

FOOD POLICY FORUM

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE – JUNE 2019

As required by 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget Section 306 (2)

Prepared by the Following Washington State Agencies:

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Washington State Conservation Commission

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Executive Summary: Food Policy Forum Recommendations

The Washington State Food Policy Forum (Forum) was created through a Legislative budget proviso in 2016 and charged with making meaningful recommendations for improving the food system in Washington. To accomplish this, the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC), the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), and the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) convened a cross-sector group of food system stakeholders to consider and develop recommendations that have broad support from the Forum's diverse members.

Through a three-part process beginning in January 2018, the Forum developed and came to consensus on fifteen recommendations. Highlights of the recommendation refinement process include:

101 Level

Food systems experts introduced the Forum to a variety of food system issues and initial recommendation ideas were identified.

201 Level

Food systems experts offered in-depth discussion and proposed recommendations for the following seven topics that were collectively prioritized by the Forum:

1. Coordination with and among local food policy entities;
2. Food insecurity;¹
3. Agricultural land protection and availability;
4. Transportation and related infrastructure;
5. Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing;
6. Rural economic development including next generation farming; and
7. Impacts of climate change.

301 Level

In January 2019, Food Policy Forum members were invited to complete a survey assessing their support for and opinion of the 59 recommendation ideas that emerged during the seven 201-level meetings. See Appendix B for survey results. Based on the survey results, five Recommendation Teams were launched to refine recommendations for the full Forum's discussion and approval. Each Recommendation Team developed A) a background and problem statement and B) three recommendations for their assigned topic for the full Forum's discussion and approval. The five Recommendation Teams were:

¹ The prioritized topic was food deserts and inequitable access to food, however the discussion focused on food insecurity.

Recommendation Team 1: **Food Insecurity**

Recommendation Team 2: **Agricultural land protection and availability and next generation farming**

Recommendation Team 3: **Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing**

Recommendation Team 4: **Infrastructure and rural economic development**

Recommendation Team 5: **Impacts of Climate Change**

The Food Policy Forum membership is available in Appendix A. An in-depth description of the Food Policy Forum recommendation development process is described in Appendix C.

The Forum reached full consensus² on the following fifteen recommendations. Two recommendation sub-ideas garnered two-thirds of the vote but failed to achieve full consensus of the group. For more context, please see pages 10-29 for background and problem statements for each topic and information on promising recommendation ideas that did not achieve full consensus. To review Forum members present for recommendation voting, please reference Appendix A. To review recommendations in which some members chose to stand aside for voting, please reference Appendix D.



Food Insecurity Recommendations

1. Expand produce purchasing initiatives, prioritizing Washington-grown products.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

2. Explore the use of state resources to maximize participation and access to nutrition assistance programs.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

3. Address barriers to accepting and accessing benefits.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

² Working definition of consensus is “I can live with it.”



Photo courtesy of SCC ([link](#))



Agricultural Land Protection and Availability and Next Generation Farming Recommendations

1. Support funding for tools to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses and assist farmers in transferring and accessing land.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

2. Incentivize landowners to sell, rent, or lease to beginning farmers, while encouraging producers to take on land-based projects through means.

*Consensus reached,
3 stand asides³*

3. Enact policies that reflect the significance of protecting agricultural land, communities, and infrastructure, and place a high priority on this goal.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

³ Stand asides are captured in Appendix D



Alleviating Barriers to Small and Medium Scale Farmers Accessing Markets, Including Institutional Purchasing

1. Offer technical assistance and market-readiness support to farmers, co-ops, and distributors so they can meet market needs.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

2. Improve the capacity and purchasing ability of schools and other institutions (child care, senior meal programs, food banks, hospitals, universities, etc.) to buy and use Washington farm products, including funding incentives.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

3. Increase purchases of Washington farm products with procurement policies and better visibility and promotion of Washington products in the marketplace.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*



