

# KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

## MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY MAY 13, 2021

6:00-8:00 P.M.

**ZOOM VIDEO CALL**

**CALL IN:**

**One tap mobile: +12532158782,,96091313922#,,,,\*221555#**

**Land line: ++1 253 215 8782, Meeting ID: 960 9131 3922, Passcode: 221555**

**OR**

**LOG IN FROM A COMPUTER OR SMARTPHONE:**

**<https://zoom.us/j/96091313922?pwd=OUcyV1ExMVFLRjROS01NV3E1a2FOZz09>**

### MEETING AGENDA

6:00	<b>Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Roll call of commissioners</li><li>Announcement of staff and public for the record (please sign in to chat feature)</li><li>Approval of Agenda</li><li>Approval of April minutes</li></ul>	Kevin Scott, Vice Chair
6:05	<b>Public Comment</b> related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Kevin Scott
6:10	<b>Old Business - Updates</b> (approx. 3 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commission Details<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Policy and events (KC Comp Plan)</li><li>Farmers Market health guidelines updates</li><li>Farm Stands, U-pick guidelines</li></ul></li><li>KC Ag Program</li><li>Land Conservation Initiative</li><li>Farm Bureau</li><li>King Conservation District</li><li>Local Food Initiative - <i>Annual Report 2020</i></li><li>Farm, Fish, Flood</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Patrice Barrentine</li><li>Richard Martin</li><li>Leann Krainick</li><li>Leann Krainick</li><li>Carrie King</li><li>Mike Lufkin</li><li>Beth LeDoux</li></ul>
6:35	<b>Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Food Processing Waste to Feed update</li></ul>	Leann Krainick, Patrice Barrentine
6:45	<b>Farmworker Housing Fact Sheet from <i>Farm Practices Illustrated</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Presentation</li><li>Q&amp;A</li></ul>	Eric Beach, KC Ag Regulatory and Permitting Specialist
7:05	<b>SWM Fees, Use, Background featuring Enumclaw Sales Pavilion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fee discount through stormwater improvements</li></ul>	Patrice Barrentine
7:30	<b>New Business</b> <b>Surface Water Design and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Last update (farm friendly additions)</li><li>New update</li><li>Q&amp;A</li></ul>	Mark Wilgus and Bob Bernhard, KC Stormwater
7:50	<b>General Public Comment</b> <i>3 minutes/person</i>	Kevin Scott
7:55	<b>Concerns of Commissioners</b>	Kevin Scott
8:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	Kevin Scott

**Next Meeting: July 8**

**King County****Water and Land Resources Division**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

**206-477-4800** Fax 206-296-0192

TTY Relay: 711

**King County Agriculture Commission**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 8, 2021 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**Zoom Video Conference Call**

Commissioners Present					
Nayab Khan, Chair	Y	Lily Gottlieb-McHale	N	Paul Pink	Y
Kevin Scott-Vanderberge, Vice-Chair	Y	Leann Krainick	Y		
Roger Calhoon	N	Darron Marzolf	Y		
Ex Officio Members Present					
Fereshteh Dehkordi, DLS	N	Jordan Jobe, WSU	Y	Carrie King, KCD	Y
County Staff/Representatives Present					
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP	Kathy Lambert, KC Councilmember			Jackie White, KCC (Lambert)	
Eric Beach, DNRP	Megan Moore, DNRP				
Debra Clark, Dept. of Assessments	Rick Reinlasoder, DNRP				
Guests Present					
Jessi Bloom	Cynthia Krass			Henry Wong, Business Impact NW	
Dave Glenn, Sno-Valley Tilth	Bobbi Lindemulder			Janet (last name not provided)	

**Action Summary**

- **Actions: Approvals of Agenda, March 2021 Meeting Minutes**
- **Old Business: Commission, County, and Organization Updates; SCAP Update**
- **New Business: County Assessor CUT Program for Farms; Farmworker Housing Fact Sheet; DOE WREC Planning Process Results for WRIAs 7/8/9 – Protecting Irrigation Water**

***Meeting called to order by Chair Nayab Khan at 6:01 pm***

**Roll Call/Announcement of Staff & Public (Nayab Khan)**

Roll call of Commissioners and announcement of staff and public guests was done via the Zoom chat function.

**ACTION: Approval of Meeting Agenda (Nayab Khan)**

Patrice Barrentine noted the removal of a couple of items due to absences. See below item for motion/action.

**ACTION: Approval of March 2021 Meeting Minutes (Nayab Khan)**

Kevin Scott-Vanderberge motioned to approve both tonight's agenda and the March 2021 meeting minutes as written. Darron Marzolf seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Public Comment – Related to Specific Agenda Item (Nayab Khan)**

There was no public comment given during this period.

**Old Business – Updates**

- **Commission Details (Patrice Barrentine):**
  - Meeting dates through 2021 have been set and will all be held via Zoom.
  - The tentative plan for next meeting is to review the Stormwater Manual updates. The option of a fall field trip, and compost trial results on farmland, are being discussed. Any ideas should be sent to Ms. Barrentine.

- Six Commission nominees have been interviewed and are moving forward. Nominations are reviewed by DNRP's Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) coordinator and the manager for the Agriculture, Forestry, and Incentives (AFI) unit before going to DNRP Director Christie True in the next couple of weeks.
- Jordan Jobe, the Commission's new ex-officio representative for WSU, was welcomed.
- The Commission website has been updated and is now current with posted meeting packets.
- There is new pandemic relief funding available through WSDA's Relief/Recovery Grant Program. This is open to eligible shellfish growers, farm market organizations, agrotourism, and small breweries/wineries/distilleries. Funding totals \$15 million and applications are open April 9-26. The USDA is also adding \$500 million in unspent monies from last fiscal year to fund pandemic relief for producers. More information is forthcoming.
- The state legislative session ends in a few days. Senate Bill 5045, addressing meat/poultry education, has been passed to the Appropriations committee, and has not made it to the voting floor yet.
- All Washington residents age 16+ are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination starting April 15.
- **King County Agriculture Program (Patrice Barrentine):** Ted Sullivan reports the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) has closed on another deed purchase in a rural zone contiguous to the city of Enumclaw. The property is 30 acres and has sat fallow for over 10 years, and is being returned to hay and silage production.
- **Land Conservation Initiative (Leann Krainick):** Forterra will hold a virtual Zoom fundraising event May 11, including a Seattle developer, Ms. Krainick, and the Executive, for a one-hour presentation. More information will come next Commission meeting.
- **Farm Bureau (Leann Krainick):**
  - Senate Bill 5172, which addresses overtime for dairy workers, is due for the Senate floor. The bill currently proposes no retroactive pay and a three-year period to phase agriculture businesses into the overtime rate, 1.5 times that of normal pay. Farm Bureau and many agriculture organizations are watching the bill's progress.
  - FB has a billboard on I-5 near Fife, stating "partisan politics are destroying local farms." The intent is to raise awareness of how policy affects food. A "Save Local Farming" billboard is planned for Skagit County.
  - King-Pierce Farm Bureau scholarship applications are due April 30. The program is open to anyone pursuing a two- or four-year degree relating to agriculture. Over \$10,000 in scholarships are available.
  - Farm Bureau members can contact the state office in Lacey for pandemic supplies, such as sanitizer.
- **King Conservation District (Carrie King):** Brittany Bush Bollay will be seated in June as the newest elected member of KCD's Board of Supervisors.
- **Local Food Initiative:** There was no update on this item.
- **Farm Fish Flood (FFF):** There was no update on this item.

### **Strategic Climate Action Plan [SCAP] Update (Leann Krainick; Patrice Barrentine)**

Ms. Krainick testified as a citizen before King County Council's (KCC) Mobility and Environment (ME) committee on March 24 regarding livestock and use of food waste as feed. This is expected to be a hot topic; Ms. Krainick advised getting the Solid Waste Commission's input. She will testify before the ME committee again April 22.

The SCAP is in the ME committee now, who are expected to vote it to full KCC in April. The Commission's SCAP comment letter to KCC was re-sent to committee staff March 22, to be included in public record. Jackie White, staff for Councilmember Kathy Lambert, said there should be another briefing in the ME committee after which a special meeting will be held to act on the letter.

A few Commission members are part of a group in discussion with staff from King County's Solid Waste Division. A main topic is the challenge of addressing the sheer volume of waste produced.

### **New Business: County's CUT Incentive Program for Farms (Debra Clark, KC Dept. of Assessments)**

Ms. Clark administers the County's Current Use Taxation (CUT) program for agriculture/farmland, timberland, and Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) lands. CUT offers a property tax reduction incentive to landowners to voluntarily preserve open space, farmland, or forestland on their properties. She began her talk by noting most of her current work centers on property sales, and that it's surprising that many sellers enrolled in CUT aren't advertising this, as it is a major tax break. 1,721 parcels totaling nearly 27,000 acres are enrolled in the program, with a market value of nearly \$1 billion and a tax value of \$411 million. She said the program is a great value for those farming their properties.

A major benefit of the program is the tax break for landowners, as well as keeping farm activity alive. Enrollment is voluntary and not an automatic process. To qualify, landowners must meet several criteria depending on land size:

- Parcel or contiguous parcels must equal 20 acres or more; or
- Over five acres but less than 20 acres: proof of \$200 earned per acre per year for three of the past five years; or
- Under five acres: proof of five years of commercial farming, earning \$1500 per year for three of those years.

- If a program farm is sold, the new owner must sign a continuance to remain in the program.

State RCW sets program requirements, which can only be changed by state legislature. Ms. Clark explained her job is to ensure program participants maintain these requirements. There are major tax/financial penalties, including possible expulsion from the program, for noncompliance. But due to managing several thousand properties, auditing of the program is not at the level she would like.

The program is also supposed to have – but does not currently – an advisory panel of five members of the farming community, to ask questions about farm activity and ensure the County remains fair in its program administration; this does not include advising how to value property. Ms. Clark was directed to inquire to the Commission on possible members; Kevin Scott-Vanderberge asked to stay in contact with her on this. It was suggested the Commission’s Land Committee could reconvene and help serve as this advisory panel and look into addressing or lobbying to resolve any program concerns and collaborating with Ms. Clark. She agreed to contact County staff.

Rick Reinlasoder, DNRP livestock specialist, added that PBRS also has a farm category, and those who don’t qualify for CUT can look at this as an option, though the tax breaks would not be identical. Ms. Clark concurred, explaining PBRS does not require back taxes and can work well for properties that can’t be subdivided. New farmers can come into PBRS if their land has historically been farmed; however, she was not sure if this was also the case if the land has not historically been farmed.

### **New Business: DOE’s WREC Streamflow Restoration Planning Process Results for WRIAs 7/8/9 – Protecting Irrigation Water (Rick Reinlasoder, DNRP; Cynthia Krass; Bobbi Lindemulder)**

Mr. Reinlasoder introduced Ms. Krass and Ms. Lindemulder, with whom he shared in bringing expertise to the streamflow restoration planning process of the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committees (WREC) for WRIAs 7, 8, and 9, specifically protecting irrigation water. WRIA stands for Watershed Resource Inventory Area. WRIA 7 is the Snohomish/Snoqualmie basin; 8 is Cedar River/Lake Washington; and 9 is the Green/Duwamish.

In 2016, Whatcom County was sued for inadequately protecting surface and groundwater resources. In this case, Whatcom County v. Hirst, the Washington Supreme Court ruled for the plaintiff, a ruling known as the Hirst Decision. This halted rural development in some areas, due to concern there was insufficient water available to put wells in place. Thus, in 2018, state legislature implemented the Streamflow Restoration Law, or the “Hirst Fix” legislation, which calls for streamflow restoration planning in selected watersheds. King County and partners took part in this for WRIAs 7, 8, 9, and Vashon Island (which for this purpose fell under WRIA 15).

The planning process discussed tonight is just for domestic, permit-exempt wells. The WRECs were each chaired by a representative from the state Department of Ecology (DOE), with representatives from many agencies, jurisdictions, tribes, agricultural interests, and other partners. The committees met monthly for two years to form a plan. A subject matter expert first projected a number of permit-exempt domestic wells that might be put in rural areas over the next 20 years, then extrapolated water use from those wells that would not return to the earth. The committees established offset targets and developed a project roster to offset the water use and provide Net Environmental Benefit (NEB), meaning watershed conditions should improve from when the plan began. Components were put into the plan, which must meet a full consensus vote to pass, after which it goes to DOE for review/approval. If there is no consensus, the plan goes to DOE for development through the rule-making process. The plans and projects are implemented through state funding, which is set to total about \$300 million over the next 15 years for all planning basins. Projects listed in the plans receive “bonus points” on their funding applications.

In the three King County WRIAs, agriculture and irrigation representatives held a stance to protect irrigation water rights for agriculture and reduce negative impacts to farming. For WRIAs 8 and 9, this was guided by King County’s comprehensive plan policies to protect farmland and protect irrigation rights as well as explore alternate irrigation sources. WRIA 7’s committee similarly supported retiring irrigation rights that did not potentially serve agricultural lands long-term; there was opposition to in-stream conversion of non-current irrigation water rights on agricultural land, and to conversion of rights that could be of future use in APDs.

A key principle of state water law is that, generally, legitimate water rights can only be transferred downstream, not upstream. Rights also generally must be used once in a five-year period. There are annual minimums and limits on what can be pumped. This meant agriculture representatives’ general stance was to leave alone any currently unused water rights on agricultural land. Further, if a right has not been used in many years and doesn’t meet any allowances in code, such as military service, an active process called “relinquishment” can be taken by the state to send the water back to the stream. If a user has a water right they want to hold but may not use immediately, they can put it in a temporary trust. A County water needs assessment project funded by KCD is underway to map some water rights. DOE



and King County are also working to set up a water rights mapping tool similar to iMap. Ms. Krass offered to provide informal advice on water rights to anyone interested.

In calculating future well use and offsets, the process was comparable across the three WRIs; WRIA 7 projected more wells than the others due to having more undeveloped parcels, and fewer land protection provisions. For WRIs 8 and 9, their acre-foot per year (AFY) offset target was larger than their projected AFY consumptive use to better protect the water resource. For WRIA 7, the use/target numbers were identical because they considered any project offset volume achieved beyond the target to be NEB. The offset volume for each WRIA, also calculated in AFY, greatly exceeded the use/target numbers due to wanting to provide NEB and allow for projects not implemented.

Most projects on the plan rosters are subject to feasibility studies and funding approval. The projects were classified into several types:

- Water for water – this is highest priority in the planning process, and means water rights are purchased and their water left in the stream. It includes water rights acquisition for placement in a permanent trust, water storage, or managed aquifer recharge. A caveat is that agriculture representatives were okay with some irrigation rights being acquired in the Sammamish Valley with some conditions: the water right owner is interested, has access to recycled water, and management costs would be comparable to their current irrigation practices.
- Fish and wildlife habitat projects – levee setbacks, floodplain restoration, and riparian/wetland restoration. The water storage and recharge benefit from these, while present, was difficult to quantify.
- Other related projects – includes stormwater infrastructure retrofits and improvements.

Getting water storage on the plans was a big win. The Snoqualmie WID got a grant to do a basin-wide feasibility assessment, with 15 to 19 sites being reviewed for potential off-channel water storage.

Statuses of the plans are currently as follows:

- WRIA 7 – Their plan should be voted on this month.
- WRIA 8 – A February 2021 vote had no consensus; this may return for a second vote or go to DOE for rule-making process.
- WRIA 9 – A February 2021 vote received consensus approval; this has gone to DOE for review and adoption by hopefully June or July 2021.

The bottom line agreed on is there should be limited impacts to agriculture. Other impacts may include facilitating recycled water use on Sammamish Valley farms, meeting in-stream flow requirements, and improving fish conditions. Counties can also issue building permits for rural residences without extensive hydrogeologic study, as domestic permit-exempt wells are now allowed. This will allow small steps forward for water storage.

#### **New Business: Farmworker Housing Fact Sheet from *Farm Practices Illustrated* (Eric Beach, DNRP)**

Mr. Beach announced his work group's completion of three chapters of the *Farm Practices Illustrated* guide, out of a total of eight planned chapters. Tonight he presented the first chapter, "Farm Worker Housing," and will come to future meetings with new chapters. These will be available on [FarmKingCounty.org](http://FarmKingCounty.org). He reviewed the first chapter, asking the Commission for feedback. The PDF is included in tonight's meeting packet.

