

City of Tumwater Food System Plan

Project Update, February 2025

I'm still in the thick of community engagement and exploring Tumwater's current food system including the natural, physical/built, political, and social aspects. This work will inform a Community Food Assessment which will synthesize information obtained from interviews, an online survey, and my review of relevant materials. The assessment will provide an inventory and evaluation of the current landscape as well as describe key challenges, developments, current collaborations, and opportunities. The key findings from this assessment will inform the strategies addressed in the Food System Plan.

Interviews. I've been conducting interviews with subject matter experts (SME) regarding food processing and production, hunger relief, nutrition, food waste reduction/rescue, policies, and regulations. These areas align with the City's stated parameters for this project to address food security at the local level by focusing on 1) how to provide healthy food for all members of the community, 2) reduce food waste, and 3) support local food production and processing. Additionally, SME were selected that reinforced the guiding principles of producing a Food System Plan grounded in equity, sustainability, stability, resiliency, and efficacy. During the interview process, interviewees sometimes identified other key SME which I added to my list.

The following table lists those interviewed to date. Note: there are a few additional SME with whom I am in the process of scheduling meetings.

- recipients of hunger relief services
- Khurshida Begum, Executive Director, ASHHO Cultural Community Center
- John Peters, Managing Member & Lead Developer, Tumwater Craft District
- Jade Monroe, Use Food Well Washington Center Lead, WA Dept of Ecology
- Kristen Maring, Lead Instructor Tumwater FRESH Program (Farm Rooted Education for Sustainability & Health), Tumwater High School

	NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION
1	Jen Ownbey	Owner/Baker	8 Arms Bakery
2	Alyssa Jones Wood	Sustainability Manager	City of Tumwater
3	Todd Anderson	Parks & Recreation Manager	City of Tumwater
4	Margaret Garrett	Farm to School Coordinator	Educational Service District 101
5	Meredith Arseneau	Child Nutrition Cooperative Mentor	Educational Service District 113
6	Peter Epperson	Retired	Formerly with Catholic Community Services, Thurston County Public Works, Thurston Community Television, Senior Services for South Sound, United Way Mason County
7	LeeAnn Perry	Founder	Little Free Pantry

8	Robby Rutledge	Owner/Farmer	Rutledge Family Farm
9	Stephanie Penland	Senior Nutrition Program Director	Senior Services of South Sound
10	Mitch Lewis	Owner/Farmer, Board President	Summit Farms, Tumwater Farmers' Market
11	Michaela Winkley	School Gardens Program Coordinator	Thurston County Food Bank
12	Rebekah Graham	Satellite Coordinator	Thurston County Food Bank
13	Mackenzie McCall	Agricultural Resources Supervisor, Network Leader	Thurston County Food Bank, South Sound Food System Network
14	Hope Springer	Waste Reduction & Recycling Specialist	Thurston County Public Works
15	Maggie Brown	Waste Reduction & Recycling Specialist	Thurston County Public Works
16	Tina Sharp	Regional Agricultural Development Manager	Thurston Economic Development Council
17	Cathy Visser	Dietician/Consultant	True for You Nutrition, LLC. Formerly with South Sound Food System Network & Senior Services for South Sound
18	Bob Gibson	Food Service Supervisor	Tumwater School District
19	TJ Johnson	Owner/Farmer, Board Chair	Urban Futures Farm, Thurston Conservation District
20	Treacy Kreger	Owner, Founder South Sound Fresh	Vern's Foods, Our Community Kitchen, South Sound Fresh
21	Katie Rains	Food Policy Advisor to the Director	Washington State Dept of Agriculture
22	Theresa Kimball	Owner/Farmer	Wild Fun Farm
23	Annie Salafsky	Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator	WSU Extension Thurston County, Southwest Washington Growers Cooperative. Former Co-Owner/Farmer Helsing Junction Farm
24	Marilyn Sitaker	Food Systems Researcher & Program Coordinator	WSU Thurston County Extension, Southwest Washington Food Hub

Survey. An online survey will be going out to additional SME in February. The survey will focus on the same topics explored with others via interviews. The following table lists the SME who will receive the survey. Additional SME identified by the Planning Commission, City Council, and staff are welcome. Please keep in mind that to maximize this project's resource constraints, the methodology does not include broad public engagement.

