



Food System Committee

April 6, 2022
3:30-5:00 PM
Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82794881377>

Call in: 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 827 9488 1377

Topic	Presenter	Minutes
Land Acknowledgement, Roll Call, Determination of Quorum	Riley	2
Approval of Minutes (March)	Whole	1
Report to Council April 12	Riley	2
Public Comment	Public	5
Debrief of Regional Food System Partnership meeting	Ali	5
Food Plan Goals	Eileen (NVA)	30
Community Engagement Strategy	Ali	40
Wrap-up, Determine next steps, and Adjourn	Whole	5

Whatcom County boards, commissions, and advisory committees are currently following State Open Public Meetings Act amended requirements by holding all meetings remotely. Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

Tribal Land Acknowledgement

"I would like to begin by acknowledging that we gather today on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish Peoples, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin, throughout the San Juan Islands and the North Cascades watershed, from time immemorial. Please join me in expressing our deepest respect and gratitude for our indigenous neighbors, the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe, for their enduring care and protection of our shared lands and waterways."

Attached: Draft Goals for Food System Plan

Draft Goals for the Whatcom Food System Plan

For review by FSC at 4/6 meeting

Based upon the feedback collected at the March FSC meeting, the NVA team pulled out the key themes we heard and created a draft goal framework for consideration. NOTE: These aren't final goals, but instead, a draft to give some direction/structure to the rest of the process. These will be revisited after the community engagement process.

Draft language:

The Whatcom County Food System Plan is a framework for building a more just, healthy, and sustainable food system. It is an opportunity to reimagine a food system that works for us all today and for generations to come.

To guide these efforts, the Whatcom County Food System Committee engaged the community to identify core goals around which the Plan is organized:

- **Goal 1: Cultivate equity and justice.**
 - *Possible objectives/actions that would fit in this category:*
 - Invest in communities of color
 - Address health inequities and ensure food security for all Whatcom County residents
 - Prioritize racial equity and actions to eradicate structural racism in our work
 - Be accountable to Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) leadership
 - Support and amplify BIPOC participation and representation, leadership
 - Increase access to land by making it more affordable and equitable

- **Goal 2: Protect and regenerate our soil, water and land.**
 - *Possible objectives/actions that would fit in this category:*
 - Preserve land and soils, keep in agricultural use
 - Invest in sustainable food production
 - Protect fisheries (esp. native fish populations)
 - Increase ecological diversity
 - Improve soil and water quality
 - Reduce waste in the food system (i.e. building soil health/returning nutrients to soil)

- **Goal 3: Build a resilient and vibrant local food economy.**
 - *Possible objectives/actions that would fit in this category:*
 - Build strong local economies
 - Invest in local food infrastructure
 - Increase demand for local food
 - Improve wages, housing, and working conditions for food chain workers
 - Reduce food insecurity and hunger
 - Improve community food environments
 - Build up local food system businesses

- **Goal 4: Ensure access to healthy food for all.**
 - *Possible objectives/actions that would fit in this category:*
 - Eradicate food insecurity
 - Improve community food environments
 - Improve community health and well-being
 - Reduce waste in the food system (i.e. ensuring food first feeds hungry people)
 - Ensure food access, particularly in areas with high concentrations of BIPOC families.