

# Food System Committee

Riley Sweeney, Chair

April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Whatcom County Council



Whatcom County  
**HEALTH**  
Department

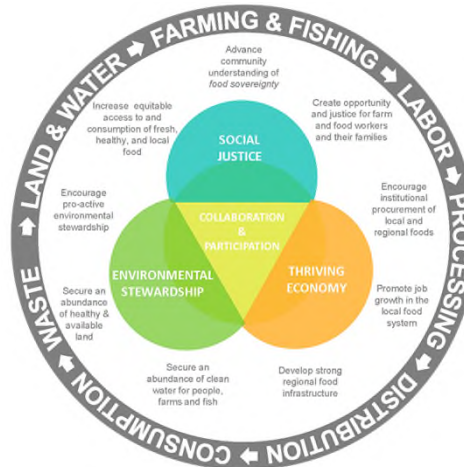


## Food System

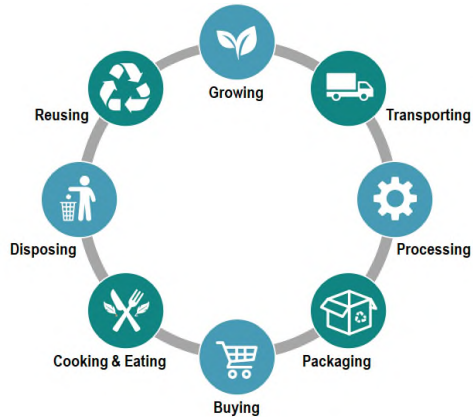


### Food System

A network of people and activities connecting production, transformation (processing), distribution, consumption, and food waste management, as well as associated inputs, influences, and policies.



# Food System Plan



*As defined by the American Planning Association:*

“A set of interconnected, forward-thinking activities that strengthen a community and regional food system through the creation and implementation of plans and policies.”

# What Can a Food System Plan Do?



Foster profitable agriculture and food business,

Support entrepreneurs in agriculture and food,



Increase access to healthy foods,

Support skills in gardening and food preparation,



Protect soil, water, and air quality,

Reduce food waste,

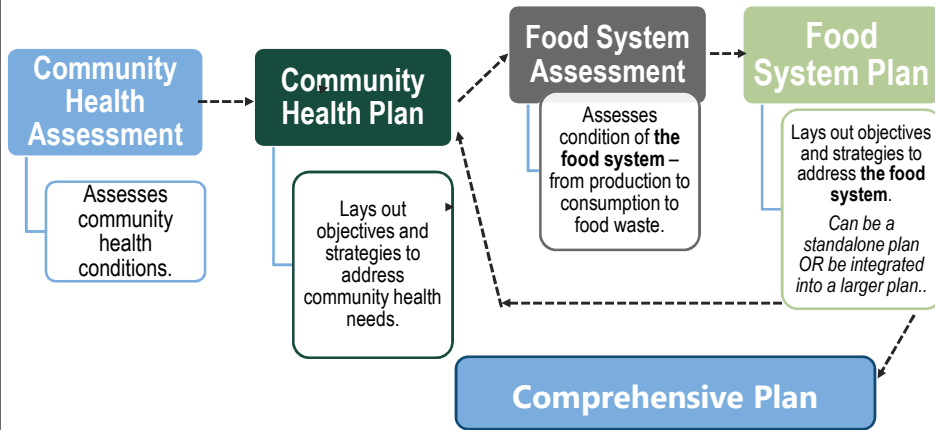


Celebrate diversity of food and agriculture in our community,

Empower all to participate in the food system.



# A Food System Plan's Cousins:



# What's in a Typical Food System Plan?



## GOALS

General statements of desired outcomes for the community's food system.



## OBJECTIVES

More specific, measurable strategies to guide local work to reach each goal. Each goal has multiple objectives that support it.



## ACTION STEPS

Specific policies, programs, and initiatives prioritized to meet goals

# General Process Outline



# Timeline



Item	Timeline	Objective(s)
Publish Community Food Assessment Update	December 2021	Identify our food system's assets and challenges, which will inform a food system plan.
Food System Plan Kickoff	Feb 2022	Outline project plan.
Process	Feb-Mar 2022	Create shared vision for plan process, plan community engagement events.
Engagement	Apr-Jun 2022	Conduct community engagement with food system experts, as well as food system workers who historically have been left out of engagement.
Synthesis	July 2022	Review data from community engagement and begin synthesizing.
Strategy	Aug-Sept 2022	Create plan goals, objectives, and actions, get community feedback.
Compilation	Oct-Nov 2022	Draft a food system plan.
Adoption	Dec-Jan 2022	Present plan for adoption by council.
Implementation	Nov 2022- ongoing	Community partners will carry out the activities in the food system plan.

# Who Should be at The Table?



## Community:

- The plan is for and by the community that participates in the food system

## Steering Committee to lead the process:

- Food System Committee
- Key stakeholders from food system sectors

## Staff support from lead organization(s), city, county:

- Health Dept. staff
- Communications staff
- City/County Management

Consultant or researcher

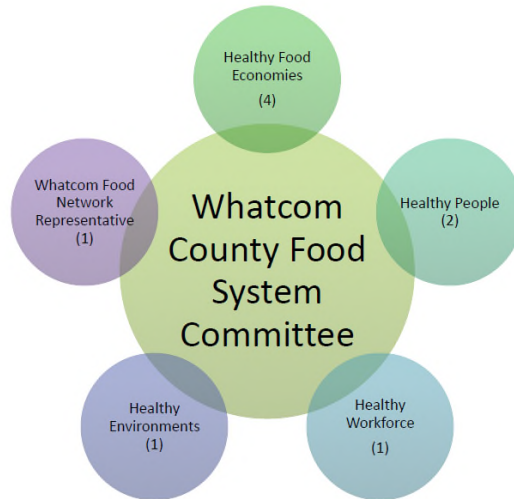
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## Committee Members



# Food System Committee



## Activities

- Update the Community Food Assessment (2021)
- Draft Food System Plan
- Connect with community partners and stakeholders
- Oversee implementation of the plan
  - Identify and cultivate community partners to implement plan
- Identify and prioritize action items
- Make recommendations to the Council



**Questions?**

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