	NAME	AFFILIATION
1	Rae Lee	Adventist Community Service Center
2	Kelly Wilson	All Kids Win
3	Mark Clark	Bush Prairie Farm
4	Jaspar Quinton	Catholic Community Services
5	Richard Calkins	Catholic Community Services
6	Rhys Roth	Center for Sustainable Infrastructure
7	Cristian Salazar	CIELO
8	Dalila Vasquez	CIELO
9	Diana Torres	CIELO
10	Brian Hurley	Thurston County Local Emergency Planning Committee
11	Shawn Crimmins	Thurston County Local Emergency Planning Committee
12	Jennifer Colvin	Colvin Ranch
13	Loretta Seppanan	Community Farm Land Trust
14	Leslie Price	Community Wellness, Thurston County
15	Evan Kavanaugh	Community Youth Services
16	Muhammad Ayub	Dancing Goats And Singing Chickens Organic Farm
17	Brighida DeVargas	Eastside Urban Farm & Garden
18	Beth Henriquez	Enterprise for Equity
19	Tanikka Watford	Enterprise for Equity, The Moore Wright Group, Deep Roots Foods
20	Megumi Sugihara	Everyone's Food Sovereignty Alliance
21	Mark Goebel	Family Education and Support Services
22	Rosa Venancio	Family Education and Support Services
23	Shelly Willis	Family Education and Support Services
24	Joel Hansen	former Tumwater Planning Commission member, Tumwater Farmers Market, Thurston Union of Low Income People
25	Leland Harmell & Lucas Nipper	Fresh Perspective
26	Kerensa Mabwa	GRuB Growing Home Collective
27	Deb Crockett	GRuB, South Sound Food System Network
28	Mercy McGee	Haki Farmers Collective
29	Jessica Armstrong & Angie Camp	Helsing Junction Farm
30	Chad Johnson	Mountain View Church
31	Maegan Cote	Mountain View Church

32	Cristina Vermeer	North Star Church of God
33	Tony & Kira DeRito	Olympia Seafood, Craft District
34	Peter Guttchen	retired, waste prevention specialist
35	Jenni Crain	Slow Food Greater Olympia
36	Chris Hyde	Souper Sunday
37	Kyle Rogers	South Puget Sound Intertribal Planning Agency
38		SPSCC Early Learning / Child & Family Education Center
39	Nate	Spud's Produce Market
40	Leejay & Lea Lee	Sweet Lee's Ice Cream, Craft District
41	Aherlow Kasjaka	Thurston Asset Building Coalition
42	Juanita MacNaughton	Thurston Chamber of Commerce, Food Production sector WorkSource Business Solutions Navigator
43	Tina Wagner	Thurston Conservation District, Farm My Yard Program
44	Al Quioco	Thurston County Public Health & Social Services
45	Raymona Smiedala	Thurston County Public Health & Social Services
46	Advisory Committee	Thurston County Solid Waste
47	Cherie Carey	Thurston County, Emergency Management
48	Meghan Sullivan	TOGETHER!
49	Jake Yancey	Tracking Y Ranch
50	Brooke Pugliese	Tumwater Farmers Market
51	Carrie Lerud	Tumwater Rotary
52	Lee Hagen	Tumwater United Methodist Church
53	Anita & Pieter de Boer	Tunawerth Creamery
54	Chris Wells	United Way of Thurston County
55	Kyle Taylor Lucas	Urban Indians Northwest
56	Dani Madrone	Washington State Conservation Commission
57	Christine Ciancetta	Washington State SNAP-ed
58	Carissa Miller & Jasper Pease	Withywindle Valley Farm

Overview of Existing Work. I am referencing work accomplished to date that is relevant to the Community Food Assessment and subsequent Food System Plan. The following list is organized by publication date to reflect the progression of work over time (2011 to 2024). I welcome input regarding other materials to review to inform this project provided they are grounded in the feasibility of what can be accomplished at the municipal level.

