of Seattle for Equitable Food Production (Click for details)	Long term	KC DNRP	 Not Initiated in 2024

Action-Level Progress Chart (continued)

	FAP Ref.	Action	Time Frame	Lead Dept(s)	2024 Progress
3. Education & Training	3.A	Connect Young People to Food System Jobs & Job Training (Click here for detail)	Long term	Varies	 Moderate Progress
	3.B	Strengthen the Urban Food Systems Program (Click here for details)	Ongoing	SPR	 Moderate Progress
	3.C	Invest in Culturally Relevant Food & Nutrition Programming for Youth (Click here for details)	Medium term	Varies	 Moderate Progress
	3.D	Support Community-Led Nutrition Education for Adults (Click here for details)	Ongoing	Varies	 Moderate Progress
4. Economy & Labor	4.A	Work with Community Partners to Co-Enforce Seattle’s Labor Laws (Click here for details)	Ongoing	OLS	 Significant Progress
	4.B	Support Strong Labor Protections for Farmworkers (Click here for details)	Long term	Varies	 Not Initiated in 2024
	4.C	Include Labor Standards in City Contracts & Agreements (Click here for details)	Medium term	Varies	 Not Initiated in 2024
	4.D	Support Food Projects that Promote Equitable Economic Development (Click here for details)	Ongoing	Varies	 Moderate Progress
	4.E	Support New & Existing Small Food Businesses (Click here for details)	Ongoing	OED	 Significant Progress
	4.F	Streamline the Permitting Process for Farmers Markets (Click here for details)	Long term	OED	 Not Initiated in 2024

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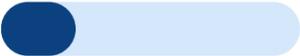
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	FAP Ref.	Action	Time Frame	Lead Dept(s)	2024 Progress
5. Local Supply Chains	5.A	Explore Development of a Sustainable, Equitable Food Purchasing Initiative (Click here for details)	Medium term	OSE	 Initiated
	5.B	Strengthen Food Value Chain Coordination (Click here for details)	Ongoing	OSE	 Moderate Progress
	5.C	Invest in Local Food System Infrastructure (Click here for details)	Ongoing	Varies	 Moderate Progress
6. Food Waste Prevention	6.A	Increase Public Awareness About Food Waste Prevention (Click here for details)	Ongoing	SPU	 Moderate Progress
	6.B	Partner with Food Businesses to Prevent Food Waste (Click here for details)	Ongoing	SPU	 Significant Progress
	6.C	Strengthen Cross-Sector Food Rescue Operations (Click here for details)	Ongoing	SPU	 Moderate Progress
	6.D	Implement Nutrition Policies for Rescued & Donated Food (Click here for details)	Medium term	HSD	 Not Initiated in 2024
	6.E	Compost Inedible Food & "Compost Right" (Click here for details)	Ongoing	SPU	 Moderate Progress
	6.F	Reduce Single-Use Food Service Ware in City Food Programs (Click here for details)	Medium term	HSD, OSE, SPU	 Not Initiated in 2024

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	FAP Ref.	Action	Time Frame	Lead Dept(s)	2024 Progress
7. Environment & Climate	7.A	Reduce Climate Pollution Associated with the Local Food System (Click here for details)	Long term	OSE, SPU	 Initiated
	7.B	Support Community-Led Education & Awareness Campaigns About Food Justice Issues (Click here for details)	Medium term	Varies	 Moderate Progress
	7.C	Support Regenerative Food & Agricultural Practices (Click here for details)	Long term	OSE	 Initiated
8. Stewardship of the Plan	8.A	Invest in Community-Led Action (Click here for details)	Ongoing	Varies	 Significant Progress
	8.B	Report on Food Action Plan Implementation & Progress (Click here for details)	Ongoing	OSE	 Significant Progress
	8.C	Track State & Federal Legislation & Funding Opportunities (Click here for details)	Ongoing	OSE, HSD, SPU	 Moderate Progress
	8.D	Strengthen Culturally Relevant, In-Language Outreach (Click here for details)	Ongoing	All departments	 Significant Progress
	8.E	Support Community Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration (Click here for details)	Ongoing	All departments	 Moderate Progress
	8.F	Facilitate Cross-Department Collaboration (Click here for details)	Ongoing	OSE, HSD	 Significant Progress

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Seattle's Food Action Plan includes **47** actions that guide the City's work to make our food system more equitable, sustainable, and resilient. This section summarizes the City's progress and outcomes across all actions from 2024—showing how City departments and community partners are turning this vision into real progress for people, the environment, and the local food economy.

Click on an action below to go to its progress report page.

Community Food Security

- [Action 1.A](#): Prioritize Culturally Relevant & Equitably Purchased Foods in City Food Programs
- [Action 1.B](#): Strengthen the Fresh Bucks Program
- [Action 1.C](#): Strengthen the Capacity of Meal Programs and Food Banks
- [Action 1.D](#): Prioritize Access to Nutritious and Locally Grown Food Served in Preschools
- [Action 1.E](#): Improve Food Served in Schools
- [Action 1.F](#): Strengthen Out-of-School Food Programs
- [Action 1.G](#): Sustain and Strengthen Food and Meal Programming for Older Adults
- [Action 1.H](#): Support Food is Medicine Programs
- [Action 1.I](#): Support and Strengthen Transportation Services for Food Access
- [Action 1.J](#): Prioritize Food Access for Unsheltered Populations
- [Action 1.K](#): Strengthen Disaster Preparedness Efforts

Land Access & Use

- [Action 2.A](#): Increase Equitable Community Land Access, Stewardship, and Ownership of Food and Agricultural Projects
- [Action 2.B](#): Support Land Access and Stewardship by Coast Salish and Urban Native Communities
- [Action 2.C](#): Activate More Public Land for Community Food Production
- [Action 2.D](#): Integrate Food Policies & Goals into City Plans & Efforts
- [Action 2.E](#): Support the P-Patch Community Gardening Program
- [Action 2.F](#): Support Strategies that Improve Soil Health at Community Gardens & Urban Farms
- [Action 2.G](#): Build Urban Agricultural Knowledge with Farmers & Gardeners
- [Action 2.H](#): Work with Other Jurisdictions to Conserve Land Outside of Seattle for Equitable Food Production

Education & Training

- [Action 3.A](#): Connect Young People to Food System Jobs & Job Training
- [Action 3.B](#): Strengthen the Urban Food Systems Program
- [Action 3.C](#): Invest in Culturally Relevant Food & Nutrition Programming for Youth
- [Action 3.D](#): Support Community-Led Nutrition Education for Adults

Economy & Labor

- [Action 4.A](#): Work with Community Partners to Co-Enforce Seattle's Labor Laws
- [Action 4.B](#): Support Strong Labor Protections for Farmworkers
- [Action 4.C](#): Include Labor Standards in City Contracts & Agreements
- [Action 4.D](#): Support Food Projects that Promote Equitable Economic Development
- [Action 4.E](#): Support New & Existing Small Food Businesses
- [Action 4.F](#): Streamline the Permitting Process for Farmers Markets

Local Supply Chains

- [Action 5.A](#): Explore Development of a Sustainable, Equitable Food Purchasing Campaign
- [Action 5.B](#): Strengthen Food Value Chain Coordination
- [Action 5.C](#): Invest in Local Food System Infrastructure

Food Waste Prevention

- [Action 6.A](#): Increase Public Awareness About Food Waste Prevention
- [Action 6.B](#): Partner with Businesses to Prevent Food Waste
- [Action 6.C](#): Strengthen Cross-Sector Food Rescue Operations
- [Action 6.D](#): Implement Nutrition Policies for Rescued & Donated Food
- [Action 6.E](#): Compost Inedible Food & "Compost Right"
- [Action 6.F](#): Reduce Single-Use Food Service Ware in City Food Programs

Environment & Climate

- [Action 7.A](#): Reduce Climate Pollution Associated with the Local Food System
- [Action 7.B](#): Support Community-Led Education & Awareness Campaigns About Food Justice Issues
- [Action 7.C](#): Support Regenerative Food & Agricultural Practices

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- [Action 8.A](#): Invest in Community-Led Action
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- [Action 8.F](#): Facilitate Cross-Department Collaboration

Action 1.A

Prioritize Culturally Relevant & Equitably Purchased Foods in City Food Programs

Leads: Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE), Human Services Department (HSD)

In 2024, City staff and partners started to develop a new **Values-Based Food Purchasing (VBFP) Framework** tailored to the specific contexts of City-supported food programs. The Framework will guide program design, procurement, contracting, and other food purchasing decisions made by City of Seattle food programs and partners.

Values-based food purchasing (VBFP) is buying food in ways that reflects social, environmental, health, and economic values — not just cost or convenience. It considers where food comes from, how it was produced, who was involved, and who benefits from food purchases. Seattle’s new VBFP Initiative is an effort to shift institutional food procurement to align with these core values identified through community stakeholder engagement: **Local Economy, Racial Equity, Environmental Sustainability, Fair Labor, Health & Nutrition, and Cultural Relevance.** This also means purchasing fewer foods that contribute to climate change, environmental injustice and degradation, social and racial inequities, and unfair wages.



Learn more: [Buying with Purpose: Seattle’s Guide to Food Purchasing](#)

Building a Baseline for Values-Based Food Purchasing

In 2024, the OSE and HSD began efforts to analyze procurement data from City food programs to understand how current food purchasing aligns with the Core Values in the new Guide. By collecting and analyzing data from diverse sources—including vendor reporting, tracking, and purchasing receipts—we can identify patterns in where food dollars are going and where opportunities for change exist. Baseline data was collected from eight (8) City programs across three (3) departments and 48 external partners that the City contracts with to implement those food programs. **Total Food Program Spend** is the dollar amount of City funds spent on food reported. **Total Spend Analyzed** is the dollar amount spent on food that could be analyzed across the Core Values in the VBFP Framework.

This baseline establishes a starting point for improving data collection, measuring progress, setting targets, and ensuring that City spending reflects community priorities and contributes to a more resilient and values-driven food system. *Note:* the data presented below excludes \$4.34 million in Fresh Bucks benefits spent at Safeway. The City has relatively limited ability to directly measure or influence the values-alignment of Safeway’s food sourcing compared to other City food programs. Available 2024 purchasing data from Safeway did show that \$436,572 (10%) of Fresh Bucks benefits were spent on organic fruits and vegetables.

Total Food Program Spend:	Food Spend Analyzed:
\$10,066,350	\$4,392,901
\$906,498	Spent on local (WA-grown) foods (20% of food spend analyzed), generating \$1.54 million in local economic stimulus
\$1.14 million	Spent with 65 local, BIPOC-owned food businesses (including food producers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers)
\$649,334	Spent on organic, sustainably grown food

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Action 1.B

Strengthen the Fresh Bucks Program

Lead: Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)

In 2024, OSE continued its **\$6.75** million investment in **Fresh Bucks**, a healthy food program that helps Seattle residents afford the fruits and vegetables they need to thrive. Residents redeemed produce benefits at over **40** local retailers, including farmers markets, farm stands, independent grocers, and supermarkets. The goals of the program are to reduce disparities in access to healthy food and improve community health.

Fresh Bucks worked with dedicated local partners to serve those most impacted by food and economic insecurity. In 2024, more than **12,000** households participated in Fresh Bucks. Among these households, **75%** screened as food insecure, **73%** were "**extremely low income**", **76%** were households of color, and **54%** preferred a language other than English.

In 2024, Fresh Bucks customers spent over **\$4.8M** on fruits and vegetables at **participating retailers**, creating nearly **\$7.7M** in local economic benefits. All benefits were distributed and redeemed electronically for a seamless experience for customers and retailers. The program implemented a new benefits processing system for farmers markets in 2024.

Looking ahead, Fresh Bucks is exploring partnership opportunities in the Food as Medicine space ([Action 1.H](#)) and developing small business supports for Fresh Bucks retailers ([Action 4.E](#)).

Learn more: [Website](#) | [Fresh Bucks 2024 Impact Report](#)



Fresh Bucks Customers

- **12,000+** enrolled households
- **92%** benefit redemption rate
- Increased food security and fruit and vegetable consumption ([see the research](#))

Fruit and Vegetable Benefit Spending

- **\$4.8 million** total benefits, generating **\$7.7 million** in local economic impact
- **\$388,626** spent at Independent Grocers (includes **\$337K** spent at WMBE-owned stores)
- **\$146,366** spent at Farmers Markets

Community Partners

- **\$171,100** invested in community-based enrollment partners
- **\$40,221** invested in business supports for Independent Grocers
- **\$34,552** invested in administrative supports for Farmers Markets



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Action 1.C

Strengthen the Capacity of Meal Programs and Food Banks

Lead: Human Services Department (HSD)

In 2024, HSD invested over **\$23.5 million** to strengthen the capacity of food and meals programs designed for people experiencing food insecurity, including **\$992,000** in new funds to address higher food costs and other needs.

Meal programs provided nutritious food to older adults, people experiencing homelessness, and other low-income Seattle residents to combat hunger. Meal programs were hosted by diverse community-based organizations throughout Seattle, with a focus on those located in areas of highest need (central, south, southeast, and southwest Seattle).

Food banks provided groceries for infants, children, adults, seniors, and people with special dietary needs, and help families access other food assistance (such as SNAP benefits) and other non-emergency food resources. In addition to on-site services, many food banks provided home delivery to clients who were unable to come into food bank locations because of age, disability, or illness. Some food banks also supplied weekend food backpacks to school-aged children and provide mobile or satellite food bank services to serve communities where they work and play.

Staff and volunteers at meal programs and food banks strived to offer culturally specific choices and create a welcoming environment for guests.