Infrastructure and Rural Economic Development Recommendations

1. Support efforts that increase the availability of regional-scale ag-related infrastructure (including processing, storage, aggregation & distribution) to increase the economic viability of small and mid-sized agricultural businesses, increase overall local production, and better supply a broad cross-section of Washington markets with regional products.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

2. Identify funding and financing mechanisms for capital investment in regional food system infrastructure that is needed for rural food and ag entrepreneurship-based economic development.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

3. Build statewide capacity to coordinate and share information among local projects so that we can build complementary regional systems that connect and work as one whole statewide system.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*



Impacts of Climate Change Recommendations

1. Work with policy makers, university researchers, Tribes, and agencies to project future agricultural water availability needs across the state, and to identify strategies to reduce water use conflicts.

*Consensus reached,
one stand aside⁴*

2. Promote research and programmatic investments in agricultural viability, resiliency, and market development.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

3. Ensure agricultural adaptation resources are well coordinated, funded, and staffed to support farmers in making informed business decisions in a changing climate.

*Consensus reached,
three stand asides⁵*



Photo courtesy of SCC ([link](#))

⁴ Stand asides are captured in Appendix D

⁵ Stand asides are captured in Appendix D

Overview

The purpose of this report is to share the Food Policy Forum’s recommendations for improving the Food System in Washington. The report describes the Forum’s recommendations and how the Forum approached collective decision-making and development of its recommendations.

The Washington State Legislature initially created the Food Policy Forum (Forum) through a budget proviso in 2016 and, in 2017, provided additional funding to support the Forum through June 2019. The Legislature asked the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) “to convene and facilitate a food policy forum.” The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) work in partnership with SCC to convene and manage the Forum. Ross Strategic is contracted by SCC to provide facilitation support.

The 2017 Forum process⁶ refined the charge of the group. The charge of the Food Policy Forum is to consider and make meaningful recommendations for improving the food system in Washington that have broad support from the Forum’s diverse membership and align with five goals (see text box).

The Forum is uniquely positioned in Washington to examine the food system as a whole and identify intersectional and win-win solutions for different scales of agriculture and food system actors. The Forum has positioned itself to understand and describe how opportunities in different sectors can be harnessed for meaningful change across sectors and scales. The Forum is unique among state-level food policy councils in its intention to engage multiple scales of agriculture and diverse food system practitioners to take collective action and come to agreement on a set of policy recommendations.

In June 2019, the Forum came to consensus on fifteen recommendations to present to the Washington State Legislature.

Food Policy Forum Goals

1. Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods;
2. Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents;
3. Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state;
4. Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state; and
5. Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies.

⁶ To learn more about the Forum’s work in 2017, please see the [Food Policy Forum 2017 Report to the Legislature](#).

Recommendations

Washington is unique among agricultural states in our broad diversity of crops and scale of agriculture, our robust food products sector, and in our creative and applauded approaches to addressing hunger and food insecurity. We have significant strengths to build upon as we work to increase food security, foster rural economic development, promote farm viability, engage next generation farmers, increase consumption of Washington-grown foods, and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. Food system issues are complex and need to be addressed holistically. The Forum broke into topical Recommendations Teams⁷ to develop recommendations but recognizes these topics intersect and are interdependent.

Washington's \$49 billion food and agricultural system is extremely diverse, with over 300 different commodities produced.⁸ Washington is unique in its diversity of agricultural scale, with 63 percent of farms sized less than 50 acres, and nearly 90 percent of farms considered small farms (farms that sell less than \$250,000 per year).⁹

There are significant food systems issues that threaten the economic viability of Washington's farms. In the last two decades, the number of acres of agricultural land in production in Washington fell by over one million acres and the number of farms declined by 10 percent. Further, the cost of farmland is increasing rapidly, and nearly half of Washington's agricultural land is set to change ownership in the next 20 years.¹⁰ These factors put existing farmland at risk and pose significant barriers to new and beginning farmers.

