

# Regional Food Policy Council



Puget Sound Regional Council 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500 • Seattle, WA 98104-1035 • 206-464-7090 • [psrc.org](http://psrc.org) • September 2014

## Fourth Year Progress Report

The Regional Food Policy Council first met in September 2010, and has since been engaged in council development, research, and outreach. Summaries of the council's first three years are available <http://www.psrc.org/growth/foodpolicy>. Outlined below are significant council actions and staff activities from August 2013 to September 2014.

**Council Meetings.** With Commissioner Charlotte Garrido (Kitsap County) and Richard Conlin (At-Large) serving as co-chairs, the Regional Food Policy Council met monthly and heard presentations on state legislative activities, a beginning farming panel, county agricultural programs, native foodsheds, the 2013 Missing Meals Report, Clean Greens Farm and Market, sustaining farmers markets, and comprehensive planning, among other topics. The Regional Food Policy Council meets the second Friday of each month. Information on the council, as well as past presentations and meeting summaries, can be found on the PSRC website: <http://www.psrc.org/about/advisory/regional-food-policy-council/>.

**Policy Blueprints.** In 2013, the Regional Food Policy Council developed the Food Policy Blueprints, which identify policy recommendations and relevant resources for local governments to address comprehensive planning, urban agriculture, farmers markets, local food procurement and rural farmland preservation in their policies and planning. Councilmembers conducted outreach and presented on the blueprints to the PSRC Executive Board, PSRC Regional Staff Committee, Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council, Sound Cities Association Public Issues Committee, SeaTac City Council, and Kirkland City Council. The policy blueprints are available at <http://www.psrc.org/growth/foodpolicy/blueprints/>.

**Addressing Food Policy in Comprehensive Planning.** In June 2014, PSRC hosted a brownbag session to share information with local planners on addressing food policy in upcoming major updates to comprehensive plans. Attendees heard about the Food Policy Blueprints and also heard from staff and experts in communities that have made food policy a part of the plan. Resources and presentations from the event are available at <http://www.psrc.org/growth/brownbags/>.

**Food Policy Action Plan.** In 2014, the Regional Food Policy Council has been engaged in strategic planning, looking ahead to prioritize actions over the next three years. The council assessed its work over the last three years and identified future opportunities to better support the local food system. Development of the action plan has included creating criteria to prioritize future work and compiling a list of priority projects. The action plan will be completed in the fall of 2014, and the council will then focus on plan implementation.

**Farmers Market Viability.** In 2013, the City of Seattle contracted with the Regional Food Policy Council to convene a working group of experts to develop a report on the obstacles to the stability of farmers markets in the city. In August 2013, the working group began by identifying obstacles to farmers market viability. The project included focus groups with city staff to understand current policies and practices, identifying obstacles faced by farmers markets, research on best practices utilized by other jurisdictions, and creating recommendations for the city. While the project focuses on the City of Seattle, the intent is that these resources may be useful for other jurisdictions in the region with farmers markets.

**Pierce County Farm Tour.** Pierce County Conservation District and Pierce County worked together to organize a tour of Pierce County farms for the Regional Food Policy Council. The tour visited three farms in Pierce County in September 2013 to explore first-hand the opportunities and policy challenges for producers in the central Puget Sound.

**Funding.** The City of Seattle contracted with PSRC on food policy work, including developing recommendations for farmers market viability and the Food Policy Action Plan. PSRC also identified funding in its budget to continue convening the Regional Food Policy Council in FY 2015.

**Other Activities.** Staff and councilmembers completed other outreach presentations to the quarterly King County Farmers Market meeting, the Thurston Regional Planning Council, and the Planning Association of Washington Conference.

**For more information or questions,** please contact:

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