Updating Seattle's Food Action Plan

Food Policy Networks Webinar

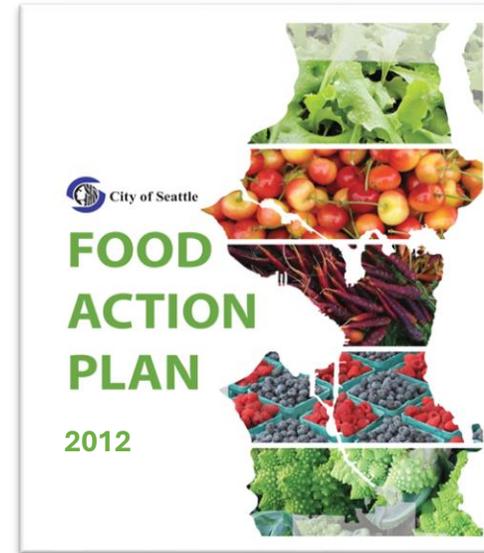October 17, 2024   Office of Sustainability & Environment   City of Seattle

Seattle's Food Action Plan

- The City's vision and roadmap for an **equitable**, **sustainable**, and **resilient** local food system.

- Guides programs, policies, and actions of multiple City departments.

- First edition: 2012.

- First update: 2024.

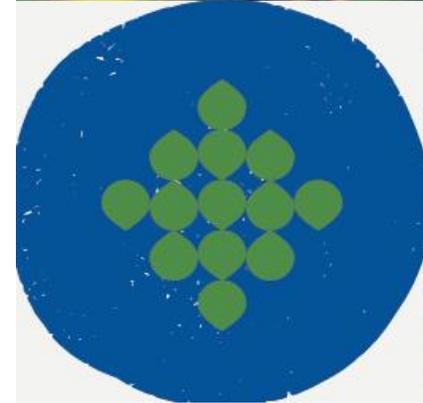Food Action Plan - Environment | seattle.gov

