

# Regional Food Policy Council



Puget Sound Regional Council

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## First Year Progress Report

The Regional Food Policy Council first met in September 2010 and has since been engaged in council development, strategic planning, research, and outreach. Outlined here are significant Council actions and staff activities from September 2010 to August 2011.

**Council Development.** The Regional Food Policy Council and Steering Committee met monthly. The Council heard presentations on agriculture programs within King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap counties, and launched development of its work plan.

**Mission, Vision, and Goals.** The Regional Food Policy Council adopted a mission statement, vision and goal statements to direct future work.

**Work Plan.** The Council formed Agriculture, Economic Development and Equity subcommittees to identify action items for the work plan. The subcommittees reported initial recommendations to the Council in August 2011.

**Contract Projects.** King County contracted with the Regional Food Policy Council to provide input on the food system elements of the ICLEI Star Community Index. In July 2011, the Council heard about the project from King County staff and provided comments to ICLEI. In fall 2011, the Council will also provide comments on the King County Food Score project.

**Regional Food Assessment.** In the spring of 2011, the Council collaborated with a graduate studio at the University of Washington Department of Urban Design and Planning program to develop an existing conditions report and food system assessment for the central Puget Sound region. The results of this assessment will provide a foundation for future work.

**Policy Scan.** Staff reviewed codes and plans from more than 50 cities within the region and developed a methodology to organize existing local food-related policies. This project will help identify promising best practices, opportunities for action and future directions.

**Research.** Staff compiled an online directory of food policy research and reports, which will serve as a data resource for both the Council and the general public.

**Support WSU Extension.** The Council developed and submitted a letter to a legislative taskforce in support of WSU Extension.

**Outreach.** Staff created a webpage for the Regional Food Policy Council and prepared an article on Council activities that was published in the Spring/Summer 2011 issue of APA Regional and Intergovernmental Planning. Staff also represented the Council at various external meetings, including the Food Policy: From Neighborhood to Nation Conference. At that conference, staff organized and participated in panel session on food policy councils operating at different geographic scales.

**Other Staff Activities.** Staff applied to numerous funding opportunities to continue support for the Regional Food Policy Council. Staff hired an intern with funds from a grant from the City of Seattle to support the work of the Council. In addition, the Council hosted an unpaid intern from The Evergreen State College and a student completing a practicum project with the University of Washington Master of Public Health program.