OSL Serves and **Solid Ground**, the City's respective contractors for the [Meals Partnership Coalition](#) (MPC) and the [Seattle Food Committee](#) (SFC), provided transportation of purchased and donated food to local meal programs and food banks. The agencies partnered with the City's nutritious food sourcing contractor, **Food Lifeline**, and the coalitions' nutritious food sourcing subcommittee to identify cost-effective, in-demand proteins and other staples for purchase. Both agencies provided broad system support to their respective coalitions through forums for regular collaboration, training, and resource sharing.

[Learn more](#)



Two women prepare a large bowl of guacamole for meal service. Photo from OLS Serves.



Ballard Food Bank

Meal Programs

- **2,825,351** meals served by **15** community-based organizations
- **94%** of guests surveyed reported a welcoming experience
- **92%** of guests reported to like the foods available

Food Banks

- **833,931** visitors (duplicated count) served by **17** local food banks (includes mobile sites)
- **91%** of guests surveyed reported a welcoming experience
- **84%** of guests surveyed reported to like the foods available

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Action 1.D

Prioritize Access to Nutritious and Locally Grown Food Served in Preschools

Lead: Human Services Department (HSD)

The award-winning [Seattle Farm to Preschool Program](#) brings sustainably grown foods from local farmers to local preschools to improve access to nourishing food and cultivate an equitable food system.

In 2024, Farm to Preschool made funds available to **44** Seattle Preschool Program sites to increase their offerings of fresh, Washington-grown food to the children in their care. Teachers and staff purchased fresh produce from local farmers including BIPOC, women, immigrant, and refugee farmers, and used the fresh produce for snacks, family nights, and school activities. Participating sites also engaged in nutrition education and field trips where trained educators talked about food preparation, food justice, safety protocols, gardening activities, and seasonal produce. Families were encouraged to take home kits with food, materials, and recipes to cook together.

Additional Farm to Preschool partners delivered free bags of local fruits and vegetables to participating Seattle Preschool Program sites so families could pick up healthy groceries at the same time they pick up their children. The bags were filled with locally sourced fresh fruits and vegetables for a family of four. Each Seattle Preschool site received a combination of services which included nutrition education, food bag delivery and/or food procurement.

[Learn more](#)



Seattle Preschool Program student picks up his family's Good Food Bag. Photo provided by Tilth Alliance



A group of children are planting seedlings in a garden. Photo from Farm to Preschool.

Weekly Family Food Bags

- **942** families at **44** schools received food bags
- **34,452** total bags were distributed, with **855,232** servings of farm fresh produce

Fruit and Vegetable Spending

- **\$333K** spent on WA-grown produce (82% of total spending), generating **\$566K** in local economy benefits
- **\$183K** spent on produce purchased from historically underrepresented farmers (BIPOC, women)

Food and Nutrition Education

- **170** food and nutrition education classes provided to preschoolers
- **14** classroom field trips with local farmers

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Action 1.E

Improve Food Served in Schools

Lead: Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) in partnership with Seattle Public Schools (SPS)

The Healthy Food in Schools initiative increases access to fresh, local, nutritious, environmentally sustainable, equitably sourced, and culturally relevant foods within Seattle Public Schools.

In 2024, the initiative continued the following strategies:

- [The Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program](#) provided students in participating Seattle Public Schools (SPS) with a fresh fruit or vegetable snack served during lunch or in the afternoon three days per week. The program was offered at schools with high rates of students eligible for Free & Reduced-Price meals. The goals of the program are to increase students' access to healthier food; expand the variety of fruits and vegetables students experience; increase students' fruit and vegetable consumption; and increase the amount of local, organically grown produce items served through the program.
- [Sustainable, Equitably Sourced School Meals](#) - OSE provided technical assistance and funding to support SPS Culinary Services with providing more school meals made with fresh, sustainable, and culturally relevant ingredients. This included helping staff with values-based purchasing from local farmers, fisheries, and food businesses—especially those owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)—through supplier outreach, procurement process development and promotion.
- [School Meals & Food Education Working Group](#) - Formed in 2022, this diverse, multi-sectoral group continued to advocate for increased access to high-quality school meals and food and garden education for students who attend Seattle Public Schools.

[Learn more](#)



The new and improved salad bar at Emerson Elementary School.



Students hold plates they served from the Build-Our-Own Taco Bar.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

- **5,440** students were served by FFVP at **27** schools (**33** sites)
- **52** different types of fruits and vegetable snacks were served
- **21** local farmers supplied produce (**8** BIPOC-owned farms, **14** organic farms)
- **43%** of the spending was on local produce (**26%** with BIPOC growers, **50%** on organic produce)

Sustainable, Equitably Sourced Meals

- **22** local food suppliers provided fresh, organic, and culturally relevant ingredients to SPS for school meals

School Meals & Food Education Working Group

- Released a [new report](#) outlining program priorities

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Action 1.F

Strengthen Out-of-School Food Programs

Lead: Human Services Department (HSD)

HSD supports a variety of Out-of-School food programs designed to provide children with nutritious meals and snacks during school breaks, holidays, and after school. These programs aim to address childhood hunger and improve children's health by offering nutritious meals, enrichment activities, policy support, and community collaboration.

In 2024, HSD sponsored and supported the following Out-of-School food programs:

- [The Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP), also known as the Summer Meals Program, offered children and teens aged 18 and younger free, healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks during the summer months at dozens of playgrounds, community centers and nonprofit sites.
- [Weekend Hunger Program](#) packed bags of kid-friendly, easy-to-cook and shelf-stable food and delivered them to over **100** schools in Seattle where they were distributed by school staff to students in need.
- [The Afterschool Meals Program](#) (ASM) provided nutritious meals to youth during afterschool hours throughout the school year. Children received a free meal and/or snack while they were in a structured and supervised environment that provided educational support and/or enrichment activities.
- [The Child Care Nutrition Program](#) (CCNP) helped home-based early childhood education providers provide healthy meals to children 12 and under during the entire year. Participating providers were reimbursed for up to two meals and one snack per child per day.

SFSP, ASM and CCNP are federally funded nutrition programs administered by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

[Learn more](#)



A sign for free summer meals at an outdoor event.



Child care providers participate in a nutrition class.

- Summer Meals**
 - **59,350** meals and snacks served at **57** community sites
- Weekend Hunger Program**
 - **157,966** weekend hunger backpacks distributed to students at **103** schools
- Afterschool Meals**
 - **13,249** meals served at **7** sites
- Child Care Nutrition Program**
 - **1,091** children served by **116** participating home-based child care providers

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Action 1.G

Sustain and Strengthen Food and Meal Programming for Older Adults

Lead: Human Services Department (HSD)

In 2024, HSD invested over **\$9 million** (from all fund sources) in a variety of food and meal programs for older adults (ages 60+).

Older adult food and meal programs served adults (ages 60+) through a range of program options, from congregate (group) meals that provide social connections to home delivered groceries and/or meals for those who are homebound. Many programs focused on culturally relevant meals, transportation access to meal sites, and social activities such as nutrition education, cooking classes, farm field trips, and cultural celebrations.

Multicultural Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) Services provided culturally relevant food and nutrition education, technical assistance, and support to group meal programs.

The Home-Delivered Meals Program provided nutritious meals to older adults who were unable to leave their home unassisted, unable to prepare meals for themselves, and did not have a social support system to help them.

The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program provided benefits to lower-income older adults to purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs. The program supported local farming by increasing the use of farmers markets and was funded through a combination of federal grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Farm Bill as well as state and local funding.

[Learn more](#)



A woman sits at a table during an elders' lunch. Photo provided by Seattle Indian Health Board.



Four adults about to sit at a table for a meal. Photo provided by South Park Senior Citizens.

Group Meals

- **15,201** older adults (ages 60+) served **399,726** meals in group (congregate) settings at **37** sites

Groceries

- **189,772** grocery bags distributed to **9,132** older adults

Social Activities & Education

- **484** older adults participated in **116** social activities centered on food
- **2,941** older adults participated in **332** food and nutrition educational sessions

Farmers Market Benefits

- **\$868,560** in farmers market benefits were provided to **10,857** older adults (\$80/person), generating **\$1,476,552** in the local economic impact

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Action 1.1

Support and Strengthen Transportation Services for Food Access

Lead: Human Services Department (HSD)

In 2024, HSD continued and invested in **Food Access Transportation** which helps people access healthy and culturally relevant food in the setting of their choice. These services support HSD-funded congregate (group) meal programs by providing older adults (ages 60+) with the opportunity to participate in these programs without transportation barriers. Other eligible trips include trips to food banks, farmers markets, and grocery stores, including sites that participate in SNAP, Fresh Bucks, and/or the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

For example, Sound Generations' [Volunteer Transportation Service](#) provides personalized, safe transportation to essential appointments, bridging the transportation gap for those who may not have access to other options.

[Learn more](#)

1,118

Older adults served by Food Access Transportation Trips

20,381

One-way Food Access Transportation trips



A driver assists an older woman to the Hyde Shuttle bus. Photo by Sound Generations.

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Action 1.J

Prioritize Food Access for Unsheltered Populations

Leads: Human Services Department (HSD), King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA)

The purpose of this action is to develop a comprehensive, integrated response across City departments and community partners to improve food access for unsheltered populations. People experiencing homelessness have unique food access needs, due in part to location (sometimes changing), lack of transportation, absence of safe cooking facilities, medical needs, and dietary restrictions. The City's current food investments for people experiencing homelessness focus on sheltered populations. While some unsheltered residents access food banks and meal programs, others are reluctant to leave their possessions unprotected for long periods while they seek out food. They receive limited food (often snacks and water) from homeless outreach workers, and donations do not always meet people's needs and may be wasted.

In 2024, HSD met with representatives of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority to review community feedback on the Food Action Plan and identify potential high-impact strategies to implement.

Together, the group proposed a pilot to provide nutritious breakfasts during street outreach. Currently outreach workers may provide donuts, coffee, or granola bars. A healthier breakfast such as breakfast sandwiches, fresh yogurt and fruit, and other foods could help improve nutrition, build trust, and extend time during outreach conversations, which could increase rapport and lead to receptivity to other services.

The City intends to pilot the project in late 2025 or early 2026.



A person accepts a prepared meal from a food truck. Photo from OSL.

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Action 1.K

Strengthen Disaster Preparedness Efforts

Leads: Human Services Department (HSD), Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Emergencies and disasters—whether caused by extreme weather, public health crises, or other disruptions—can quickly threaten access to food. The City works to ensure that food access is part of coordinated emergency management planning, so that all communities, especially those most vulnerable, are supported in times of crisis. By preparing in advance and building strong partnerships, the City can help ensure that residents have reliable access to food when it is needed most.

On Oct 28, 2024, OEM and HSD hosted a tabletop exercise (TTX) to increase readiness of Seattle City food access partners to respond to a low-to-no warning emergency event.

Representatives from **40** agencies and organizations participated in TTX. HSD is working with the Seattle Food Committee (SFC) and Meals Partnership Coalition (MPC) to develop standard operating procedures for communicating with SFC and MPC in emergencies.

The tabletop exercise (TTX) strengthened the City’s and partners’ ability to respond quickly and effectively to food needs in a low-to-no warning emergency. Through the exercise, feeding partners increased their readiness to coordinate in crisis situations and gained a stronger understanding of how local, regional, state, and national feeding plans align. Participants drew on lessons from the COVID-19 food response to identify practical improvements and gaps, while also building relationships across agencies and organizations that will be critical in future emergencies. As a result, the exercise not only enhanced technical preparedness but also reinforced the trust and collaboration needed to ensure communities can reliably access food during disasters.

[Learn more](#)



Participants at a 2024 Emergency Food Response Tabletop Exercise.

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Action 2.A

Increase Equitable Community Land Access, Stewardship, and Ownership of Food and Agricultural Projects

Lead: Varies. In 2024-25, this action was advanced through the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD).

In 2025, **OPCD's Equitable Development Initiative (EDI)** awarded competitive grants to the following six (6) food projects that applied to a 2024 Request for Proposals:

- **\$557,000** to **Hip Hop is Green** to support completion of the Cherry Street Farm and Lab which hosts youth programming.
- **\$500,000** to **African Community Housing & Development** to advance development of on the Seattle International Public Market.
- **\$365,000** to **Black Star Farmers** to complete the Dakota Place project, a hub where local farmers are uplifting Black and Indigenous values and land practices that center equity and cultural stewardship in the food system.
- **\$300,000** to **Rainier Beach Action Coalition** to complete the Food Innovation Center that increases the capacity for BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee growers to process and distribute food locally and increase opportunities for these farmers to reach customers through farm stands, CSAs, and wholesale markets.
- **\$150,000** to **Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association** to support the Biofuel System Project.
- **\$75,000** to **Nurturing Roots Farm** for planning work on their Black Power Epicenter Project.

Together, these efforts build pathways for historically marginalized communities to not only access land and markets, but also to lead and shape the future of food and farming in Seattle.

6 food projects won \$1,947,000 in funding through OPCD's Equitable Development Initiative



Rainier Beach Action Coalition's farmstand. Photo from Rainier Beach Action Coalition.