City of Seattle

Food Action Plan – Goals

Increase Community Food Security

Prevent Food Waste and Climate Pollution

Support Locally Grown & Traditional Foods

Advance an Equitable Local Economy

City of Seattle

Food Action Plan - Strategic Priorities
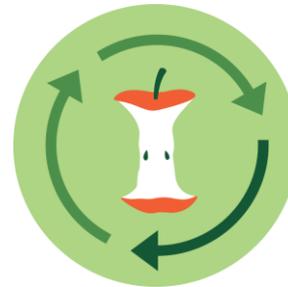

1. Community Food Security

2. Land Use & Access

3. Education and Training

4. Economy & Labor

5. Local Supply Chains
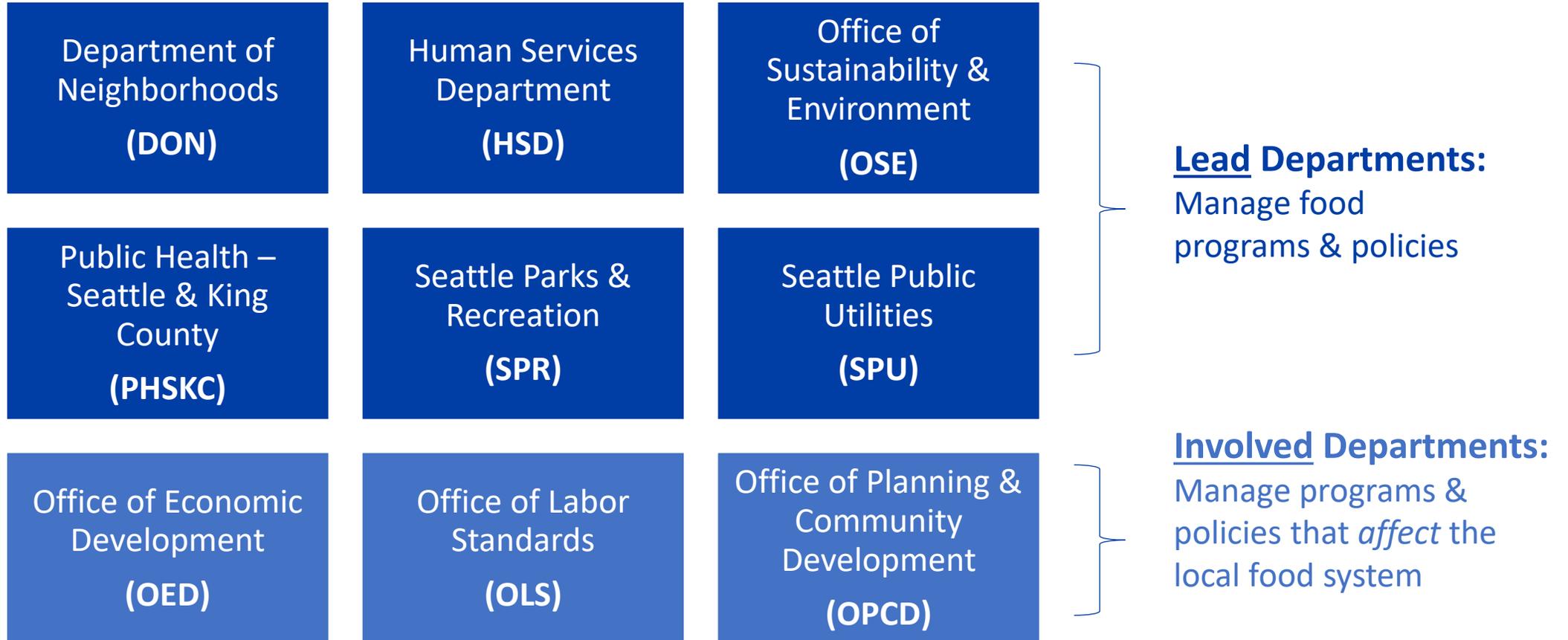

6. Food Waste

7. Environment and Climate

8. Food Action Plan Stewardship

City of Seattle

Background

City of Seattle

Food Action Plan Interdepartmental Team

Department of Neighborhoods

(DON)

Human Services Department

(HSD)

Office of Sustainability & Environment

(OSE)

Public Health – Seattle & King County

(PHSKC)

Seattle Parks & Recreation

(SPR)

Seattle Public Utilities

(SPU)

Lead Departments: Manage food programs & policies

Office of Economic Development

(OED)

Office of Labor Standards

(OLS)

Office of Planning & Community Development

(OPCD)

Involved Departments: Manage programs & policies that *affect* the local food system

City of Seattle

Core Food Programs

Food & Nutrition Security

Food Waste Prevention

Urban Agriculture & Community Gardening

Food Equity Fund community grant program
Fresh Bucks
Child Care Nutrition Program
Farm to Preschool
Healthy Food in Schools
Summer Meals
Food and Nutrition Programs for Older Adults
Food Banks
Community Meal Programs

Supported by a mix of City funds (Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT), General Fund) and state and federal funding

Food Program Resource Guide - Environment | seattle.gov

About the SBT Investments | seattle.gov

City of Seattle

Core Food Programs

Food & Nutrition Security

Food Waste Prevention

Urban Agriculture & Community Gardening

Food Waste Prevention for Businesses
Food Waste Prevention for Residences
Food Rescue Innovation

Supported by Solid Waste Fund

Note: Seattle also has robust food waste diversion policies and programs, including weekly, citywide composting services. Food waste is <u>not</u> permitted in the garbage and must be composted.

[Food Program Resource Guide - Environment | seattle.gov](#)

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Core Food Programs

Food & Nutrition Security

Food Waste Prevention

Urban Agriculture & Community Gardening

P-Patch Community Gardens
Urban Food Systems Program
Community-led grant projects

Food Program Resource Guide - Environment | seattle.gov

City of Seattle

Aligned Food Programs

Economic Development & Labor

Planning & Community Development

Permitting
Technical Assistance and Supports for Food Business
Seattle Labor Standards and Ordinances

Food Program Resource Guide - Environment | seattle.gov

City of Seattle

Aligned Food Programs

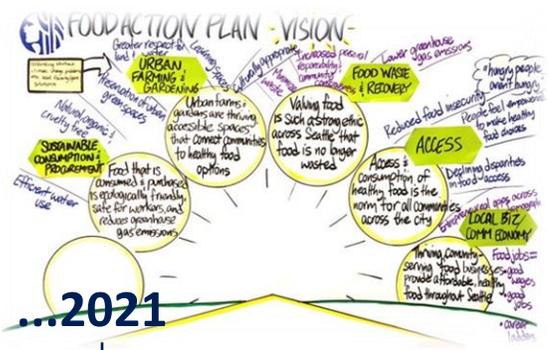Economic Development & Labor

Planning & Community Development

Seattle Comprehensive Plan
Zoning and Land Use codes
Equitable Development Initiative (grant program)

Food Program Resource Guide - Environment | seattle.gov

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Food Action Plan – Update Process