#### **Public Comment – General (Nayab Khan)**

There was no public comment given during this period.

#### **Concerns of Commissioners (Nayab Khan)**

- **Leann Krainick** voiced concern about the "cumbersome" navigation of King County's COVID-19 vaccination-scheduling website, and a difficulty in getting appointments in rural areas. She has brought the concern to Public Health's attention.
- Ms. Krainick also reminded Commissioners to promote their farms for Earth Day on April 22, as farms do a lot of good for the environment.

***Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm***

---

#### **Next Meeting**

May 13, 2021, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Zoom Video Conference Call)



# Meetings, Conferences, Events and Key Dates

---

REGARDING KING COUNTY  
*AGRICULTURE*

MAY 2021

# King County Events and Public Meetings

- <https://www.kingcounty.gov/about/news/events.aspx>
- Next holiday Memorial Day – May 31
- Council Meetings every Tuesday, 1pm
- Mobility and Environment Committee meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 9:30am
  - [Proposed Motion No. 2020-0288](#) *2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan* --- **April 22 Passed unanimously as amended**

# Mobility and Environment Committee


**PM 2020-0288 –  
Amendment Tracker**  
*Mobility and Environment – April 22, 2021*

#	1 <sup>st</sup> Page & Line #	Sponsor	Amendment Description
S1	N/A	Dembowski	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would add a new Attachment A, Strategic Climate Action Plan, and Attachment B, 2015 SCAP Priority Action Progress Report. The new Attachment A would contain various changes, including adding priority actions and targets. See SCAP Striker Summary Table for full text of changes.</li> </ul>
1 to S1	Pg. 5, Line 105	Balducci	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amendment would request that the executive prepare a report on funding and staffing needs to complete identified actions relating to climate change and public health. The report would be transmitted to Council for acknowledgment by motion by December 31, 2021.</li> </ul>
2 to S1	Attachment A Pg. 67, after priority action GHG 2.1.1	Balducci	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The amendment would add a priority action to the SCAP for Metro to identify and report on the cost to add the transit service necessary to achieve transit ridership and car trip reduction targets in the 2020 SCAP and propose specific funding sources and levels needed to meet those needs.</li> </ul>



# King County Council

**Passed as amended  
May 5, 2021**



## King County Council

### CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

[Sign In](#)

[Welcome](#) [Legislation](#) [Meeting Calendar](#) [Council Committees](#) [King County Council](#)

[Share](#) [RSS](#)

Details

Reports

File #:

2020-0288

Version: 3

Type:

Motion

Status:

Passed

File created:

9/1/2020

In control:

[Mobility and Environment Committee](#)

On agenda:

Final action:

5/4/2021

Enactment date:

Enactment #:

15866

Title:

A MOTION relating to the 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan, submitted in compliance with K.C.C 18.25.010.

Sponsors:

[Rod Dembowski](#), [Dave Upthegrove](#), [Jeanne Kohl-Welles](#), [Girmay Zahilay](#), [Claudia Balducci](#), [Pete von Reichbauer](#), [Reagan Dunn](#)

Code sections:

18.25.010 - .

Attachments:

1. 2020-0288 Amendment 2, 2. 2020-0288 Amendment 1, 3. A. 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan dated May 4, 2021, 4. B. 2015 SCAP Priority Action Progress Report, dated April 8, 2021., 5. A. 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan dated April 19, 2021, as amended., 6. A. 2020 King County Strategic Climate Action Plan, 7. 2020-0288 SCAP Biennial Report - Transmittal Letter (1), 8. 2020-0288 Signed SCAP Biennial Report - Transmittal Letter (1), 9. 2020-0288 Legislative Review Form, 10. 2020-0288 ATT 3 2015 SCAP Status Report Energy and Green Building.docx, 11. 2020-0288 SR SCAP.docx, 12. 1-27-21 ME Written Public Comments.pdf, 13. 2020-0288 SR SCAP SRFC Preparedness.docx, 14. 2020-0288 ATT3 SCAP 2015 Status Update - Preparedness Section.docx, 15. 2020-0288 SRFC Section Presentation 2.23.2021.pptx, 16. 2020-0288 ATT4 KCM Mobility Fleet GHG Reduction Cost Potential.pdf, 17. 2020-0288 ATT 3 2015 SCAP Status Table.docx, 18. 2020-0288 SR SCAP March Consumption Forestry Transit 3-24-21 ME.docx, 19. 2020-0288 Ag Commission Letter.pdf, 20. 2020-0288 Rural Forest Commission SCAP.pdf, 21. 2020-0288 Schmidt-Pathmann.pdf, 22. 2020-0288 SR SCAP Consumption Forestry Transit Striker 4-22-21 ME.docx, 23. 2020-0288 ATT2 Striking Amendment S1 SCAP.docx, 24. 2020-0288 ATT2A 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan 4.19.2021.pdf, 25. 2020-0288 ATT2B 2015 SCAP Priority Action Progress Report 4.8.21.docx, 26. 2020-0288 ATT3 Striking Amendment Summary Table 4.19.21.docx, 27. 2020-0288 ATT5 Metro GHG strategies.pdf, 28. 2020-0288 Revised SR SCAP Consumption Forestry Transit Striker 4-22-21 ME.docx, 29. Written Comments re 2020-0288.pdf, 30. 2020-0288 AMD1 Public Health Report bar.docx, 31. 2020-0288 Amendment Tracker.docx, 32. 2020-0288 AMD2 TransitCostEstimate\_graphic.docx

Staff:

Giambattista, Jenny

History (7)

Text

7 records

Group

Export

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result	Action Details	Meeting Details	Video
5/4/2021	2	Metropolitan King County Council	Passed as Amended	Pass	<a href="#">Action details</a>	<a href="#">Meeting details</a>	Not available
4/22/2021	1	Mobility and Environment Committee	Recommended Do Pass Substitute	Pass	<a href="#">Action details</a>	<a href="#">Meeting details</a>	Not available
3/24/2021	1	Mobility and Environment Committee	Deferred		<a href="#">Action details</a>	<a href="#">Meeting details</a>	Not available

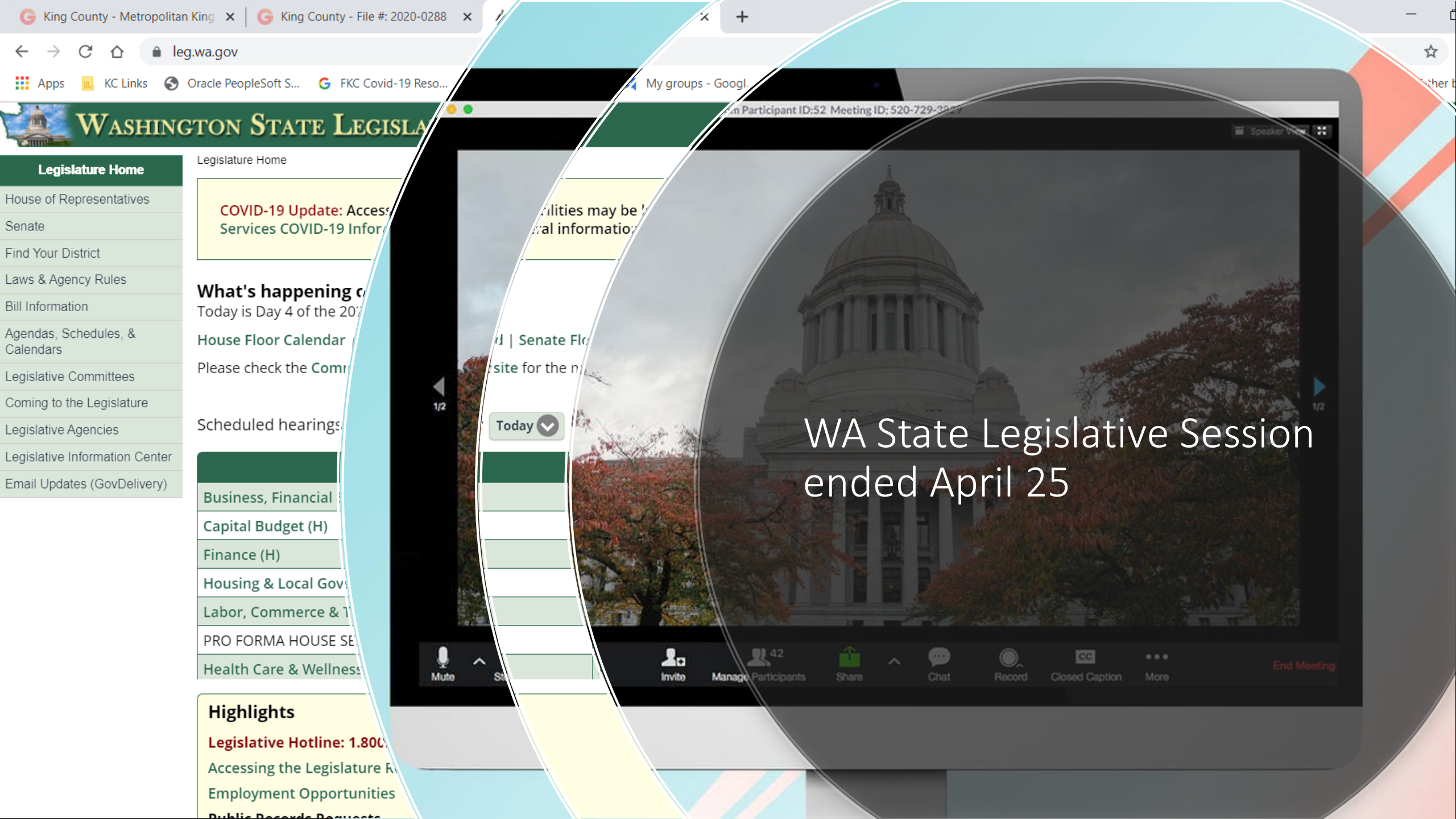
0288 SR SCAP SRFC Preparedness.docx, 14. 2020-0288 ATT3 SCAP 2015 Status Update - Preparedness Section.docx, 15. 2020-0288 SRFC Section Presentation 2.23.2021.pptx, 16. 2020-0288 ATT4 KCM Mobility Fleet GHG Reduction Cost Potential.pdf, 17. 2020-0288 ATT 3 2015 SCAP Status Table.docx, 18. 2020-0288 SR SCAP March Consumption Forestry Transit 3-24-21 ME.docx, 19. 2020-0288 Ag Commission Letter.pdf, 20. 2020-0288 Rural Forest Commission SCAP.pdf, 21. 2020-0288 Schmidt-Pathmann.pdf, 22. 2020-0288 SR SCAP Consumption Forestry Transit Striker 4-22-21 ME.docx, 23. 2020-0288 ATT2 Striking Amendment S1 SCAP.docx, 24. 2020-0288 ATT2A 2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan 4.19.2021.pdf, 25. 2020-0288 ATT2B 2015 SCAP Priority Action Progress Report 4.8.21.docx, 26. 2020-0288 ATT3 Striking Amendment Summary Table 4.19.21.docx, 27. 2020-0288 ATT5 Metro GHG strategies.pdf, 28. 2020-0288 Revised SR SCAP Consumption Forestry Transit Striker 4-22-21 ME.docx, 29. Written Comments re 2020-0288.pdf, 30. 2020-0288 AMD1 Public Health Report bar.docx, 31. 2020-0288 Amendment Tracker.docx, 32. 2020-0288 AMD2 TransitCostEstimate\_graphic.docx



# Commission Nomination Process



ESJ Review  
in  
progress



# WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

## Legislature Home

House of Representatives

Senate

Find Your District

Laws & Agency Rules

Bill Information

Agendas, Schedules, &  
Calendars

Legislative Committees

Coming to the Legislature

Legislative Agencies

Legislative Information Center

Email Updates (GovDelivery)

Legislature Home

**COVID-19 Update:** Access  
Services COVID-19 Infor

## What's happening c

Today is Day 4 of the 202

## House Floor Calendar

Please check the Comm

## Scheduled hearings

Business, Financial

Capital Budget (H)

Finance (H)

Housing & Local Gov

Labor, Commerce & T

PRO FORMA HOUSE SE

Health Care & Wellnes

## Highlights

**Legislative Hotline:** 1.800.

Accessing the Legislature R

Employment Opportunities

Public Records Requests

WA State Legislative Session  
ended April 25

# How a Bill Becomes a Law: Following SB 5045



# King County Comprehensive Plan

- **Annual amendment:** Small, routine, or technical changes considered
- **Four-Year Midpoint Cycle amendment:** Major changes considered
- **Eight-Year Statutory Cycle amendment:** Complete review of the Plan

# King County Comprehensive Plan

- **April 30, 2021:** The 2021 Docket Report was transmitted to the King County Council with Executive Recommendations on the 2021 Requests. Visit the [Docket page](#).
- Only one docket request for the rural area on Renton-Maple Valley Road near the Cedar Grove Natural Area.
- This request has been deemed ineligible before and was deemed ineligible this time also. It will not be eligible until the 2024 plan update.



# King County Countywide Planning Policies

1<sup>st</sup> update since  
2012

- **DRAFT 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies**
- The Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) create a shared framework for growth management planning for all jurisdictions in King County.
- The CPPs implement the [Washington State Growth Management Act](#) and the [VISON 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies](#), adopted by the Puget Sound Regional Council in 2020.
- The comprehensive plan for King County and city comprehensive plans are developed from the framework that the CPPs create.
- Countywide Planning Policies are being updated in advance of the 2024 periodic update of comprehensive plans to reflect a number of changes to the regional policy framework and to reflect new priorities addressing equity and social justice within our communities.

# King County Countywide Planning Policies

<https://kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/executive/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/CPPs/2021-CPP-Update/2021-CPP-Matrix-Proposed-Update-GMPC-Approved-PRD033121.ashx?la=en>

- The [Growth Management Planning Council \(GMPC\)](#), which brings together elected officials from King County and the cities, develops and recommends the CPPs to the King County Council. The GMPC is expected to take action on the CPPs at their meeting on **June 23, 2021**

# King County Countywide Planning Policies

- Development Patterns
- Economy
- Environment
- Housing
- Public Facilities
- Transportation

Amharic | አማርኛ    ~ Arabic | العربية    ~ Chinese (Sim) | 简体中文    ~ Chinese (Trd) | 中文

~ Korean | 한국어    ~ Punjabi | ਪੰਜਾਬੀ    ~ Russian | Русский    ~ Somali | af Soomaali

~ Spanish | En Español    ~ Tagalog    ~ Ukranian | Українська    ~ Vietnamese | Tiếng Việt

- *Draft is available in 12 languages*

# King County Countywide Planning Policies

- DP-48
  - Establish rural development standards ~~to~~ and strategies to ensure all development protect ~~protect~~ protects the natural environment, including farmlands and forest lands, by using seasonal and maximum clearing limits for vegetation, limits on the amount of impervious surface, surface water management standards that preserve natural drainage systems, water quality and groundwater recharge, and best management practices for resource based activities.

# King County Countywide Planning Policies

- DP-48 Notes:
  - MPP-DP-32 Contribute to improved ecological functions and more appropriate use of rural lands by minimizing impacts through innovative and environmentally sensitive land use management and development practices.
  - MPP-DP-36 Use existing and new tools and strategies to address vested development to ensure that future growth meets existing permitting and development standards and prevents further fragmentation of rural lands.
  - MPP-DP-39 Support long-term solutions for the environmental and economic sustainability of agriculture and forestry within rural areas.
  - MPP-DP-41 Establish best management practices that protect the long-term integrity of the natural environment, adjacent land uses, and the long-term productivity of resource lands.
- Note: **Expands from standards to include strategies to protect these resources.**



# King County Countywide Planning Policies

*Strengthens  
language for ag  
protection*

- DP-57 ~~Discourage~~ Prevent incompatible land uses adjacent to designated Resource Lands to ~~prevent~~ avoid interference with their continued use for the production of agricultural, mining, or forest products.
- MPP-DP-43 Ensure that resource lands and their related economic activities are not adversely impacted by development on adjacent non-resource lands

# King County Countywide Planning Policies

**Public Comment period  
closed May 5, 2021.**

- DP-58
- Support agricultural, farmland, and aquatic uses that enhance the food system, and promote local production and processing of food to reduce the need for long distance transport and to increase the reliability and security of local food. Promote activities and infrastructure, such as farmers markets, farm worker housing and agricultural processing facilities, that benefit both cities and farms by improving access to locally grown agricultural products.
- MPP-DP-20 Support agricultural, farmland, and aquatic uses that enhance the food system in the central Puget Sound region and its capacity to produce fresh and minimally processed foods.
- Note: Recognizes importance of these lands to food issues.