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Action 2.B

Support Land Access and Stewardship by Coast Salish and Urban Native Communities

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced by Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD) and Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR)

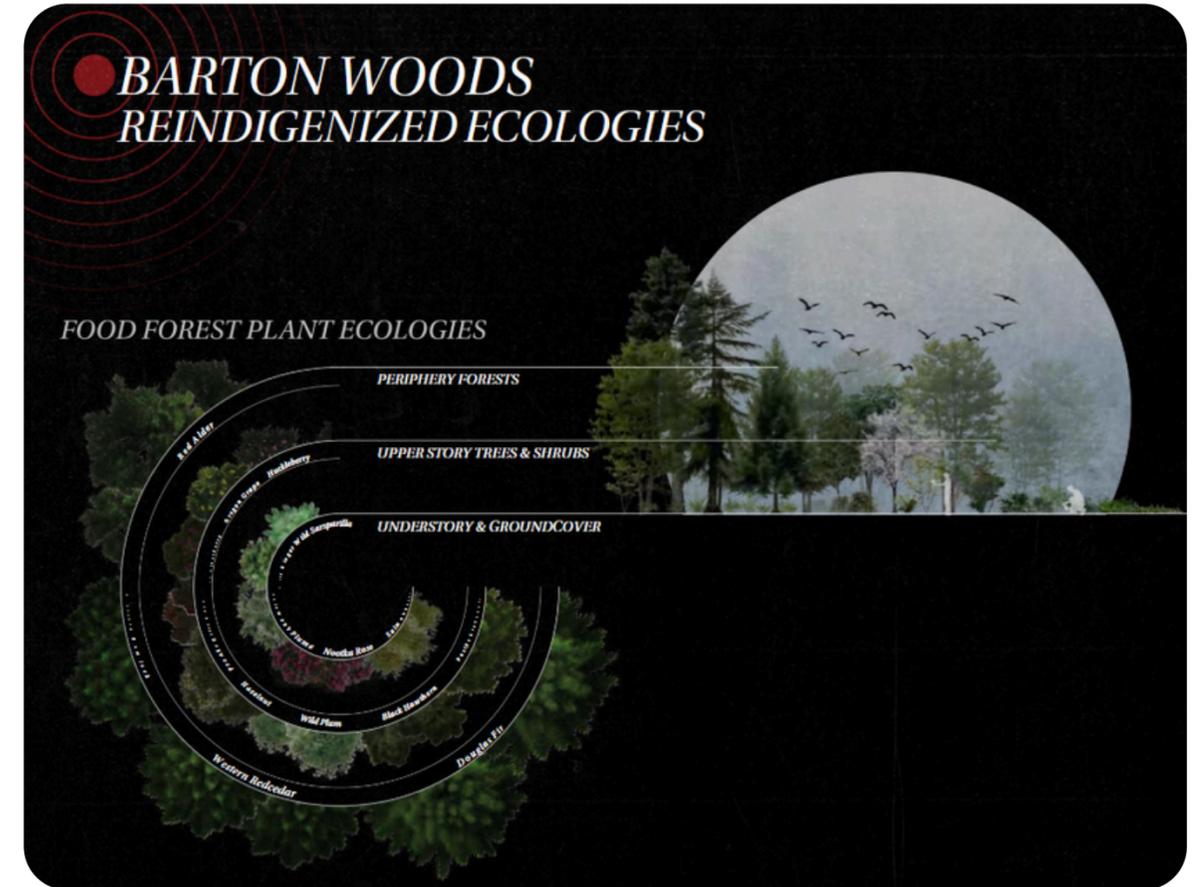
The purpose of this action is to increase land access for stewardship by Coast Salish and urban Native communities to retain, restore, and develop Native food systems.

In 2024, OPCD worked with Native consultants to intentionally engage with Indigenous communities in the development of the [Northgate Regional Center Plan](#). The goal was to create a vision of Northgate as a Native Neighborhood which meant integrating Coast Salish values in the plan from start to finish. One of the visions and future actions in the Northgate Regional Center Plan is to cultivate a food forest in Barton Woods and introduce more native and foraging friendly plants throughout Northgate.

This concept connects with the area’s native ecology and Indigenous ways of life from previous generations. Northgate was once a place rich in diverse ecosystems. Before extensive urban development, the subarea was a wetland bordered by prairies that extended into forested regions. Thornton Creek, a salmon-bearing stream, has been and continues to be a vital water source for the community. Indigenous communities residing here utilized the area during the summer months for hunting and resource gathering.

In January 2024, [SPR held a Tribal Nations Gathering](#) that engaged Tribal leaders and staff in relationship building and dialogue with City leaders and staff on issues of cultural resources, habitat restoration and management, park development, and programming. Several actions identified during the gathering will strengthen relationships, improve Tribal engagement, and support Native food systems, i.e.:

- Updating SPR’s Native Plant Policy, which ensures natural areas and other parks prioritize native species in all our landscapes. As part of the process, SPR presented and received feedback from members of the Indigenous Advisory Council.
- Partnering with urban Indigenous organizations to continue stewardship of an Indigenous food forest at Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center with United Indians of All Tribes and Futures Rising.



A graphic showing the multiple ecological layers in a food forest with edible plants throughout the groundcover and understory, upper story trees and shrubs, and periphery forests. These layers work together to create a self-sustaining micro-ecosystem that provides food. Food forests are an integral part of food production for Coast Salish people. Image by Darryl Vallejos, [History Lines](#).

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Action 2.C

Activate More Public Land for Community Food Production

\$4 million was authorized by Seattle City Council to activate at least **two** new publicly owned greenspaces to lease for community-led urban agriculture projects.



A hoop house at Marra Farm in South Park. The Participatory Budgeting project is working to activate more public land for community food production projects like those at Marra Farm.

Leads: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced through the Participatory Budgeting project led by Seattle’s Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

In August 2024, Mayor Harrell transmitted legislation to the Seattle City Council to authorize **\$27.25 million** to implement six (6) winning participatory budgeting projects. The projects focus on increasing access to housing, improving public safety and mental health supports, advancing food equity, and improving public infrastructure to meet basic needs. These projects are funded by existing one-time budget funds originally allocated in 2020, after the murder of George Floyd, to address public safety and community needs, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and communities of color.

One of the six approved projects is the **\$4 million Urban Farming and Food Equity Project**. In the coming years, the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) in partnership with Seattle’s Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) and Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR) will work to identify and activate at least two (2) publicly owned greenspaces for community-led urban agriculture projects that support food equity programming.

The new sites will be selected based on equity drivers such as location in neighborhoods with less access to community gardening sites and where there is a higher proportion of low-income people and Black, Indigenous, and people of color. DON intends to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2026 for community groups interested in stewarding the new sites.

Learn more: [OCR Website](#); [OCR Press Release](#)

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Action 2.D

Integrate Food Policies & Goals into City Plans & Efforts

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced by the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) and Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD).

City, neighborhood, and department plans can influence land use decisions and services available in neighborhoods. Continued integration of food policies into other City plans and efforts helps reinforce the goals and priorities of the Food Action Plan.

In 2023 and 2024, OSE worked with OPCD to integrate food system priorities throughout the [One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Update \(May 2025\)](#), including in the environment, land use, utilities, and climate elements of the plan. Policies in the draft plan encourage consumption of local, low-carbon foods; reduce food waste; expand composting infrastructure; and support circular and sustainable food practices.

Under the [“Healthy Food System” goal](#) (CE G15), the plan explicitly includes the Strategic Priorities from the Food Action Plan.

Separate from the Comprehensive Plan, in 2024-2025, OSE staff also represented the City on the King County Food Systems Advisory Council to support the update of [King County’s Local Food Initiative](#) and ensure strategic alignment between the City and County plans.



In 2024, the City’s food system priorities were integrated into the development of two major plans: the One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Update (pictured in the background on the left) and the King County Local Food Initiative 2025 Update (pictured in the foreground on the right).

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Action 2.E

Support the P-Patch Community Gardening Program

Lead: Department of Neighborhoods (DON)

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is made up of community managed open spaces throughout Seattle where gardeners use small plots of land to grow organic food, flowers, and herbs. All P-Patch gardens are open to the public to enjoy and are utilized as communal spaces, restorative spaces, learning and idea incubators, and venues for community gatherings.

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' P-Patch Program oversees **91** P-Patches located throughout the city. Community gardeners grow food on **14.9** acres and provide stewardship for an additional **18.8** acres of public land for a total of **33.7** acres.

[Learn more](#)



People working in a P-Patch. Photo from P-Patch Community Gardening Program.

3,750

P-Patch gardeners grew at **91** gardens

628

New gardeners, including **267** priority placement gardeners based on diverse language speakers.

\$62,977

Plot fee assistance provided to **744** low-income gardeners

★★★★★

P-Patch gardens rated their experience **“Excellent”** overall. (Average score **4.49** out of 5 based on **1,015** survey responses.)

27,610+

Volunteer hours logged in 2024

42,000

Pounds of food donated in 2024

228

People attended gardening classes

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Action 2.F

Support Strategies that Improve Soil Health at Community Gardens & Urban Farms

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was supported by the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

Healthy soil helps gardens and farms grow more nutritious food, store carbon, and protect water and air. Supporting soil health at community gardens and urban farms makes food production more reliable, affordable, and sustainable, while also helping communities heal neighborhood land and build resilience.

In 2024, the **Environmental Justice Fund at OSE** funded three (3) community-led projects that included strategies to improve soil health at community gardens and urban farms:

- **Beacon Food Forest** was supported to implement a remediation strategy to address soil pollution at the food forest and conduct a community visioning process to inform the expansion of the BIPOC Community Garden that serves as a space for community gatherings, education, and healing.
- **Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association** was supported to convert 25 tons of local food waste into 28,000 gallons of “probiotic plant food” through anaerobic digestion. (See also [Action 3.A](#))
- **Restaurant 2 Garden** was supported in its efforts to serve Chinatown-International District and Little Saigon at the neighborhood scale by increasing compost production, restaurant outreach, and educational services related to composting.

In other efforts, Seattle Public Utilities distributed **300** cubic yards of compost--made from Seattle’s own food waste--through **7** Compost Giveaways that reached hundreds of residents across South, Central, and West Seattle.

3 community projects to support improved soil health won a combined **\$235,000** through OSE’s Environmental Justice Fund.



Beacon Food Forest. In 2024, Beacon Food Forest won a \$75,000 award from the Environmental Justice Fund to implement a remediation strategy to address soil pollution at the food forest and conduct a community visioning process to inform the expansion of the BIPOC Community Garden.

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Action 2.G

Build Urban Agricultural Knowledge with Farmers & Gardeners

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was supported by the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) and the Department of Neighborhoods (DON).

This action aims to support toolkits and training for both new and experienced urban farmers and gardeners, including resources developed by the City and by local urban agricultural leaders.

In 2024, the **Environmental Justice Fund at OSE** and the **Food Equity Fund at DON** funded seven (7) community-led projects that built the knowledge and skills of urban agriculture practitioners.

- **Young Women Empowered (Y-WE Grow Program)** – Engaged youth at Marra Farm to build gardening and professional skills while deepening their connection to the land. Interns worked alongside BIPOC farmers and land stewards to grow culturally relevant produce and share it with the community at El Mercado Farmers Market. (See also [Action 3.A](#))
- **Clean Greens Farm and Market (Black Dollar Days Task Force)** – Strengthens community food sovereignty in Seattle’s Central District by operating a Black-led urban farm and market that grows and distributes fresh, local produce.
- **Hip Hop is Green (Cherry Street Farm)** – Expands farm and education infrastructure through a commissary kitchen, hydroponic growing chamber, and youth internships focused on sustainable agriculture, STEM, and climate careers. (See also [Action 3.A](#))
- **Mother Africa** – Provides hands-on education for immigrant and refugee communities on gardening, composting, food waste reduction, and food sovereignty, while distributing culturally relevant food boxes.
- **Rainier Beach Action Coalition (Rainier Beach Food Hub)** – Builds farmer and community capacity through aggregation, storage, and distribution infrastructure while connecting youth, farmers, and residents in shared learning around food justice and food systems leadership.

Tilth Alliance (Community Resources for Food Equity) – Expands access to urban agriculture through multilingual signage, free produce at farm stands, U-pick opportunities, and intergenerational farm field trips led with youth support.

Villa Comunitaria (Salsa De La Vida) – This Latina-led farm in South Park grew 2,000 pounds of organic produce for donation and hosted educational field trips for Spanish-speaking youth to learn about farming and food systems.

In other efforts, 228 people attended gardening classes sponsored by the P-Patch Community Gardening Program. (See also [Action 2.E](#))

7 community-led projects that build the knowledge and skills of urban agriculture practitioners won a combined \$638,720 through OSE’s Environmental Justice Fund and DON’s Food Equity Fund.

Clean Greens Farmers Market in Seattle’s Central District. Photo provided by Black Dollar Days Task Force.



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Action 2.H

Work with Other Jurisdictions to Conserve Land Outside of Seattle for Equitable Food Production

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was not initiated by the City.