Barriers for both producers and purchasers impede the ability of small- and mid-sized farms to access and participate in regional markets within our state, including but not limited to, institutional markets. Over the last 30-40 years, the food processing and distribution industries have transformed or migrated almost entirely out of some parts of the state so that there is generally limited or non-existent service to small and medium scale operations across all of Washington, leaving a gap in much-needed processing, storage, and distribution infrastructure. There is a need to create opportunities and build infrastructure that better enables Washington growers to sell, process, store, and distribute food within the state. The absence of such processing and distribution channels can mean unnecessary waste of food that cannot be immediately sold to end users.

In addition to current barriers faced by producers, climate change threatens agricultural production and viability. Climate change will impact Washington's water quality and supply, soil quality and condition, and other elements of food production in different ways across our diverse region. Potential reductions in water supply and changes

⁷ Topics: (1) Food Insecurity; (2) Agricultural land protection and availability and next generation farming; (3) Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing; (4) Infrastructure and rural economic development; (5) Impacts of Climate Change

⁸ Washington State Department of Commerce. [Washington State: Agriculture and Food Manufacturing](#).

⁹ United States Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture

¹⁰ Census of Agriculture. Washington State and County Data.



Photo courtesy of WSDA ([link](#))

in its seasonal and regional availability will increase competition among industry, municipalities, food producers, and natural systems. The long-term sustainability of agriculture in Washington will be impacted by how well our agricultural sectors adapt to climate change.

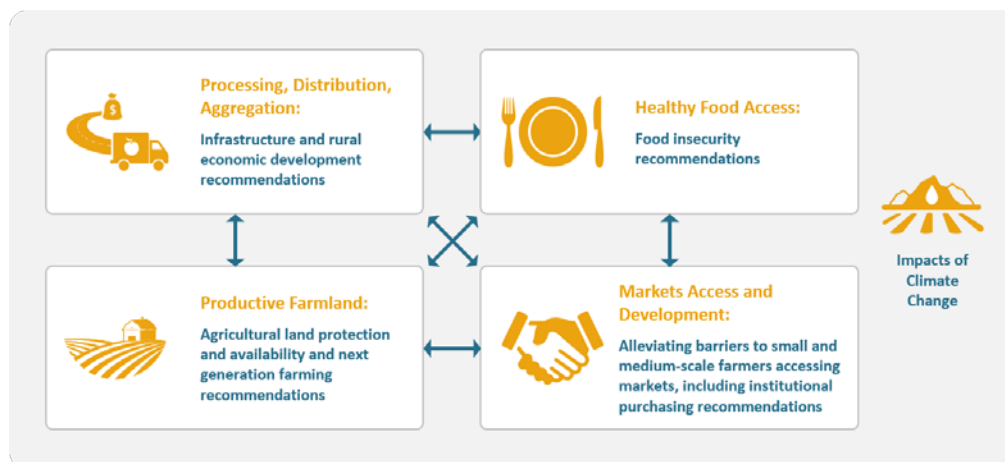
Addressing food insecurity through promoting affordable, adequate access to Washington grown food is a foundational priority for improving Washington’s food system. In Washington, one in nine people struggle with hunger; one in six people sought food assistance at a food bank or meal program;¹¹ and one in six Washington children don’t know where their next meal will come from.¹² There are opportunities to reduce food insecurity by connecting producers to local markets, preserving agricultural land, and promoting rural economic development.

There are many points of interconnection between the Forum’s recommendation areas, and the Forum’s recommendations are mutually supportive, see Figure 1. For example, adequate regional food system infrastructure can enable small and medium scale producers who seek to access Washington markets. One market of interest is institutional markets

like schools which are an important food access point for addressing food insecurity. Purchasing of local products by schools and other meal programs (child care, Summer Meals, etc.) contributes to the economic

Figure 1: Systems Change Through the Forum’s Five Recommendations Topics

There are many points of interconnection between the Forum’s recommendation areas, and the Forum’s recommendations are mutually supportive. The greatest and most effective progress will come from moving multiple food system recommendations forward in tandem so that systems change can occur.