# King County locally initiated Shoreline Master Plan amendment




DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

- **Public comment requested - May 17 to June 15, 2021, at 5 p.m.**
- <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/SEA/SMP/KingCoLIA2021/Ord19128.pdf>
- **Submit written comments and questions to:**  
Railin Santiago  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
PO Box 330316  
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716  
railin.santiago.ecy.wa.gov  
425-301-6989

A large orange circle on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

# Documents for public review and comment

- [Ordinance 19128](#)
  - [Ordinance 19146](#)
    - [Attachment A: 2020 Update to 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan and 2017 Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan](#)
    - [Attachment E: Amendments to Shorelines of the State Map](#)
    - [Attachment H: Shoreline Jurisdiction Streams and Lakes Segments](#)
  - [Ordinance 19244](#)
- 
- A yellow dashed line in the bottom right corner, consisting of several short, curved segments.



Part of the  
amendment  
already  
passed by  
KCC

- 3. King County has a strong commitment to supporting agricultural uses within the county. Federal floodplain management regulations require communities to regulate residential and nonresidential buildings, which encompass agricultural buildings, to at least the Federal Emergency Management Agency's minimum requirements.



# 3 continued

- In February 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") issued new policy guidance for agricultural buildings. Through this ordinance, King County is taking advantage of the opportunities that FEMA allows in the policy guidance to provide new flexibility for agricultural property owners in King County's floodplains.



3 continued

- Additionally, the county intends to request a communitywide exception from FEMA in order to allow the safe placement of certain agricultural buildings within the floodplain without the need for a variance process. If such a communitywide exception is approved by FEMA, the county intends to update these floodplain development regulations in order to match that approval.

# Farm Pad requirements

- Changes already reviewed by the Commission in 2019
- L. New construction or expansion of existing farm pads is allowed only on a site with existing agriculture, if emergency flood relief is required for the protection of livestock or assets or for operations that must continue during flood events as follows:

# Farm Pad requirements

1. A farm pad is allowed only if there is no other suitable holding area on the site outside the floodplain;
2. Construct the farm pad to the standards in an approved farm management plan prepared in accordance with K.C.C. 21A.24.051 and K.C.C. chapter 21A.30((.));
3. The farm pad proposal shall demonstrate compliance with the following:
  - a. flood storage compensation consistent with subsection A. of this section;
  - b. siting and sizing that do not increase base flood elevations consistent with K.C.C. 21A.24.250.B. or, if any portion of the farm pad is located in the FEMA floodway, siting and sizing that do not increase base flood elevations consistent with K.C.C. 21A.24.260.B.;
  - c. siting that is located in the area least subject to risk from floodwaters; and d. an alternatives analysis demonstrating adverse impacts to wetlands, wetland buffers and aquatic area buffers have been minimized;

# Farm Pad requirements

4. The farm pad is constructed to base flood elevation plus one((-)) foot. An elevation report shall be completed after construction to demonstrate compliance with ((that)) this elevation requirement;
- 5.a. The farm pad should be sized as is necessary for the protection of livestock and assets and operations that must continue during flood events;
  - b. for farm pads larger than two thousand square feet of finished usable surface, a site specific evaluation of agricultural operations must demonstrate the need for the size of the pad; and
  - c. for farm pads larger than ten thousand square feet, an area-wide analysis must demonstrate that sufficient flood storage is available for reasonably foreseeable Ordinance 19128 44 future land use needs in the vicinity;
6. If there are multiple areas on a site that meet all of the applicable criteria, the farm pad should be located as far as practical from the interior property lines;
7. ((Nonresidential a))Agricultural buildings are allowed on a farm pad as shelter for livestock or other farm animals, greenhouses for plant starts to be used on the property, milking parlors, storage of farm vehicles and agricultural equipment and shelter for farm products including, but not limited to, feed, seeds, flower bulbs and hay and farm operations that must continue during a flood event. ((Nonresidential structures)) Agricultural buildings allowed on a farm pad shall not be used for retail operations or any residential or public use; and ((7.))
8. The property owner shall file with the department of executive services, records and licensing services division, a notice approved by the department that restricts the use of the farm pad to nonresidential agricultural uses. The notice shall run with the land. The applicant shall submit to the department proof that the notice was filed before the department approves any permit for the construction of the farm pad;

# King County Farmers Markets

SKC Public Health has removed many covid restrictions this year. Markets can now operate with:

- Booths 6 feet apart
- Prepared food can be cooked on site
- Eating areas are allowed
- Sampling is allowed
- Masks, social distancing and limiting # of customers in market and at booths at the same time

# King County Farmers Markets

- However, markets with a limited footprint may not be able to operate at pre-covid capacity
- Customers continue to be limited with social distancing requirements
- Many markets will not be sampling or having food areas due to the challenge of getting people to mask back up
- If KC goes back into Phase 2, it would only limit the # of people by families at outdoor seating to eat unless otherwise specified by the Governor.

# King County Farm Stands and U-Pick

---



No new guidance has been released by the Governor



Continue to

Require masks at payment stations

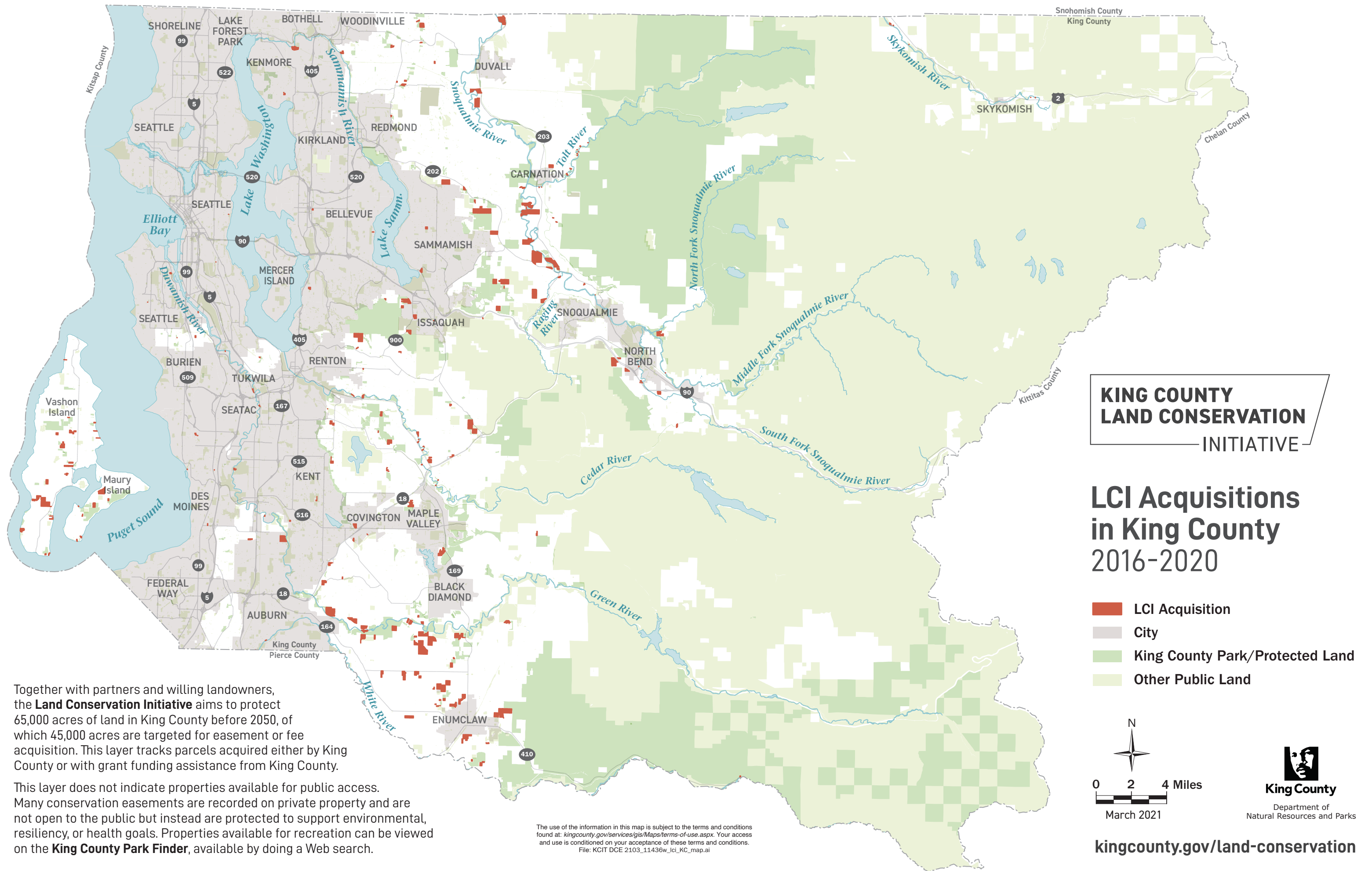
Socially distance

Manage customer traffic

Have sanitizer or wash stations

Be vigilant with keeping payment systems sanitized or take care with handling cash





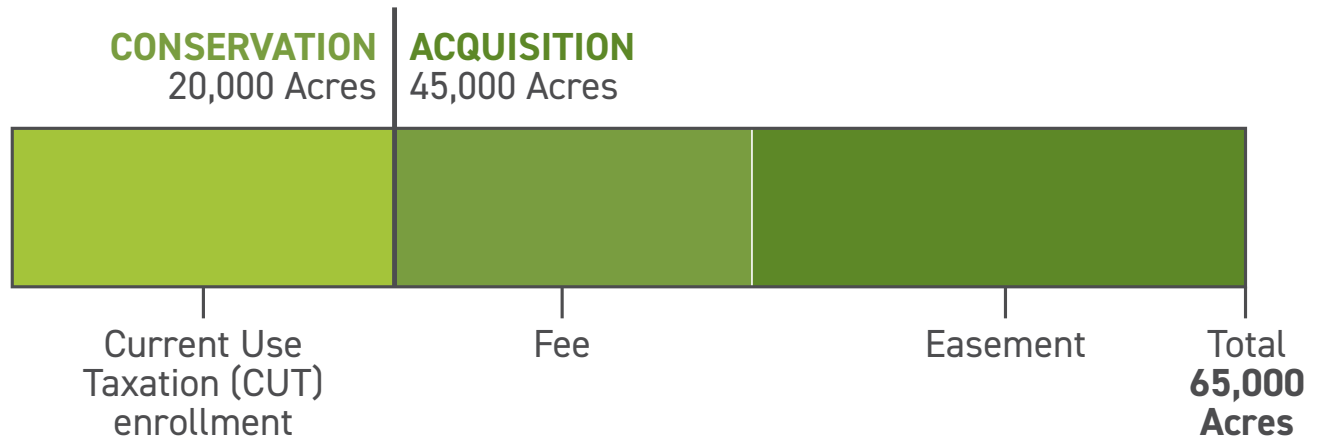
Together with partners and willing landowners, the **Land Conservation Initiative** aims to protect 65,000 acres of land in King County before 2050, of which 45,000 acres are targeted for easement or fee acquisition. This layer tracks parcels acquired either by King County or with grant funding assistance from King County.

This layer does not indicate properties available for public access. Many conservation easements are recorded on private property and are not open to the public but instead are protected to support environmental, resiliency, or health goals. Properties available for recreation can be viewed on the **King County Park Finder**, available by doing a Web search.

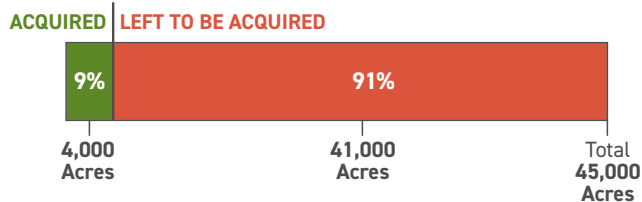
The use of the information in this map is subject to the terms and conditions found at: [kingcounty.gov/services/gis/Maps/terms-of-use.aspx](http://kingcounty.gov/services/gis/Maps/terms-of-use.aspx). Your access and use is conditioned on your acceptance of these terms and conditions.  
File: KCIT DCE 2103\_11436w\_lci\_KC\_map.ai

# KING COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

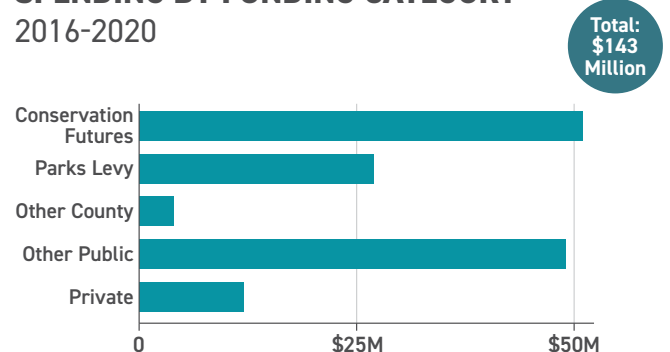
## HOW WE GET TO 65,000 ACRES



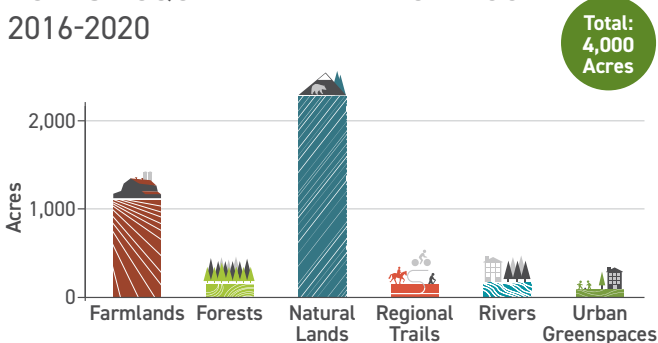
### LCI LAND ACQUISITION PROGRESS 2016-2020



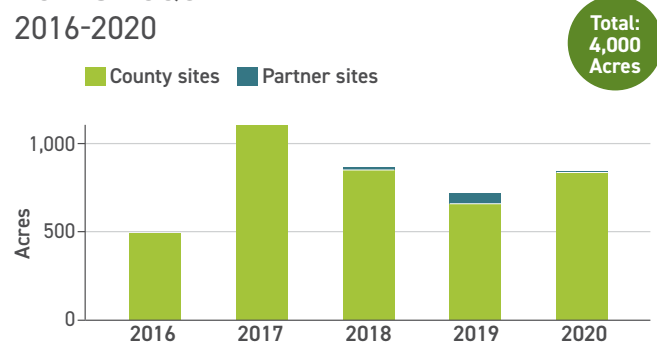
### SPENDING BY FUNDING CATEGORY 2016-2020



### ACRES ACQUIRED BY LAND CATEGORY 2016-2020



### ACRES ACQUIRED BY YEAR 2016-2020



# 2020 LOCAL FOOD Initiative

ANNUAL  
REPORT



King County

## 03 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

## 05 RESPONDING TO COVID-19

King County's Local Food Finder  
Supporting farm and food sector  
Virtual CHOMP!  
Farmers markets innovate during COVID-19  
Plant Based Food Share  
Good Farmer Fund  
Farm King County

## 13 GROWING THE FOOD AND FARM ECONOMY

Farm King County Data Center  
Quick look: Promoting local food partnerships  
Start Farming in King County  
Good Food Forum  
WA Meat Up Collaboration  
Business Impact NW Food • Business Resource Center  
Understanding irrigation availability

## 20 ADVANCING EQUITY

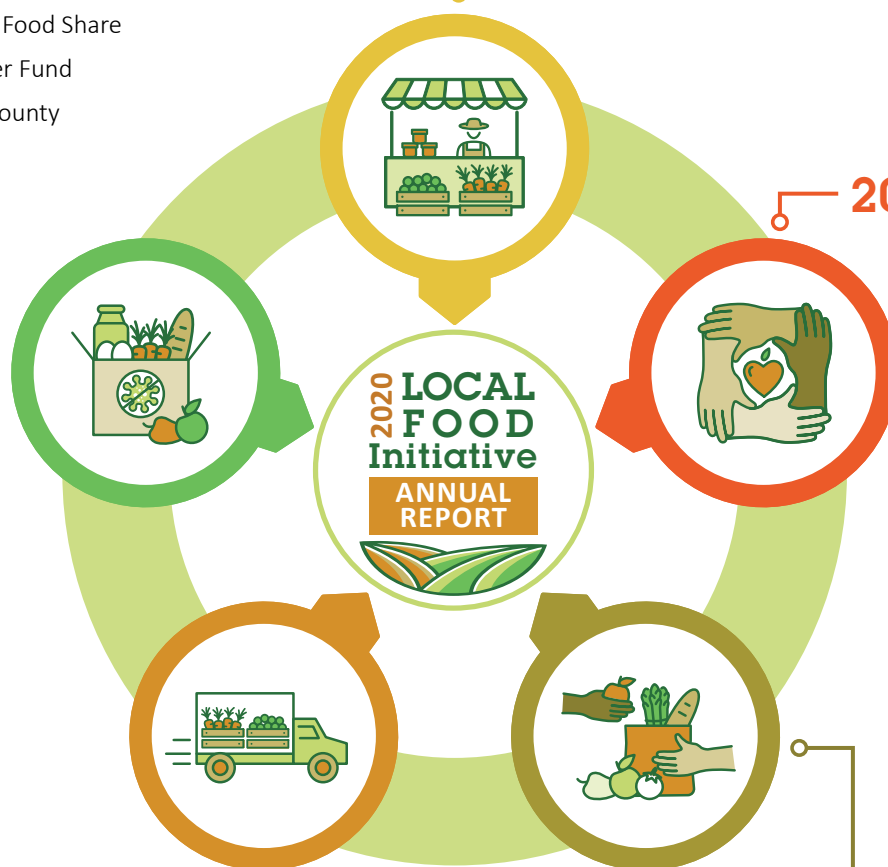
Working Farmland Partnership  
Rainier Beach Urban Farm inspires  
Creating opportunity  
2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan

## 25 BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

Food Facility Feasibility Study  
Spice Bridge at Tukwila Village  
Rainier Beach Food Innovation Center

## 29 INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

King County Farmers Share Program  
EastWest Food Rescue  
Expanding access to produce  
Food Voucher Program  
Providing culturally relevant food through COVID-19





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Local Food Initiative team thanks partners for guiding this work and staff and community members not listed who contributed.

