

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

RURAL ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

Updated Mission and Strategies –

Revised July 2, 2009

King County is updating the Rural Economic Strategies to meet both evolving economic conditions and to ensure implementation of policies relating to the rural economy within the 2008 King County Comprehensive Plan update. This document is a revised update to the Rural Economic Strategies that includes comments received from numerous rural organizations, including the rural Unincorporated Area Councils. The review document is broken into three sections.

- The first section includes a revised mission statement and three proposed goals.
- The second section sets out ‘Foundation Strategies’ that are overarching in nature and identify the activities that implement the Economic Cluster strategies such as Communication, Partnerships, and Incentives.
- The third section includes revisions to each of the six rural economic clusters. These clusters include Agriculture, Forestry, Equestrian, Home-Based Business, Tourism and Recreation, and Commercial and Industrial. Each economic cluster has a purpose statement followed by several strategies.

The implementing Actions are not included in this review document, they will be added once the strategies have been reviewed and commented on. The Actions are fluid, thus can be added at any time, in response to changing economic conditions, needs identified by rural businesses or residents, or in response to new programs being developed.

To facilitate review of this document here are some definitions that relate to the use of the terms in this document:

- RES – Rural Economic Strategies
- Strategy – the bridge between the Mission and Actions and provides general guidance for implementation of the Mission within economic cluster or foundation strategies.
- Action – activity to implement the Strategy
- Purpose – the reason for which anything is done
- “rural area” – refers to all of rural unincorporated King County (land use classifications of Rural Area, Agricultural Production Districts, and Forestry Production Districts)
- Rural Area – land use classification as designated on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map
- Resource Lands – include the Agricultural Production Districts and Forestry Production Districts as designated on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map
- Program – a system of services, opportunities, or projects, designed to meet a specific need (can include programs from the county, organizations, communities, etc.)

Please provide any comments or suggestions on this document to Julia Larson, Coordinator for the Rural Economic Strategies at julia.larson@kingcounty.gov or phone at 206-296-1062. Thanks for your input.

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SECTION I. MISSION AND GOALS

Proposed	Existing
<p>The Rural Economic Strategies:</p> <p>MISSION: Sustain and enhance the long-term economic viability of the rural area and resource lands.</p> <p>RES GOAL 1: Support the diversity and richness of the rural economy by effectively engaging farmers, foresters, rural business owners, rural communities, and rural related organizations in an on-going dialogue.</p> <p>RES GOAL 2: Implement the intent and policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan in support of a sustainable and vibrant rural economy.</p> <p>RES GOAL 3: Promote opportunities for residents to both live and work in the rural area.</p>	<p>2005 Annual Report Mission: The mission of the Rural Economic Strategies is to advance the long-term economic viability of the rural area with an emphasis on farming, forestry, and other rural businesses consistent with the unique character of rural King County.</p> <p>Mission proposed in first initial RES update draft forwarded for public review: The Rural Economic Strategies mission is to advance the long-term economic viability of the rural area and resource lands. The Strategies seek to preserve and enhance economic opportunities and promote the potential for residents to both live and work in rural communities consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan.</p>

SECTION II. FOUNDATION STRATEGIES

Proposed (Foundation Strategy and Purpose)	Existing General Strategy
<p>A) County Department Application: County departments recognize the importance of sustaining the rural economy and consider the applicable Rural Economic Strategies during development and implementation their respective strategic plans and programs.</p>	
<p>B) Policy and Regulatory Support: Ensure that county policy and regulations support rural residents and businesses as compatible opportunities emerge or economic conditions evolve.</p>	
<p>C) Communication: Solicit input, exchange ideas, inform, and facilitate dialogue to address solutions to identified needs between rural residents, rural business owners, organizations, and the county.</p>	<p>RES-G1 Inform and Communicate with Rural Residents and Businesses.</p>
<p>D) Partnerships: Initiate, participate, and/or support collaborations that encourage resource-based and compatible economic development in rural areas of the county and the Puget Sound Region.</p>	
<p>1) Commissions and the rural Unincorporated Area Councils.</p>	

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2) Rural communities, cities, and organizations that represent rural area interests (especially in areas not represented by an Unincorporated Area Council).	RES-G3 Create Partnerships with Rural Communities to Promote Economic Vitality.
3) Puget Sound counties and regional organizations.	RES-G4 Create Partnerships with the Counties of the Puget Sound Region to Promote Economic Vitality.
E) Business and Technical Assistance: Initiate programs, partner with professional organizations, and provide referrals to rural businesses regarding business and technical assistance, resources, training, and networking opportunities.	RES-G2 Provide Rural Business Assistance.
F) Incentives: Identify and inform the public about grants, low-interest loans, tax, and other incentives that encourage agriculture, forest-based, historic property redevelopment, and other rural business development consistent with ecological values and rural character.	
G) Performance Management: Identify and track rural indicators and trends to help direct policies, the rural economic strategies, and actions related to the rural economy.	

SECTION III. RURAL ECONOMIC CLUSTER STRATEGIES

Proposed (Purpose Statement & Strategies)	Existing Strategies
Agriculture: Strengthen and enhance the agriculture cluster - raising of crops and livestock and production of value-added goods - in both the Rural Area and the Agricultural Production Districts.	
RES-A1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support agriculture and its infrastructure.	RES-A1 Promote and Enhance Agriculture Production.
RES-A2. Assist implementation of the Agriculture Commission's annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain and conserve agricultural lands and infrastructure.	
RES-A3. Support and partner with programs that promote market development for agricultural products and value-added goods.	RES-A3 Enhance the Agricultural Market and Economic Base.
RES-A4. Initiate, support, and partner with programs that provide business and technical assistance to businesses within the agriculture cluster.	RES-A4 Provide Business Assistance to the Agriculture Industry.
RES-A5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the agriculture cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable agricultural practices.	

