

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON
STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the Matter of: x Resolution No. _____
establishing goals, creating a x
policy framework and for 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, "food miles" is defined as the mileage food travels between production and the consumer and is a good indicator of the environmental impact of the food and its components

WHEREAS, the food system of 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 are: 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 a fuller understanding of our local food system advances can provide data to support the priorities of the 2010 Jefferson County Strategic Plan 2010–2011 Priorities of for: strengthening the efficiency and quality of a county-wide food security program. 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

57 advocate for the interests of each community; beginning work on the 2014 Update of the County's
58 Comprehensive Plan; identifying and working to fill community infrastructure gaps; strengthening
59 community assets and implementing the County's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); protecting
60 working forests from conversion for development; collaborating with other jurisdictions and the private
61 sector to meet long-term water needs; continuing to improve a coordinated permitting process by the
62 County so applicants have consistent answers in the shortest time within our resources; working with
63 government & non-governmental organizations to increase affordable housing; maintaining a healthy
64 environment to support important shellfish, fisheries, agriculture, timber & tourism industries; utilizing,
65 empowering and supporting community volunteers; regularly conducting community meetings of elected
66 officials & citizens; promoting open civil dialogue between county government and those served; and
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68 WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity are important issues that most adversely affect low-
69 income and minority populations; and
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71 WHEREAS, the second leading cause of premature death among United States adults is chronic
72 disease, for example heart disease, stroke and hypertension, linked to diet and low physical activity; and
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74 WHEREAS, obesity and associated costs and diet-related diseases significantly impact the health
75 of Jefferson County residents, and
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77 WHEREAS, maintaining and improving assuring the security of our local food supply is essential
78 to local for our emergency preparedness and local self-reliance; and
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80 WHEREAS, there are significant community-building benefits to community gardening and
81 school garden programs; and
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83 WHEREAS, a school garden based program in Jefferson County has demonstrated a positive
84 influence on student achievement; and
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86 WHEREAS, the food system represents an important part of community and regional economies;
87 and
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89 WHEREAS, value-added food products are estimated to have sixteen times the retail value to
90 local producers over raw products; and
91

92 WHEREAS, Aquaculture in Jefferson County is a major employer and source of revenue for the
93 county and completely dependent on the ready and uniform availability of clean water, and
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95 WHEREAS, agro-tourism is a growing industry; and
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97 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture 2007 census indicates that the average
98 age of American farmers increased from 50.3 in 1978 to 57.1 in 2007 with the majority of farm operators
99 between the ages of 45 and 64 and farmers aged 65 and older comprise the fastest growing group of farm
100 operators; and
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102 WHEREAS, many young farmers have limited access to capital which challenges farmland
103 preservation and future food production; and
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105 WHEREAS, food system activities take up a significant amount of urban and regional land; and
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107 WHEREAS, the food system consumes a major amount of fossil fuel energy, land area, and water
108 in production, processing, transportation, and disposal activities; and
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110 WHEREAS, the 2008 Jefferson County Solid Waste Master Plan lists waste reduction as the
111 highest order goal; and
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113 WHEREAS, an estimated fifteen percent of all solid waste in Jefferson County is food waste; and

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

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119 WHEREAS, the American Planning Association Board of Directors adopted on April 15, 2007 a
120 Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning recommending the inclusion of food policies in
121 local and regional plans and the American Public Health Association adopted a policy on November 6,
122 2007 entitled "Toward a Healthy, Sustainable Food System", recommending a food system approach as key
123 to better human health and environmental quality and in June of 2010, the American Dietetic Association,
124 American Nurses Association, American Planning Association, and American Public Health Association
125 initiated a collaborative process to develop a set of shared food system principles and these principles have
126 been published as "Principles of a Healthy, Sustainable Food System" ; and

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

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131 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

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133 The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners does hereby support the formation of a
134 Food Policy Council (FPC) as for which the outcome shall be an Assessment and Report
135 undertaken with the collaborative work of all segments of the county's food system; and in
136 producing the Assessment and Report as described in Section 3 as follows.

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138 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

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

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149 Insert" BE IT FINALLY Resolved that:" here (see line #276)

150 Insert BoCC signature/date info here (see line 334)

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153 PLANNING COMMISSION ATTACHMENT for a FOOD POLICY COUNCIL (FPC)

154

155 The composition of the FPC shall be broad based and inclusive so that the widest possible
156 diversity of opinion, experience and perspective can inform Jefferson County's Food Policy.
157 The Planning Commission's FPC recommendations should be based on the needs and wishes of
158 those partners representing all segments of the county's food system who will have assisted
159 with the production of the Assessment and Report as described in Section 3 as follows.