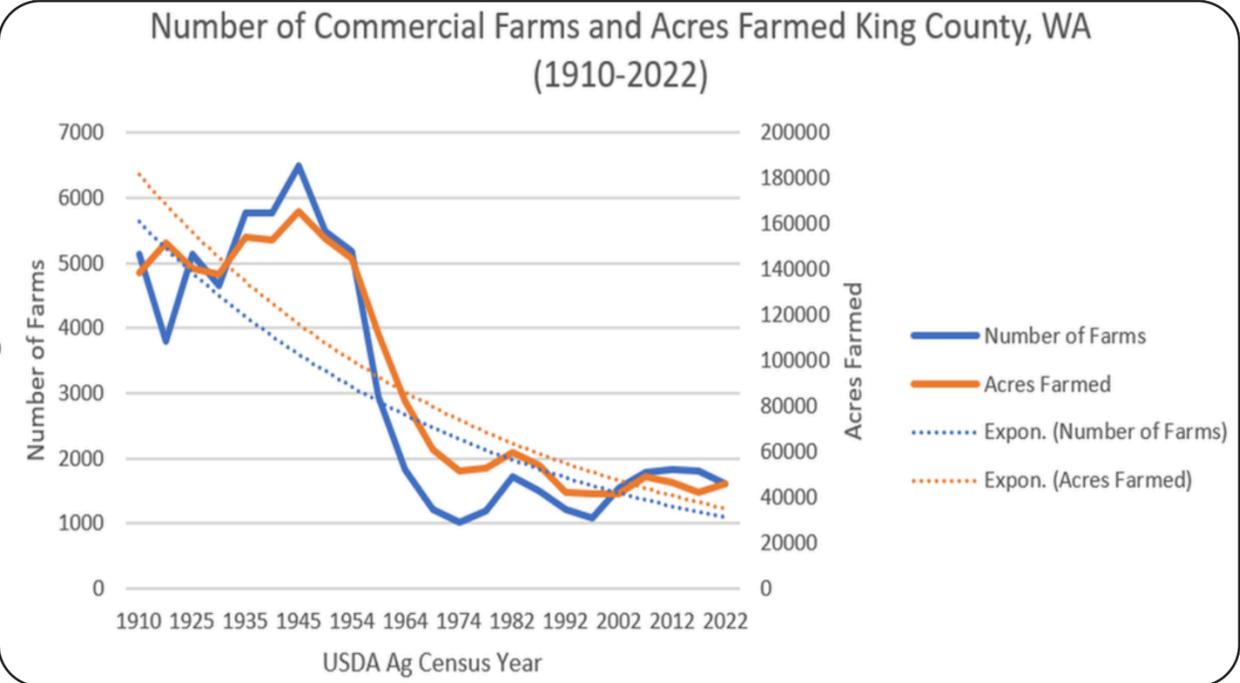
The farmland and waterways outside the city are important for Seattle and the region. Historically, King County has been a productive agricultural region with dairies, livestock operations, row crops, flowers, and berry fields. While [farming has a major presence in King County](#) and the surrounding region, increased land prices, regulations, urban pressures, and drainage problems have all significantly contributed to the challenge of continued farming.

The King County Agriculture Program strives to preserve agricultural soils, support farmers and consumers, and protect natural resources. The purpose of this action is to work with King County, Tribes, and other regional partners to protect these lands to keep farming viable, safeguard salmon and waterways, and open doors for underrepresented farmers to access land. By preserving farmland and connecting it to local food access, we build a stronger, more equitable food system for everyone.



Salaam Family Farm from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) New Roots Program in Kent, WA. Photo provided by King County.

This action was not initiated in 2024 by the City; however, it remains a long-term priority within the Food Action Plan. The City recognizes its importance to advancing an equitable and resilient food system and is committed to beginning work on this action in future years as resources, partnerships, and timing align. By keeping this action in the Plan, we ensure it remains a focus for future implementation and accountability.



This chart shows that the number of commercial farms and acres farmed in King County has fluctuated and declined between 1910-2022. 1945 was the peak for numbers of farms and acreage farmed with approximately 6,500 farms and 166,000 acres. The number of farms and acreage farmed, which fell sharply after World War II, has stabilized at about one-fourth of the historic peak. In 2022, there were 1,500 farms and 45,000 acres. (Source: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.)

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Action 3.A

Connect Young People to Food System Jobs & Job Training

43

Food system internships through the Seattle Youth Employment Program. Placements were at 20 sites including Filipino Community of Seattle, Solid Ground, Distinguished Foods LLC, House of Naku, Rainier Valley Food Bank, Asian Counseling & Referral Service, Cultivate South Park, Lake City Collective, African Community Housing & Development, Freeway Estates Community Orchard, For All, City of Seattle, Primm ABC Child Care Center, and Elizabeth Gregory Home.

5

Community-led projects empowered young people to lead through paid internships in a variety of fields--from hands-on farming and circular economy projects to intergenerational learning to climate and STEM career pathways



Young people working at Cherry Street Farm. Photo by Hip Hop is Green.

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced by Human Services Department (HSD) and community-led grant projects.

In 2024 HSD employed 43 young people through the Seattle Youth Employment Program. Interns supported a wide range of food-related projects across 20 community-based organizations, city programs, and small businesses, contributing both to direct food access and to the broader food system. Their work spanned roles in nutrition, community gardening, environmental justice, food bank support, cooking, social media, classroom aides, summer meals, program support, and more. These internships offered meaningful opportunities for young people to gain professional skills while helping to strengthen equitable food access throughout Seattle.

Additionally, six (6) community-led projects advanced this goal in 2024 through grants that were awarded by the Food Equity Fund and Environmental Justice Fund:

- **Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association (DVSA)** engaged youth leaders in South Park to turn 25 tons of food waste into probiotic plant food, while teaching about circular economy and resource recovery. (See also [Action 2.G](#))
- **Hip Hop is Green** expanded paid internships in sustainable food, STEM, and climate careers and its Cherry Street Farm. (See also [Action 2.G](#))
- **Rainier Valley Food Bank** expanded access to culturally responsive, nutritious food during the summer and school year while providing internships, pop-up events, and community activities that build youth leadership and skills.
- **Tilth Alliance** offered free culturally relevant produce, no-cost U-pick areas, and senior farm field trips supported by youth stewards.
- **Y-WE Grow** offered summer internships at Marra Farm in South Park for young women and gender-expansive youth, combining gardening skills, cultural food practices, and mentorship from BIPOC land stewards. (See also [Action 2.G](#))
- **Clean Greens Rainbow Youth Farm (Black Dollars Day Task Force)** led a 16-week hands-on youth farming program with 30 youth ages 5-18 years old.

Each of these projects provided young people with opportunities to gain paid job training in a variety of food systems work—from hands-on farming and circular economy projects to intergenerational learning to climate and STEM career pathways.

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Action 3.B

Strengthen the Urban Food Systems Program

Lead: Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR)

The Urban Food Systems (UFS) Program provides activities for BIPOC young adults to build community through urban agriculture and other learning opportunities focused on the local food system. The program increases access to healthy food, encourages active lifestyles, promotes equitable and sustainable environmental practices, and provides opportunities for recreation and cultural place making. These experiences are designed around community priorities to promote food sovereignty, social justice, health, and wellness.

In 2024, the City Parks Alliance and The Toro Company awarded the Rainier Community Center’s new urban garden a **\$50,000** 2024 Toro Urban Park Innovation Award. Lastly, the UFS Program conducted an assessment of **10** new and existing UFS sites on properties owned by SPR. The site assessment is part of an effort to develop an effective way to organize UFS Program site data, capture site conditions and infrastructure, identify gap areas, evaluate partnerships, prioritize sites for improvements, and expand to new locations.

[Learn more](#)



Jennifer Luna, Melanie Ocasio, Paris Yates, and Deena Pierott address the crowd at an event to celebrate a new project at the Rainier Community Center focused on environmental education for adolescents. Photo by Paige Stanley, South Seattle Emerald.

2024 UFS Program Fruit Tree Inventory

16 Public Orchards

787 Trees inventoried

3,943 Pounds of Fruit harvested

13,814 Pounds of Compost collected

2024 UFS Program Community Gardens

8 Active Garden Sites

1,139 Pounds of Produce harvested

Top 5 Crops: Squash, Collard greens, Potatoes, Tomatoes, Kale

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Action 3.C

Invest in Culturally Relevant Food & Nutrition Programming for Youth

Leads: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced by Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE), Human Services Department (HSD), and Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR).

The purpose of this action is to deepen child and youth understanding of a variety of food and nutrition topics, including the relationship between food and culture, where food comes from and how to prepare it, and how food choices (often inequitably) impact our individual and community health and the environment.

In 2024, through the [Healthy Food in Schools Initiative](#), OSE partnered with **Nurturing Roots** to provide food justice workshops at **11** Seattle Public Schools: Aki Kurose Middle School, Arbor Heights Elementary, Beacon Hill International Elementary, Dearborn Park Elementary, Denny International Middle School, Emerson Elementary, Franklin High School, Genessee Hill Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, Leschi Elementary, and Maple Elementary,

Meanwhile, [Farm to Preschool](#), supported by HSD, provided **170** food and nutrition education classes provided to preschoolers and **14** classroom field trips with local farmers (see also [Action 1.D](#)). Farm to Preschool worked with a University of Washington graduate student to create a new collection of [culturally reflective recipes](#), introduced first in the classroom with students for feedback. Partners also purchased additional nutrition education supplies to deliver in early 2025 along with copies of the new recipes.

Lastly, **Clean Greens (Black Dollar Days Task Force)** continued its youth farming program on SPR land (Amy Yee Tennis Center) in the Mt. Baker neighborhood. Clean Greens provided experiential learning for youth designed to create early awareness of food production, healthy nutrition, food justice and earth sustainability practices (see also [Action 3.B](#), Urban Food Systems Program).

170

Food and nutrition education classes provided to preschoolers through the Seattle Farm to Preschool program

14

Classroom field trip with local farmers led by the Seattle Farm to Preschool program

26

Seattle Public Schools hosted food justice workshops put on by Nurturing Roots



A preschooler stands with her take-home bag of produce and educational materials provided by the Seattle Farm to Preschool program.

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Action 3.D

Support Community-Led Nutrition Education for Adults

Leads: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced by community-led grant projects awarded by Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)

This action supports health promotion and nutrition education programs for adults, focusing on communities most impacted by food and health inequities. In 2024, work on this action was led by nine (9) community grant projects funded by Food Equity Fund (eight projects) and Environmental Justice Fund (one project). These organizations designed and provided food and nutrition education for adults by grounding learning and food access in cultural traditions, community leadership, and lived experience. They created spaces where elders, immigrants, refugees, and Indigenous communities could share meals, preserve traditional knowledge, and strengthen cultural identity.

- **Akin for North Seattle Family Resource Center** hosted cooking workshops and cultural celebrations that highlighted food traditions, paired with free food distributions sourced from BIPOC farmers and local cultural markets.
- **Hunger Intervention Program** launched Community Kitchens in Lake City and Northgate where BIPOC communities gather to share meals, learn, and engage in food justice conversations led by community leaders.
- **International Migrants Alliance** delivered **200** weekly culturally relevant meals to asylum seekers while supporting leadership development among newly arrived migrants.
- **Mother Africa** educated immigrant and refugee communities on nutrition and food sovereignty through monthly sessions, community gardening, composting, and culturally relevant food boxes.
- **Naa Kaani Native Program** hosted food and medicine distribution events, seminars on traditional ecological knowledge, and internships in Indigenous medicine and natural resource stewardship.
- **Seattle Indian Health Board** supported Indigenous food sovereignty by offering a kitchen for traditional cooking demonstrations and providing culturally rooted meals and pantry services for Native elders and families.
- **South Park Senior Center** provided elders with healthy meals, social services, free fitness classes, cultural celebrations, and a podcast documenting senior voices while challenging stereotypes and racism.

- **South Park Senior Citizens** recruited BIPOC and immigrant elders as ambassadors to guide culturally authentic meals and activities, serving **11,000** meals and hosting seven cultural events.
- **United Indians of All Tribes Foundation** offered culturally significant food programs including holiday meals, buffalo harvests, and a monthly elder grocery delivery program featuring traditional foods.



Community Advisory Board Members with Akin host a cooking demonstration. Photo provided by North Seattle Family Resource Center.

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Action 4.A

Work with Community Partners to Co-Enforce Seattle’s Labor Laws

Lead: Office of Labor Standards (OLS)

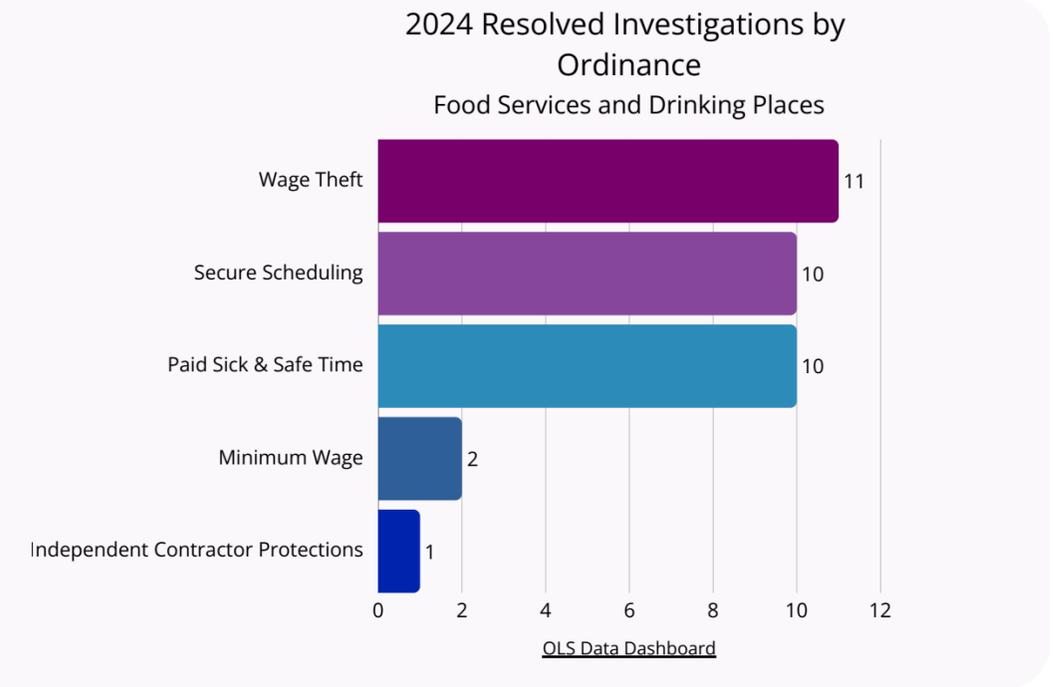
According to [OLS data](#), food services and retail are the top industries for complaints and investigations of unfair labor practices, including violations of Paid Sick and Safe Time, Wage Theft, Minimum Wage, Fair Chance Employment, and Secure Scheduling ordinances.