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...2021   **2022**   **2023**   **2024...**

✦ **Foundational Work:**

- Visioning
- Literature and data review
- Food Justice Values created by the Environmental Justice Committee
- Racial Equity Toolkits on:
  - Key issue areas (food security, land access, food economy, food waste)
  - Equitable and inclusive community engagement strategies

✦ **Focused Community Engagement:**

- In-depth interviews with community leaders
- Focus groups and listening sessions
- Workshops to develop draft content for the updated Food Action Plan
- Access the engagement reports

✦ **Public Comment on Draft Plan**

✦ **Invited Tribal Engagement**

- Suquamish, Muckleshoot, Snoqualmie Tribal advisors
- Worked through Seattle's Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)

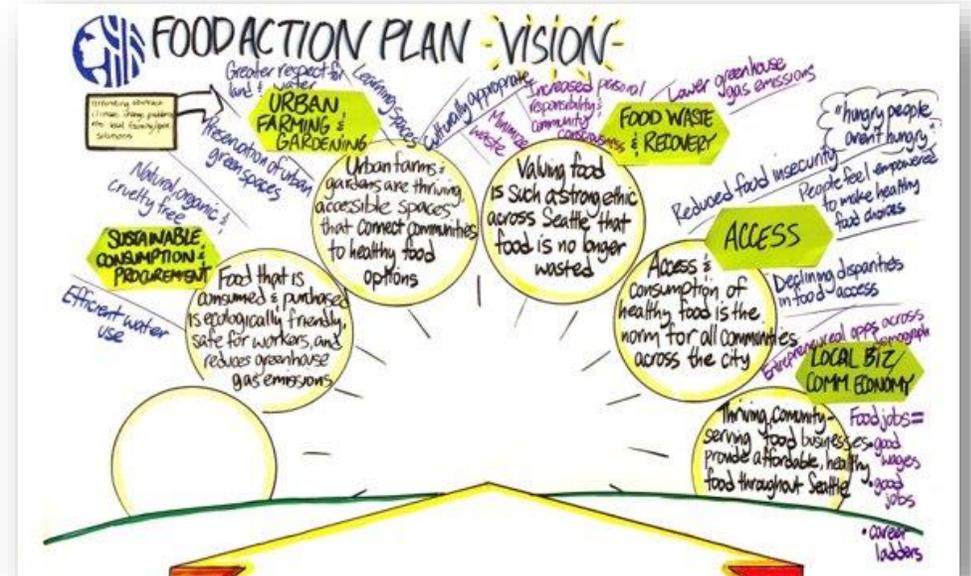✦ **Incorporated Final Feedback and Edits**

✦ **Final Briefings with Department Leadership and Mayor's Office**

✦ **Release: Community Celebration and Press Event (9/5/2024)**

✦ **City Council adopted the Food Action Plan Update by resolution**

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Foundation Setting: Kickoff with the City Team

What	Series of individual and group meetings to launch update process and set the tone
Key Approaches	High-engagement workshops and meetings designed to build relationships and draw out people's best thinking.
Why	• **To activate collaborators!** • Introduce the update process and collect early input to shape the process • Gain support from City leadership • Articulate goals, roles, expectations

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Foundation Setting: Literature & Data Review

What	Reviewed a variety of literature, reports, data (program documents, local news, other action plans, reports, peer-reviewed papers, community engagement findings, etc.)
Key Approaches	• Project leads compiled and organized materials for project team • Used methods to prompt active reading and discussion
Why	• To promote shared understanding of issue areas • To inform development of a community engagement plan • To inform Racial Equity Toolkits

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Foundation Setting: Articulated Share Values

