

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the Matter of: x Resolution No. _____
establishing goals, creating a x
policy framework and identifying x
planning, analysis and actions for x
the purpose of strengthening x
Jefferson County's food system x
economy and security x

Attached Documents: 2007 American Planning Association Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning; 2007 American Public Health Association policy statement "Toward a Healthy, Sustainable Food System"; 2010 American Dietetic Association, American Nurses Association, American Planning Association, and American Public Health Association policy statement titled "Principles of a Healthy, Sustainable Food System"; Jefferson County Food Security Partner List

WHEREAS, food and water are sustaining and enduring necessities and are among the basic essentials for life; and

WHEREAS, the "food system" is defined as the agents and institutions responsible for production, processing, distribution, access, consumption, and disposal of food; and

WHEREAS, "local food" is defined as seasonal, fresh food harvested and processed within or as near to Jefferson County as possible; and

WHEREAS, "local food activities" is defined as those activities related to the food system, from production to consumption to waste management, occurring within or as near to Jefferson County as possible; and

WHEREAS, a "healthy, sustainable food system" is defined by the principals contained in the 2010 American Dietetic Association, American Nurses Association, American Planning Association, and American Public Health Association policy statement titled "Principles of a Healthy, Sustainable Food System"; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County food system is influenced by many elements of the Jefferson County Code and areas of planning that include housing, transportation and infrastructure development; and

WHEREAS, among the Community Vision Statements of the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan is: the support and encouragement of economic opportunities; the increase in housing choices for all residents; the protection and retention of rural lifestyles; the protection and conservation of agriculture, forest and mineral resource lands; respect of property rights, and; the encouragement of citizen participation and involvement; and

WHEREAS, improving our local food system advances the 2010 Jefferson County Strategic Plan 2010–2011 Priorities of: strengthening the efficiency and quality of County Services; planning for the future and; supporting our unique communities; and,

WHEREAS, improving our local food system advances the 2010 Jefferson County Strategic Plan budget goals of: enhancing the health & quality of life of individuals, families and communities; forging and implementing a shared public/private economic development strategy; using county government to advocate for the interests of each community; beginning work on the 2014 Update of the County's Comprehensive Plan; identifying and working to fill community infrastructure gaps; strengthening community assets and implementing the County's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); protecting

working forests from conversion for development; collaborating with other jurisdictions and the private sector to meet long-term water needs; continuing to improve a coordinated permitting process by the County so applicants have consistent answers in the shortest time within our resources; working with government & non-governmental organizations to increase affordable housing; maintaining a healthy environment to support important shellfish, fisheries, agriculture, timber & tourism industries; utilizing, empowering and supporting community volunteers; regularly conducting community meetings of elected officials & citizens; promoting open civil dialogue between county government and those served; and

WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity are important issues that most adversely affect low-income and minority populations; and

WHEREAS, the second leading cause of premature death among United States adults is chronic disease, for example heart disease, stroke and hypertension, linked to diet and low physical activity; and

WHEREAS, obesity and associated costs and diet-related diseases significantly impact the health of Jefferson County residents, and

WHEREAS, maintaining and improving the security of our local food supply is essential to local emergency preparedness and local self-reliance; and

WHEREAS, there are significant community-building benefits to community gardening and school garden programs; and

WHEREAS, a school garden based program in Jefferson County has demonstrated a positive influence on student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the food system represents an important part of community and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, value-added food products are estimated to have sixteen times the retail value to local producers over raw products; and

WHEREAS, agro-tourism is a growing industry; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture 2007 census indicates that the average age of American farmers increased from 50.3 in 1978 to 57.1 in 2007 with the majority of farm operators between the ages of 45 and 64 and farmers aged 65 and older comprise the fastest growing group of farm operators; and

WHEREAS, many young farmers have limited access to capital which challenges farmland preservation and future food production; and

WHEREAS, food system activities take up a significant amount of urban and regional land; and

WHEREAS, the food system consumes a major amount of fossil fuel energy, land area, and water in production, processing, transportation, and disposal activities; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Jefferson County Solid Waste Master Plan lists waste reduction as the highest order goal; and

WHEREAS, an estimated fifteen percent of all solid waste in Jefferson County is food waste; and

WHEREAS, gray-water, food waste, animal manures, animal bedding, spoiled silage, yard debris and many other organic materials should be seen as valuable resources essential for building soil fertility; and

WHEREAS, the American Planning Association Board of Directors adopted on April 15, 2007 a Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning recommending the inclusion of food policies in local and regional plans and the American Public Health Association adopted a policy on November 6, 2007 entitled "Toward a Healthy, Sustainable Food System", recommending a food system approach as key to better human health and environmental quality and in June of 2010, the American Dietetic Association, American Nurses Association, American Planning Association, and American Public Health Association initiated a collaborative process to develop a set of shared food system principles and these principles have been published as "Principles of a Healthy, Sustainable Food System" ; and

WHEREAS, over one hundred cities and regions have established Food Policy Councils; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