OLS supports worker protections through community and business engagement, strategic enforcement, policy development, education, and technical assistance, with a commitment to race and social justice. It manages two funds: the [Community Outreach and Education Fund](#), which partners with community groups to raise awareness of worker rights, and the [Business Outreach and Education Fund](#), which helps small businesses—especially those owned by low-income and historically marginalized communities—comply with labor standards.

In 2024, OLS resolved **81** total investigations, and **35** of those investigations (**42%**) were with “Food Services and Drinking Places”. Eleven (**11**) of the cases resulted in settlements for food workers, recovering **\$679,492.39** financial remedies for **512** workers.

The year 2024 ushered in new worker protections for app-based/gig workers. Effective Jan. 13, 2024:

- The [App-Based Minimum Payment Ordinance](#) provides covered app-based workers right to minimum payment, transparency, and flexibility.
- The [App-Based Paid Sick & Safe Time Ordinance](#) provides paid sick and paid safe leave for app-based workers from covered network companies.



\$679,492 Financial remedies were recovered for **512** workers through **11** settlements

2,501 Food Services and Drinking Places were engaged during **business outreach**

369 Workers of Food Services and Drinking Places participated in intake interviews with community partners regarding workplace concerns

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Action 4.B

Support Strong Labor Protections for Farmworkers

Lead: Varies

Even though Seattle itself does not host large-scale agriculture, farmworkers across Washington are essential to the city’s food system and Washington state’s economy. They harvest, process, and pack much of the food that makes its way into Seattle’s grocery stores, restaurants, schools, and homes. Supporting farmworker protections recognizes their critical role in Seattle’s broader “foodshed” and helps ensure a more stable, safe, and equitable food supply. By advocating for fair wages, safe working conditions, and labor rights for farmworkers, Seattle can strengthen its commitment to food justice, safeguard the resilience of the regional food economy, and affirm that the people who grow and harvest our food deserve dignity and protection.

In 2024, this action was not directly advanced by any City departments. However, the new [Buying with Purpose: Seattle’s Food Purchasing Guide](#) developed by the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) includes a core value related to fair labor with guidance related to food suppliers and producers.

In 2025, the OSE will continue to track state policy related to farmworker protections, including the implementation of [agricultural overtime \(SB 5172\)](#) that was passed in 2021. Effective Jan. 1, 2024, agricultural laborers must receive time-and-a-half wages for hours worked beyond 40 per week.

This action was not initiated in 2024; however, it remains a long-term priority within the Food Action Plan. The City recognizes its importance to advancing an equitable and resilient food system and is committed to beginning work on this action in future years as resources, partnerships, and timing align. By keeping this action in the Plan, we ensure it remains a focus for future implementation and accountability.



Farmworkers harvesting in Washington State. Photo by Jackie Johnston, Associated Press.

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Action 4.C

Include Labor Standards in City Contracts & Agreements

Lead: Varies

This action aims to increase outreach and education about the City’s labor laws to food businesses by including strong labor standards and workforce equity provisions into relevant City contracts and small business programs. Incorporating labor standards and workforce equity provisions into City food service and retail contracts and agreements can increase awareness of and compliance with the City’s labor standards.

This action was not initiated in 2024. Future efforts could include educating small food businesses about labor protections through the Office of Economic Development Small Business Support program. The Office of Labor Standards (OLS) has [ready-made resources and materials](#) on retail and food service employee protections. The City could also include information about how to comply with Seattle labor standards in all food program contracts and agreements.

This action was not initiated in 2024; however, it remains a long-term priority within the Food Action Plan. The City recognizes its importance to advancing an equitable and resilient food system and is committed to beginning work on this action in future years as resources, partnerships, and timing align. By keeping this action in the Plan, we ensure it remains a focus for future implementation and accountability.

Seattle Office of Labor Standards

SECURE SCHEDULING ORDINANCE

SMC 14.22

Covers hourly employees at retail and food services establishments with 500+ employees worldwide
Full service restaurants also must have 40+ full-service locations worldwide

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017

- Good faith estimate.** For the upcoming year, employer must provide a written forecast of employee’s median hours per work week and whether to expect on-call shifts.
- Right to request input into work schedule.** Before the work schedule is posted, employer must grant schedule requests related to a **major life event** (employee’s transportation, housing, other job(s), education, caregiving, and self-care for serious health condition) unless the employer identifies a **bona fide business reason** (significant cost or disruption).
- Advance notice of work schedule.** Employer must post work schedules 14 days in advance.
- Premium pay for work schedule changes after schedule is posted.**
 - Additional hours:** Employer must provide an additional hour of pay, plus wages earned.
 - Subtracted hours:** Employer must pay for half of the hours not worked, plus wages earned, for regular and on-call shifts.
 - Exceptions to premium pay requirements:**
 - » Grace period for additions or subtractions of 15 minutes or less.
 - » Employee requests for schedule changes and/or shift swaps with another employee.
 - » Employer reduction of hours due to disciplinary reasons.

Example of ready-made resources and materials on retail and food service employee protections available on the OLS webpage.

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Action 4.D

Support Food Projects that Promote Equitable Economic Development

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced by community-led grant project awarded by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and the Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD).

The purpose of this action is to 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.

In 2024, five (5) grantees of DON's Food Equity Fund were projects that partnered with restaurants, caterers, farmers markets, or chefs to increase equitable access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food:

- **\$100,000** to **Good Business Network of Washington Good Food Kitchens program** to fund 15+ restaurant and catering partners to prepare nourishing and culturally relevant meals to community members facing food insecurity through partnership with 15+ community organizations, while sourcing from local farms and producers where possible.
- **\$99,808.50** to **African Community Housing & Development** to expand and grow the offerings and the number of neighbors they serve by moving the Delridge Farmer's Market to a new, larger location for the market's fifth anniversary season in 2025.
- **\$100,000** to **Black Dollar Days Task Force Clean Greens Farm and Market**, a program owned and operated in Seattle's Central District.
- **\$100,000** to **Byrd Barr Place** to expand their Farm to Table program which increases access to fresh local grown healthy food for low-income households and people of color while also investing in the success of small farms, especially those owned and operated by BIPOC farmers and families.
- **\$100,000** to **Seattle Indian Health Board** to provide space in their new commercial kitchen located at their clinic in the International District for Indigenous chefs to share traditional foods knowledge through cooking demonstrations.

Separately, **\$300,000** was awarded to **Rainier Beach Action Coalition** through OPCD's Equitable Development Initiative to complete the Food Innovation Center that increases the capacity for BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee growers to process and distribute food locally and increase opportunities for these farmers to reach customers through farm stands, CSAs, and wholesale markets.

\$499,808

Awarded by the Food Equity Fund to **5** projects that partnered with restaurants, caterers, farmers markets, or chefs to increase equitable access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food

\$300,000

Awarded by the Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) to **Rainier Beach Action Coalition** to complete the Food Innovation Center, which increases the capacity for BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee growers to process and distribute food locally



Gregory Davis stands outside of the RBAC Food Hub and Growth Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Way and South Henderson Street. Photo by Susan Fried.

Since 2017, RBAC has received almost \$5.1 million in grants through the EDI to transform its seasonal farm stand into a year-round, brick-and-mortar [Food Innovation Center](#).

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Action 4.E

Support New & Existing Small Food Businesses

Lead: Office of Economic Development (OED)

This action aims to increase equitable access to capital, financing, and technical assistance to small food and farm businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC, women, and other underrepresented entrepreneurs.

Food businesses in Seattle take advantage of the many programs and resources available through OED which are designed to break down barriers, unlock access to opportunity, and generate wealth equitably. In 2024, **180** businesses or entrepreneurs from the *Accommodation and Food Services* sector participated in OED programs. Over **86%** of participants were women and minority-owned businesses; **75%** were small businesses (0-4 employees); and **50%** had revenues less than \$100,000 per year. The primary programs accessed by food-related businesses and entrepreneurs in 2024 were:

- **Consulting Services** including business planning, permitting, marketing, bookkeeping, and more, to help small businesses navigate the complexities of starting and operating a food business. Out of **180** food-related businesses or entrepreneurs, **116 (64%)** utilized the Accounting and Business Consulting (ABC) Program.
- **Tenant Improvement Fund** to help businesses reduce financial challenges associated with signage and equipment. In 2024, this **Fund awarded 38 businesses**, including **14** food business which collectively won **\$1,120,900** (awards ranged from \$32,000 - \$100,000).
- **Storefront Repair Fund** which reimburses business owners for the cost of repairs for property damage for up to three different incidents. In 2024, **131** grantees from the *Accommodation and Food Services* sector won storefront repair funds totaling **\$262,000**.



Marjorie Restaurant's new location after re-opening in 2024 with support from OED's Business Ownership Fund, a small business investment model that addresses the high cost of commercial rent.

180

Businesses or entrepreneurs from the Accommodation and Food Services sector participated in OED programs

- **85%** were BIPOC-owned businesses or entrepreneurs; **58%** were women-owned business or entrepreneurs
- **75%** were small business with 0 to 4 employees
- **50%** had revenues less than \$100,000 per year

116

Businesses or entrepreneurs from the Accommodation and Food Services sector accessed OED's **Accounting and Business Consulting (ABC) program**.

\$1,120,900

Awarded to **14** food businesses through OED's Tenant Improvement Fund (TIF). Food businesses represented 37% of the 2024 TIF awards granted to a total of 38 businesses.

\$262,000

Awarded to **131** grantees from the Accommodation and Food Services sector through OED's Storefront Repair Fund.

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Action 4.F

Streamline the Permitting Process for Farmers Markets

Lead: Office of Economic Development (OED)

Farmers market organizations and small food businesses have shared that the City’s permitting processes is burdensome, requiring coordination with up to eight or more City, County, and State agencies responsible for permitting, traffic planning, neighborhood outreach, and food policy. The purpose of this action is to streamline the permitting process and regulatory experience for new and existing farmers markets, farm stands, mobile food businesses, and temporary events.

The City’s [webpage for food businesses](#) includes comprehensive information on the various permits required for farmers markets, mobile food businesses, and temporary events. Future work would include updating the 2009 definition of allowable farmers market vendor activity and developing an annual or multi-year master permit for longstanding markets operating in public spaces, with a goal of meeting current farmers market needs and reducing permitting burdens for applicants.

This action was not initiated in 2024; however, it remains a long-term priority within the Food Action Plan. The City recognizes its importance to advancing an equitable and resilient food system and is committed to beginning work on this action in future years as resources, partnerships, and timing align. By keeping this action in the Plan, we ensure it remains a focus for future implementation and accountability.



University District Farmers Market.

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Action 5.A

Explore Development of a Sustainable, Equitable Food Purchasing Campaign

Lead: Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)

In 2024, the OSE and other departments took several steps to move the City closer to a coordinated, citywide sustainable and equitable food purchasing campaign.

In 2024, City staff and partners began developing a **Values-Based Food Purchasing (VBFP) Framework** tailored to City-supported food programs. The framework will set standards to guide procurement, contracting, and other food purchasing decisions (see [Action 1.A](#) for more updates). The framework creates a consistent foundation that can guide both City programs and external partners. It will also help build values-aligned food supply chains in Seattle and create new ways for City programs and food service institutions to expand VBFP activities.

As part of this work, the City supported UW Dining in connecting with local farms, including exploring purchases from the Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative and Farmstand Local Foods through new state vendor contracts. These partnerships demonstrate potential pathways for scaling up values-based purchasing, a key component of a future citywide campaign.

The City also submitted grant proposals to expand sustainable and equitable food purchasing across large food service institutions. One proposal focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by increasing purchases of plant-based, local, sustainable, and regeneratively produced foods. Another aimed to launch a farm-to-institution campaign to increase local food purchasing and strengthen support for regional farms and food aggregators.

[Learn more](#)



Title page of [Buying with Purpose: Seattle's Guide to Food Purchasing](#). This new values-based food purchasing framework creates a consistent foundation that can guide both City programs and external partners in a citywide campaign.

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Action 5.B

Strengthen Food Value Chain Coordination

Lead: Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)

In 2024, City staff met regularly to strengthen peer collaboration and improve value chain coordination across City-supported food programs. Led by OSE staff, this team drafted Core Value definitions and criteria for a new values-based food purchasing (VBFP) framework, mapped VBFP opportunities, collected purchasing data from City-supported programs, and identified potential tools and resources to expand VBFP. They also contributed to developing the *Buying with Purpose: Seattle's Food Purchasing Guide* (see [Action 1.A](#)).

Building off this work, in 2025, OSE staff provided technical assistance on sustainable, local, and equitable purchasing within multiple City food programs. This included outreach and coordination with the Meals Partnership Coalition and the Seattle Food Committee to help members increase values-based food purchasing, both individually and collectively, through the City-funded Food Lifeline contract which purchases staples for food bank and meal programs.

These efforts directly supported the goal of improving coordination between food programs and vendors to increase sourcing from sustainable, local, and BIPOC food producers who are underrepresented in institutional food purchasing.

