

Schroader, Kathy



From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 12:45 PM
To: Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose
Cc: Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: Clark County Food Systems Council - A special interest political group - For the Record

FYI and for the record. Thanks.

From: Carol Levanen [<mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 11:57 AM
To: Stewart, Jeanne; Madore, David; Mielke, Tom; Orjiako, Oliver; McCauley, Mark
Subject: Fw: Clark County Food Systems Council - A special interest political group - For the Record

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: susan rasmussen <sprazz@outlook.com>
To: Carol Levanen <cnldental@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2015 10:54 AM
Subject: Reader

Strategies for change, Food Systems Council

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/about/documents/RoadmapWorkPlan2012.pdf>

Sent from Windows Mail

Policy Roadmap for Clark County's Food System

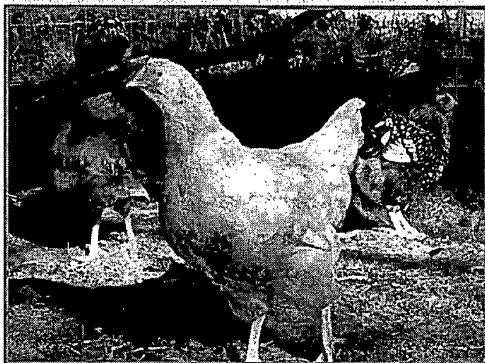
**Strategies for Change
October 2012**



Supporting a Strong Local Food System

Wander through a Clark County farmers market and you're likely to experience a keen sense of community—one of the benefits of a healthy, local food system. Growing, producing and buying local foods also supports the local economy and reduces the environmental impacts of transporting food. What's more, locally produced food tastes better and retains nutrients longer than food imported from great distances.

But getting locally grown food from farm to table is no simple feat. It involves land resource issues, policy decisions, food distribution and recycling, community education and more. Helping to integrate the many components of our local food system is where the Clark County Food System Council comes in.



About the Food System Council

Council members represent health, nutrition, education, food security, waste management, resource conservation, business, agriculture, food distribution and the greater community. Engaging the community at all levels, the council works to promote healthier food choices and create a legacy of greater environmental protection and health.

The council has three main focus areas:

- ◆ Improving Access to Healthy Food
- ◆ Land and Resource Preservation
- ◆ Community Education

Land Use and Resource Preservation

Planning for a healthy, local food system is critical to our community's future food security

Strategies for Change

Work with Clark County Community Planning in developing of food system planning goals to be included in the Framework document of the Clark County Comprehensive Growth Plan.

- ◆ Draft talking points and suggested strategies for inclusion of food system issues in new Framework document.
- ◆ Participate in community opportunities for providing input to Framework document.
- ◆ Partner with other community task forces to advocate for inclusion of food in Framework document.



Work with Clark County Community Planning staff to develop tools and other strategies that encourage conservation of the county's designated agricultural land, providing support for the widest variety of agricultural crops and products.

- ◆ Participate in community forums and education opportunities with Community Planning, Planning Commission and other community groups such as Rural Lands Task Force.
- ◆ Invite topic experts on conservation strategies to provide education to Food System Council.
- ◆ Develop opportunities for hosting community education forums related to land policy strategies that support healthy food systems.
- ◆ Request opportunities for Food System Council to participate in continued work of Rural Lands Task Force.
- ◆ Develop Food System Council work plan regarding input on rural lands study informing Community Planning's work plan.

Policy Change in Action

Clark County Food System Council requested the Board of Commissioners proceed with the update of the *Framework Plan*, and that in doing so they add community food security to the county's vision for healthy, sustainable, and prosperous growth.

August 2012

Land Use and Resource Preservation

All residents need opportunities to grow and share food

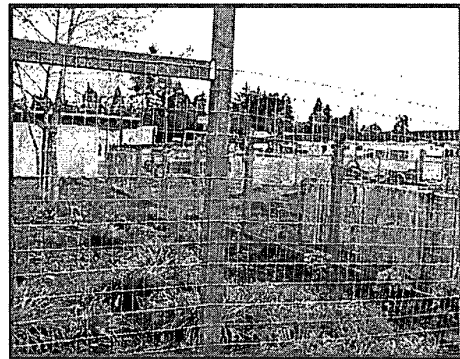
Strategies for Change

Investigate the need to create a land use category for urban agriculture; distinguish it from rural agriculture as smaller, temporary, less intensive, and of short-term commercial significance or critical importance to community food security.

- ◆ Consider partnerships with other interested groups, such as Vancouver Watershed Alliance, WSU Extension, etc.
- ◆ Look at City of Portland's process to develop an urban agriculture code, *Urban Food Zoning Code Update Concept Report*.
- ◆ Talk with city planners about creating an urban agriculture designation.
- ◆ Invite experts to provide education and determine interest in hosting a community forum regarding this topic.

Assess government-owned land suitable for cultivation and support opportunities for food production activities on these sites.