Section 1. Goals. These goals are meant to provide guidance for analysis, program development, policy development and actions related to Jefferson County and the region's food system sustainability and security. The overall intent of this local food action initiative is to create a healthy, sustainable local food system and in doing so, advance the County's interrelated goals of environmental sustainability, economic development, public health and emergency preparedness. These goals include:

a. Strengthen community and regional food systems by linking food production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste management to increase self-reliance on local food resources

b. Encourage activities within a regional food system that strengthen Jefferson County's ecological and economic health

c. Support food system activities that encourage the use of local and renewable energy resources and minimize energy use and waste including:

- Reducing food in our waste stream, and
- Discouraging or restricting excessive and environmentally inappropriate food packaging at all levels of the food system (production, wholesale, retail and consumer), and
- Reducing the embedded and distributed climate impacts of Jefferson County's food system, and
- Reducing the distance that food products travel from production to consumer

d. Stimulate demand for healthy foods, especially in low-income communities, through collaboration with community-based organizations and institutions

e. Increase access for all of Jefferson County's residents to healthy and local foods through:

- Increasing opportunities for Jefferson County's residents to purchase and grow healthy food in Jefferson County
- Dissemination of food preparation and preservation knowledge through educational programs
- Supporting new opportunities for distribution of locally and regionally produced food
- Addressing disparities in access to healthy foods in inadequately served populations and neighborhoods
- Supporting increased recovery of surplus edible food from businesses and institutions for distribution to food banks and meal programs
- Addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, such as children, people living with disabilities and seniors to accessing adequate, healthy food

- Increasing the amount of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat in the food support system, including food banks, school and hospital meal programs
- f. Incentivize new models of land ownership which acknowledge the limited access next-generation farmers have to start-up capital and ensure the intergenerational transition of farm land
- g. Integrate food system policies and planning into County land use, transportation and other planning activities
- h. Develop and enhance partnerships within the County, as well as regionally, to research and promote local solutions to food issues
- i. Establish a strong interdepartmental focus among County departments on programs and policies affecting food system sustainability and security
- j. Support procurement policies that favor local and regional food sourcing
- k. Enhance emergency preparedness related to food storage, access and distribution including working toward the goal of establishing a capacity for feeding the population without food importation

Section 2. Assessment and Report. This resolution commits the County to the development of local food system security. Recommended actions should follow from a comprehensive assessment of Jefferson County's current level of food system security. This assessment should be based on high-quality data as provided by all those who contribute to the food system; from producers to distributors, to consumers to waste recyclers and managers. Therefore, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners hereby requests that the Jefferson County Planning Commission (Planning Commission) commence work at the earliest possible date in three areas of focus:

- a. The Planning Commission, with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to initiate a county-wide series of neighborhood discussion groups focused on the needs and aspirations of all segments of the food system
- b. The Planning Commission, with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to identify potential partners who could assist in gathering quality data from all segments of the food system. Potential partners include: membership organizations (for example the Chimacum Grange); non-profit service organizations (for example, the Jefferson County Food Bank Association); industry trade associations (for example, the Jefferson County Association of REALTORS®); and centers of education (for example, WSU Extension). The Planning Commission is further requested to seek the assistance of these organizations in gathering feedback from those segments of the community they serve or represent concerning the creation of a healthy, sustainable food system
- c. The Planning Commission, with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to submit a report to the Board of County Commissioners within one year of the date of this Resolution which should, at a minimum:
 - summarize the findings of the community dialogue meetings
 - summarize the findings of the public outreach conducted by partner organizations
 - identify barriers to the goal of creating a healthy, sustainable food system within the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan (Plan)

- make recommendations for changes to the Plan that would remove such impediments
- make recommendations for changes to the Plan that would help to create a healthy, sustainable local food system
- Identify regulatory impediments to the goal of creating a healthy, sustainable food system that fall outside the purview of the Planning Commission's directive

Section 3.Future Food Policy Development. The County supports the formation of a Food Policy Council (FPC) if it is the general consensus of the partners as listed in Section 2 above and the community at large that such action by the Board of County Commissioners would be beneficial in achieving the goal of creating a healthy, sustainable food system

Section 4.City/County Coordination. The County requests that the City of Port Townsend recognizes the important role of food policy in regional and local planning and invites the City to assist in creating a healthy, sustainable local food system

Section 5.Learning Centers. The County supports the development of a partnership with universities, colleges, technical schools and other centers of learning or learning programs to assist in the development of a Food Action Plan and other policy and technical analysis that contributes to meeting the goals in Section 1

Section 6.Collaborative Design. The County supports development of a partnership with individuals or groups in the fields of agronomy, water conservation, Permaculture, appropriate technology, food processing, product marketing, food distribution, food justice, participatory planning and processes, and all others that contribute to meeting the goals in Section 1

Section 7.State Leadership. The County calls upon the State Department of Agriculture to increase its role in working toward a state food policy consonant with the goals in Section 1

ADOPTED and signed this ____ day of _____, 20__.

SEAL:

ATTEST:

Lorna Delaney
Deputy Clerk of the Board

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

John Austin, Chair

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member