We gratefully recognize that food systems progress is due in large part to farmers, food access organizations, food entrepreneurs, and advocates, particularly those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Because of your actions and advocacy, the future of food and farming is strong.

BLACK FARMERS COLLECTIVE

PLANT BASED FOOD SHARE AND CHEF ARIEL BANGS

FOOD INNOVATION NETWORK

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TILTH ALLIANCE

SNOVALLEY TILTH

KING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

BUSINESS IMPACT NW

WASHINGTON STATE FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION

HARVEST AGAINST HUNGER

WAKULIMA USA

NEIGHBORHOOD FARMERS MARKETS ASSOCIATION

SEATTLE FARMERS MARKETS

HMONG ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON

USDA

VIVA FARMS

SEATTLE GOOD BUSINESS NETWORK

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY FOOD SYSTEMS TEAM

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

VENTURES

AMP INSIGHTS

CITY OF SEATTLE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

WASHINGTON WATER TRUST

WASHINGTON FARMLAND TRUST

AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE NEW ROOTS PROGRAM

FRIENDS OF RAINIER BEACH URBAN FARM

FOOD ACCESS AND AGGREGATION COMMUNITY TEAM

KING COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

ECONORTHWEST

LOCIVORE-STOCKED

RAINIER BEACH ACTION COALITION

EASTWEST FOOD RESCUE

SEATTLE-KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SAFEWAY

HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

SEATTLE CHILDREN'S ODESSA BROWN CHILDREN'S CLINIC

COLECTIVA LEGAL DEL PUEBLO

PARA LOS NINOS

SOUTHWEST YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

LAKE BURIE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LIVING WELL KENT

HIGHLINE COLLEGE URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

FOOD INNOVATION NETWORK

ELK RUN FARM



## LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

While the pandemic has challenged nearly every aspect of our community, few have been hit harder than our local food economy.

Many farm and food businesses have struggled as the result of restaurants closing or operating at a limited capacity. More of our neighbors are experiencing food insecurity, many for the first time in their lives. And the pandemic has exacerbated racial injustices that make access to healthy, culturally relevant food inequitable.

I am grateful for the inspiring emergency response by our staff and partners to support local farms and food businesses throughout this public health crisis. This year's Local Food Initiative Annual Report shows how we joined forces for an immediate response to the disruptions caused by the pandemic while continuing to develop long-lasting solutions that will create a more sustainable, more resilient local food economy.

We know from experience that disruptions can foster innovation and creativity, offering once-in-a-generation opportunities to transform systems to make them more just and equitable. This is our opportunity to rebuild and strengthen the connections between local farms and food businesses to the people of King County so that we can all enjoy access to healthy, nutritious, homegrown food and beverages.



*Dow Constantine, King County Executive*







# RESPONDING TO COVID-19

Coming together to support the farm and food industry in King County and beyond in response to COVID-19.

## KING COUNTY'S LOCAL FOOD FINDER



### PARTNERS

KING COUNTY LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE  
FARM KING COUNTY TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE TEAM

In July 2020, King County launched the Local Food Finder map to help connect consumers with farm products in King County. This creative response to economic crisis brought by COVID-19 was launched by Farm King County's Technical Assistance Team and supported King County LFI efforts to offer a free and convenient way for residents to support local farms. The website was designed to make it easy for farmers to update data on food and product availability, new drop sites, and pick-up locations.

Want to know if farms deliver to your neighborhood?

Go to: [kingcounty.gov/localfoodfinder](https://kingcounty.gov/localfoodfinder)



Get fresh produce



Find flowers, cheese,  
berries and more

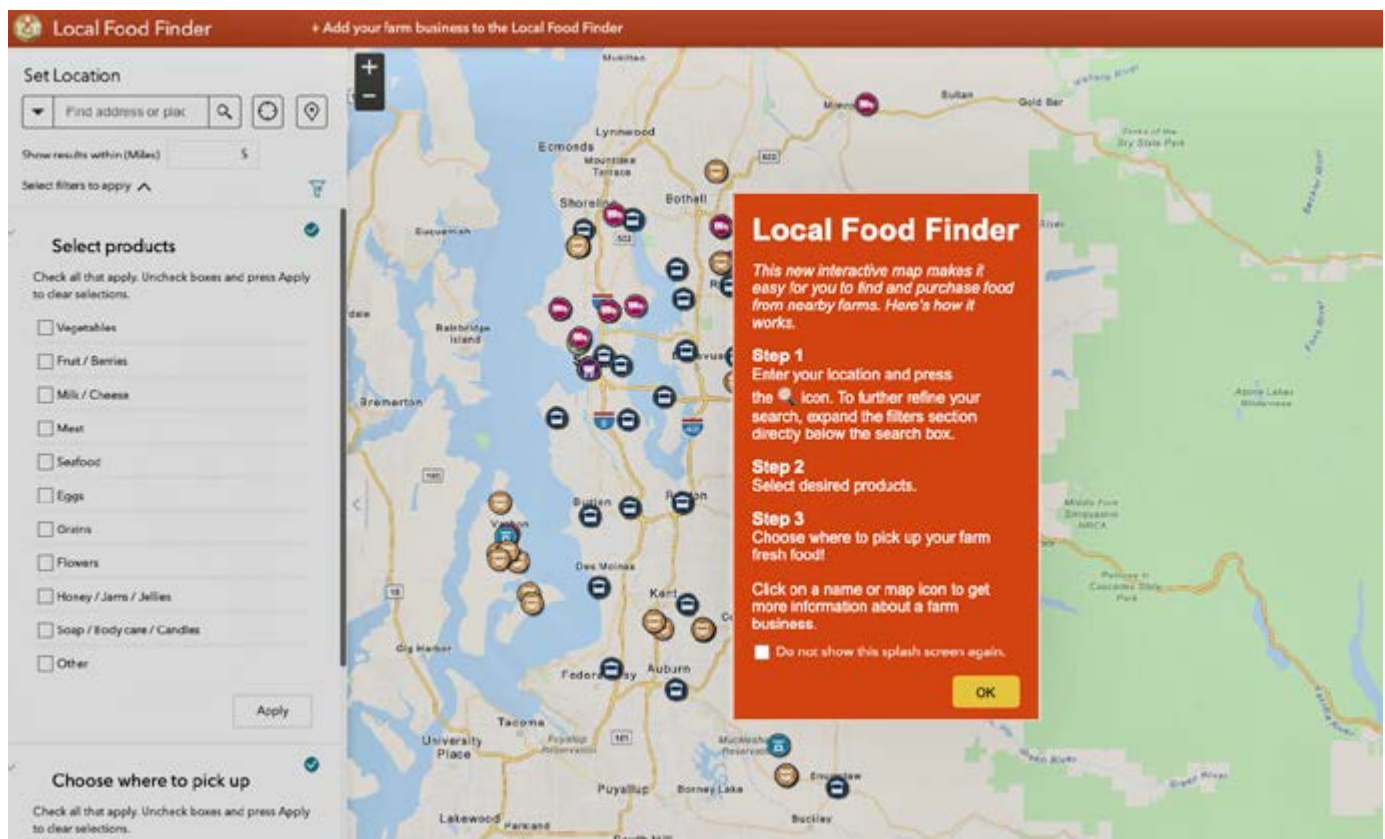
King  
County's  
Local Food  
Finder



Connect to CSA's



Order directly  
from local farms





## SUPPORTING THE FARM AND FOOD SECTOR THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



### PARTNERS

HARVEST AGAINST HUNGER  
 BUSINESS IMPACT NW  
 WASHINGTON STATE FARMERS  
 MARKET ASSOCIATION  
 KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
 NATURAL RESOURCES AND PARKS  
 HMONG ASSOCIATION  
 OF WASHINGTON  
 PCC COMMUNITY MARKETS  
 KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

In 2020, the King County Council allocated \$1,380,000 to help King County farmers and farmers markets comply with public health and safety operating requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to overcome losses due to COVID-19. In addition to supporting farm businesses and farmers markets, relief funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act will ensure continued access to fresh, local farm products by income-challenged residents of King County.

Included are grant programs for King County farmers markets impacted by COVID-19, funding to boost local farm product purchases by King County food banks and senior meal providers, and a technical assistance program for farm businesses to launch eCommerce marketing platforms.

### Farmers Market Support Grants

This program assisted King County farmers markets comply with the Washington State Department of Health and Public Health – Seattle & King County safe operating requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other losses attributable to the pandemic.

**27** number of King County farmers markets supported  
**\$397,000** to funding disbursed



### Farm to Food Bank and Senior Meal Providers

The relief funding allowed food banks and senior meal providers to purchase produce directly from farmers, which gives local farmers an additional, much-needed market option and increases access to fresh, local farm products by income-challenged residents.

**\$297,000** distributed to hunger relief organizations for direct farm purchases

**35** number of participating hunger relief agencies

**51** number of King County Farms purchased from



### Grants to Impacted Farm Businesses

This grant program reimbursed King County farm businesses for the unanticipated costs of responding to COVID-19. The relief funding will not only help farmers survive 2020 but will position them to enter the 2021 farming season in a stronger financial position.

**22** number of farm businesses that received funding  
**\$110,885** total grant funds disbursed



### E-Commerce Support Program

The 2020 “Ready to Sell” program was administered to farmers located in King County who were seeking to develop tools and strategies to effectively use farm-specific e-commerce platforms to sell their products.

**16** Registered Farm Business applicants

**50%** had no e-commerce selling experience (*81% had no experience with a farm e-commerce platform*)



## VIRTUAL CHOMP! SUMMER CAMP



### PARTNERS

WAKULIMA USA  
BLACK FARMERS COLLECTIVE  
KING COUNTY DNRP

Since 2015, [CHOMP!](#) has supported King County Executive Dow Constantine's Local Food Initiative by celebrating local farmers, chefs and restaurants using locally sourced food, and local organizations specializing in healthy food, sustainability, and social justice. This year, King County's CHOMP! Summer Camp was a free virtual five-day event running August 24–28 where video content premiered for viewers to watch and participate in from home, including a look at a few of King County's farmers, cooking demos, educational activities, and performances.

Each year, CHOMP! partners with local organizations working to improve access to healthy, locally grown food in King County. Black Farmers Collective and Wakulima USA were the two beneficiaries selected this year.

### CHOMP! BENEFICIARIES: WAKULIMA USA AND BLACK FARMERS COLLECTIVE

Access to farmland is a significant barrier for many farmers, especially Black and Indigenous farmers and farmers of color, whether they are just starting out or have extensive experience growing food. Recently, King County partnered with the Black Farmers Collective to assist in expanding their farm operation, Small Axe Farm, on property in the Sammamish Valley, to grow more healthy and nutritious food.

Small Axe Farm in Woodinville is a four-acre teaching farm where expansion efforts are currently underway. Expanding Small Axe Farm to land in the Sammamish Valley will allow Black Farmers Collective to increase both the number of farmers they work with and the market channels they serve. King County is supporting this expansion by leasing the property to Black Farmers Collective so that more local food can be grown for more people, especially communities facing health disparities who are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Black Farmers Collective is a Black-led mutual aid network of BIPOC farmers, organizers, and leaders creating a food system for healthier communities. Their three sites, Yes Farm in the Central District, Africatown Grow in Columbia City, and Small Axe in Woodinville are part of their efforts for land acquisition, BIPOC farmer development, community building, and educational programs. Learn more at [blackfarmerscollective.com](https://blackfarmerscollective.com)

Wakulima USA is a farming collective focusing on cultural affirmation, widespread access to healthy food, and fostering the growth of farmers and food entrepreneurs. Wakulima, which means "farmers" in Swahili, promotes sustainable farming by using underutilized land, and transforming it into vibrant community spaces that can generate culturally relevant food and income for growers. Learn more about Wakulima USA at [wakulimausa.com](https://wakulimausa.com).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WAKULIMA USA AND BLACK FARMERS COLLECTIVE

## FARMERS MARKETS INNOVATE DURING COVID-19



### PARTNERS

KING COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS  
WASHINGTON STATE FARMERS  
MARKET ASSOCIATION



In response to COVID-19 restrictions, [King County farmers markets](#) re-created many ways of doing business. While 30 of the 40 King County farmers markets were open in 2020, many opened later in the season or looked drastically different. Every farmers market operated with new signage requiring social distancing, limiting customers at a time, and moving booths 12 feet apart instead of side by side, which meant fewer vendors and fewer customers could be at farmers markets. In addition, COVID-19 restrictions meant markets were having to double staffing, leaving operations in the red.

Fortunately, the King County Council allocated \$410,000 of [CARES Act funds](#) for farmers market relief. This funding along with the innovative nature of many farmers and farm organization led to the development of online ordering systems, delivery services, and new pickup locations. Some markets even offered pre-sales for pick-up with online services as well as shopping at the market itself.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEATTLE  
NEIGHBORHOOD FARMERS MARKETS





## PLANT BASED FOOD SHARE PROVIDES HEALTHY AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT PLANT-BASED MEALS TO COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES



### PARTNERS

PLANT BASED FOOD SHARE  
CHEF ARIEL BANGS



Plant Based Food Share (PBFS) is a community food program that provides healthy plant-based food boxes to Seattle area families facing food insecurity. PBFS was founded when Ariel Bangs, Executive Director of Plant Based Food Share, witnessed the need to offer healthy plant-based food boxes to urban communities in King County when COVID-19 began to impact everyone's lives in March.

PBFS serves low income, underserved urban communities who live in food deserts and includes African American, Indigenous, Latinx communities as well as BIPOC children, families, elders, and domestic violence victims. PBFS is designed to offer three things to clients receiving boxes:

1. Produce and pantry essentials for families to prepare meals during the week;
2. Healthy plant-based meals cooked by chefs of color; and
3. Tools to grow food at homes with limited space.