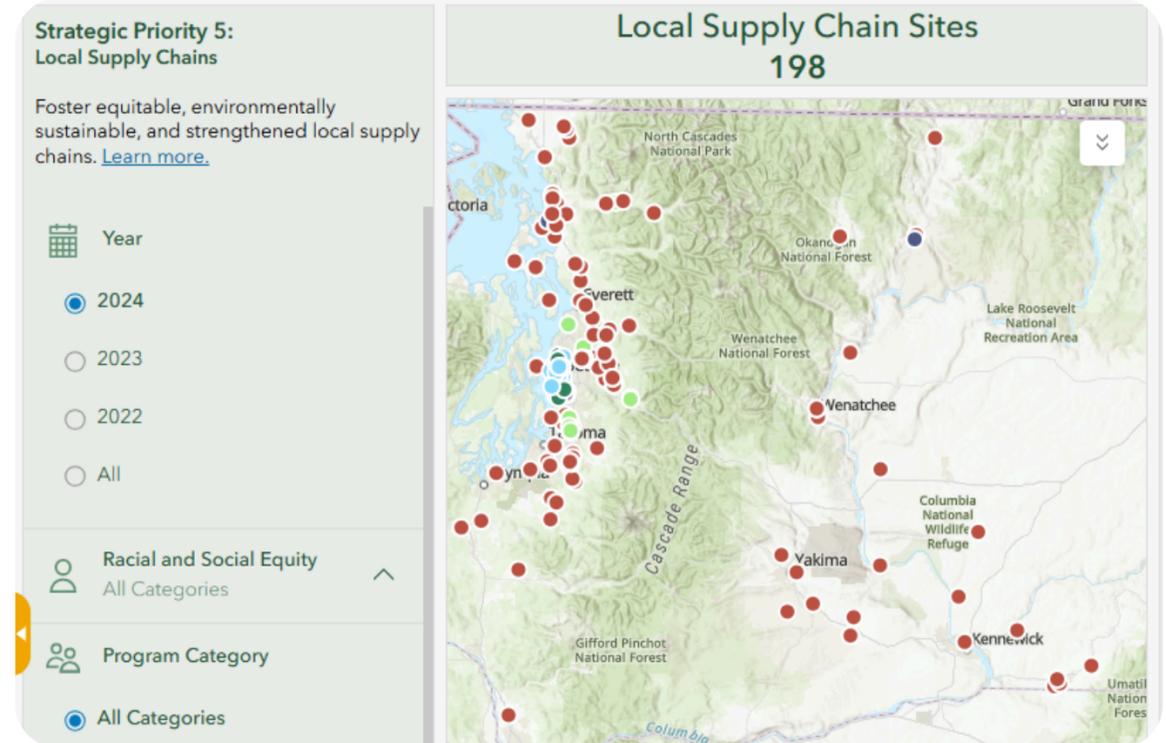
In 2024, City food programs collectively spent over **\$900,000** on Washington grown or produced food from over **198** vendors including **145** farmers and food producers. Explore Seattle's statewide "foodshed" by visiting the [Local Supply Chain section of the new Food Action Plan map](#).

\$906,498

Spent by City food programs on food grown or produced in Washington, generating **\$1.54 million** in economic benefits.

145

Washington farmers and food producers supplied food to City of Seattle food programs through Seattle Farm to Preschool, Healthy Food in Schools, and food banks and meal programs.



A screen shot of the Seattle Food Action Plan map. This online map enables users to explore where City-supported food programs and services are located throughout the city.

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Action 5.C

Invest in Local Food System Infrastructure

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced by King County, Seattle’s Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE), and Human Services Department (HSD).

This action is about building the spaces and tools our local food system needs to thrive—like cold storage, shared kitchens, delivery trucks, greenhouses, and places for farmers and food businesses to process and distribute food. Investing in this kind of infrastructure helps small farms, BIPOC-owned food businesses, and community food programs get the resources they need to grow, reach more people, and prevent waste. With the right facilities in place, we can make our food system stronger, more sustainable, and more equitable for everyone.

In 2024, City contractor OSL Serves opened a state-of-the-art, 13,000 square-foot kitchen and warehouse to accommodate growing demand for meals. OSL built cold, frozen and dry storage into their new space for other local meal programs.

Separately, beginning in 2022, City staff were actively involved in advising the development of the [South Seattle Community Food Hub](#). With community input and support from food system partners, the project developed steadily: forming an Advisory Committee in 2022, securing a site and early funding, creating governance and business plans, and by 2024, securing \$4.5 million in federal construction funding with plans to break ground in 2025.

In spring 2025, however, key challenges reshaped the project. Fiscal sponsor Food Lifeline determined it could not take on the financial risk tied to federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding and withdrew its offer of warehouse space at 915 South 96th Street. Without a site, secured construction funding, or staff beyond April 2025, the project could not move forward as originally envisioned.

When authorized federal funding was abruptly withdrawn for the planned South Seattle Community Food Hub, partners King County and Harvest Against Hunger redirected **\$755,000** in local funding to support local hunger relief organizations, farm businesses, and food distributors.

While plans to build a regional food hub are halted, the mission remains urgent: to expand food access by building infrastructure that supports producers and hunger relief organizations, with a focus on BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee communities.

The Advisory Committee, Food Lifeline, and public funders are now working together to reimagine how this vision can still come to life. While the details of who will lead it, where it will be located, and when it will happen are uncertain, partners remain committed to the Food Hub’s mission and its critical role in Seattle’s food system.

Learn more: [South Seattle Community Food Hub webpage](#)

Learn more: [King County Local Food System Infrastructure Grant](#)



A note from South Seattle Community Food Hub’s webpage says “Goodbye, for now.” after federal funding was abruptly withdrawn for the planned regional food hub.

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Action 6.A

Increase Public Awareness About Food Waste Prevention

Lead: Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

A significant portion of food waste in Seattle comes from the residential sector. As such, residential food waste prevention is one of the key strategies Seattle is using to support the statewide commitment to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.

SPU’s **“Love Food, Stop Waste”** campaign engages residents in preventing food from becoming waste which has environmental, social and economic impacts. The program’s purpose is to explore food-saving strategies and reduce the amount of edible food that ends up in Seattle’s waste stream. SPU is working to ensure equitable engagement in the program develop content in other languages through transcreation (translation + creation) and partnering with community organizations to provide in-language, culturally relevant, and effective engagement.

In 2024, SPU partnered with Department of Neighborhoods Community Liaisons (CLs) to conduct in-language residential outreach on food waste prevention. CLs attended long-standing community-driven events, such as the Duwamish River Festival, Lunar New Year Event at the Chinatown International District, and many more. They engaged in meaningful conversations with diverse residents – often in their native language – by emphasizing the importance of proper food storage, meal planning, and creatively using leftovers. After connecting with CLs, residents generally walked away feeling empowered and excited to readily integrate tips into their daily routines and share resources with others in their community. SPU will continue work with Department of Neighborhoods to build capacity for future CL technical assistance support in 2025.

[Learn more](#)

2024 Outreach on Food Waste Prevention

4,500+

Residents engaged through **55** events put on by SPU and Community Liaisons (CLs). CLs engaged with various communities, including African American residents, seniors, people with disabilities, Native American and Indigenous groups.

10

Languages spoken by CLs at outreach events including: Spanish, Amharic, Oromo, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagalog, Ilocano, Vietnamese, Khmer, and Tigrinya



Community Liaisons at an outreach event about food waste prevention.

Seattle Public Utilities *Love Food, Stop Waste* logo.

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Action 6.B

Partner with Businesses to Prevent Food Waste

Lead: Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

Seattle is leveraging large scale partnerships to prevent commercial food waste through the [Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment \(PCFWC\)](#).

Launched in 2018, the PCFWC is a partnership of local governments and food businesses across the West Coast working together to reduce food waste. Local government partners include British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California; the cities of Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles; and King and Alameda counties.

Participating businesses submit annual food waste data, collaborate in precompetitive Working Groups and Sector Summits, and participate in projects that test and implement food waste solutions in an effort to reduce food loss and waste in the region by **50%** by 2030. PCFWC has 16 business partners who represent over 50% of the West Coast retail market share along with hospitality, distributors, manufacturers, growers.

PCFWC work has been expanded and leveraged even more by the [U.S. Food Waste Pact](#). This national effort was launched by ReFED and the World Wildlife Fund to scale food waste actions and collaboration across the U.S.

PCFWC and U.S. Food Waste Pact conducted on-site intervention projects that found *where* and *why* waste was occurring, tested employee strategies that cut food waste as much as **74%**, and developed an [Employee Engagement Toolkit](#) for any food businesses to use. Case studies and year end reports are available on [PCFWC's website](#).

Unsold food

↓ 30%

As of 2024, unsold food rates have **decreased by 30%** for PCFWC retailers, compared to 2019 when data was first collected. Unsold food includes all food that went unsold in each grocery store food department, including both edible food and inedible scraps. This is the most important metric for tracking progress in retail because it gives a sense of actual food waste reduction practices rather than market fluctuations or business performance.

Business Signatories (As of December 31, 2024)

Retailers



Hospitality and Foodservice



Manufacturers



Distributors



Growers



Logos of the 16 business partners who participate in the Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment (PCFWC). Image from PCFWC.

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Action 6.C

Strengthen Cross-Sector Food Rescue Operations

Lead: Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

Since 2019, SPU has been working with grocery stores, hospitals, food banks, meal programs, and community partners to improve how unsold, edible food is collected and shared with people who need it. Food rescue is complex and resource-intensive, requiring trucks, storage, kitchens, and staff, and gaps in communication and protocols often lead to missed opportunities. By addressing these challenges, SPU aims to keep edible food out of garbage and compost, increase the quality and amount of food donations, and build stronger partnerships to create larger-scale solutions.

In 2024, SPU awarded **\$200,000** to three **(3)** grantee teams who could "move the dial" in reducing food waste and increasing access to good food for people experiencing food insecurity in Seattle. Each of the grantees focused on addressing transportation and data gaps in unique ways. The awardees were:

- **\$100,000** to **Vault89 Strategies** for its More Than Food Project. Vault89 Strategies is improving food donation pickups from ten Safeway stores by partnering with Feeding Feasible Feasts for transportation and connecting donations to five community partners, reducing food sent to compost or garbage.
- **\$57,903** to **Virginia Mason Franciscan Health (VMFH)** for its Edible Food Recovery project. VMFH and GoodR Co are piloting food pickups from Virginia Mason Medical Center to local feeding programs, with plans to scale across more hospitals.
- **\$42,097** to **Cascade Bicycle Club** for its Pedaling Relief Project. Cascade Bicycle Club is expanding food rescue by using bicyclists to collect donations from hard-to-reach locations, offering a more frequent, efficient, and eco-friendly alternative to vehicle pickups.

\$200,000 was awarded to 3 projects through SPU's Food Rescue Innovation program.

[Learn more](#)

Technical Assistance for Grocery Stores

Grocery stores and hunger relief partners face challenges with food donations, from staff training to inconsistent protocols and equipment needs. To address this, SPU has worked with Ballard Town & Country, Uwajimaya, and Ballard Food Bank to test training, signage, and equipment. The result: better communication between partners, higher quality and volume of donations, and expanded adoption of new practices—now used at all Town & Country locations across Puget Sound.

A case study describing Town & Country's work and easy-to-download tools will be available on [SPU's Food Rescue Innovation website](#) for any food donor to customize in their own operations. SPU is also continuing to recruit more grocers to expand this direct technical assistance.



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Action 6.D

Implement Nutrition Policies for Rescued & Donated Food

Lead: Human Services Department (HSD)

The intention of this action is to streamline and strengthen policies for high-quality, nutritious, and culturally relevant rescued and donated food at food banks and meal programs while avoiding donations that do not meet nutrition or food safety guidelines.

This action is important because people experiencing recurring food insecurity face a higher risk of chronic illness and poorer diets due to inadequate access to nutritious food. Clients who visit food banks and meal programs depend on these regular sources of nutrition and appreciate efforts to offer fresh and culturally relevant foods. Client feedback consistently reflects a desire for more of these foods. Nutrition policies can convey responsiveness to client needs and preferences, communicate to donors the types of foods accepted, reduce food waste, and support client health through nutritious food access.

Some food banks and meal programs have developed nutrition policies for rescued and donated food; however, the practice is not widespread.

In 2024, The Washington Food Coalition (WFC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) collaborated with More Than Food Consulting (MTFC) to evaluate best practices that increase access to nutritious, culturally relevant foods through food banks and other programs. Their analysis of existing nutrition policies and recommendations for improvement will help inform 2025 work on this action.

This action is an area of further focus for 2025 and remains a long-term priority within the Food Action Plan. The City recognizes its importance to advancing an equitable and resilient food system and is committed to beginning work on this action in future years as resources, partnerships, and timing align. By keeping this action in the Plan, we ensure it remains a focus for future implementation and accountability.



Bins of fresh, high-quality produce for donation.

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Action 6.E

Compost Inedible Food & “Compost Right”

Lead: Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

Food & yard waste (or compost) service is required for every home and business in Seattle. It's an important part of sorting our waste that helps the environment and cuts down on waste costs. Food waste is not allowed in the garbage, as of 2016.

SPU provides information on how to sort food waste for composting through written, web-based, direct mail, and in-person outreach. Outreach focuses on providing tangible, practical solutions for residents and businesses to engage and encourage them to divert or prevent as much food waste as possible. Outreach efforts include the use of materials transcreated (translated + created) in **18** languages, community partnerships, community-based social marketing, and a targeted universalism approach. In 2024, SPU achieved the following outcomes through a variety of outreach and education efforts.

Commercial Outreach & Education

- **175+** restaurants were provided training, signage, collection bins, and service connections to support food waste diversion. This included culturally competent, in-language outreach to **78** restaurants to ensure equity in access to resources.

Schools Outreach & Education

- **26** schools were provided lunchroom waste sorting support by working with kitchen staff, custodians, and onsite staff. The result was more food waste being composted, and a decrease in non-compostable materials in the compost stream.

Single Family Outreach and Education

- **7** Compost Giveaways distributed **300** cubic yards of compost—made from Seattle’s own food waste—to hundreds of residents across South, Central, and West Seattle.
- **20** community events citywide, where staff provided hands-on education, tools, and materials to help residents sort food waste correctly.
- Targeted contamination outreach supported households with recurring compost contamination through mailings, calls, and in-person follow-up, helping prevent non-compostable materials from entering the food and yard waste stream.

