

Building Sustainable Seattle

Embracing Demographic Changes
Creating an Economy that Works for All
Achieving Climate Neutrality
Local Food Puts it All Together

The Seattle context...

- ➔ 612,000 residents (24th largest city in US)
- ➔ Mayor + 9-member Council elected to 4-year terms
- ➔ 10,500 City employees in ~20 departments/offices
- ➔ Annual budget ~ \$3b
 - ➔ \$1.3b Seattle City Light (electricity rates)
 - ➔ \$900m in general fund (sales and B&O taxes)
 - ➔ \$800m Seattle Public Utilities (water/sewer/garbage rates)
- ➔ City owns 7,000 acres in city, 128,000 acres outside City, > 700 facilities, > 3,000 vehicles



Embracing Demographic Changes

- Education as the heart of the City: Families and Education Levy, Partnership with U of Washington, new Universities, Community Colleges
- The 24/7 City – “City of Music” Campaign
- Walk, Bike, Ride
- Race and Social Justice Initiative – legislative screen, new outreach strategies

Creating an Economy That Works for All

- Seattle for Washington – the regional economy
- Liberating Entrepreneurial Creativity – Regulatory Reform, Encouraging the Home-Grown
- Dozens of 24/7 communities, fueled by caffeine, wired together, connected by transit – work, shop, play, and live anywhere and get to another node efficiently and easily
- Different dwellings for different stages – pods to single-family houses



Climate Neutral Seattle

- Commitment to Climate (Carbon) Neutrality by 2050
- The Climate Economy –Green Jobs and Exports
- Climate Action Plan sets specific targets and goals by year
- Compact Communities are the Key
- And all of the other environmental work you can do --



Local Food Action Initiative

- Promote local and regional food sustainability and security.
- Advance Seattle's goals of race and social justice, environmental sustainability, economic development, and emergency preparedness.
- Dovetails with demographic strategy – immigrants and young urban foodies
- Keeps local money local and generates export revenues
- Promotes public health, supports environmental stewardship, and cuts carbon emissions



Urban Agriculture

- Surveyed public lands available for community gardening
- Secured community food grant focused on the needs of low income residents
- Included \$2 million from the 2008 Parks Levy for community gardens – planned 4, have actually created 17 by focusing on land the City already owns
- Convened meetings to create new partnerships and initiatives:
 - A website linking private land owners with interested gardeners
 - Seattle Central Community College developed a certificate program in urban agriculture
 - Removed regulatory impediments to gardening in planting strips
 - Create "learning gardens" at community centers



Food Access

- Increased City funding for food banks
- Established an alliance with the United Way to develop a strategic plan to reduce hunger
- Funded an outreach staff to help people sign up for SNAP (food stamps)
- Better quality food in schools, at after school programs, and in vending machines



Farms and Markets

- Added a new farmers market at City Hall
- Streamlined the permitting process for farmers markets and slashed fees
- Collaborating to establish permanent homes
- Partnering with King County to protect rural farmland
- Created Regional Food Policy Council through Puget Sound Regional Council (MPO), developing regional policy in initiatives



Local Food in the Future

- Focus on economic development.
- Strengthen urban agriculture.
- Protect farmland through foodshed initiatives.
- Expand long-range campaign for healthy food for all.
- Create indicators of success.
- Developing urban farms and gardens on City land.

Sustainability – it's our future