The Evergreen State College Ecological Agriculture Students. 2011. *Food Summit Recommendations*. The Evergreen State College.

Sustainable Thurston. January 2012. *Local Food Systems Panel White Paper*. Thurston Regional Planning Council.

Sustainable Thurston. December 2013. *Creating Places, Preserving Spaces: A Sustainable Development Plan for the Thurston Region*. Thurston Regional Planning Council.

Thurston Thrives Food Action Team. October 2015. *2014 Food System Report*. Thurston Asset Building Coalition, Thurston Food System Council, and Thurston Thrives.

Young Producers Network. 2016. *Let's Talk Trash (Episode II)*. Video. 17:15. Thurston Community Media. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1zY60bISFo>

Beiker, C., N. Calene, K. Kitzke, E. Hannum, K. Unland, J. Clark, M. Wynne, and L. Moulder. 2016. *Spokane Regional Food System Inventory*. Spokane Food Policy Council.

Sustainable Thurston. February 2019. *Creating Places, Preserving Spaces: An Implementation Status Report for the Sustainable Thurston Plan*. Thurston Regional Planning Council.

South Sound Food System Network. 2020. *History of the South Sound Food System Network*. PowerPoint Presentation. South Sound Food System Network Meeting. September 2, 2020.

City of Tumwater. 2021. *Tumwater City Plan 2036 Conservation Element*. City of Tumwater.

Whatcom County Food System Committee and Staff. December 2021. *Whatcom Community Food Assessment: 2021 Report Update*. Whatcom Food Network.

Monroe, Jade, M. Harrington, and K. Patora. 2022. *Use Food Well Washington Plan*. Washington State Department of Ecology.

Spokane Food Policy Council. 2022. *Spokane Regional Food Action Plan 2022*. Spokane Food Policy Council.

Roth, R., M.P. Wolcott, G.G. Yorgey, J.L. Male, T. Sturdevant, D. Camenzind, F. Pierobon, J. Padowski, C.E. Kruger, A. Whittemore, T. Carroll, K. Jensen, S. Moddemeyer, and A. Ybarra. 2023. *Increasing the Economic Value and Sustainability of Washington's Agricultural Sector through Industrial Symbiosis: A report to the Washington Legislature*. WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, WSU Institute for Northwest Energy Futures, Richland, WA.

Whatcom County Food System Committee and New Venture Advisors. July 2023. *Whatcom County Food System Plan: A 10 year plan for an equitable and sustainable food system*. Whatcom Food Network.

AHBL, Inc, ECONorthwest, C. Ziegler, K. Gardow, and A. Peterson. 2024. *Urban Farm Park Study*. City of Olympia.

City of Tumwater. July 2024. *Draft Land Use Element: Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions*. City of Tumwater 2025 Comprehensive Plan. City of Tumwater.

Salafsky, A., S. Bramwell, A. Meade, W. Uyeda, K. Gaffi, and T. Sharp. 2024. *Pac Mountain Region Agriculture Labor Survey Findings*. WSU Extension, Thurston Economic Development Council, Garden-Raised Bounty (GRuB), Pac Mountain Workforce Development Council.

WSU Extension, Thurston Economic Development Council, and Garden-Raised Bounty (GRuB). 2024. *Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training (QUEST) Sector Partnerships Final Report*. Pac Mountain Workforce Development Council.

Timeline of Deliverables. This timeline has been updated to reflect the longer period that has been necessary to identify and consult with SME via interviews and surveys and to analyze the data.

ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME
Identify and consult with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)	October - February
Inventory current landscape and resources.	October - February
Examine relevant policies and plans.	October - February
Report key findings in a Community Food Assessment.	March/April
Develop the Food System Plan’s goals and objectives.	April - May
Develop and prioritize strategies in the Food System Plan.	May - June
Prepare final report and other materials.	June - July

Contact Information. You can reach me by email or phone:

- 360-977-0476 (call/text)
- Rebeca.Potasnik@gmail.com