What	Developed and adopted values to guide the process and project
Key Approaches	• Environmental Justice Committee developed a set of **Food Justice Values** (*"the What"*) • City staff developed a set of **Stewardship Values** (*"the How"*)
Why	• To center community voice and connect the process to community-based priorities • To set direction and drive alignment across project team
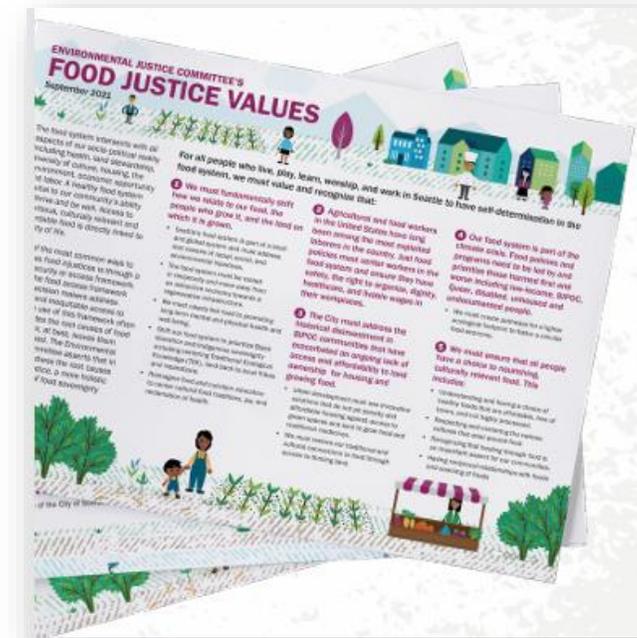
FoodActionPlan_FullReport_2024.pdf (page 55-56) (seattle.gov)

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Foundation Setting: Racial Equity Analyses

What	Analysis of food system inequities, root causes, and how different racial and ethnic groups are affected.

Key Approaches	• Conducted two Racial Equity Toolkits (RETs):
	   1. Community Engagement Approaches
	   2. Food Action Plan Issue Areas
	• Office of Civil Rights led a root cause analysis workshop with City team

Why	• To examine racial equity impacts of our work, towards a vision of eliminating racial inequities in our communities • To embed racial equity and social justice principles into the updated Food Action Plan

Food Insecurity - RSJI | seattle.gov

Focused Community Engagement

What	Engagement with a variety of food system leaders who authentically represented communities most impacted by racial, socioeconomic, environmental inequities
Key Approaches	• Identified key subject matter experts from all parts of the food systems • Used a variety of engagement formats (in-depth interviews, listening sessions) co-designed with community consultants • Compensated participants at ~ $100 per hour • Followed up with report back presentations
Why	• To focus the updated Food Action Plan on the priorities and solutions of frontline communities • To align with values and racial equity analyses

On behalf of the City's Food Action Plan Team, thank you to the more than **250 community leaders** and representatives from community-based organizations, coalitions, businesses, and institutions who provided expertise and input to help develop the Food Action Plan Update.

Key themes from the 2021-2022 community engagements are summarized in these reports and presentations:

- Community Engagement Report Back Presentation
- Community Engagement Full Report
- Community Leader Interviews Report
- Native & Indigenous Foods Listening Session Report

In July and August 2022, themes and learnings from community engagement were used to develop a **draft** Strategic Priorities and Actions document, which was made available for public comment. View the feedback: seattlefoodactionplan.consider.it.

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Iterative, Collaborative Writing Process

What	Used an iterative and collaborative process to write the Food Action Plan
Key Approaches	• Used a variety of methods – sequential, parallel, all-in/reactive writing • "Mark up" process – mapped engagement findings onto early drafts, lots of annotations and comments • Continuously tested for alignment with values and RETs.
Why	• Avoid an echo chamber effect • To share power in the content and foster shared ownership of the final product Plan • Encourage deeper analysis and create content that comprehensive and actionable

Lit Review, Values, RETs

Focused Engagement

Values, RETs, engagement continued

Engagement continued, City briefings

Issue Identification, Conceptualizing

Framework Outline

Drafting

Reviewing, Revising, Editing

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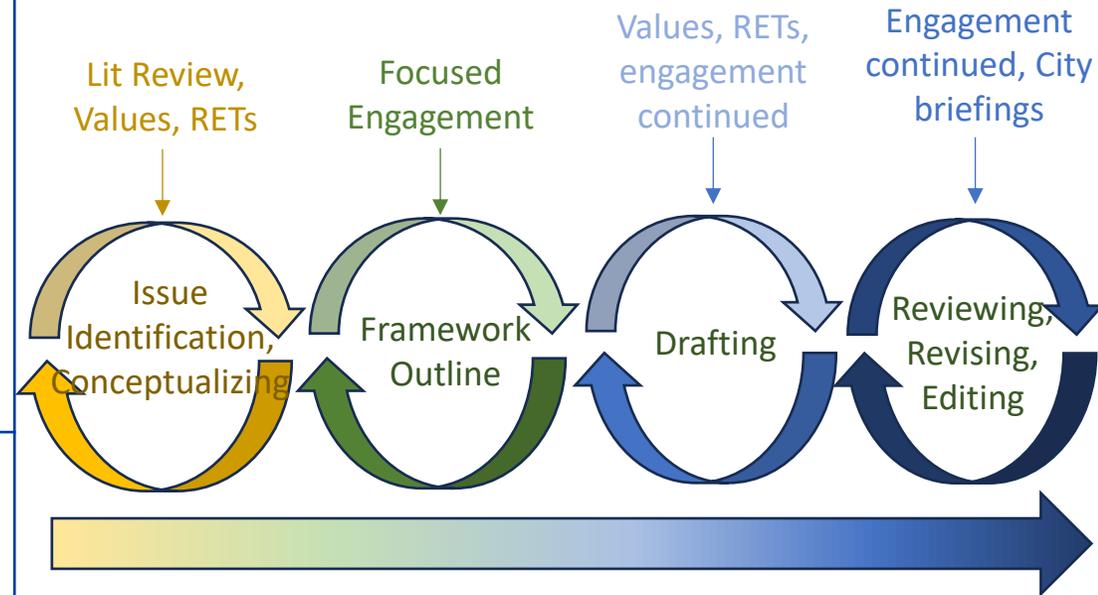
For More Information

