

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
STATE OF WASHINGTON

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5 In the Matter of: x Resolution No. _____
6 establishing goals, creating a x
7 policy framework and identifying x
8 planning, analysis and actions for x
9 the purpose of strengthening x
10 Jefferson County's food system x
11 economy and security x
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13 Attached Documents: 2007 American Planning Association Policy Guide on Community and Regional
14 Food Planning; 2007 American Public Health Association policy statement "Toward a Healthy, Sustainable
15 Food System"; 2010 American Dietetic Association, American Nurses Association, American Planning
16 Association, and American Public Health Association policy statement titled "Principles of a Healthy,
17 Sustainable Food System"; Jefferson County Food Security Partner List
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19 WHEREAS, food and water are sustaining and enduring necessities and are among the basic
20 essentials for life; and
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22 WHEREAS, the "food system" is defined as the agents and institutions responsible for production,
23 processing, distribution, access, consumption, and disposal of food; and
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25 WHEREAS, "local food" is defined as seasonal, fresh food harvested and processed within or as
26 near to Jefferson County as possible; and
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28 WHEREAS, "local food activities" is defined as those activities related to the food system, from
29 production to consumption to waste management, occurring within or as near to Jefferson County as
30 possible; and
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32 WHEREAS, a "healthy, sustainable food system" is defined by the principals contained in the
33 2010 American Dietetic Association, American Nurses Association, American Planning Association, and
34 American Public Health Association policy statement titled "Principles of a Healthy, Sustainable Food
35 System"; and
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37 WHEREAS, "food miles" is defined as the mileage food travels between production and the
38 consumer and is a good indicator of the environmental impact of the food and its components
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40 WHEREAS, the Jefferson County food system is influenced by many elements of the Jefferson
41 County Code and areas of planning that include housing, transportation and infrastructure development;
42 and
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44 WHEREAS, among the Community Vision Statements of the Jefferson County Comprehensive
45 Plan is: the support and encouragement of economic opportunities; the increase in housing choices for all
46 residents; the protection and retention of rural lifestyles; the protection and conservation of agriculture,
47 forest and mineral resource lands; respect of property rights, and; the encouragement of citizen
48 participation and involvement; and
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50 WHEREAS, improving our local food system advances the 2010 Jefferson County Strategic Plan
51 2010–2011 Priorities of: strengthening the efficiency and quality of County Services; planning for the
52 future and; supporting our unique communities; and,
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54 WHEREAS, improving our local food system advances the 2010 Jefferson County Strategic Plan
55 budget goals of: enhancing the health & quality of life of individuals, families and communities; forging
56 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

57 Comprehensive Plan; identifying and working to fill community infrastructure gaps; strengthening
58 community assets and implementing the County's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); protecting
59 working forests from conversion for development; collaborating with other jurisdictions and the private
60 sector to meet long-term water needs; continuing to improve a coordinated permitting process by the
61 County so applicants have consistent answers in the shortest time within our resources; working with
62 government & non-governmental organizations to increase affordable housing; maintaining a healthy
63 environment to support important shellfish, fisheries, agriculture, timber & tourism industries; utilizing,
64 empowering and supporting community volunteers; regularly conducting community meetings of elected
65 officials & citizens; promoting open civil dialogue between county government and those served; and
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67 WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity are important issues that most adversely affect low-
68 income and minority populations; and
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70 WHEREAS, the second leading cause of premature death among United States adults is chronic
71 disease, for example heart disease, stroke and hypertension, linked to diet and low physical activity; and
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73 WHEREAS, obesity and associated costs and diet-related diseases significantly impact the health
74 of Jefferson County residents, and
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76 WHEREAS, maintaining and improving the security of our local food supply is essential to local
77 emergency preparedness and local self-reliance; and
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79 WHEREAS, there are significant community-building benefits to community gardening and
80 school garden programs; and
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82 WHEREAS, a school garden based program in Jefferson County has demonstrated a positive
83 influence on student achievement; and
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85 WHEREAS, the food system represents an important part of community and regional economies;
86 and
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88 WHEREAS, value-added food products are estimated to have sixteen times the retail value to
89 local producers over raw products; and
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91 WHEREAS, Aquaculture in Jefferson County is a major employer and source of revenue for the
92 county and completely dependent on the ready and uniform availability of clean water, and
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94 WHEREAS, agro-tourism is a growing industry; and
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96 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture 2007 census indicates that the average
97 age of American farmers increased from 50.3 in 1978 to 57.1 in 2007 with the majority of farm operators
98 between the ages of 45 and 64 and farmers aged 65 and older comprise the fastest growing group of farm
99 operators; and
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101 WHEREAS, many young farmers have limited access to capital which challenges farmland
102 preservation and future food production; and
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104 WHEREAS, food system activities take up a significant amount of urban and regional land; and
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106 WHEREAS, the food system consumes a major amount of fossil fuel energy, land area, and water
107 in production, processing, transportation, and disposal activities; and
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109 WHEREAS, the 2008 Jefferson County Solid Waste Master Plan lists waste reduction as the
110 highest order goal; and
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112 WHEREAS, an estimated fifteen percent of all solid waste in Jefferson County is food waste; and

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WHEREAS, gray-water, food waste, animal manures, animal bedding, spoilt 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 fifty cities and regions have established Food Policy Councils

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners does hereby support the formation of a Food Policy Council (FPC) as the outcome of the collaborative work of all segments of the county's food system in producing the Assessment and Report as described in Section 3 as follows.