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RES-A6. Initiate, support, and partner with programs that provide assistance to new farmers with a focus on minorities, low-income, and immigrants.	
RES-A7. Solicit partners and support businesses or programs conducting efforts to develop secondary markets for added farm revenue, including but not limited to biofuels, manure digester systems, and agri-tourism.	
RES-A8. Promote and support programs that educate and encourage all county residents and businesses on the importance of buying local produce and value-added products.	RES-A2 Promote Programs that Educate and Encourage Urban Residents and Businesses on the Importance of Buying Local Produce.
Forestry: Strengthen and diversify the forestry cluster while maintaining healthy forest ecosystems. This includes growing trees, timber harvest, and production of forest value-added products in the Rural Area, the Forest Production Districts, and the Agricultural Production Districts as appropriate.	
RES-F1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support forestry and its infrastructure.	RES-F1 Promote and Enhance Forestry.
RES-F2. Assist implementation of the Rural Forest Commission’s annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain and conserve forests and needed forest infrastructure.	
RES-F3. Support and partner with programs that support market development for forestry products and value-added goods.	RES-F2 Enhance the Forestry Market and Infrastructure.
RES-F4. Initiate, support, and partner with programs that provide business and technical assistance to small forest landowners and forest-related businesses.	RES-F3 Provide Business Assistance to Forest Landowners.
RES-F5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the forest cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable forestry practices.	
Equestrian: Sustain and enhance the diversity of equine uses that support the equestrian economic cluster. Uses range from individuals who own one horse, to riding arenas and stables, to trail riding.	New Economic Cluster
RES-E1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support the equestrian cluster and its infrastructure.	
RES-E2. Initiate, support, and partner with programs that educate horse owners and potential purchasers on best equestrian husbandry and manure management practices.	

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RES-E3. Encourage and promote the continuation and expansion of equestrian trail connectivity throughout King County and the region.	
RES-E4. Solicit and respond to identified needs from horse owners, equestrian business owners, and related rural organizations to ensure that policies and regulations support appropriate equestrian uses and the needed infrastructure.	
RES-E5. Support and partner with the communities that promote equestrian businesses, tourism, and recreational opportunities, including trail connectivity.	
Home-Based Business: Strengthen and enhance the diverse home-based business cluster with uses ranging from sole proprietorships to cottage industries to natural resource-based support businesses.	
RES-H1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible home-based businesses and cottage industries.	RES-H1 Promote and Encourage Compatible Home-Based Businesses.
RES-H2. Initiate efforts, support, and partner with chambers of commerce, small business assistance centers, and other programs that provide business and technical assistance to home-based businesses and cottage industries.	
RES-H3. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the home-based business cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are an appropriate use and scale for the area being proposed.	
Tourism and Recreation: Strengthen and enhance the tourism and recreation cluster while ensuring that the business use and scale is compatible with the area in which the activity or activities are located or provided.	<i>(Note: while it was initially recommended to remove recreation, several different groups thought it should be included with tourism.)</i>
RES-T1. Promote enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible tourism and recreation opportunities.	RES-T1 Promote and Enhance Compatible Tourism and Recreation.
RES-T2. Lead and/or partner in efforts to unify regional tourism efforts to maximize program effectiveness and support individual tourism or recreation related businesses.	
RES-T3. Support and partner with efforts to provide both private and public local recreational opportunities, as well support regional connectivity of recreational uses and trails.	
RES-T4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the tourism and recreation cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are an appropriate use and scale for the area being proposed.	

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<p>Commercial & Industrial: Strengthen and enhance the commercial and industrial cluster to sustain compatible businesses on sites designated for commercial or industrial uses within the following land use classifications: 1) Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, 2) Rural Towns, 3) Rural Cities/Rural City Urban Growth Area, 4) Industrial, and 5) Mining/Mineral Resource Lands.</p>	
<p>RES-C1. Promote and support compatible businesses in the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers in their role of providing limited retail goods and services for the surrounding rural area.</p>	<p>RES-N1 Promote and Support Compatible Businesses in the Rural Towns and Rural Neighborhoods.</p>
<p>RES-C2. Promote and partner with the Rural Towns to support economic vitality in their role of providing retail businesses and services for the surrounding rural area.</p>	
<p>RES-C3. Create and sustain partnerships with the Rural Cities, chambers of commerce, and other related organizations on programs that support businesses and provide services and employment for the residents in the surrounding rural area.</p>	<p>RES-C1 Create and Sustain Partnerships with the Rural Cities.</p>
<p>RES-C4. Create and sustain partnerships with the cities to support and maintain the economic vitality of businesses located within the Urban Growth Areas.</p>	
<p>RES-C5. Create and sustain partnerships with rural and small cities within the county to promote regional tourism efforts.</p>	
<p>RES-C6. Encourage mining and mineral resource businesses to employ operational practices that protect environmental quality, fisheries, and wildlife, in balance with the needs of the industry.</p>	
<p>RES-C7. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the commercial and industrial cluster to formulate policy and as appropriate, regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are of an appropriate use and scale for the area.</p>	