PBFS has provided food to over 22,270 families and supported local BIPOC farmers by incorporating over almost 575,000 pounds of their locally grown produce. PBFS has offered over 30,000 plant starts so that families can grow their own food indoors; 30,000 heirloom seeds; and provided over 2,000 plant based healthy meals from local BIPOC chefs.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PLANT BASED FOOD SHARE

**"We do this work as a way to heal our communities and encourage healthy lifestyles for those that are underserved and have historically been unable to grow their own food or access healthy foods. Ultimately, we want to people to have access to healthy plant-based food, and we want them to think differently about how they are fueling their minds, bodies, and communities."**

**– Ariel Bangs, Executive Director of Plant Based Food Share**

## GOOD FARMER FUND PROVIDES EMERGENCY RELIEF TO FARMERS



### PARTNERS

SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD  
FARMERS MARKETS

The [Good Farmer Fund](#) was established in 2008 to provide emergency relief to market farms experiencing crop loss or setbacks from weather-related disaster (flood, fire and wind) or medical emergencies. Since 2008, Neighborhood Farmers Markets Association (NFM) has provided over \$310,000 to our farmers. In 2020, with the support of a large gift of stock, NFM established temporary resiliency grants to stabilize farms and food businesses experiencing a loss of markets, restaurant sales, or other financial setbacks due to COVID-19. Over \$350,000 in support enabled 71 farms and food producers to purchase coolers for crop storage, cover payroll expenses, and purchase supplies and equipment needed to pivot to online sales. This support enabled stability and resiliency in the local food community during an uncertain time.

“Thank you for your generous relief grant. We’ve been shocked with the endless challenges this 2020 year has presented us with. Not only with COVID, but also the wildfires that forced some market closures due to poor air quality. We lost about \$10,000 of product that weekend. Not to mention the labor expense that needs to be covered whether the product is sold or not. But thanks to your generous contribution we were able to minimize our losses that weekend, and your funds helped cover our workers’ labor expense. It’s been said before that farmers are eternal optimists, and this is what keeps us doing what we do.”

– Alvarez Organic Farms



## FARM KING COUNTY: SHARING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL FARM COMMUNITY

Across the region, agricultural service providers deliver training on topics including technical farming, business development and funding, market access, and farmland access. Farm King County brings these service providers together with regular coordination meetings and hosts a website to keep farmers up to date on services and resources.

In the spring of 2020, King County farmers faced new regulations related to Covid-19 which impacted everything from food production to market outlets. The Farm King County team - a network of agricultural service providers - met weekly to share updates and keep everyone current on rapidly changing regulations and exchange knowledge of the resulting impacts so organizations could focus their support where it was needed most. [FarmKingCounty.org](https://farmkingcounty.org) added a robust section on Covid-19 regulations and resources.

While consumer demand for locally grown products expanded, farmers markets were temporarily suspended. Flower growers experienced unique challenges because many rely on farmers markets as their primary sales outlet. In addition, many flower growers are immigrants and refugees, and market accessibility and communication barriers only exacerbated an already challenging business landscape. The Farm King County team collaborated to detail ways to buy directly from flower growers, dedicate space on [FarmKingCounty.org](https://farmkingcounty.org) to share lists of purchasing options, and partner on a social media campaign to reach consumers interested in buying from local flower growers.



### PARTNERS

KING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL  
PROGRAM  
KING CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT  
WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
USDA  
TILTH ALLIANCE  
WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
NORTHWEST AGRICULTURAL  
BUSINESS CENTER  
CITY OF SEATTLE  
SNOVALLEY TILTH  
BUSINESS IMPACT  
NORTHWEST







# GROWING THE FOOD AND FARM ECONOMY

Working to grow markets for local products  
and increase demand for local products.



## FARM KING COUNTY DATA CENTER TRACKS PROGRESS TOWARD LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM GOALS



### PARTNERS

KING COUNTY DNRP  
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WASHINGTON STATE FARMERS  
MARKET ASSOCIATION

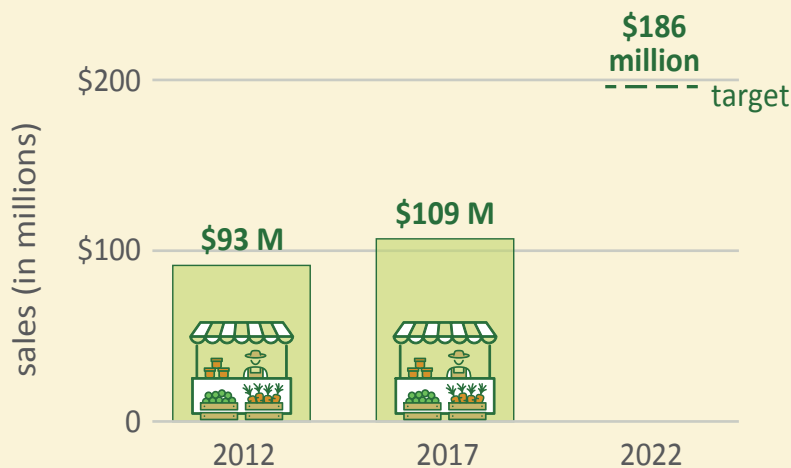
In 2018, Farm King County launched its Food Systems Data Center, which combines an interactive mapping platform with information and data on local agriculture to tell the story of King County's farm and food system. A major component of the data center includes food system performance metrics. These performance metrics enable us to track progress toward our goals under the Local Food Initiative, assess the health and viability of our local food system, and better inform the development of policy and funding decisions.

Within the past two years, the Data Center has been updated to include data and background information about King County farmers, farmland, and the farm economy. Throughout this report, you will see data shown in each section that support different food systems programs and topics. Visit [Farm King County's Data Center](#) for a closer look at how we are tracking our progress to meet important food systems goals.

### Total sales of agricultural products

**Target:** Double demand for locally produced, healthy food from \$93 million to \$186 million in 10 years.

Rating:  
Approaching  
Target



Data: USDA NASS 2017

Example data. The yellow icon indicates that we are approaching our target but have not quite met it. For more information about this data and what the color icons mean, visit [Farm King County's Data Center](#).

## START FARMING IN KING COUNTY RESOURCE GUIDE TO HELP FARMERS ACHIEVE THEIR BUSINESS GOALS

Together, King County, [Viva Farms](#), [SnoValley Tilth](#), and [Tilth Alliance](#) created a resource guide to assist and inform aspiring farmers in:

- Learning how to farm,
- Developing a business and marketing plan,
- Financing their farm business,
- Getting required permitting and licensing, and
- Finding a place to farm.

This guide provides resources, tips, and information on programs that can help farmers reach their farm business goals. No matter where farmers are in this process, whether they want to learn how to farm or they are ready to access credit to support and grow their operation, this guide can help farmers figure out where to start and assess the options available to them. [Download](#) the guide for more information and resources.



### PARTNERS

TILTH ALLIANCE  
SNOVALLEY TILTH  
VIVA FARMS  
KING COUNTY DNRP  
USDA

## QUICK LOOK: PROMOTING LOCAL FOOD PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION THROUGH OUTREACH



A key aspect of local food systems work is promoting partnerships and collaboration. Bringing dedicated food systems partners together to solve complex problems related to farmland access, infrastructure, food waste, and other issues can have collective and sustainable impact. The Local Food Initiative supports this work by sharing stories, highlighting food and farm innovators and entrepreneurs, and promoting new programs and funding opportunities through the [Local Food Initiative newsletter](#) and King County DNRP blog, [Keeping King County Green](#). Since November 2018, we have:

- Published 23 newsletters with a total of 94 articles as of December 2020,
- More than doubled newsletter subscribers from approximately 1,500 to 3,200 in December 2020, and
- Reached almost 4,000 people with our most popular article about flower grower support via the [Keeping King County Green](#) blog.

## GOOD FOOD FORUM CONNECTS LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS



### PARTNERS

SEATTLE GOOD  
BUSINESS NETWORK  
KING COUNTY LOCAL  
FOOD INITIATIVE  
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT



In May 2020, Seattle Good Business Network launched [Good Food Forum](#), an online community on the Mobilize platform connecting local food system stakeholders serving King County around market opportunities, resource matching, and information sharing. The Forum includes 220 members and has resulted in numerous connections. Some of these collaborations include a restaurant chef pivoting to meal kit service and finding three new King County producers and a marketing avenue through a single post; King County farmers finding paid new market channels through food manufacturers, food box purveyors, and food assistance organizations; a new food manufacturer finding a co-packer for their wholesale products; and multiple grants and other financial resources being accessed, with one member having received two of those awards. Work continues to develop and grow membership in Good Food Forum in the coming year. This project was made possible through a King Conservation District Regional Food Systems Grant.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEATTLE GOOD BUSINESS NETWORK



## WA MEAT UP COLLABORATION



### PARTNERS

WSU FOOD SYSTEMS TEAM,  
WSDA REGIONAL MARKETS

In 2019, a collaboration between Washington State University (WSU), Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), and King County launched the [WA State Meat Up Summit](#) in Seattle. After tours featuring Salumi, Jubilee Farm, and Falling River Meats, the summit featured small-scale livestock producers, processors, policymakers, and artisan cured meat businesses coming together to lay out meat needs and strategies to work on in Washington state. Key findings from this summit sparked an ag professionals group that meets bi-weekly led by WSU Food Systems Team, small-scale USDA processor meetings also facilitated by WSU, major support and economic recovery efforts from WSDA including the \$5 Million Meat Processor Pandemic Relief Grants in 2020, and a team effort to address the challenges and needs of meat producers and processors.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WSU FOOD SYSTEMS TEAM

*The initial WA Meat Up event was held in 2019 before COVID-19 restrictions were in effect.*



## BUSINESS IMPACT NW FOOD BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER



### PARTNERS

BUSINESS IMPACT NW  
FOOD INNOVATION NETWORK  
VENTURES NONPROFIT

The Food Business Resource Center (FBRC) is a one-stop-shop for Washington state food entrepreneurs to access skills, resources, networks, and marketplace opportunities needed to start, run, and grow a successful food-related business. After months of planning and stakeholder engagement meetings, the FBRC was publicly launched on March 7, during the [2020 Food Biz Day](#) event.

Here are a few of the highlights of 2020 and the work done by FBRC:



**Food Biz Day 2020**  
engaged over **74**  
regional participants.



**Hosted Food Finance  
Institute-Food Finance Boot Camp**  
that supported **6** established King  
County food businesses.



**Developed and launched an  
On-Demand Packaged  
Food Course**  
(in collaboration with Food  
Innovation Network and  
Ventures Nonprofit).  
**15** King County food  
entrepreneurs have  
attended to date.



**Hosted two cohorts of  
Ready-to-Sell Farmer  
Ecommerce Training**  
Cohort One Washington  
**15** farmers, two in King County  
Cohort Two King County only  
(in partnership with King County)  
**16** participants



Worked one-on-one with **15** individual **Washington food and farm business  
entrepreneurs** with technical assistance and resource navigation.





## UNDERSTANDING IRRIGATION AVAILABILITY AND FARMERS' NEEDS IN KING COUNTY



### PARTNERS

KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND PARKS  
AMP INSIGHTS

Many agricultural lands in King County lack access to irrigation water or do not have sufficient water to meet farmers' needs. To better understand the scope of this need, King County DNRP contracted with AMP Insights, a consulting firm focused on natural resources management issues, to complete an irrigation water needs assessment in King County. When completed in late 2021, the output will be a report detailing current irrigation water available in areas of King County with concentrated agricultural land, estimations of future use, and some recommended solutions to address the gaps between the two. A community outreach component will inform landowners about options for accessing irrigation water.





# ADVANCING EQUITY

Working toward a food system that supports viable  
livelihoods for all farmers and communities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WA FARM LAND TRUST



## WORKING FARMLAND PARTNERSHIP: BUILDING BRIDGES TO FARMLAND ACCESS



### PARTNERS

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WASHINGTON FARMLAND TRUST  
SNOVALLEY TILTH  
KING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL  
PROGRAM  
VIVA FARMS  
AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST  
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE  
COMMITTEE'S NEW ROOTS  
PROGRAM  
TILTH ALLIANCE

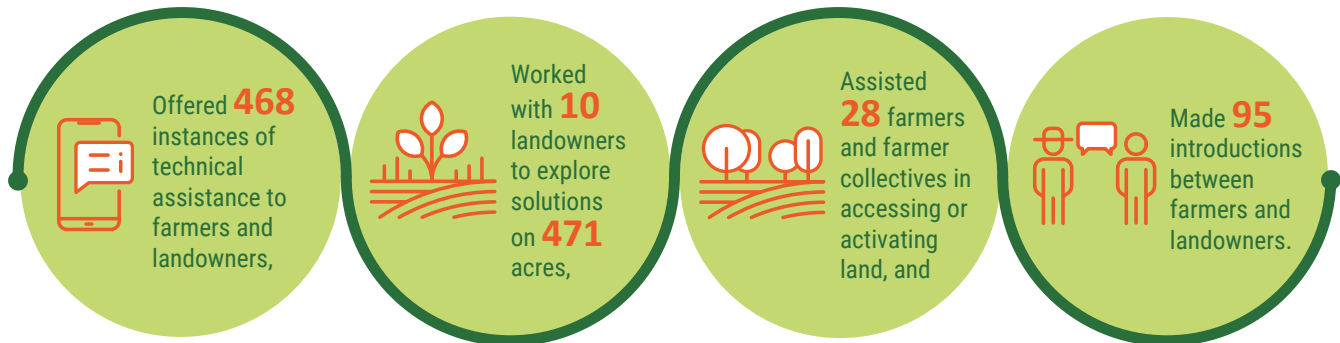
Access to land is a significant barrier for farmers. Rising land prices, competing uses, climate impacts, and urbanization limit access to farmland. For farmers of color, these challenges are compounded by a long history of systemic discrimination. In 2018, organizations and agencies focused on farmland access came together with a shared goal of ensuring a farming future in King County.

The [Working Farmland Partnership](#) (WFP) brings together the services of several organizations to support the successful transition of farmland. This includes partners who serve BIPOC farmers with the goal of ensuring all farmers have access to farmable land and land is maximized to its full potential.

The [King County Agricultural Team](#) walks properties with landowners and farmers, identifies barriers to production, and creates a plan for improvements. The team makes connections to service providers with expertise in technical farming, funding sources, market access, business planning, and permitting and regulatory processes.

The WFP has a track record of supporting farmers in their land access journeys, ultimately resulting in increased farmland in production and a greater number of farms in the county.

Since 2018, the WFP partners have:



## RAINIER BEACH URBAN FARM INSPIRES THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS TO ENGAGE IN FOOD PRODUCTION




### PARTNERS

TILTH ALLIANCE  
FRIENDS OF RAINIER  
BEACH URBAN FARM

At a time when community connections are strained and food security is of concern, it is inspiring to look at a program that is cultivating not just crops, but leadership. At [Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands](#) (RBUFW), young people are taking active roles to build a just and abundant food future that is vital to our sustenance and economy. They are working to develop connections with their community and farming through meaningful learning experiences in fields, farms, and kitchens.

Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands is a community hub for food, urban farming, and environmental education in Seattle's Rainier Beach neighborhood co-operated by Tilth Alliance and Friends of Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands.

The youth employment program at RBUFW expose young people to food production and wetland restoration techniques, but perhaps the most important part of this program is the team and community building that helps cultivate a connection to our food system.



**"We want to show youth participants that farming is for everyone and they can do it too," said Suez Gebretsadik, Youth Engagement Coordinator. "Many youth members that I've worked with have never stepped foot in a garden or have experience growing their own food. RBUFW hopes to show youth how to farm in creative and engaging ways so they are invested in food production as well as their own personal and professional development."**



## CREATING OPPORTUNITY: A NEW VISION FOR KING COUNTY-OWNED FARMLAND



### PARTNERS

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SNOVALLEY TILTH

FOOD ACCESS AND AGGREGATION  
COMMUNITY TEAM (FAACT)

WORKING FARMLAND PARTNERSHIP

Development pressures and competing land-use demands continue to make farmland in King County harder to come by and increasingly expensive. King County manages a portfolio of farm properties and recently re-envisioned the role this land could play in the landscape of the regional farm economy. County-owned farmland will provide a space for the establishment and growth of farm businesses with an emphasis on socially disadvantaged and new and beginning farmers.

King County's Farm Lease Program provides land and infrastructure access in alignment with [King County's Equity and Social Justice Goals](#), Local Food Initiative, and the [Strategic Climate Action Plan](#). The [Farm Lease Program](#) will provide an accessible pathway for new and aspiring farmers to access farmland while supporting the responsible stewardship of these properties.

The approach includes working closely with community partners, which is critical for providing necessary technical, business, market access, and financial support. The land made available through the Farm Lease Program paired with technical assistance and entrepreneurial training allow more farmers to grow healthy and nutritious food for the community.