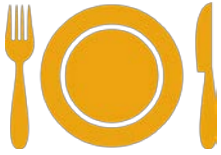


¹¹ According to data provided by a network of over 500 food banks, food pantries and meal programs across WA and reported in WSDA’s [Emergency Food Assistance Program Closeout Report for State Fiscal Year 2018](#)

¹² FRAC Food Hardship Report (Gallup survey, asking people if in the last 12 months there was a time when there wasn’t enough food to feed everyone in a household).

viability of farms and communities. Investment in and support for Washington farms and food service businesses can enable them as employers to create living wage jobs which can drive local economic development leading to reduced poverty and greater food security. Agricultural production and associated infrastructure are important drivers of rural economic development, creating off-farm jobs and contributing to the economic viability of farming and rural communities. And none of this is possible without farmland and a new generation to farm it, making agricultural land protection and ensuring land access for new farmers important to all the Forum's recommendation areas. The greatest and most effective progress will come from moving multiple food system recommendations forward in tandem so that systems change can occur.

The following (pages 10-29) includes Background and Problem Statement, Recommendations, and Promising Ideas for each of the Recommendation Team topics.



Food Insecurity

Background and Problem Statement

The Food Policy Forum's goals include expanding and promoting programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents; providing for the continued economic viability of local food production and; reducing food insecurity and hunger in the state.

In Washington, one in nine people struggle with hunger (USDA); one in six¹³ people sought food assistance at a food bank or meal program (WSDA); and one in six Washington children don't know where their next meal will come from¹⁴. In our state, one in eight people live in poverty.

Hunger and food insecurity are symptoms of the deeper and broader problem of poverty: often low income people don't have enough money to buy enough food, and meals are skipped to divert limited funds to other necessary but inflexible expenses like paying rent, utilities, child care or health care.

Resources to address food insecurity must be holistic, inclusive of state and federal food and nutrition assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) and private, not-for-profit social services, like food pantries and meals programs. This is because publicly funded nutrition assistance programs and social services work together to help stretch limited household food budgets, either by providing assistance to buy food or by providing food or meals to save on groceries and other food-buying costs. Yet these resources are critically under-funded in Washington. For instance, in order to qualify for SNAP, a household must earn less than 200 percent (\$40,840 for a family of three) of the federal poverty level (FPL). The average daily benefit for a household receiving SNAP is \$7.47 per day.

Solutions to food insecurity must also involve businesses that create food access points (e.g. farmers markets, farm stands, grocers, or vendors that supply schools, child care programs and others) that bring food into communities and work in combination with government programs and social services so that food is both accessible and affordable, while also being nutritious and culturally appropriate. In addition to ensuring access to affordable food, Washington's agricultural, food production, and food service businesses have a part to play in eliminating food insecurity in Washington as employers. According to the Washington State Department of Commerce, the state's \$49 billion food and agriculture industry employs approximately 140,000 people – this figure does not include food service workers. Thirteen percent of the state's economy comes from agriculture alone. 2017 data from Employment Security indicates that other food service workers account for more than 56,000 jobs across the state, with non-restaurant food servers earning an average wage of \$13.37 per hour.

¹³ According to data provided by a network of over 500 food banks, food pantries and meal programs across WA and reported in WSDA's [Emergency Food Assistance Program Closeout Report for State Fiscal Year 2018](#)

¹⁴ FRAC Food Hardship Report (Gallup survey, asking people if in the last 12 months there was a time when there wasn't enough food to feed everyone in a household).

Investments in and support for Washington farms and food service businesses are critical to their ability as employers to create living wage jobs. SNAP, WIC, Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives, Farm to Food Pantry and Farmers Market Nutrition programs each put local food purchasing power into the hands of low-income people, as well as food pantries that serve them, and enable them to directly support small to mid-size farms and local grocers.

