

JOIN THE FOOD SYSTEM COUNCIL

If you live or work in Clark County and would like to help shape community policies that support a healthy local food system, please consider joining the Food System Council. Annual recruitment takes place in May, but we welcome hearing from you anytime.

For more information about the Clark County Food System Council:

- Visit www.clark.wa.gov/public-health
- E-mail tricia.mortell@clark.wa.gov
- Call (360) 397-8000 ext. 7211



Clark County Food System Council was formed in 2007 as part of the Steps to a Healthier Clark County initiative.

OUR VISION

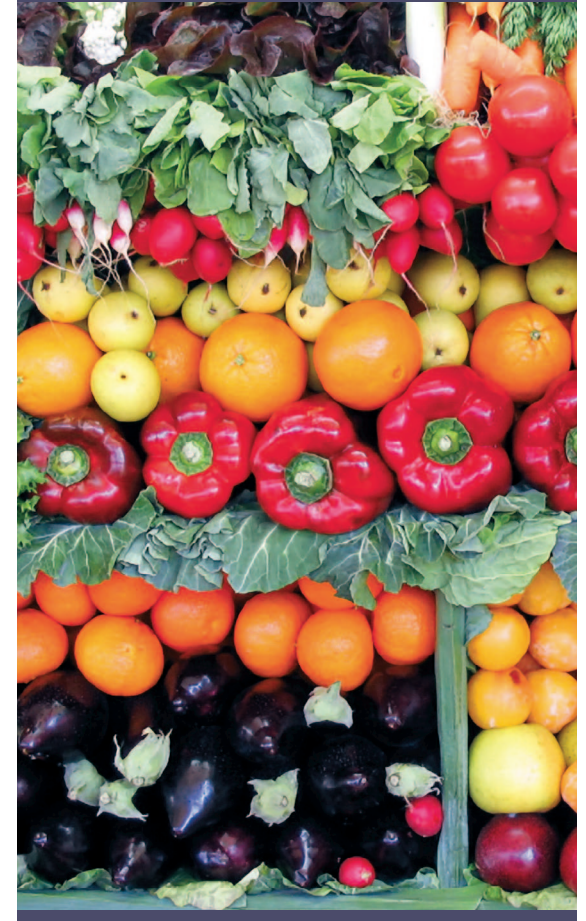
To have a healthy community and thriving local food system that:

- Provides access to healthy and culturally appropriate food for all residents;
- Values and preserves community land for food production;
- Maximizes the use of local, regional and seasonal foods; and
- Meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations.



CLARK COUNTY FOOD SYSTEM COUNCIL

Improving community health through access to safe, local, healthy food



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

- Advocate for public transportation that links residents with healthy food sources.
- Advocate for healthy foods in schools and at school sponsored events.
- Support healthy food options in emergency food programs.
- Encourage community garden programs in neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and faith communities.



Land and resource preservation

- Advocate for land use policies that preserve agricultural land and support urban food production.
- Promote a focus on healthy food in community planning.
- Ensure that comprehensive plans make it easy for people to walk or use alternate transportation to access full service food centers or fruit and vegetable stands.

Community education

- Encourage more people to buy and eat locally grown and produced food.
- Engage educators and school administrators to promote food literacy (nutrition, cooking, growing and buying local food) in school curricula.
- Convene public forums to strengthen connections among farmers, food distributors, planners, educators, and other interested community members.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are open to the public and take place on the fourth Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. For meeting location or other council information, see www.clark.wa.gov/public-health or call (360) 397-8000 ext 7211.