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

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- 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:
 - 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 food miles, and
 - Promote energy efficiency at all stages of the food system by promoting local, sustainable food production, and
 - Incorporate “green business” principles (such as energy efficiency and water conservation) for all food-related businesses in Jefferson, and encourage the adoption of clean technologies and renewable energy sources into all food system industries, and
 - Promote a “closed-loop” food system that emphasizes eliminating pollution, consumption of non-renewable materials and the use of non-compostable food packaging, and
 - Promote food scrap composting by Jefferson County’s residents and businesses, and encourage the utilization of food scraps as compost for Jefferson County’s urban agriculture and community garden programs, as well as regional foodshed agriculture.
 - f. Stimulate demand for healthy foods, especially in low-income communities, through collaboration with community-based organizations and institutions
 - g. Support the development of balanced food environments that allow residents the opportunities to make healthy food choices by: prioritizing and reduce environmental causes of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other diet-related illnesses. Prioritize improving food environments in communities that suffer from disproportionately high rates of diet-related disease and that are underserved by full-service grocery stores, farmers’ markets, community gardens, and other healthy, fresh food options
 - h. 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

- 224 ➤ Addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, such as children, people living with
225 disabilities and seniors to accessing adequate, healthy food
226 ➤ Increasing the amount of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat in the food support
227 system, including food banks, school and hospital meal programs
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230 i. Incentivize Develop new models of land ownership which acknowledge the limited access next-
231 generation farmers have to start-up capital and that will ensure the intergenerational transition
232 continued use of farm land
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234 j. Integrate food system policies and planning into County land use, transportation and
235 other planning activities
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237 k. Develop and enhance partnerships within the County, as well as regionally, to research
238 and promote local solutions to food issues
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240 l. Establish a strong interdepartmental focus among County departments on programs and
241 policies affecting food system sustainability and security
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243 m. Support procurement policies that favor local and regional food sourcing
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245 n. Enhance emergency preparedness related to food storage, access and distribution
246 including working toward the goal of establishing a capacity for feeding the population
247 without food importation.
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249 o. Support local agriculture that is economically viable, environmentally sustainable and socially
250 responsible by serving as a market for the processing and consuming of local food. Promote
251 policies and programs that aim toward increasing the consumption of food produced within
252 Jefferson County's foodshed to 30% of all food consumed by supporting such activities and
253 endeavors as:
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255 ➤ local sourcing or purchasing agreements, farmers' markets, and Community Supported
256 Agriculture
257 ➤ Advocate for regional Smart Growth policies that direct growth away from agricultural
258 soil
259 ➤ Maximize Jefferson County's self reliance and capability to grow and provide
260 sustainable and nutritious local food for its citizens through urban agriculture initiatives
261 such as community farms and gardens, rooftop gardens, and building code
262 recommendations for edible landscaping
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264 p. Support the preservation of environmental resources by reducing food miles and increasing the
265 consumption of food grown using local inputs as well as less chemical, water, and energy-
266 intensive production, processing, and distribution practices
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268 q. Support local agricultural activities as a method of preserving open space.
269

270 Section

271 2. Assessment and Report. This resolution commits the County to The Assessment and Report
272 to provide information the BoCC can use for the development of local food system security.
273 Recommended actions should follow from a comprehensive assessment of Jefferson County's
274 current level of food system security. This assessment should be based on high-quality data as
275 provided by all those who contribute to the food system; from producers to distributors to
276 consumers to waste recyclers and managers. Therefore, THEREFORE IT FINALLY BE
277 RESOLVED that: the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners hereby requests that
278 the Jefferson County Planning Commission (Planning Commission) and, once formed, the FPC,

279 commence work at the earliest possible date in three areas of focus: [move this last part to
280 immediately preceding the BoCC Signatures]

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- 282 a. The Planning Commission, with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other
283 volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to initiate a county-
284 wide series of neighborhood discussion groups focused on the needs and aspirations of all
285 segments of the food system
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- 287 b. The Planning Commission, with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other
288 volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to identify potential
289 partners who could assist in gathering quality data from all segments of the food system.
290 Potential partners include, but are not limited to: membership organizations; non-profit
291 service organizations; industry trade associations; volunteer groups; and centers of
292 education. The Planning Commission is further requested to seek the assistance of these
293 organizations in gathering feedback from those segments of the community they serve or
294 represent concerning the creation of a healthy, sustainable food system
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- 296 c. The Planning Commission with the aid of County staff, and in partnership with other
297 volunteer groups as the Planning Commission sees fit, is requested to submit a report to
298 the Board of County Commissioners within one year of the date of this Resolution which
299 should, at a minimum:
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- 301 ➤ summarize the findings of the community dialogue meetings
 - 302 ➤ summarize the findings of the public outreach conducted by partner organizations
 - 303 ➤ identify barriers to the goal of creating a healthy, sustainable food system within the
304 Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan (Plan)
 - 305 ➤ make recommendations for changes to the Plan that would remove such impediments
 - 306 ➤ make recommendations for changes to the Plan that would help to create a healthy,
307 sustainable local food system
 - 308 ➤ Identify regulatory impediments to the goal of creating a healthy, sustainable food system
309 that fall outside the purview of the Planning Commission's directive
 - 310 ➤ make recommendations as to the creation of a Food Policy Council including, but not
311 limited to, the FPC's mission; member selection, member appointment and
312 recommendation- making process; structure; and schedule
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314 Section 3.City/County Coordination. The County BoCC requests that the City of Port
315 Townsend recognizes the important role of food policy in regional and local planning and
316 invites the City to assist in creating a healthy, sustainable local food system

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

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

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

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

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JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEAL:

ATTEST:

Lorna Delaney
Deputy Clerk of the Board

John Austin, Chair

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member

DRAFT