- ◆ Investigate opportunities to partner with city and county government on assessment process.
- ◆ Engage local higher education students in support of this work.
- ◆ Partner with agriculture partners, such as Clark-Cowlitz Farm Bureau and WSU Extension to determine needs and opportunities.
- ◆ Investigate results of *Portland/Multnomah Food Policy Council Diggable City* report and other similar reports.



Looking Ahead ➡ Future Strategies

- ◆ Assess access to food via public transit. Work with transit service planners to improve service to food stores lacking adequate service.
- ◆ Prohibit restrictions that preclude food stores from using appropriately zoned land, especially those that keep new grocery stores from using vacant buildings.
- ◆ Advocate for and support increasing compost availability at public events.

Access to Healthy Food

Community organizations and institutions are critical partners in creating and supporting healthy food systems

Strategies for Change

Increase community garden programs in neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and faith communities.

- ◆ Assess geographical need for more gardens.
- ◆ Advocate for gardening as a conditional use on vacant land.
- ◆ Investigate upcoming park levy and its impact on funding neighborhood and regional community gardens.
- ◆ Support language in Clark County and City of Vancouver Comprehensive Plans that includes service standards, service objectives, development standards or expectations for community gardens.
- ◆ Work to assure equitable access and costs for water usage for private/public community gardens.
- ◆ Advocate for additional funding for community gardens and maintenance.

Encourage healthy food options in programs that help alleviate hunger.

- ◆ Assess current capacity and need for systems and support for collecting and storing healthy food choices.
- ◆ Support food pantries in securing sustainable funding for cold storage capacity allowing all pantries to offer fresh fruits and vegetables.
- ◆ Assist in building community partnerships and opportunities for bringing more locally grown produce into the emergency food system.

Advocate for school district policies encouraging purchase of locally grown food for school meals and school-sponsored events.

- ◆ Collaborate with schools to develop policies and procedures for developing and implementing successful school gardens.
- ◆ Support full implementation of current nutrition and physical activity policies in all Clark County schools.
- ◆ Support schools in adopting and implementing policies that ensure that all foods and beverages available on school campuses and at school events are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Policy Change in Action

The Food System Council worked with the city of Vancouver to include food systems planning in the Comprehensive Plan.

Additions to the current plan include:

- Recruit and retain supermarkets in areas of need.
- Assess and promote opportunities to grow food and consider guidelines for service provision levels.

2011-2013

Vancouver Comprehensive Plan

Access to Healthy Food

Creating equitable access to healthy food choices through community and business partnerships

Strategies for Change

Address barriers to implementing SNAP (food stamps) benefits at farmers markets.

- ◆ Advocate for sustainable funding for markets to accept EBT (electronic benefits transfer).
- ◆ Support expansion of Fresh Match bonus program to all farmers markets and other vendors of locally grown food.

Encourage sustainable funding for the healthy retailers program.

- ◆ Advocate for sustainable funding for the healthy food retail program.
- ◆ Advocate for a statewide certification program to identify stores that carry healthy options.

Policy Change in Action

Eight neighborhood stores have signed on to the *Healthy, Here, Now* Neighborhood Store initiative, working to improve access to healthy food.

Increase healthy options where prepared foods are served.

- ◆ Participate with Clark County Public Health in developing a healthy restaurant initiative for local restaurants.
- ◆ Advocate for policies supporting healthy food options at all public venues and events.
- ◆ Support and promote efforts to ensure healthy food options are available in government, healthcare and other institutional settings.
- ◆ Advocate for reinstatement of summer food programs through support of parks levy.



Looking Ahead Future Strategies

Create local economic incentives for improving access to healthy food

- ◆ Assist convenience store owners to leverage their purchasing power to procure fresh produce and set up a distribution method.
- ◆ Support tax abatements to stores carrying a certain amount of healthy foods.
- ◆ Develop new fee structures or other financial incentives that prioritize sales of healthy and local foods at public events.

Support and promote efforts to improve access to Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification and insurance for small farmers' distribution and sales.

2012 Clark County Food System Council

Robert Bacon
Gary Boldt
Sarah Brown
Paul Childers
Cheryl Gabriel
Carolyn Gordon
Erin Harwood, Co-Chair
Dion Hess
Jessie Hiller
George Hoffman
Garrett Hoyt
Lynn Krogseng

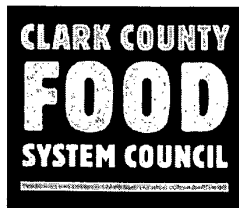
Ron McKnight, Chair
Cyndie Meyer
Debe Nagy-Nero
Warren Neth
Kristine Perry
Jennifer Prouse
Tammy Rodriguez
Amanda Schlegel
Summer Steenbarger
Alexander Van Dinter
Bill Zimmerman

Council members are individuals living or working in Clark County, representing a wide variety of professions and viewpoints from our local food system.

The Council meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to the public.

Clark County Public Health supports work of the Council
For more information contact:

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.