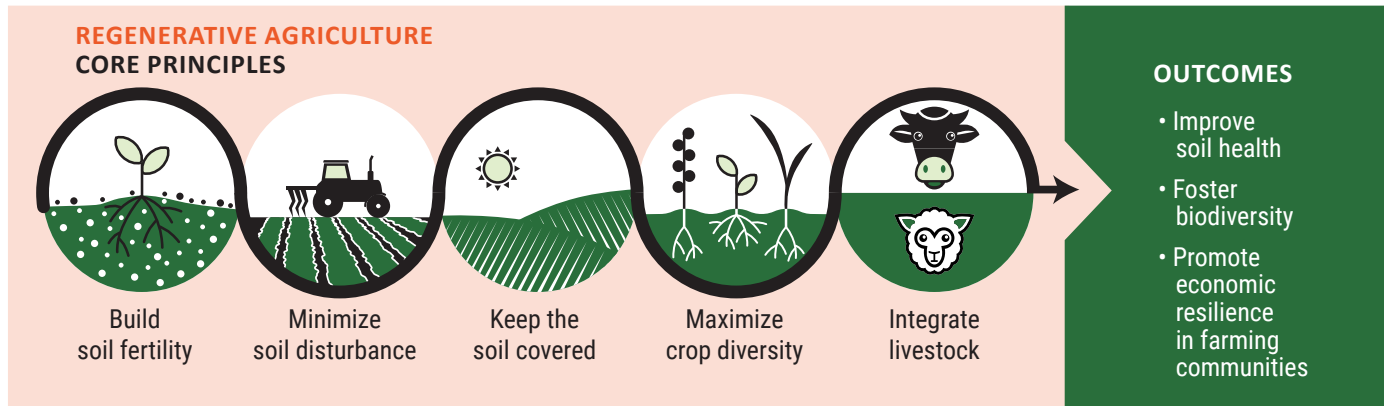




## 2020 STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

King County plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions countywide by 80% by 2050 and the [2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan](#) includes strategies that can reduce emissions from the farm sector and make the King County agricultural landscape more resilient to climate change.

Strategies to reduce emissions include accelerating farmland preservation, expanding the use of compost and recycled water, ensuring that farm plans include the impacts of climate change and strategies for climate resilient farms. Strategies that will prepare farmers and farmland owners for the impacts of climate change include conducting a countywide irrigation water needs assessment; preparing farm plans that stress regenerative agriculture; conducting a climate change impact assessment; examining infrastructure vulnerability, especially from increased flooding; and increasing farm participation in federal disaster insurance programs. There is also a focus on supporting farming communities of color, particularly immigrant, refugee, and Black and Indigenous farming communities, to improve land access and provide opportunities to build farming businesses and grow culturally appropriate food.







# BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

Working to meet farmer and community needs for food  
system infrastructure in King County.



## FOOD FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY: POTENTIAL FOR INFRASTRUCTURE TO TRANSFORM KING COUNTY'S LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM



### PARTNERS

KING COUNTY SOLID  
WASTE DIVISION  
KING COUNTY LOCAL  
FOOD INITIATIVE  
BULLITT FOUNDATION  
KING CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT



Although our region is well known for its abundance of locally grown and produced products, the infrastructure necessary to support small and medium farms and food businesses, and non-profit organizations working to address food access, is severely lacking. Much of the existing food system infrastructure is either not accessible or not properly scaled.



In early 2020, King County's contracted with [ECONorthwest](#) to complete an assessment and business concept for a multi-purpose shared local food facility that would provide cold and dry storage, food processing infrastructure, and serve as a distribution hub for small food and farm businesses and non-profit organizations working in the food access and food recovery sector. This first phase project was completed in late 2020; it helped illustrate viability of a local food facility in the Seattle area. The feasibility study included

analyses of ownership models, economic modeling, and funding for a potential facility. The study is an important next step in the development of this much needed infrastructure that has the potential to have wide-ranging benefits including economic development, food waste reduction, job training, food access, and community development.



## SPICE BRIDGE AT TUKWILA VILLAGE CREATES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR SOUTH KING COUNTY FOOD ENTREPRENEURS



### PARTNERS

FOOD INNOVATION  
NETWORK



On Sept. 1, 2020, [Spice Bridge](#) became home to Food Innovation Network's Food Business Incubator Program, which supports under-resourced South King County residents, primarily women of color and immigrants. Spice Bridge is a place where food entrepreneurs have access to a commercial kitchen, restaurant space, and a community hub – a place where people gather to learn about and celebrate the community's rich food traditions.

[Food Innovation Network's Food Business Incubator Program](#) is helping entrepreneurs launch food businesses, providing training, mentorship, subsidized commercial kitchen access, and support with permitting, licensing, menu planning, and marketing. Food Innovation Network

continued capital campaign fundraising efforts throughout 2020, and by the end of the year had secured 90% of the \$850,000 goal. They are grateful to contributors who have helped make this community dream a reality. If you're interested in learning more or supporting Spice Bridge, please contact Kara Martin: [kara@foodinnovationnetwork.org](mailto:kara@foodinnovationnetwork.org).

### FIN'S FOOD BUSINESS INCUBATOR

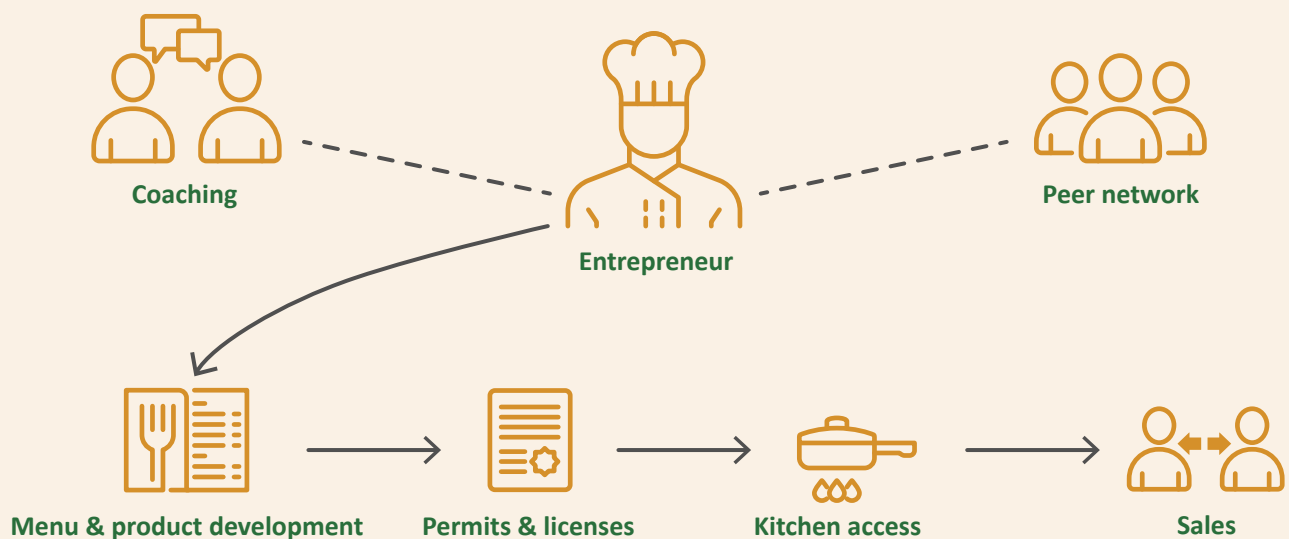


PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD INNOVATION NETWORK

## RAINIER BEACH FOOD INNOVATION CENTER BRINGS A COMMUNITY VISION FOR HEALTH AND JOB CREATION TO LIFE



### PARTNERS

RAINIER BEACH ACTION COALITION  
CITY OF SEATTLE

In 2012, Rainier Beach residents came together around a renewed neighborhood plan with a vision at the center of which food acted as a catalyst for neighborhood identity, cultural diversity and heritage, health and job creation. This past year, the City of Seattle approved funding to implement the [Rainier Beach Food Innovation Center](#), a project of Rainier Beach Action Coalition (RBAC), which is part of the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan and the community's longstanding vision for the Rainier Beach Food Innovation District.

RBAC is a Black-led community organization that is actively seeking to address racialized economic disparity in a neighborhood where communities of color experience a high risk of residential and cultural displacement. With this funding, RBAC will proceed with closing on a site adjacent the Rainier Beach light rail station.

RBAC's Food Innovation Center is intended to create jobs and build on the many food cultures of Rainier Beach. The center will support economic opportunity through new small food businesses, as well as education and workforce development for Seattle residents. The concept includes classrooms and teaching kitchens, an entrepreneurship center, a marketplace, food production facility, and community services. Plans for the site also include critically needed affordable housing.

**"Investing in community-based organizations to secure ownership of land is critically important for mitigating the impact displacement has on disproportionately impacted BIPOC communities. This is building on the local cultural assets, and setting a new community control of land and development model."**

**– Gregory Davis, RBAC Managing Strategist**



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAINIER BEACH FOOD INNOVATION CENTER





# INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS



Working to grow markets for local products  
and increase demand for local products.



## KING COUNTY FARMERS SHARE PROGRAM CONNECTS SMALL FARMS TO EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS TO SUPPORT HUNGER RELIEF



### PARTNERS

HARVEST AGAINST  
HUNGER  
KING CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT  
SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD  
FARMERS MARKETS  
PCC COMMUNITY  
MARKETS








As the second year of the [King County Farmers Share](#) (KCFS) program, initial 2020 program plans included refining the young systems created to support 12 pilot hunger relief partners. However, COVID-19's impacts on the region's food system beginning in March soon tested the strength and efficacy of the program model, in which agencies receive grant funds and technical support to develop contracted purchasing relationships with local farms. Even before the pandemic, Harvest Against Hunger knew creating more direct supply chains from new relationships between agencies that distribute emergency food and the farms that grow it will increase

resilience of the field-to-fork supply chain, ensuring fresh, healthy food goes to people rather than to waste. These facets of a localized food system were critical to addressing the increased food insecurity and economic instability brought on by COVID-19.

Ultimately, KCFS's existing structure, connections, and tools provided a foundation for replication to support hunger relief and small farms even beyond King County. Hunger relief partners appreciated the diverse, nutrient-dense foods available locally, from familiar blueberries and broccoli to kohlrabi and romanesco.

This program is generously funded by King Conservation District and in 2021, will support local small farms and emergency food providers and help to fill capacity gaps in transportation, storage, and long-term funding to ensure our local farm-to-food assistance network is successful and sustainable.

	PROGRAM OUTCOME	2019	2020
	\$ distributed to hunger relief for local farm purchasing	\$37,500.00	\$297,634.30*
	# of participating King County hunger relief organizations	12	15
	# of King County farms purchase from	24	51
	Lbs of produce purchased and delivered	20,592	90,792~
	Lbs of produce donated and gleaned	4,815	6,313

## EASTWEST FOOD RESCUE IS HELPING FEED WASHINGTON AND SUPPORT FARMERS



### PARTNERS

EASTWEST FOOD RESCUE

EastWest Food Rescue started from a Facebook post sent out at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic trying to rescue one ton of crops to distribute to food banks. In the first 15 days, they had rescued 217 tons of food.

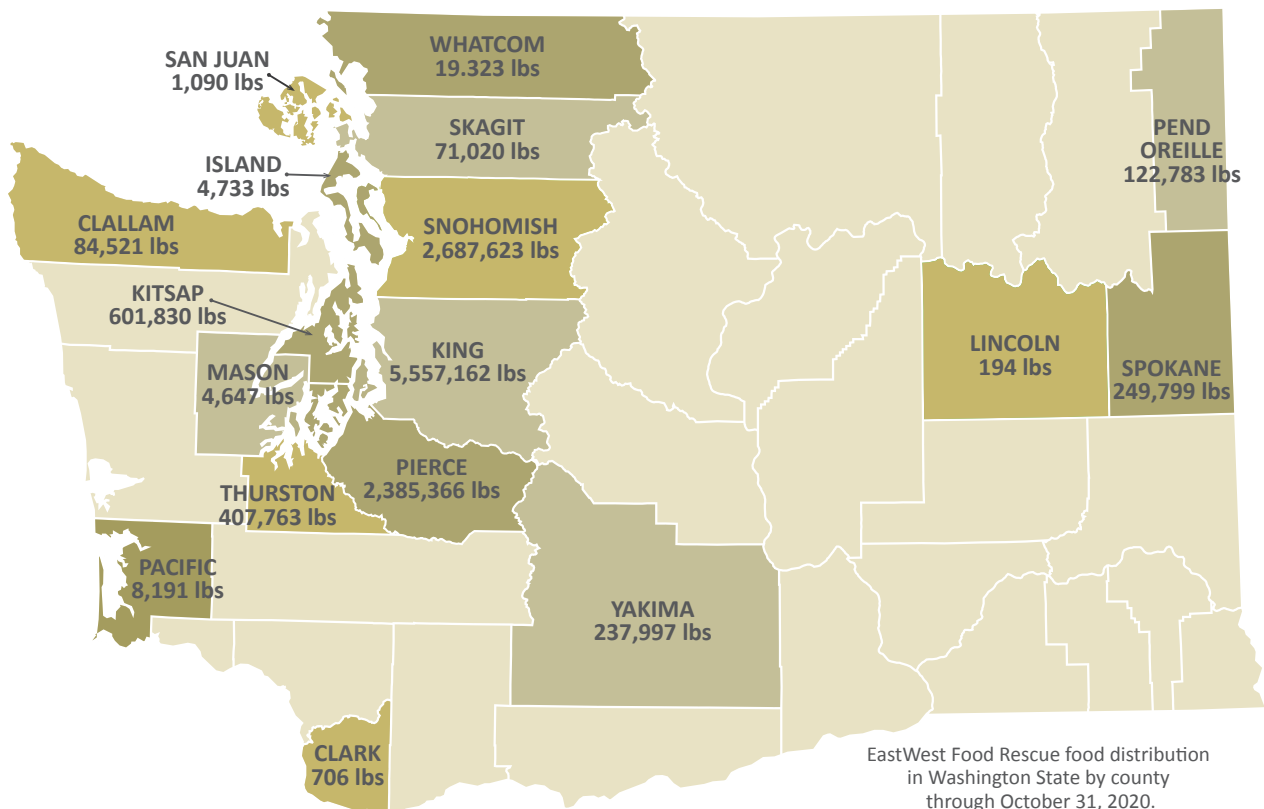
EastWest Food Rescue acquires or purchases surplus food predominately from farmers and distributes it with empathy to people in-need. As a volunteer led organization, EastWest coordinates every step from finding new sources of nutritious surplus food to organizing transportation to ensuring rescued food is given to people with food insecurity for free.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EASTWEST FOOD RESCUE

EastWest Food Rescue serves over 560 food banks, senior centers, community kitchens, grade-school food programs, Native American tribes, and other helping food organizations predominantly in the Northwest. They currently serve a total of 19 states.

### CARINGLY FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS IN WASHINGTON STATE



## EXPANDING ACCESS TO PRODUCE THROUGH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INCENTIVES



Food insecurity more than doubled in King County during 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, making the availability of food assistance even more important. To help address this need, the [Washington State Department of Health's SNAP Market Match](#) incentive program doubled SNAP users benefit dollars when they purchased fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets. Twenty-three farmers markets in King County participated in the SNAP Market Match program during the summer. Together they distributed



\$582,077 in SNAP benefits and incentive dollars to keep families fed with healthy produce purchased at local farmers markets. This is a 5% increase from the use of SNAP and fruit and vegetable incentives at farmers markets in 2019. Additional programs and support were provided by the City of Seattle's Fresh Bucks program.



The state program also supported incentives through the Complete Eats program and fruit and vegetable prescriptions that were redeemable at Safeway stores. An additional \$497,582 of incentives were distributed to SNAP users through these two programs to increase access to fruits and vegetables.