- Food Action Plan – Main Page:

  - Executive Summary

  - Full Report

  - How it Was Developed (Community engagement summaries, RETs)

- City's Food Program Resource Guide

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Thank you! Questions?

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Appendix

City of Seattle

Food Action Plan – Goals

Increase Community Food Security

Prevent Food Waste and Climate Pollution

Support Locally Grown & Traditional Foods

Advance an Equitable Local Economy

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Food Action Plan - Strategic Priorities

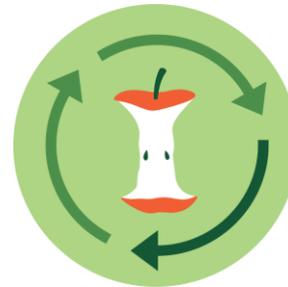1. Community Food Security

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Strategic Priority 1:
Community Food Security

- Nutritious, affordable, and culturally relevant food

- Food security and access for low-income children, youth, adults, and older adults in preschools, schools, community-based organizations, and other community settings

Example programs:

*Fresh Bucks (**OSE**), Healthy Food in Schools (**OSE**)*

*Farm to Preschool (**HSD**), Food banks and meal programs (**HSD**)*

Meals for older adults (ages 60+)

Fresh Bucks

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Strategic Priority 2:
Land Use & Access

- Focuses on <u>existing</u> efforts to support community gardening and urban agriculture

- Builds on Mayor's *2023 Year of Community Gardening Proclamation*

P-Patch Program

Example programs and initiatives:

*P-Patch Community Gardening (**DON**) – at 90 sites citywide*

*Marra Farm (**SPR**), Beacon Food Forest (**DON & SPU**), Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands (**SPR**)*

Y-WE Grow Program (City grantee)

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Strategic Priority 3:
Education & Training

- Culturally relevant and experiential food and nutrition education for all ages

- Mentorship opportunities in food systems work

These programs are leveraged for education programming:

*Healthy Food in Schools (**OSE**)*

*Seattle Farm to Preschool (**HSD**)*

*Urban Food Systems Program (**SPR**)*

Seattle Farm to Preschool Program

BLOOM Program

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Strategic Priority 4:
Economy & Labor

- Food projects that promote equitable economic development

- Technical assistance for small food businesses

- References Seattle's <u>existing</u> labor laws and their protections for food workers

Example programs:

*Small Business Supports (**OED**)*

*Labor Standards Community Outreach and Education Fund (**OLS**)*

Melissa Miranda, local chef and restauranteur

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Strategic Priority 5:
Local Supply Chains

- Shifting food procurement to focus on supporting the local food economy, environmental sustainability, and equity

- Support stronger, local food system infrastructure

Example programs and initiatives:

*Values-based food purchasing (**OSE**)*

*South Seattle Community Food Hub (**King County**)*

Muckleshoot salmon served at Seattle Public Schools

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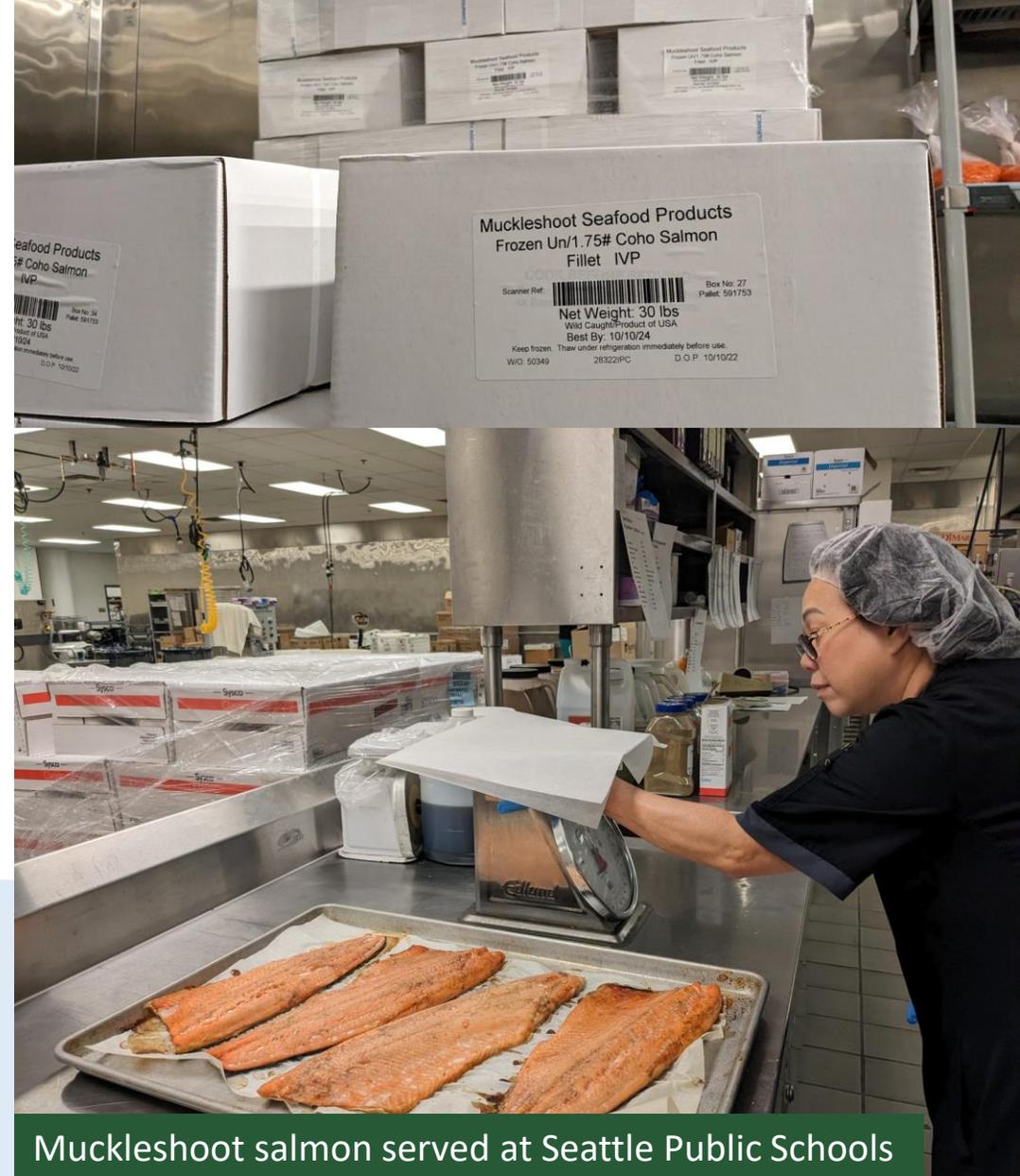
Strategic Priority 6:
Food Waste

- Food waste prevention and efforts to raise public awareness about the environmental and climate impacts of food waste and food consumption habits

- Strengthens cross-sector food rescue operations

Example programs and initiatives:

*Food waste prevention campaigns (**SPU**)*

*Food Rescue Innovation (**SPU**)*

OSL Serves - Food in Motion Program

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Strategic Priority 7:
Environment & Climate

- Reducing climate pollution associated with the food system

- Promoting low carbon and environmentally sustainable foods

Example programs and initiatives:

*Values-based food purchasing (**OSE**)*

Community grant programs, e.g.:

- *Environmental Justice Fund (**OSE**)*

- *Food Equity Fund (**DON**)*

Healthy Food in Schools (OSE)

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Strategic Priority 8:
Food Action Plan Stewardship

- Performance tracking and reporting of City food work

- Collaboration across sectors, departments, and community partners

- Monitoring federal and state policy and funding opportunities

Example initiatives:

*Food Action Plan Interdepartmental Team (**OSE**)*

*Food Action Plan map and dashboard (**OSE**)*

Food and meal sites shown on the FAP dashboard

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