Multi-Family Outreach and Education

- **200,000** apartment households were mailed sorting guidelines and resource information was shared with **6,000** property owners and managers.
- **324** properties received direct support, including in-depth technical assistance for **207** sites where over **1,300** sorting posters and new signage by garbage chutes were installed.
- **802** residents were trained through **105** onsite events, with one in five trainings delivered in languages other than English.
- **10,300** food scrap containers were distributed, and **5,300** households received customized door-to-door information
- These combined efforts supported waste diversion for **28,000** households, building awareness and capacity across the city’s multifamily sector.

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Action 6.F

Reduce Single-Use Food Service Ware in City Food Programs

Leads: Human Services Department (HSD), Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE), and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

The purpose of this action is to reduce single-use food service packaging and plastics (e.g., utensils, straws, cup lids, sauce packets) in City food programs. Where possible, this also includes supporting and facilitating the use of reusable food packaging and service ware.

Single-use food service ware and other single-use plastics contribute significantly to food-related waste. Hunger relief organizations that provide food and meals may lack the access or resources to provide compostable food service packaging and service ware, particularly at large volumes. Some organizations may not be aware of evolving packaging requirements or lack the infrastructure to support reusable food packaging and service ware.

City Municipal Code section [21.36.086](#) requires food service businesses to find reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging and service ware alternatives to all disposable food service items such as containers, cups, straws, utensils, and other products. SPU provides a [variety of resources](#) in multiple languages to help businesses comply with packaging requirements. Because nonprofit organizations are not required to comply, this action would focus on supporting nonprofit food access partners to increase use of reusable, recyclable, and/or compostable packaging and service ware solutions.

In 2024, City departments met in the spring to discuss piloting reusable service ware at community meal programs and summer meal programs. The pilot was paused due to budgetary and logistical challenges; however, staff developed the foundation for a model that could be piloted in the future.

This action was not initiated in 2024; however, it remains a long-term priority within the Food Action Plan. The City recognizes its importance to advancing an equitable and resilient food system and is committed to beginning work on this action in future years as resources, partnerships, and timing align. By keeping this action in the Plan, we ensure it remains a focus for future implementation and accountability.



Tofu noodle salad is on the lunch menu at Seattle Public Schools, served in reusable bowls.

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Action 7.A

Reduce Climate Pollution Associated with the Local Food System

Leads: Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE) and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

The purpose of this action is to identify and develop high-impact strategies that the City can use to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from food production and consumption in Seattle, working in partnership with community, institutional, and other government partners.

Food accounts for about **24%** of Seattle's consumption-based emissions, which includes all the food consumed by Seattle residents. Interventions that can reduce the emissions associated with food consumed in Seattle include:

- Reducing meat and dairy consumption
- Preventing food waste in households, businesses, and across the global supply chain
- Decarbonize food production and supply chains
- Lower emissions from crop production
- Reducing livestock methane emissions
- Reducing nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture

While this action is still new for the City, many City efforts in the Food Action Plan will contribute to lowering food-related emissions, including sustainable and values-based food purchasing (Actions [1.A](#), [5.A](#)), local supply chain development (Action [5.B](#)), food waste prevention (Actions [6.A](#), [6.B](#)), and regenerative agriculture (Action [7.B](#)).

In 2024, the OSE and SPU developed a grant proposal to expand sustainable, climate-friendly food purchasing across large food service institutions by increasing purchases of plant-based, local, sustainable, and regeneratively produced foods. Although this proposal was not awarded, it laid important groundwork for future action.



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Action 7.B

Support Community-Led Education & Awareness Campaigns About Food Justice Issues

Lead: Varies. In 2024, this action was advanced by community-led grant projects and the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE).

The purpose of this action is to invest in positive, innovative, culturally relevant, community-led education and awareness campaigns about food justice issues.

In 2024, several community organizations used City-supported grant funding to lead culturally relevant food justice education and awareness projects:

- Raíces Verdes Media, in partnership with Casa Latina and for the immigrant women of Mujeres Sin Fronteras (Women Without Limits), launched a three-part Spanish-language program that connected waste to community health and empowered participants to become peer educators and storytellers about composting. This project was funded by OSE's Environmental Justice Fund. (See also [Action 8.A](#))
- South Park Senior Citizens created opportunities for elders to access healthy meals, celebrate cultural identity, and share their life experiences through a community podcast that combats stereotypes and racism. This project was funded by OSE's Duwamish River Opportunity Fund. (See also [Action 8.A](#))
- Through the [Healthy Food in Schools Initiative](#), OSE partnered with Nurturing Roots to bring food justice workshops to 11 Seattle Public Schools, engaging students in conversations about food systems, equity, and sustainability. (See also [Action 3.C](#))

While these projects are not large-scale public campaigns, they represent meaningful, community-led education efforts that build awareness and leadership from within. Each project centers the voices of those most affected by food inequities and uses culture, language, and lived experience to teach and inspire action. Together, they advance the City's action to invest in positive, innovative, and culturally relevant food justice education by laying the groundwork for broader, future awareness campaigns rooted in community wisdom and leadership.



Students work in the garden at Leschi Elementary School. Photo by Erin Irby.

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Action 7.C

Support Regenerative Food & Agricultural Practices

Lead: Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)

The purpose of this action is to support local food producers' use of regenerative agriculture practices to reduce emissions, improve soil health, and slow climate change.

This is a new area of work for the City that will require collaboration with diverse food system partners—from producers to waste managers—to understand where City action can add value. Early opportunities may include supporting local producers who use environmentally sustainable or regenerative practices, particularly in cattle and dairy production, and exploring ways to measure and reduce the environmental impacts of food manufacturing. Any new strategies should align with existing food access and community-led food system initiatives tied to Seattle. Currently, Seattle Public Utilities is also helping lay the groundwork through its compost market development and circular economy partnerships with King County and state agencies.

The new [Buying with Purpose: Seattle's Food Purchasing Guide](#) (see also Actions [1.A](#), [5.A](#)) is one way the City is supporting environmentally sustainable and regenerative agriculture through purchasing and demand. *Buying with Purpose* is a new City of Seattle initiative that helps food programs and local institutions make food purchasing decisions that reflect Seattle's shared values. One of those values is Environmental Sustainability. Included in the definition and criteria are foods produced using organic or other regenerative agricultural practices that promote soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience. This includes no-till farming, crop rotation, cover cropping, and agroforestry.

Based on the City's food spending that could be analyzed across the Core Values in the *Buying with Purpose* guide, City food programs spent at least **\$650,000** on organic, sustainably grown food. This is in addition to at least **\$440,000** that customers spend on organic food using their Fresh Bucks benefits. (See also Action [1.A](#))



CORE VALUE:
Environmental Sustainability

Vision and Goals
 Environmental sustainability in food procurement protects ecosystems, reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and supports long-term environmental health. This value emphasizes regenerative farming practices, resource conservation, climate-friendly diets, and circular economy principles to support ecosystem health and minimize the environmental footprint of food procurement.

More sustainable practices are needed across the entire food system—from production to consumption to waste management. Food procurement practices should be aligned with [Seattle's Climate Action Plan](#) and [Sustainable Purchasing Policy](#), while addressing systemic challenges like waste prevention and reduction and natural resource conservation. This value also aligns with Washington State's [sustainable food purchasing guidelines](#), which promote more plant-based main dishes and foods with sustainability certifications.

Definition and Criteria
 Environmentally sustainable procurement prioritizes foods that:

Excerpts from [Buying with Purpose: Seattle's Guide to Food Purchasing](#). Developed in 2024 and released in 2025, this new values-based food purchasing framework includes criteria and definitions for environmentally sustainable foods to support food purchasing decisions.

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Action 8.A

Invest in Community-Led Action

2024 Awards to Community-Led Projects Related to the Food System

(See [Food Action Plan Funding](#) page for more information)

\$2,137,500 **Food Equity Fund** awards granted to **30** community organizations. [Learn more.](#)

\$1,947,000 **Equitable Development Initiative** awards granted to **6** community organizations.* [Learn more.](#)

\$403,800 **Environmental Justice Fund** awards granted to **6** community organizations.* [Learn more.](#)

*These awards were announced in early 2025 and were associated with a 2024 Request for Proposals.

Leads: Department of Neighborhoods (DON), Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE), and the Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD)

This action invests in community-led food system initiatives through grants, contracts, and other funding. By supporting projects designed and led by community members, the City can strengthen wellbeing and resilience, ensure solutions reflect local cultures and languages, and build on the trust community leaders already have.

[The Food Equity Fund](#) managed by DON is the City’s primary program that invests in community-led food system projects. Funding is provided by revenue from Seattle’s Sweetened Beverage Tax. In 2024, approximately **\$2 million** was available in funding through the Food Equity Fund. Additionally, each year, community groups successfully apply to a number of other City grant programs that do not *focus* on food but are still important opportunities to fund food work.



Community members at the Hunger Intervention Program prepare food for a community meal. (Credit: Hunger Intervention Program)

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Action 8.B

Report on Food Action Plan Implementation & Progress

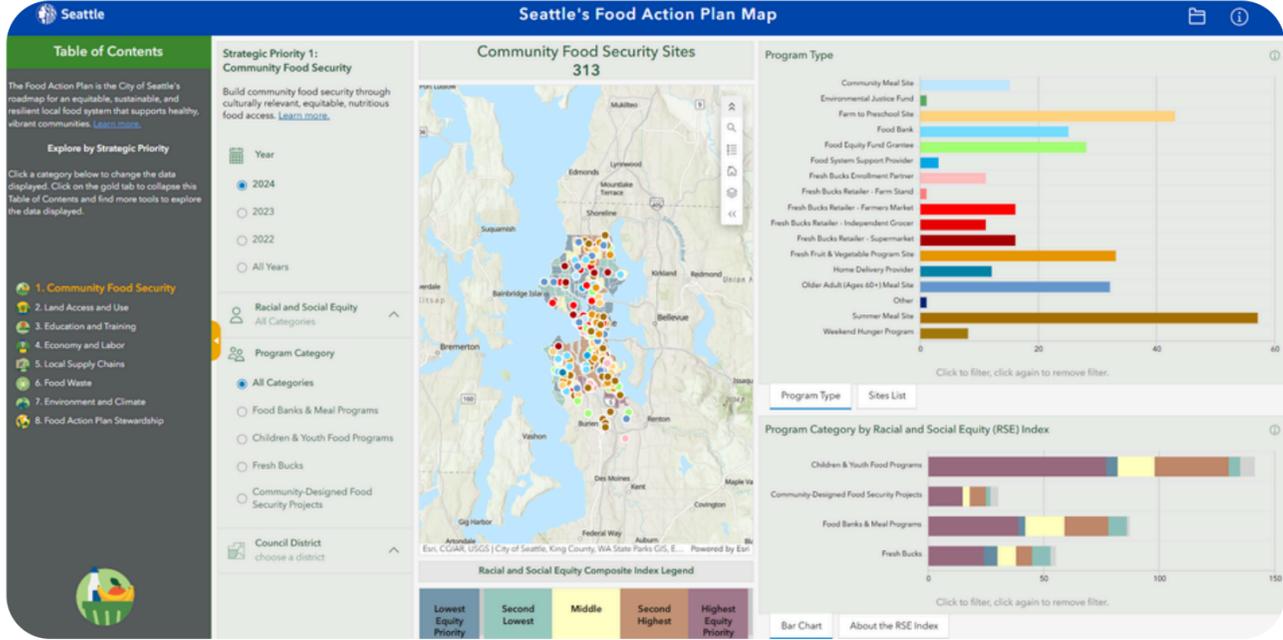
Leads: Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)

This action focuses on developing and implementing approaches to monitor and report regularly on Food Action Plan progress, emphasizing outcomes most important to communities impacted by food system inequities.

In 2024, significant progress was made on this action, as reflected in the development of this report in collaboration with nine city departments. Additionally, OSE worked with Seattle's Information Technology (IT) Department to develop a new, online map that enables users to explore where City-supported food programs and services are located throughout the city. The location data is organized by the eight Strategic Priorities in the Food Action Plan. Users can also filter the map data by Year, Council District, and equity priority areas as measured by the [City's Racial and Social Equity \(RSE\) Index](#).

Future outcome reporting for the Food Action Plan will continue to evolve toward a **Results-Based Accountability (RBA)** framework, strengthening how the City tracks not only what activities are implemented, but whether those efforts are making a meaningful difference for communities. Building on current reporting, the City will develop strategies to more consistently answer core RBA questions: *How much did we do? How well did we do it? and Is anyone better off?* This work will include improving data collection across departments, aligning indicators where possible, and pairing quantitative measures with community-informed insights to better understand program reach, quality, and impact. Over time, this approach will support clearer accountability, more transparent reporting, and stronger learning about how Food Action Plan investments contribute to food security, equity, and resilience.

[Click here](#) to explore the new map.



A screen shot of the Seattle Food Action Plan map. This online map enables users to explore where City-supported food programs and services are located throughout the city.

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Action 8.C

Track State & Federal Legislation & Funding Opportunities

Leads: Human Services Department (HSD), Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR), Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE), and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

This action emphasizes the City of Seattle’s work to promote Food Action Plan priorities in alignment and coordination with other government policymakers.

In 2024, the **Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger** celebrated the release of the updated Seattle Food Action Plan as an important model for local policy (Mayor Harrell joined the Alliance in 2023; the Alliance included over 400 mayors by 2024 and over 550 by 2025). The Alliance’s shared priorities with the City of Seattle include free universal school meals, preservation of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding, summer meals, and more.

During the 2024 Washington state legislative session, lawmakers passed bills that aligned with the Food Action Plan:

- **HB 2301 (Doglio)** - Improving organic material waste management by requiring organics diversion/collection from single family and commercial customers by 2030, funds food waste prevention programs, and studies status of compostable produce stickers. *Passed and signed into law.*
- **HB 1945 (Alvarado)** - Streamlining and enhancing program access for persons eligible for food assistance. *Passed and signed into law.*

Washington state also included budget for key food priorities such as funds for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), launch of the new Summer EBT program for children, and College Basic Needs Navigators at all college campuses.