## FOOD VOUCHER PROGRAM: ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY DURING COVID-19

From October to December 2020, Public Health – Seattle & King County contracted with 30 community-based organizations and two community navigators to distribute 21,500, \$100 food vouchers to community members experiencing food insecurity. King County directed federal [CARES Act](#) dollars to fund this program to address increased food insecurity in King County resulting from COVID-19. This funding supported Black and Indigenous communities, communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities that have been unable to access other forms of government aid due to structural or institutional barriers, including fear of deportation or those experiencing gender-based violence in King County. Over 90% of the food vouchers were redeemed in areas of South King County in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and are experiencing food insecurity at higher rates.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



## PROVIDING CULTURALLY RELEVANT FOOD THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMICS



### PARTNERS

LAKE BURIEN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SOUTHWEST YOUTH &  
FAMILY SERVICES  
PARA LOS NINOS  
COLECTIVA LEGAL  
DEL PUEBLO



Community organizations developed new approaches to support families with food during the pandemic, and ways to make that food more culturally relevant. One example is [Alimentando El Pueblo](#), or Feeding El Pueblo, which began distributing culturally relevant food in the Highline area of King County in the summer of 2020. Cofounder Roxana Pardo Garcia of La Roxay Productions comments that, “People are thankful to have access to food banks, but

there’s something special about seeing food you’re familiar with.” Based at Lake Burien Presbyterian Church, community members could choose between a Mexican box that included items like Chile California and tortillas, a Central American box with items like condensed milk, or a Caribbean box with yucca and plantains.

Feeding El Pueblo received donations and grants to served 853 families and delivered 2,550 boxes of nonperishable items and produce in 2020. They worked to source produce from local Latinx grocers and farmers to support the community. “ Our hope with the project was to also invest directly in Latinx-owned businesses,” Pardo Garcia said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



# 2020 LOCAL FOOD Initiative ANNUAL REPORT



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

**Local Food Initiative**

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0700  
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Seattle, WA 98104

Alternative Formats Available  
206-477-4700 TTY Relay: 711

2011\_10360a\_lfi\_annual\_report.indd



# Farmworker Housing

## What is farmworker housing?

Farmworker housing is housing provided to agricultural employees, either seasonal or year-round, who live and work on farmland. Any type of housing that complies with King County Code—yurt, farmhouse, or accessory dwelling unit, can be permitted as farmworker housing. With a Washington Department of Health license, trailers can also be used to house seasonal workers.

Permits for farmworker housing depends on farm location and the buildings and utilities that are already on the farm, but most importantly, on whether employees are seasonal or year-round.

- 2 Seasonal Farm Worker Housing
- 3 Year-Round Farm Worker Housing
- 4 Farm Worker Housing Workflow, Funding/Cost Share, Regulatory Considerations
- 5 Frequently Asked Questions



# Seasonal Farmworker Housing



Housing for seasonal farmworkers is referred to as Temporary Worker Housing (TWH) in Washington State Department of Health (DOH) regulations. Housing for temporary (< 10 month) workers is provided an exemption from county zoning code, except for setbacks from property lines and DOH requirements.

> Setbacks refer to the distance of a structure from the property line or curb

**A license from DOH is required. License conditions include:**

- > The site must be adequately drained and not subject to periodic flooding.
- > Housing must be located at least 500' away from where livestock are kept.
- > Housing must be located at least 200' away from all surface water.



## STRUCTURES

**Housing, if stick built\* or mobile home, must comply with county building codes.**

- Other structures (e.g., yurt, recreational vehicle, etc.) need to meet construction standards in Washington Administrative Code 246-359 and be inspected by DOH Construction Review Services.
- Temporary structures in the floodway need to be removed between Sept 30 – May 1 of each year.
- Existing nonresidential buildings can be used for temporary worker housing if a building permit is obtained for "change of use\*\*."



## WASTE DISPOSAL

**Temporary Worker Housing must be hooked up to suitable sewage disposal system approved by Public Health – Seattle & King County.**

- A 3,000-gallon concrete vault set at zero grade is acceptable.
- Composting toilets that comply with King County Code 13.52.020 are allowed.



## WATER SUPPLY

**The water supply for temporary worker housing must be approved by Public Health – Seattle & King County.**

DOH requires testing within 90 days of occupancy and annually thereafter.

- Bacteriological and nitrate test results must be submitted with the TWH license application.

\*Stick built refers to a wooden-framed structure that's been constructed piece by piece.

\*\* Visit <https://mybuildingpermit.com> to apply for or check on the status of a building permit application.



# Year Round Farmworker Housing



Year-round employees have a traditional landlord-tenant relationship with the farmer. King County Code allows on-farm Agricultural Employee Dwelling Units (AEDU). These are small (< 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) homes for agricultural employees working on the farm year-round.

- > **King County Code allows for an Agricultural Employee Dwelling Unit (AEDU) on a parcel where zoning would not otherwise allow a residence. Special restrictions apply in flood areas – see FAQ's.**



## STRUCTURES

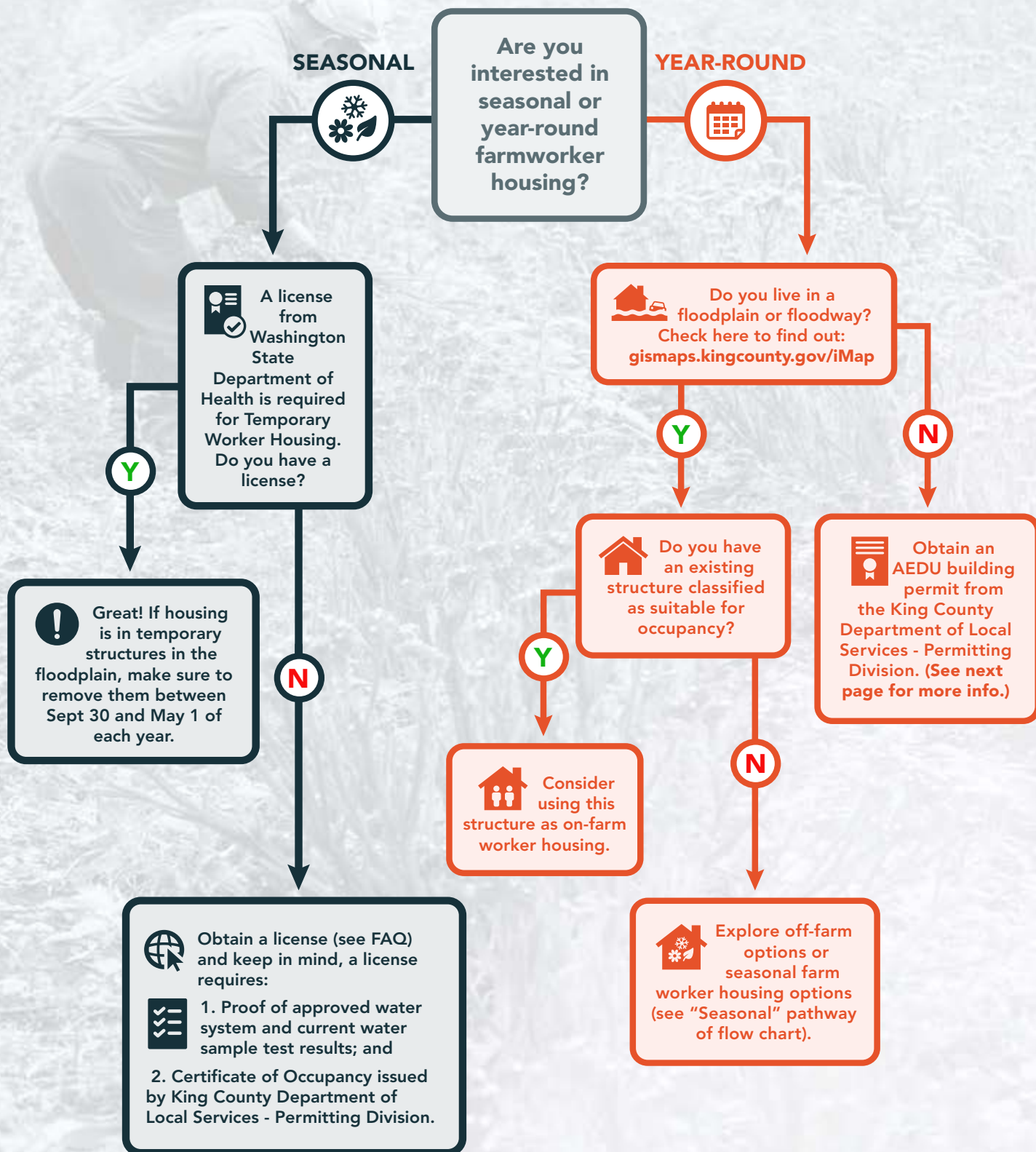
AEDUs must comply with King County Building Code and be less than 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> and occupied by < 8 employees. The number of allowable units depends on the size of the operation:

- **1 AEDU on a site < 20 acres (ac.)**
- **2 AEDUs on a site > 20 ac. and < 50 ac.**
- **3 AEDUs on a site > 50 ac. and < 100 ac.**
- **4 AEDUs on a site > 100 ac.**

One additional AEDU is allowed for each additional 100 acres. The housing should be located on already used non-farmable areas. The AEDU can be a mobile home or a stick-built home.



# Farmworker Housing: Workflow and Regulatory Considerations



# Farmworker Housing: Frequently Asked Questions



## How do I apply for Temporary Worker Housing?

Please complete and submit the application materials available online at this link:



[www.doh.wa.gov/crs](http://www.doh.wa.gov/crs)

### Application materials:

1. Construction Review Application Packet
2. Camp Management Plan for Temporary Worker Housing
3. Temporary Worker Housing License Application, which requires:
  - > Proof of approved water system and current water sample test results
  - > Certificate of Occupancy issued by a city, county, or state agency

## How do I apply for an Agricultural Employee Dwelling Unit?

AEDUs require a building permit. Building permits are issued by the King County Department of Local Services-Permitting Division (DLS-PD). The process can be started online at this link:



<https://mybuildingpermit.com>

## Can I build farmworker housing in the floodplain?

For year-round farmworker housing, an AEDU cannot be built in a floodway. In the floodplain, an AEDU would need to be elevated. For more info visit:



[www.kingcounty.gov/agdwellingpermits](http://www.kingcounty.gov/agdwellingpermits)

To obtain a license to build temporary worker housing, the desired site must be adequately drained and not subject to periodic flooding. King County has a Flood Buyout and Elevation Program to raise structures above the base flood elevation. Please visit the following link to learn more:



[www.kingcounty.gov/fbeprogram](http://www.kingcounty.gov/fbeprogram)

## Contact Us

King County Agricultural Program



[farmhelp@kingcounty.gov](mailto:farmhelp@kingcounty.gov)



206-477-4800



[www.kingcounty.gov/agprogram](http://www.kingcounty.gov/agprogram)

## Farm King County



For resources and information related to permitting and regulations, visit <https://www.farmkingcounty.org/permitting-regulations.html>.



# An Assessment of Farmworker Housing in the Snoqualmie Valley

*King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks*

*Water and Land Resources Division*

*Agriculture Program*

## Summary

In 2018 and 2019 the King County Agriculture Program researched the needs and options for farm worker housing in the Snoqualmie Valley Agriculture Production District (APD). Based on survey data it was determined that the need that exists can be addressed by current housing opportunities and does not warrant a King County housing project. The Agriculture Program, in partnership with other agencies and community organizations, will support the need for housing through technical assistance and improved information sharing.

## Background

Farmworkers are an essential component of commercial agriculture in the Snoqualmie Valley APD. Ensuring a supply of secure, affordable housing for these workers can improve the lives for farmworker families and offer workforce stability for growers. The need to understand the demand for farmworker housing in the Snoqualmie Valley has been expressed in policy documents such as the 2014 Local Food Initiative, the 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan and, the Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, and Flood (FFF) Advisory Committee recommendations to the executive.

In response, the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) Agricultural Program completed an assessment of farmworker housing in the Snoqualmie Valley (Assessment) in late 2019. The Assessment sought to:

- Quantify the demand for farmworker housing in the Snoqualmie Valley
- Examine the options for farmworker housing and identify barriers; and
- Provide recommendations on how King County might assist farmers in finding housing for workers.

This report summarizes the key findings and recommendations from the Assessment.

## Demand for Farmworker Housing in the Snoqualmie Valley

In 2018, the King County Agricultural Program began interviewing farmers in the Snoqualmie Valley about the logistics of, and need for, providing worker housing and the barriers they encountered. Two community partners, SnoValley Tilth and the Snoqualmie Watershed Improvement District (WID), emailed a set of questions to roughly 100 famers and received 18 responses. Responses were voluntary so the result should not be considered statistically representative. However, the results are informative and useful in developing programmatic assistance.

All the respondents were row-crop farmers, the type of farming most dependent on temporary employees. Farmers shared information on the number of farmworkers they provided with housing; the number they wished to provide housing; the type of housing (e.g., trailer, farmhouse, Accessory Dwelling Unit); and what they felt was the greatest barrier to providing housing.

The demand for housing appears to be limited to seasonal row-crop operations. Providing housing during the shoulder seasons –early spring and late fall – is an incentive for prospective employees in a tight labor market. Most farmers want to house between two and six seasonal employees on the farm. The survey results included feedback from all the large row crop farmers and indicated a demand for housing roughly 100 workers in the Snoqualmie Valley, but that on-farm housing is currently being provided for only about 30 workers.

The Agriculture Program objectively assessed the possible demand for farmworker housing to verify the survey findings using the following method. We estimated the number of workers required to cultivate an acre of row crops (0.3 to 0.6 workers), a number established through interviews with vegetable farmers across King County. We multiplied that number by the acres of row crops being farmed in the Snoqualmie Valley (~900 gross acres, 25% of which are net acres in production) a number established in previous County analysis of the Snoqualmie APD. According to this calculation it was determined that ~100 seasonal farmworkers were needed. This estimate was consistent with the findings from the survey.

As such, this need could be met by on-farm housing options or affordable rental housing within a 30-minute drive of the APD and does not justify a King County investment in a farmworker housing project. However, the Agriculture Program did find that providing support in additional resources and housing options would be beneficial to the farm worker housing process.

## Options for Farmworker Housing

The options for farmer-provided housing in the Snoqualmie Valley depend on farm location, type of employee (seasonal or year-round) and the buildings and utilities already on the farm.

- **Housing for seasonal workers** is permitted through a license from the Washington State Department of Health Temporary Worker Housing Program. This provides an exception, allowing housing in recreation vehicles that is otherwise not allowed by King County code. A vault-type sewage treatment system (3000-gal, pre-cast concrete storage tanks set at zero grade) would be required to meet local health codes. Although a cost-effective housing option, if the farm is in a floodplain, recreational vehicles would need to be removed during the flood season between October 1 and May 1.
- **Year-round employees** have a traditional landlord-tenant relationship with the farmer. King County code allows on-farm Agricultural Employee Dwelling Units (AEDU). These are small (<1,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) homes for full-time farm employees. The AEDUs can be sited in areas that zoning would not otherwise allow additional dwelling units. However, the placement for an AEDU is limited in the Snoqualmie Valley to outside of the floodplain (~5% of the APD). King County land use regulations restrict housing in the floodway, limiting options for construction of “on-farm” farmworker housing.

Many of the older farms in the Snoqualmie Valley have residences on the farm that were built prior to the current flood restrictions. These homes can and are used for farmworker housing. King County has a flood hazard home elevation program to raise these types of structures above the base flood elevation. Conversely, the King County Flood Control District has a program to purchase and remove residences in the floodplain which decreases availability.

## Recommendations

Although the study was focused on the Snoqualmie Valley APD, based on conversations with a large row crop farmer in south King County, the findings are relevant across King County. However, farms in the Enumclaw and Green River APDs have more land outside of the floodplain and correspondingly more housing options. The DNRP Agricultural Program recommends that King County government have limited involvement in directly providing farmworker housing. The specific focus of King County support should be offering easily accessed, straightforward guidance to farmers who want to provide housing.

Working with the King County Department of Local Services (DLS) Permitting Division, the Agricultural Program will create and distribute informational bulletins detailing requirements for farmworker housing including applicable regulations, the required licensing and permits, construction techniques, housing alternatives, sewage treatment options, and links to available financial assistance. This information would also be posted on [www.farmkingcounty.org](http://www.farmkingcounty.org) and the DLS Permitting website. These informational materials would be supported by policy memos from the DLS Permitting Division and Public Health-Seattle & King County to align with permitting pathways.

The Agricultural Program staff also provides technical support to individual farmers and farmland owners as they develop project proposals and assistance with moving housing projects forward and resolving code compliance issues. A similar level of support is available to the Non-Governmental Organizations that support farming in the Snoqualmie Valley, such as Sno-Valley Tilth, the Snoqualmie Watershed Improvement District and PCC Farmland Trust.