The Board of County Commissioners shall consider the recommendations of the Planning Commission in defining the FPC's: mission; structure; member selection, member appointment and recommendation-making process; and schedule. The composition of the FPC shall be broad based and inclusive so that the widest possible diversity of opinion, experience and perspective can inform Jefferson County's Food Policy. The Planning Commission's recommendations should be based on the needs and wishes of those partners representing all segments of the county's food system who will have assisted with the production of the Assessment and Report as described in Section 3 as follows.

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. Ensure that no Jefferson County resident experiences hunger and promote strategies that create the systemic change necessary to eliminate the need for emergency and charity-based food sources
- d. Ensure that access to local, safe and nutritious food is not limited by economic status, location, or other factors beyond residents' control, prioritizing underserved residents
- e. Support food system activities that encourage the use of local and renewable energy resources and minimize energy use and waste including:

- 169 ➤ Reducing food in our waste stream, and
- 170 ➤ Discouraging or restricting excessive and environmentally inappropriate food
- 171 packaging at all levels of the food system (production, wholesale, retail and consumer),
- 172 and
- 173 ➤ Reducing the embedded and distributed climate impacts of Jefferson County's food
- 174 system, and
- 175 ➤ Reducing food miles, and
- 176 ➤ Promote energy efficiency at all stages of the food system by promoting local, sustainable food
- 177 production, and
- 178 ➤ Incorporate “green business” principles (such as energy efficiency and water conservation) for all
- 179 food-related businesses in Jefferson, and encourage the adoption of clean technologies and
- 180 renewable energy sources into all food system industries, and
- 181 ➤ Promote a “closed-loop” food system that emphasizes eliminating pollution, consumption of non-
- 182 renewable materials and the use of non-compostable food packaging, and
- 183 ➤ Promote ~~food-scrap~~-composting by Jefferson County’s residents and businesses, and encourage the
- 184 utilization of ~~food-scraps~~-as-compost for Jefferson County’s urban agriculture and community
- 185 garden programs, as well as regional foodshed agriculture. (NOTE: Composting of food scraps
- 186 is an unproven technology that has led to ongoing community concerns at the current Snohomish
- 187 County project)
- 188
- 189 f. Stimulate demand for healthy foods, especially in low-income communities, through
- 190 collaboration with community-based organizations and institutions
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- 192 g. Support the development of balanced food environments that allow residents the opportunities to
- 193 make healthy food choices and reduce environmental causes of obesity, diabetes, heart disease,
- 194 and other diet-related illnesses. Prioritize improving food environments in communities that
- 195 suffer from disproportionately high rates of diet-related disease and that are underserved by full-
- 196 service grocery stores, farmers’ markets, community gardens, and other healthy, fresh food
- 197 options
- 198
- 199 h. Increase access for all of Jefferson County's residents to healthy and local foods
- 200 through:
- 201
- 202 ➤ Increasing opportunities for Jefferson County's residents to purchase and grow healthy
- 203 food in Jefferson County
- 204 ➤ Dissemination of food preparation and preservation knowledge through educational
- 205 programs
- 206 ➤ Supporting new opportunities for distribution of locally and regionally produced food
- 207 (Note: Does this mean use of County funds to subsidize distribution of local products?
- 208 If not, clarify)
- 209 ➤
- 210 ➤ Addressing disparities in access to healthy foods in inadequately served populations
- 211 and neighborhoods
- 212 ➤ Supporting increased recovery of surplus edible food from businesses and institutions
- 213 for distribution to food banks and meal programs
- 214 ➤ Addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, such as children, people living with
- 215 disabilities and seniors to accessing adequate, healthy food
- 216 ➤ Increasing the amount of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat in the food support
- 217 system, including food banks, school and hospital meal programs
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- 220 ±Incentivize... (Note: The agriculture industry is already subsidized by taxpayers and should not
- 221 receive additional tax payer money at this time. Other industries that are more likely to employ
- 222 citizens at a family level wage should take priority for any incentivization program. new models

