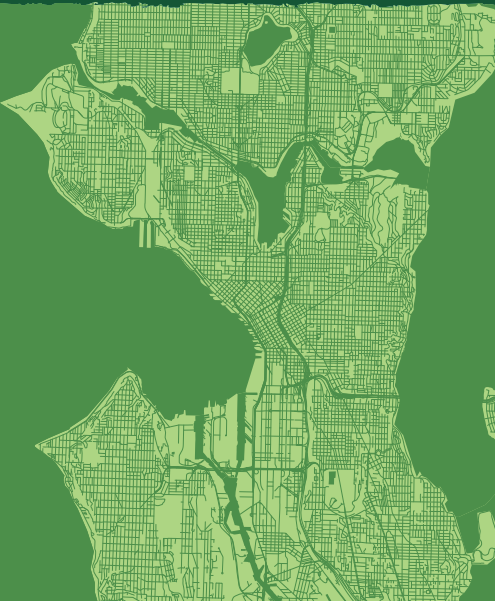




Seattle Food Action Plan

Executive Summary

The Food Action Plan is the City of Seattle's roadmap for an equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system that supports healthy, vibrant communities.



The Food Action Plan

The Plan outlines actions the City of Seattle can take to support our local food system while addressing interrelated topics of racial and social justice, food security and health, economic development, environmental sustainability, and more.

What is an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system?

Equitable

Ensures equitable access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food, economic opportunities, and high-quality jobs and worker protections.

Sustainable

Produces food in ways that promote the health of ecosystems (soil, water, air, plants, animals) and communities now and in the future.

Resilient

Can withstand, adapt, and recover from major changes, disruptions, or shocks* in ways that ensure a sufficient supply of acceptable and accessible food for all.

**Climate change, natural disasters, pandemics, financial or political crises.*



Photo credit: Filipino Community of Seattle



The City's original Food Action Plan was released in 2012, and it was updated in 2021-2023 through a collaborative process and extensive community engagement that involved people from all parts of the food system. The updated Plan builds upon decades of work, action, and learning by government and Tribal policy advisors, community organizations, food justice leaders, and residents across Seattle.

The Plan is rooted in the understanding that there are persistent economic, racial, and environmental inequities across our food system.

These inequities include who experiences food insecurity and related health impacts, who is exploited for labor in food and agricultural industries, and who has access to land and waterways needed to produce and harvest food.

Through continuous and meaningful engagement and partnership, the Food Action Plan aims to reflect the priorities and center the leadership of communities most impacted by economic, racial, and environmental injustices who are forging bold and innovative solutions for a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system. The Plan is also guided by the City of Seattle's [Race and Social Justice Initiative](#) (2004-present), the [Equity & Environment Initiative](#) (2015-present), and [Food Justice Values](#) (2021) developed by the Seattle Environmental Justice Committee.



The Food Action Plan outlines a bold policy framework organized around:

4

goals

8

strategic priorities

47

actions



Goals

Increase Community Food Security

All Seattle residents have enough to eat and easy access to fresh, affordable, nutritious, and culturally relevant food, regardless of race, place, and income.



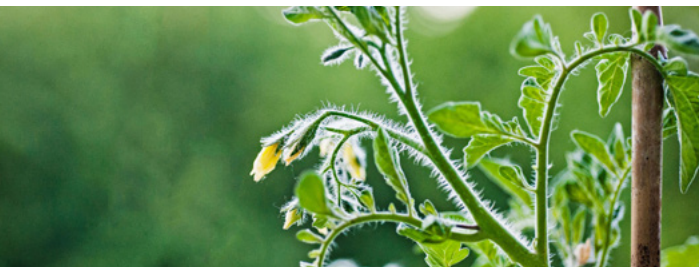
Support Locally Grown & Traditional Foods*

Seattle food policies and programs support Traditional Foods and regenerative practices, locally grown and harvested foods, and community food production, focusing on communities historically excluded from land and water access.

*Traditional Foods are foods that Native people regularly ate pre-contact with settlers and before the forced introduction of the modern American diet. These foods would be familiar to Native American Ancestors and include various species such as wild game, fowl, fish, and many plants from both land and sea.

Advance an Equitable Local Economy

Seattle food policies and programs create economic opportunities for local food producers and a valued workforce, centering workers and communities most impacted by racism.



Prevent Food Waste & Climate Pollution

Seattle food policies and programs protect and improve the environment by preventing and reducing food-related waste and climate pollution.



Strategic Priorities



1. Community Food Security

Build community food security through culturally relevant, equitable, nutritious food access.



2. Land Access & Use

Support Traditional Foods and regenerative practices, locally grown and harvested foods, and community food projects, focusing on communities historically excluded from land and water access and honoring Tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.



3. Education & Training

Expand access to culturally relevant and empowering food and nutrition education for youth, adults, and older adults.



4. Economy & Labor

Create an equitable, fair, and healthy local food economy for workers, businesses, and residents.



5. Local Supply Chains

Foster equitable, environmentally sustainable, and strengthened local supply chains.



6. Food Waste

Prevent food waste, rescue (redistribute) surplus food for people who need it, and compost the rest.



7. Environment & Climate

Reduce climate pollution associated with Seattle's food system and support regenerative food production practices that improve the environment and honor Tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.



8. Food Action Plan Stewardship

Create intentional structures and processes that enable effective coordination and implementation of the Food Action Plan in alignment with community and City values and priorities.

Actions by Strategic Priority

1. Community Food Security

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

2. Land Access & Use

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



Photo credit: Public Health - Seattle & King County

3. Education & Training

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

4. Economy & Labor

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

5. Local Supply Chains

- 5.A Explore Development of a Sustainable, Equitable Food Purchasing Initiative
- 5.B Strengthen Food Value Chain Coordination
- 5.C Invest in Local Food System Infrastructure

6. Food Waste

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

7. Environment & Climate

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

8. Food Action Plan Stewardship

- 8.A Invest in Community-Led Action
- 8.B Report on Food Action Plan Implementation & Progress
- 8.C Track State & Federal Legislation & Funding Opportunities
- 8.D Strengthen Culturally Relevant, In-Language Outreach
- 8.E Support Community Engagement & Cross-Sector Collaboration
- 8.F Facilitate Cross-Department Collaboration

Development and Stewardship of the Food Action Plan

The Food Action Plan was developed in collaboration with dozens of government departments and over 250 community leaders across the food system including Tribes and Tribal consultants, community-based organizations, food and environmental justice leaders, food business owners, workers, government policy advisors, philanthropists, and residents with direct experience with food insecurity and hunger. Engagement centered on the voices of communities most affected by the lasting impacts of settler colonialism, systemic racism, and food system inequities revealed in the Racial Equity Toolkits (RETs) conducted for the Plan.

The Food Action Plan is stewarded by a dynamic Interdepartmental Team (IDT) of advisors and staff from multiple City of Seattle and King County departments that manage food programs. Design and implementation of the strategies and actions happens in deep partnership with hundreds of community partners who understand the interconnectedness of this work and who are forging bold solutions to some of our toughest food systems challenges.

Lastly, the Food Action Plan is a tool for the City and community partners to monitor progress on existing priorities and respond to emerging opportunities or needs in the local food system. This reflects the City's approach to continuous learning and adaptive strategic planning in our food policies and programs.



2021-2022 Racial Equity Toolkits (RETs)
used to update the Food Action Plan

[GET THE RETS](#)

Food Action Plan community engagement

[GET THE REPORTS](#)

Learn more about the Food Action Plan

[GET THE FULL REPORT](#)