The City and its partners also tracked funding opportunities in 2024:

- The City submitted grant applications to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Environmental and Climate Justice Program and from The United States Conference of Mayors - Childhood Obesity Prevention & Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards.
- The City received funding from the Washington State Department of Agriculture to provide additional fresh produce in its Child Care Nutrition Program offerings.
- An advisory committee for the South Seattle Community Food Hub received capital funds (see [Action 5.C](#)).

With new leadership at the state and federal levels starting in 2025, the City anticipates working with OIR to continue closely tracking food system policy changes as well as funding opportunities and risks.

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Action 8.D

Strengthen Culturally Relevant, In-Language Outreach

Leads: All City departments, with support from Seattle’s Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA).

This action centers on strategies that increase awareness and access to food and related resources, with an emphasis on culturally relevant and in-language outreach. Through its Language Access program, the City’s Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA) collaborates with other departments to ensure that residents speaking languages other than English can access the information and services they need and that departments can effectively serve them.

In 2024, Human Services Department offered translation support for outreach and program quality improvement to the following food programs:

- Child Care Nutrition Program.
- Food bank, home delivery, meal program, and student weekend hunger bag customer engagement/satisfaction surveys (**15** languages).
- Family surveys for the Summer Food Service Program (**3** languages).
- Community connector satisfaction surveys (**10** languages).

Fresh Bucks (managed by the Office of Sustainability & Environment) provided program information in **14** different languages. Over **40%** of Fresh Bucks households prefer a language other than English.

The High Point Juneau P-Patch Community Garden serves **15** multicultural and limited English-speaking gardeners. Department of Neighborhood P-Patch staff collaborated with volunteer site leaders to resource seeds, plant starts, and organic fertilizer.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) partnered with Department of Neighborhoods (DON) Community Liaisons to conduct in-language residential outreach on food waste prevention in **10** languages (see also [Action 6.A](#)). SPU also provided information on how to sort food waste for composting through written, web-based, direct mail, and in-person outreach. This outreach focused on providing tangible, practical solutions for residents and businesses to engage and encourage them to divert or prevent as much food waste as possible. Outreach efforts include the use of materials transcreated (translated + created) in **18** languages and community partnerships.

LANGUAGE CHART

Welcome! Need language support? The translation reads “Point to your language. An interpreter will be called. The interpretation is provided at no cost to you.”

ASL Point to your language. An interpreter will be called. The interpretation is provided at no cost to you.		Mandarin 普通话 请指认您的语言，以便为您提供免费的口译服务。
Amharic የግንኙነትን ያመልክቱ። እስተርጓሚ ያጠራል። እስተርጓሚው በነጻ ይተርገሳል።		Oromo Oromo Gara afaan keetti eeri. Turjumaanni ni waamama. Turjumaanni beesee takka malee siif qophaawa.
Arabic العربية اشر الى لغتك. وسيتم الاتصال بمترجم. نقدم خدمة المترجم مجاناً لك.		Russian Русский Укажите язык, на котором вы говорите. Вам вызовут переводчика. Услуги переводчика предоставляются бесплатно.
Cantonese 廣東話 請指認您的語言，以便為您提供免費的口譯服務。		Somali Af-Soomaali Farta ku fiqluqadaada... Waxa laguugu yeeri doonaa turjubaan. Turjubaanka wax lacagi kaaga bixi mayso.
French Français Indiquez votre langue et nous appellerons un interprète. Le service est gratuit.		Spanish Español Señale su idioma y llamaremos a un intérprete. El servicio es gratuito.
Hindi हिंदी अपनी भाषा को चुनित करें। जिसके अनुसार आपके लिए दुभाषिया बुलवा जाएगा। आपके लिए दुभाषिया की निशुल्क व्यवस्था की जाती है।		Tagalog Tagalog Ituro po ang inyong wika. Isang tagasalin ang ipagkakaloob nang libre sa inyo.
Hmong Hmoob Taw rau koj hom lus. Yuav hu rau ib tug neeg txhais lus. Yuav muaj neeg txhais lus yam uas koj tsis tau them dab tsi.		Thai ไทย ช่วยชี้ที่ภาษาที่ท่านพูด แล้วเราจะจัดคนมาช่วยในการใช้ผ่านไม่ต้องเสียค่าใช้จ่าย
Japanese 日本語 あなたの話す言語を指してください。無料で通訳サービスを提供します。		Tigrinya ትግርኛ የግንኙነትን ያመልክቱ። እስተርጓሚ ከጽዮሌ ይገለል እዩ። እስተርጓሚ እንከፍልዎ ገዥ ከፍሊጉ የለ።
Khmer (Cambodian) ខ្មែរ (កម្ពុជា) សូមចង្អុលភាសាអ្នក។ យើងនឹងហៅអ្នកបកប្រែភាសាមកជូន។ អ្នកបកប្រែភាសានឹងជួយអ្នកដោយឥតគិតថ្លៃ។		Ukrainian Українська Вкажіть вашу мову. Вам викличуть перекладача. Послуги перекладача надаються безкоштовно.
Korean 한국어 귀하께서 사용하는 언어를 지정하시면 해당 언어 통역 서비스를 무료로 제공해 드립니다.		Vietnamese Tiếng Việt Hãy chỉ vào ngôn ngữ của quý vị. Một thông dịch viên sẽ được gọi đến, quý vị sẽ không phải trả tiền cho thông dịch viên.
Laotian ພາສາລາວ ຊື່ບອກພາສາທີ່ເຈົ້າເວົ້າໄດ້. ພວກເຮົາຈະຕິດຕໍ່ນາຍພາສາໃຫ້. ທ່ານບໍ່ຕ້ອງເສຍເງິນຄ່າແປໃຫ້ແກ່ນາຍແປພາສາ.		



City of Seattle Language Chart, one of many resources provided by the City’s Language Access program.

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Action 8.E

Support Community Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration

Leads: All City departments

This action emphasizes ongoing, meaningful, relational engagement with community partners, businesses, Tribes and Tribal consultants, and government agencies as part of collaborative food system work.

Building off the community engagement to develop the updated Food Action Plan, many partners across sectors participated in the [release](#) of the plan in September, which featured City of Seattle and community leadership.

Also in 2024, several cross-sector working groups met to advance Food Action Plan goals, including:

- A values-based food purchasing advisory group, which led focus groups with City food programs, food producers, retailers, and distributors to help gather input for [Buying with Purpose: Seattle's Food Purchasing Guide](#).
- Ongoing community and retailer engagement for the Fresh Bucks program (see [Action 1.B](#))
- Partnership with the Healthy Food in Schools [School Meals and Food Education Working Group](#)
- Continued engagement and collaboration with the [Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board](#)
- Continued engagement and collaboration with the Pacific Coast Food Waste Collaborative to prevent commercial food waste (see [Action 6.B](#))
- [SPR held a Tribal Nations Gathering](#) that engaged Tribal leaders and staff in relationship building and dialogue with City leaders and staff on issues of cultural resources, habitat restoration and management, park development, and programming.



Representatives from Seattle Public Schools (Aaron Smith), Yakama Nation Farms (Jonalee Squeochs), Northwest Harvest (Carmen Mendez, Gary Newte), City of Seattle (Chris Iberle), and Long Hearing Farm (Elizabeth Bragg) speak at the Native Grown & Gathered Food Expo.

Action 8.F

Facilitate Cross-Department Collaboration

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Leads: Human Services Department (HSD) and Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)

This action commits City of Seattle departments to prioritizing collaborative work, which is a critical strategy to implementing the Food Action Plan.

To develop the updated Food Action Plan, an Interdepartmental Team consisting of several City departments met to synchronize community engagement, share best practices, and ensure the plan reflected community and City priorities. In 2024, the Interdepartmental Team worked closely together to finalize the updated Food Action Plan, receive endorsement from Seattle City Council, and [launch the plan publicly](#).

Following release of the plan, Interdepartmental Team leadership met weekly to ensure that all work remained closely coordinated and tracked.

Subgroups of the Interdepartmental Team also met regularly in 2024 to coordinate on new planning efforts to ensure internal alignment across the City's food work. OSE facilitated a subgroup of staff from multiple departments to guide the development of *Buying with Purpose: Seattle's Food Purchasing Guide*. Meanwhile, staff from the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and OSE supported efforts led by the Office of Civil Rights and the City Budget Office to authorize Participatory Budgeting funds for winning proposals, including the \$4 million Urban Farming and Food Equity project.

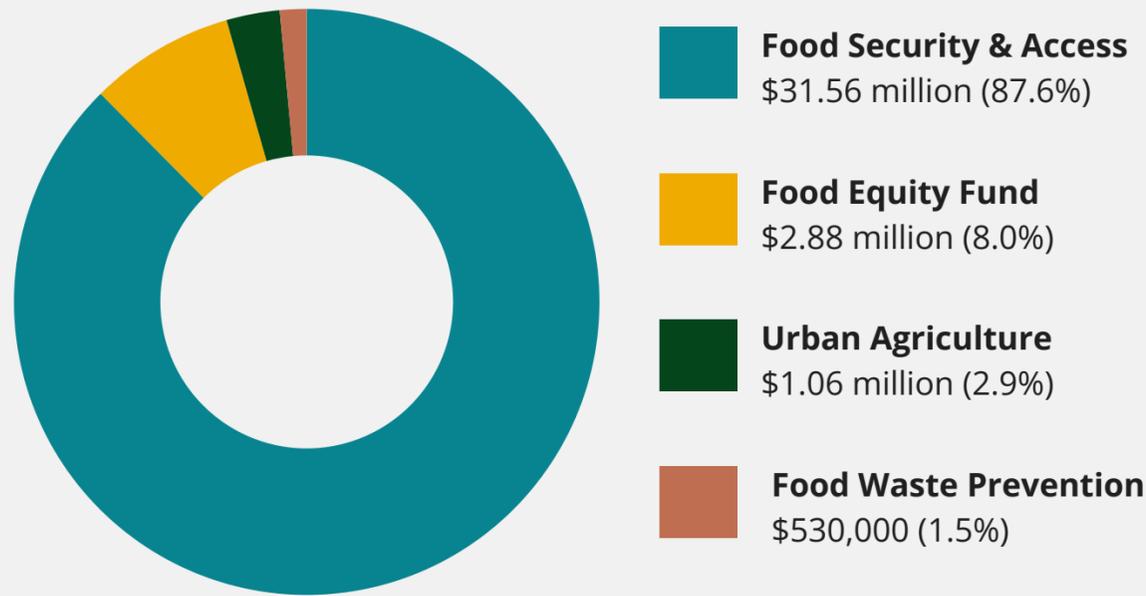


Food Action Plan Funding

Budget Overview

The City of Seattle’s accounting system tracks budgets by department, fund, and major program areas, but it does not capture detail specific to individual food programs and services. To provide a clearer picture of City investments in the food system, the Food Action Plan Interdepartmental Team collaborates with finance managers across multiple departments to compile and analyze this information. Together, they gather more granular data to better understand and report how City funds—from all sources—support a wide range of food security, nutrition, urban agriculture, and food system initiatives.

\$36.03 million - 2024 Budget for City Food Programs (all fund sources)



The largest spending category--**Food Security & Access**--includes the following investments:

- Older Adult Food and Nutrition Programs - **\$9.36** million
- Fresh Bucks - **\$6.76** million
- Food Banks - **\$6.45** million
- Children & Youth Food and Nutrition Programs - **\$4.99** million
- Community Meal Programs - **\$2.95** million
- Administrative Costs - **\$1.06** million

Community Food Investments through Broader City Grant Programs

In addition to tracking departmental budgets, the Food Action Plan Interdepartmental Team also monitors which food-related projects win competitive awards each year through broader grant programs that are not exclusively focused on food. Many community organizations working on food justice, food access, and sustainability projects have successfully applied to competitive grant programs such as the City’s Environmental Justice Fund, Equitable Development Initiative, Tenant Improvement Fund, and Waste-Free Communities Grant Program. These City grant programs have become vital funding sources for community-led food projects, demonstrating how cross-sector and cross-department investment is helping advance local food justice, environmental stewardship, and equitable economic development beyond the City’s core food program budgets.

In 2024, *separate* from the Food Equity Fund and Food Rescue Innovation grants which focus on food-related projects, **26** community groups and food businesses secured **\$3,471,700** in competitive grant awards to support a variety of food projects. This included **\$1,947,000** awarded to **6** organizations through the Equitable Development Initiative; **\$1,120,900** awarded to **14** food businesses through the Tenant Improvement Fund, and **\$403,800** awarded to **6** organizations through the Environmental Justice Fund.

2024 Awards (\$) to Food Projects through Broader City Grant Programs



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City of Seattle and King County

Department of Neighborhoods (DON)
 Human Services Department (HSD)
 King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks (KC DNRP)
 Office of Economic Development (OED)
 Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)
 Office of Labor Standards (OLS)
 Office of Planning & Community Development (OPCD)
 Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)
 Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC)
 Seattle Parks & Recreation (SPR)
 Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

Partners

The Food Action Plan reflects the collective work of many hands. In addition to City and County departments named above, hundreds of community-based organizations, food system workers, growers, businesses, and residents contribute their time, expertise, and leadership to this effort. We are deeply grateful for these partnerships, which are central to advancing food equity and resilience in Seattle.



Representatives from City departments and community organizations on stage at the All-American City Award conference put on by the National Civic League. Seattle won the 2025 All-American City Award which featured the Food Action Plan.



City of Seattle

Food Action Plan

[Click here](#) to learn more

