



2025 LOCAL FOOD Initiative



King County



Executive Summary

(Access the full report)

Executive Summary

The King County Local Food Initiative (LFI) was first created in 2015 to strengthen the local food system by growing the local food and farm economy and expanding access to healthy, affordable food for all residents. The 2025 update renews this vision with a 10-year roadmap that addresses today's challenges and prepares for the future. It reaffirms our shared commitment to a food system that is both economically and environmentally sustainable, rooted in equity and justice, and responsive to the voices and needs of communities across King County—from rural to urban. Together, these efforts aim to build a local food system that truly serves us all.

While King County's food system is vibrant—rooted in diverse farms, innovative food businesses, active community networks, and strong policy leadership—it also faces serious and urgent challenges, including rising food insecurity, high farmland costs, underinvestment in food infrastructure, and increasing threats from climate change. The food system is also shaped by policies and funding decisions at both the state and federal levels. Recent federal changes in policy and investment are influencing local programs, creating new challenges and pressures to sustain resources and ensure long-term support. A shared, coordinated plan is essential to guide action, shape policy, and align resources to meet these challenges.

The updated LFI was shaped through an 18-month process (2024–25) and led by King County and the King Conservation District (KCD), with support from New Venture Advisors. A key part of this process was the Food System Advisory Council (FSAC)—a group of more than twenty leaders from farms, businesses, community organizations, and government.

Continued on next page

Frisky Girl Farm located in North Bend

Community voices guided the plan at every step. More than 1,600 residents completed surveys, and additional input came from listening sessions, focus groups, and interviews. These perspectives were combined with valuable learning from programs and projects and findings from other county and regional plans to ensure alignment in policy efforts and investments.

Through engagement, the community emphasized the need to protect farmland, support farmers and food businesses, expand equitable access to healthy food, invest in infrastructure, and ensure that climate and equity guide decision-making. These issues are complex and costly, and they demand a coordinated approach. The updated LFI provides the direction needed to guide investments, shape policy, and align the work of governments, funders, and community partners.

The updated LFI envisions a **just, sustainable, and resilient food system** where all residents can access affordable, healthy, and culturally relevant food; farmers and food workers can thrive; and natural resources are protected for future generations.

The plan sets out **four interconnected goals**:

1. Ensure equitable food access and affordability
2. Build a thriving local food and farm economy
3. Protect farmland and support sustainable production
4. Advance environmental sustainability and climate resilience

These goals are backed by 83 actions including policies, programs, and investments that build on existing efforts and introduce new actions that can be carried out collaboratively across sectors and partners. To launch implementation, **10 priority actions** (page 17) have been identified as the most urgent and impactful.

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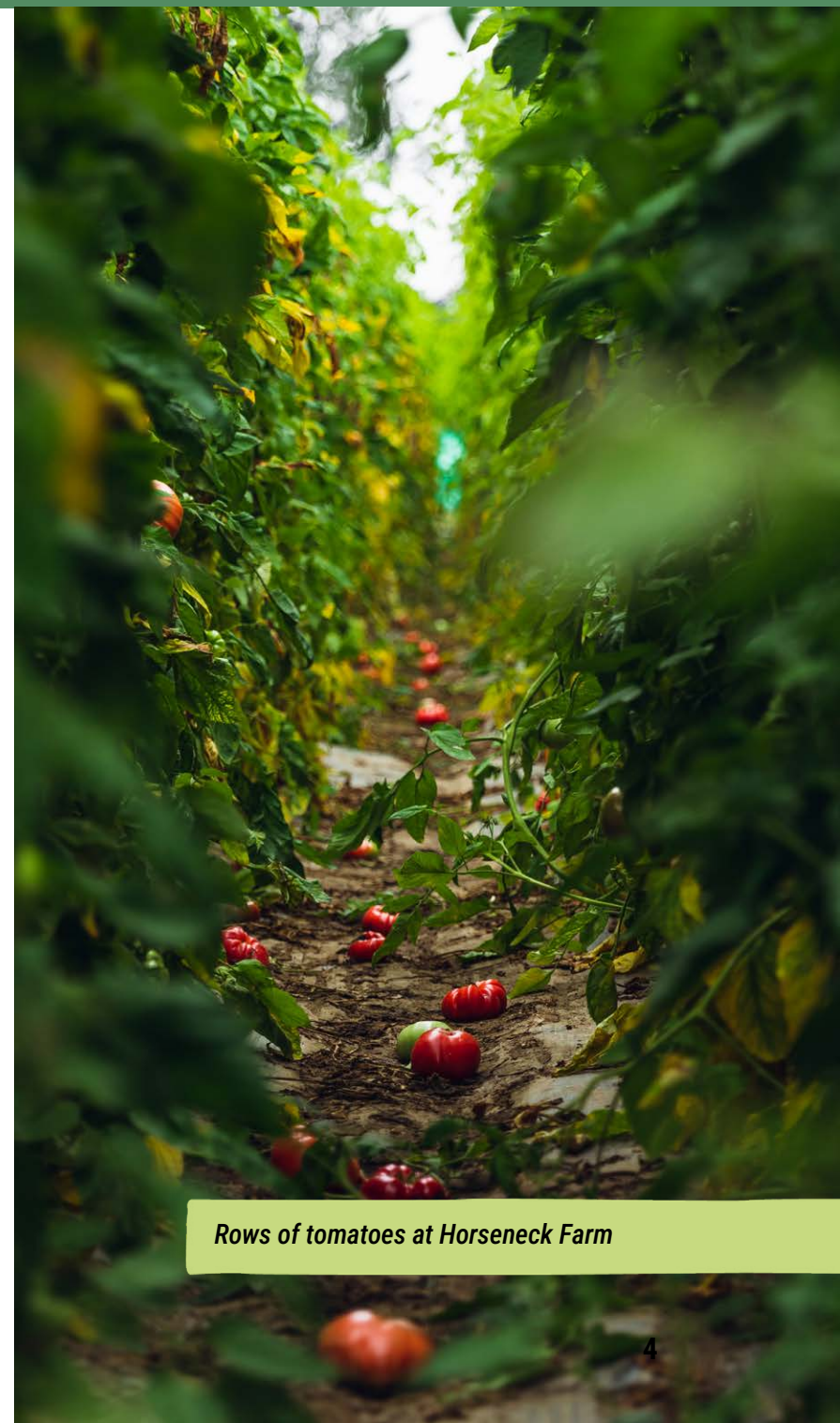


Weeding at Horseneck Farm, near Kent

Implementation will require partners from across the region to come together in new and innovative ways. King County and the KCD will provide stewardship and support, but this plan ultimately belongs to the community and will succeed through shared commitment and collaboration. Guided by shared principles—fair distribution of power, resilience to climate and economic challenges, and prioritizing grassroots leadership—this work will focus on building partnerships, coordinating resources, and sustaining programs. Key investments, including KCD's regional food system grants and strategic initiative grants, along with other public and private funding efforts, will help bring the plan's vision to life.

The Local Food Initiative is more than a plan—it is a shared commitment to building a stronger food future for King County. Its success depends on the combined efforts of government, nonprofits, businesses, farmers, and residents. By working together, we can ensure that everyone has access to healthy food, local farms and food businesses remain strong, and natural resources are protected for the next generation.

We invite all community members, organizations, and institutions to join in partnerships, advocate for supportive policies, and take part in programs that will bring this vision to life.



Rows of tomatoes at Horseneck Farm