

## Our local food system

*Our region is experiencing epidemic levels of overweight and obese children and adults.*

*Over 2 million visits were made to food banks in King County in 2003, including almost 568,000 children's visits.*

*Our farmland is under continual threat as farmers struggle with development and global competition.*

These are examples of systemic problems that carry huge economic, social and environmental costs and represent critical failings of our current food system.

Like many communities across the nation, Seattle and King County food system advocates are coordinating their approaches to develop a healthy sustainable food system by creating a food policy council (FPC)



## Seattle/King County Food Policy Council Goals

1. Identify priority areas for developing policy and program recommendations for food system improvements
2. Inform, educate and engage the public about implications of policies that impact the local food system
3. Leverage resources and serve as a catalyst for food system improvement projects or initiatives, especially for low-income communities

### Examples of food policies

- A decision by institutions to purchase local foods;
- Eligibility standards for food assistance programs;
- Health and safety requirements for food-based business;
- A decision to require healthy food options in workplaces or schools

### Current Acting Food Policy Council Members

- Fe Arreola, City of Seattle Human Services  
Steve Bauck, Northwest Harvest  
Trudy Bialic, PCC Natural Markets  
Branden Born, University of Washington Department of Urban Planning  
Mary Embleton, Cascade Harvest Coalition  
Rosalinda Guillen, Community to Community Development at Food Justice  
Kelly Horton, Connect Nutrition  
Rabbi Leah M. Herz, Temple De Hirsch Sinai  
Sylvia Kantor, WSU King County Extension  
Jennifer Lamson, Good Food Strategies  
Erin MacDougall, Public Health of Seattle/King County  
Pablo Monsivais, UW Nutritional Sciences and Dental Public Health Sciences  
Tammy Morales, Volunteer  
Linda Nageotte, Food Lifeline  
Laura Raymond, City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods



## How to get involved

Visit our web site  
[www.king.wsu.edu/foodandfarms/foodsystems.htm](http://www.king.wsu.edu/foodandfarms/foodsystems.htm)

Where you can:

- Sign-up for the SeattleKC Food Policy list serve;
- Find out about upcoming meetings;
- Learn what the Acting Food Policy Council is working on;
- Understand more about the benefits of a local food policy council.

## Contact us!

### For information about the Acting Food Policy Council

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### ***What is a food policy council?***

A food policy council is a diverse group of stakeholders who comprehensively examine the food system in order to develop integrated food and agriculture policy recommendations and improvement projects.

Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and King County. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

*Updated March 21, 2007*



## Small Farms and Food Systems Program

## Developing a local food policy council for Seattle and King County



*WSU Extension experts provide resources that help individuals, families, and communities improve stewardship and quality of life in urban and rural King County. We have been doing this for nearly 100 years.*