*The King County Agriculture Program is part of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks' Water and Land Resources Division. The Agriculture Program brings together King County's efforts to preserve prime agricultural soils with efforts to protect water resources and ensure the continuing economic vitality of agriculture in the County. Visit [kingcounty.gov/ag](http://kingcounty.gov/ag) or call 206-477-4800 for more information.*





# Stormwater Management

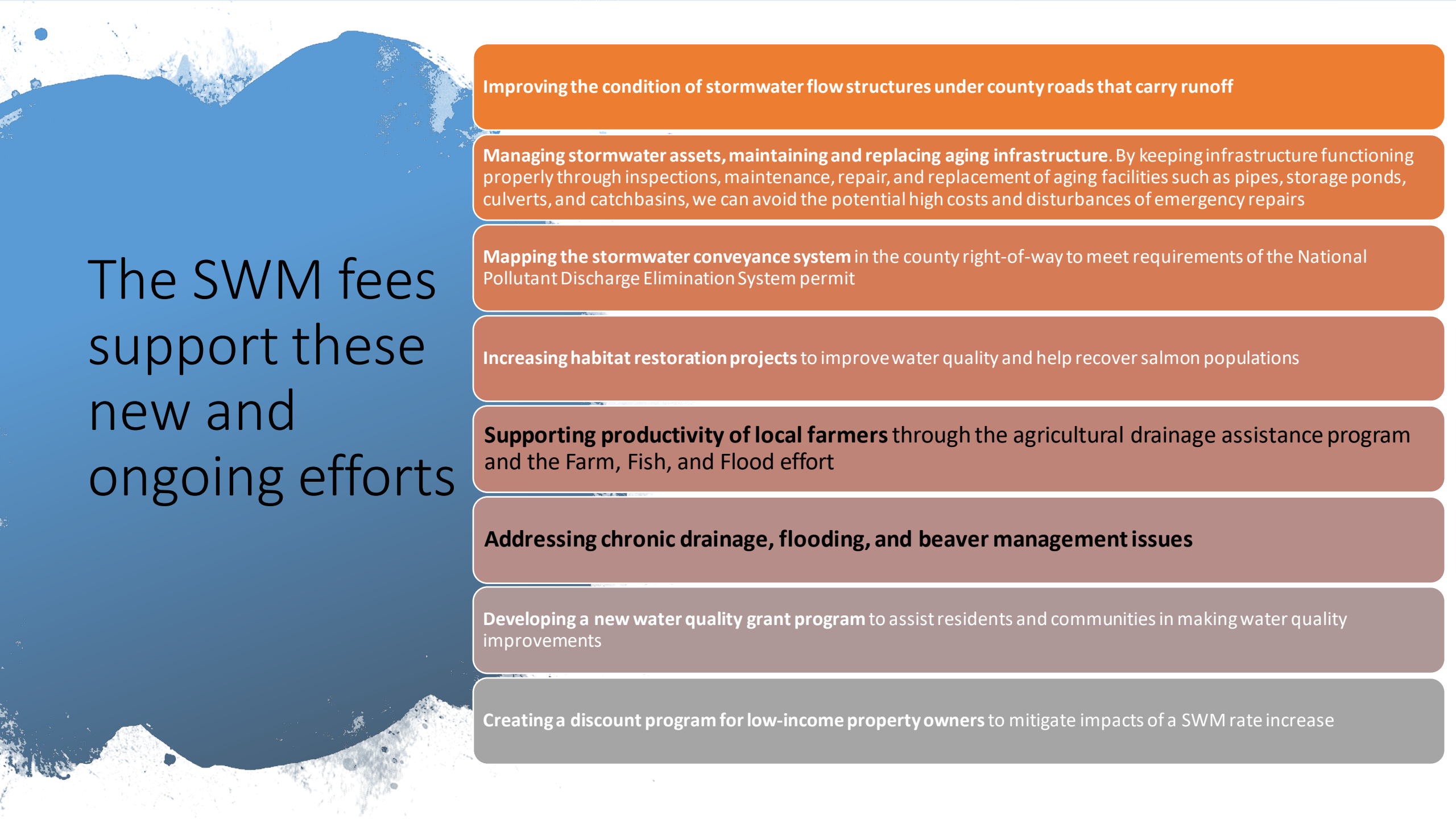
- SWM Fees, Use, Background**  
**featuring Enumclaw Sales Pavilion**
- Fee discount through stormwater improvements



# Surface water management fee

King County is committed to protecting water quality to benefit public health and safety and help restore Puget Sound. King County is also required by state and federal law to provide surface water management services.

To do this, the King County Water and Land Resources Division addresses problems that affect our rivers, lakes, and streams such as flooding, erosion, pollution, habitat degradation, low stream flows, and increased water temperatures. These problems result from development changes to natural systems and the movement of water over and through the land. To pay for services that help resolve these problems, property owners in unincorporated King County are assessed a Surface Water Management (SWM) fee.



# The SWM fees support these new and ongoing efforts

**Improving the condition of stormwater flow structures under county roads that carry runoff**

**Managing stormwater assets, maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure.** By keeping infrastructure functioning properly through inspections, maintenance, repair, and replacement of aging facilities such as pipes, storage ponds, culverts, and catchbasins, we can avoid the potential high costs and disturbances of emergency repairs

**Mapping the stormwater conveyance system** in the county right-of-way to meet requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit

**Increasing habitat restoration projects** to improve water quality and help recover salmon populations

**Supporting productivity of local farmers** through the agricultural drainage assistance program and the Farm, Fish, and Flood effort

**Addressing chronic drainage, flooding, and beaver management issues**

**Developing a new water quality grant program** to assist residents and communities in making water quality improvements

**Creating a discount program for low-income property owners** to mitigate impacts of a SWM rate increase



# SWM Rates

**Annual SWM rates for 2019 and 2020**

Rate class	Description	% Imperv. surface	Fee
1	Residential	NA	\$289.00 per parcel
2	Very light	$\leq 10\%$	\$289.00 per parcel
3	Light	$> 10.1 \leq 20\%$	\$803.51 per acre
4	Moderate	$> 20.1 \leq 45\%$	\$1,504.04 per acre
5	Moderately heavy	$> 45.1 \leq 65\%$	\$2,566.60 per acre
6	Heavy	$> 65.1 \leq 85\%$	\$3,575.37 per acre
7	Very heavy	$> 85.1 \leq 100\%$	\$4,399.10 per acre

# SWM Fee Discounts and Cost-Share

Call Stormwater Services Section customer service at 206-477-4811 to find out whether you qualify for a discount.

The non-residential discount program offers percentage discounts up to a **maximum 90 percent discount** for these stormwater controls:

- A **maximum 20 percent discount** for **flow control facilities** that meet any current or previous King County standard of design.
- A maximum 20 percent discount for flow control facilities that meet modern design standards adopted in the 1990 or later versions of the King County Surface Water Design Manual.
- A **maximum 20 percent discount** for **flow control best management practices** or infiltration facilities meeting King County standards that infiltrate or disperse runoff into pervious areas on the parcel to minimize the impact to the surface water system.
- A maximum **20 percent discount** for King County standard **water quality treatment facilities** that meet King County design standards that remove pollutants from runoff before it flows to the surface water system or to groundwater.
- A **10 percent discount** for parcels where stormwater discharges from at least 50 percent of the parcel are regulated under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (**NPDES**) **stormwater permit**.



Essential Agriculture Business

Live animal sales weekly

Lots of buildings =  
15,424 of impervious roofing  
surface + parking lot =  
6.23 acres=  
\$\$\$ Stormwater Fee

Business viability was hampered







**Worked with KC on Economic Development Recovery and Stormwater**

**Engineer and Program Manager, Brian Sleight provided technical assistance for ways to increase their SWM discount**







Building around existing  
structures and available space



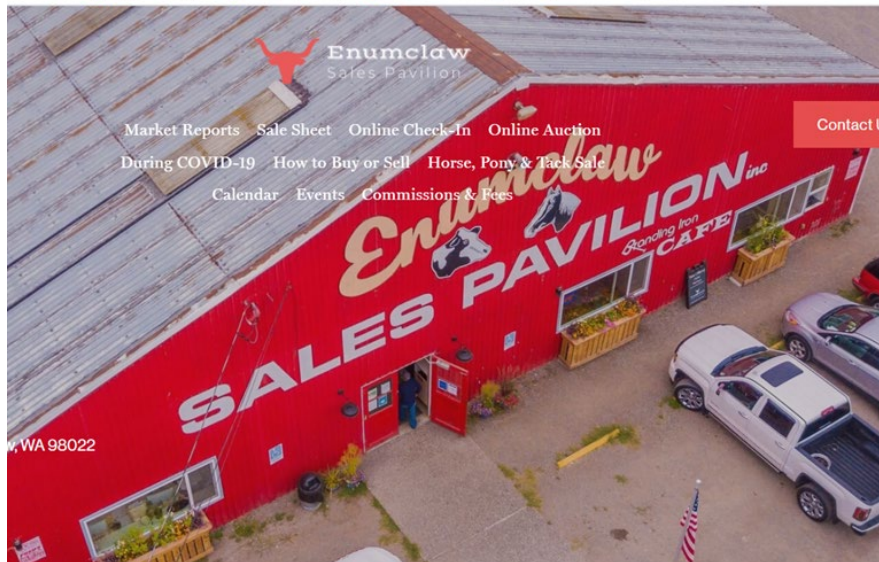


Created additional storage for onsite water retention. Functions like a retention pond.



Additional Water Storage





Saved \$\$\$

Now qualifies for 60% discount

Operating viable Business

If they could reduce 13% (.81 acres) impervious surface, would qualify for lower base fee and almost ½ their rate



# 2021 Updates to King County Stormwater Manuals

Prepared by King County  
Stormwater Services Section  
5/13/2021

---

# King County's Stormwater Manuals

- The Surface Water Design Manual (SWDM) sets design standards for managing stormwater in:
  - new development,
  - re-development, and
  - construction sites.
- The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual (SPPM) outlines best management practices (BMPs) to reduce contamination of stormwater runoff on:
  - commercial and multi-family, and
  - residential properties.



# Why do we need manual updates?

- Manuals must be equivalent to the Dept. of Ecology's *2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington*, and
- To be in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater permit.
- Updates include changes to improve environmental protection, clarify language, and add technical guidance.

# Manual Updates

- How often are updates made?

We are required to update manuals every 5 years, when the NPDES municipal stormwater permit is reissued

- Do other jurisdictions have to do this?

Yes, other counties and cities are required to make similar manual updates

## Previous 2016 SWDM Updates

- Updates specific to agricultural sites in the 2016 SWDM will remain unchanged in the proposed 2021 SWDM including:
  - New techniques for dispersing runoff onto farm fields instead of requiring stormwater facilities that take agricultural land out of production
  - Exemption from stormwater facilities if total impervious surfaces are kept at 4% or less for sites in commercial agriculture production located in A zones, FPP, or APDs.

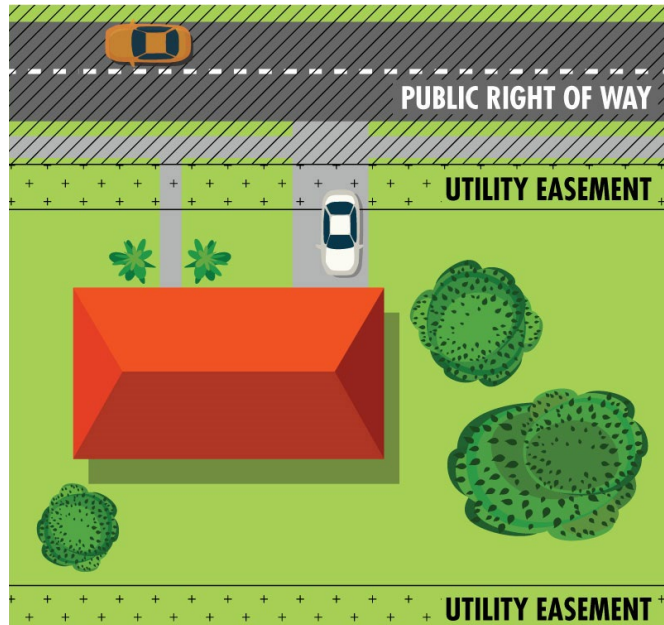


# Proposed 2021 SWDM Updates – flow control BMPs

- King County is eliminating modeling credits for flow control BMPs that are located on private property with the exception of full dispersion, full infiltration, and farmland dispersion BMPs.



# Proposed 2021 SWDM Updates – easements



- King County is requiring easements with associated building setback lines be provided and provisions for maintenance assigned for existing conveyance pipes that carry offsite flows and traverse private property as a condition of permit approval when these sites are developed or redeveloped.

# Proposed 2021 SWDM Updates – site redevelopment exemption

- Ecology required edits to make it more difficult for parcel redevelopment projects on industrial and commercial sites to qualify for an exemption that allows them to not mitigate replaced impervious surfaces.





# Proposed 2021 SWDM Updates – pollution generating surfaces



- King County is modifying a requirement that allowed applicants using the 2016 SWDM to fully disperse just enough pollution generating impervious surfaces to get under treatment thresholds for water quality treatment.
- This change is required to be compliant with Ecology's stormwater manual.

# Proposed 2021 SWDM Updates – discharge to wetlands

- Ecology required edits to make all projects discharging to wetlands demonstrate that the existing wetland hydroperiod is maintained.
- This modeling requirement does not apply to projects that are exempt from providing a flow control facility.
- Implementation will require some projects with legal access to large, high quality wetlands to perform monitoring in addition to modelling.



# 2021 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual (SPPM)

- SPPM describes the **actions we are all required to take** (KCC 9.12) to reduce the contamination of stormwater, surface water (e.g., streams and lakes), and groundwater in unincorporated King County
- These required actions are achieved through the implementation of methods called **best management practices (BMPs)** that will reduce the amount of contaminants in stormwater and improve the quality of our water resources.



# SPPM Exemptions

You may be exempt from implementing required BMPs in this manual if you:

- have and are complying with a permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit Program (e.g., industrial stormwater general permit);
- implement and maintain a **farm management plan** approved by the King Conservation District (KCD);
- implement **BMPs in compliance with KCC 21A.30**, which addresses animal and livestock keeping practices; or
- engage in forest practices, with the exception of Class IV general forest practices.

# Proposed 2021 SPPM Updates

## **A-4: Outdoor storage of soil, sand, and other erodible materials**

- Updated BMPs to be equivalent to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)'s *2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington* (2019 Manual)
- Several options for the storage of stockpiled erodibles larger than 5 cubic yards and leachable materials (e.g., freshly treated lumber drying) were added

## **A-5: Storage and Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers**

- Provided clarification for already required BMPs
- Added BMPs to be equivalent to Ecology's 2019 Manual (e.g., fertilizer and pesticide application)
- Several supplemental BMPs have been added including guidance for the development of an integrated pest management (IPM) program

# Proposed 2021 SPPM Updates

## **A-7: Food and Beverage Manufacturing and Storage**

- Provided clarification for already required BMPs (e.g., outdoor storage)
- Added BMPs to be equivalent to Ecology's 2019 Manual (e.g., outdoor storage and processing of food and beverage items)
- Added BMPs for wineries, breweries, distilleries and cideries for the disposal of generated wastewater and solids

## **A-26: Landscaping Activities, Vegetation Management, and Irrigation**

- Added BMPs to be equivalent to Ecology's 2019 Manual (e.g., irrigation practices)
- Supplemental BMPs have been added regarding the use of climate and soil appropriate vegetation management practices



# Proposed 2021 SPPM Updates

## **A-35: Keeping Livestock in Stables, Pens, Pastures or Fields**

- Added requirements to keep livestock from entering county owned storm drain ditches
- Provided information for the disposal of spent fluorescent bulbs

## **A-49: Nurseries and Greenhouses**

- Added new activity sheet, *A-49: Nurseries and Greenhouses*, to the SPPM to be equivalent to Ecology's 2019 Manual
- BMPs mainly address irrigation and soil/potting soil management practices

# Public rule comment period

- The manuals are adopted by public rule. Draft documents and a complete summary of the edits are available for review at:  
[www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/public-rule-notice.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/public-rule-notice.aspx)
- Comments will be received through June 11, 2021

# For more information or to provide comments

SWDM:

- Mark Wilgus at 206-477-4848
- [Mark.wilgus@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Mark.wilgus@kingcounty.gov)

SPPM:

- Bob Bernhard at 206-263-8979
- [rbernhard@kingcounty.gov](mailto:rbernhard@kingcounty.gov)