- 223 | ~~of land ownership which acknowledge the limited access next generation farmers have to start up~~
224 | ~~capital and ensure the intergenerational transition of farm land~~
- 225 | i.
 - 226 | j. Integrate food system policies and planning into County land use, transportation and
227 | other planning activities
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 - 229 | k. Develop and enhance partnerships within the County, as well as regionally, to research
230 | and promote local solutions to food issues
 - 231 |
 - 232 | l. Establish a strong interdepartmental focus among County departments on programs and
233 | policies affecting food system sustainability and security
 - 234 |
 - 235 | m. Support ~~procurement policies that favor local and regional food sourcing... This is an~~
236 | ~~indirect subsidy to local agriculture. It will end up costing tax payers money as the~~
237 | ~~County is forced to pay more for farm products than with a free market environment. It~~
238 | ~~will also encourage local famers to rely on non-competitive practices for their business~~
239 | ~~model.~~
 - 240 |
 - 241 | n. Enhance emergency preparedness related to food storage, access and distribution
242 | including working toward the goal of establishing a capacity for feeding the population
243 | without food importation.
 - 244 |
 - 245 | o. Support local agriculture that is economically viable, environmentally sustainable and socially
246 | responsible ~~by serving as a market for processing and consuming local food. Promote policies~~
247 | ~~and programs that aim toward increasing the consumption of food produced within Jefferson~~
248 | ~~County's foodshed to 30% of all food consumed~~ by supporting such activities and endeavors as:
249 | ~~(Note: Same issue as item "M".)~~
 - 250 |
 - 251 | ~~➤ local sourcing or purchasing agreements, farmers' markets, and Community Supported~~
252 | ~~Agriculture~~
 - 253 | ➤ -Advocate for regional Smart Growth policies that direct growth away from agricultural
254 | soil
 - 255 | ➤ Maximize Jefferson County's self reliance and capability to grow and provide
256 | sustainable and nutritious local food for its citizens through urban agriculture initiatives
257 | such as community farms and gardens, rooftop gardens, and building code
258 | recommendations for edible landscaping
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 - 260 | p. Support the preservation of environmental resources by reducing food miles and increasing the
261 | consumption of food grown using local inputs as well as less chemical, water, and energy-
262 | intensive production, processing, and distribution practices
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 - 264 | q. Support local agricultural activities as a method of preserving open space.

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266 | Section

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

- 275 |
- 276 | a. The Planning Commission, with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other
277 | volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to initiate a county-

278 wide series of neighborhood discussion groups focused on the needs and aspirations of all
279 segments of the food system

280
281 b. The Planning Commission, with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other
282 volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to identify potential
283 partners who could assist in gathering quality data from all segments of the food system.
284 Potential partners include, but are not limited to: membership organizations; non-profit
285 service organizations; industry trade associations; volunteer groups; and centers of
286 education. The Planning Commission is further requested to seek the assistance of these
287 organizations in gathering feedback from those segments of the community they serve or
288 represent concerning the creation of a healthy, sustainable food system

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290 c. The Planning Commission with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other
291 volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to submit a report to
292 the Board of County Commissioners within one year of the date of this Resolution which
293 should, at a minimum:

- 294
295 ➤ summarize the findings of the community dialogue meetings
296 ➤ summarize the findings of the public outreach conducted by partner organizations
297 ➤ identify barriers to the goal of creating a healthy, sustainable food system within the
298 Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan (Plan)
299 ➤ make recommendations for changes to the Plan that would remove such impediments
300 ➤ make recommendations for changes to the Plan that would help to create a healthy,
301 sustainable local food system
302 ➤ Identify regulatory impediments to the goal of creating a healthy, sustainable food system
303 that fall outside the purview of the Planning Commission's directive
304 ➤ make recommendations as to the creation of a Food Policy Council including, but not
305 limited to, the FPC's mission; member selection, member appointment and
306 recommendation- making process; structure; and schedule

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308 Section 3.City/County Coordination. The County requests that the City of Port Townsend
309 recognizes the important role of food policy in regional and local planning and invites the City
310 to assist in creating a healthy, sustainable local food system

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312 Section 4.Learning Centers. The County supports the development of a partnership with
313 universities, colleges, technical schools and other centers of learning or learning programs to
314 assist in the development of a Food Action Plan and other policy and technical analysis that
315 contributes to meeting the goals in Section 1

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317 Section 5.Collaborative Design. The County supports development of a partnership with
318 individuals or groups in the fields of agronomy, water conservation, Permaculture, appropriate
319 technology, food processing, product marketing, food distribution, food justice, participatory
320 planning and processes, and all others that contribute to meeting the goals in Section 1

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322 Section 6.State Leadership. The County calls upon the State Department of Agriculture to
323 increase its role in working toward a state food policy consonant with the goals in Section 1

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

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330 JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

331 SEAL:

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333 ATTEST:

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Lorna Delaney
Deputy Clerk of the Board

John Austin, Chair

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member

DRAFT