Our recommendations are formulated on this AAA framework:

- **Adequacy:** Nutrition assistance programs (e.g. SNAP, school meals, WIC) and social services must be adequately funded so that these resources can ensure a household maintains a basic, nutritious diet.
- **Access:** Food access points, both for profit (e.g. farmers markets, farm stands, grocers) and non-profit (e.g. Summer Meals programs, senior meal programs, food pantries) must be available to all communities. Access to nutrition assistance programs and resources must be maximized to enable greater participation.
- **Affordability:** Food sold at community access points must be affordable, made possible with incentive programs like the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grant; Fresh Bucks (a healthy food program that helps Seattle residents afford fruits and vegetables); and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs for WIC and Seniors.

Recommendations

1. Expand produce purchasing initiatives, prioritizing Washington-grown products, such as:

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. State investment in WSDA's Farm to Food Pantry initiative to increase purchasing power at the county level and expand participation beyond the 21 counties currently served to get more locally-grown produce into food banks & food pantries for people in need.
- B. State investment in Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) Program for staffing and incentives for consumers with limited incomes to purchase more fruits and vegetables in farmers markets and grocery stores.
- C. Additional funds to increase the amount of benefits available per participant from \$20 per season to \$30 per season in the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- D. Increase investment in farm to school efforts through sustained funding for WSDA Farm to School Program, and funding for schools and other meal programs (child care, Summer Meals, etc.) to purchase local products, as well as increased investment in training and equipment to support scratch cooking and farm to school initiatives at the local level.

2. Explore the use of state resources to maximize participation and access to nutrition assistance programs, such as:

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Incentivize SNAP enrollment for seniors and people with disabilities, who are otherwise discouraged from enrollment, if they qualify for the minimum SNAP benefit (\$15/month). This can be done with state

resources such as establishing a standard medical deduction, or creating a supplemental benefit to the minimum benefit at the state level.

- B. Reduce barriers to participation in child nutrition programs. This can be done with state resources including: eliminating the co-pay for students who are eligible for reduced-price school meals; incentivizing eligible schools and school districts to use the Community Eligibility Provision to provide universal free meals; increasing SNAP benefits for households with school-aged children to provide supplemental food during summer months, and designating the Child & Adult Care Food Program offered in child care and afterschool programs as a marker of high quality care for kids.
- C. Develop a framework and state plan to ensure that Washingtonians whose eligibility for federal nutrition assistance programs may be endangered or eliminated maintain eligibility for and access to supplemental state nutrition assistance programs.
- D. Explore data share agreements and IT investments to support eligibility outreach for WIC and SNAP to ensure seamless enrollment for participants who are eligible for both programs, and to make WIC participation easier (e.g. online scheduling for appointments, online classes, etc.).

3. Address barriers to accepting and accessing benefits, such as:

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Provide funding for IT updates to Washington's benefits system to facilitate implementation of summer EBT and integrating Fruit and Vegetable incentives into SNAP program's EBT system (i.e., create a Fruit and Vegetable Incentives account on the EBT card).
- B. Funding and technical assistance to ensure non-traditional markets such as community college-based retail stores, community ethnic/specialty retailers, etc. understand how to become a SNAP and/or WIC-certified retailer.
- C. Funding and technical assistance to retailers (farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, pop-up markets, ethnic grocers and other points of sale) to ensure success with providing SNAP, Farmers Market Nutrition Program, WIC, and fruit and vegetable incentives programs.

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals

Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ¹⁵	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ¹⁶	Examine ways to encourage retention ¹⁷	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ¹⁸	Identify ways to improve coordination ¹⁹
1. Expand produce purchasing initiatives, prioritizing Washington-grown products.					
2. Explore the use of state resources to maximize participation and access to nutrition assistance programs.					
3. Address barriers to accepting and accessing benefits.					

¹⁵ Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods

¹⁶ Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents

¹⁷ Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state

¹⁸ Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state

¹⁹ Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies



Agricultural Land Protection and Availability and Next Generation Farming

Background and Problem Statement

The Food Policy Forum goals include examining ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production in the state.

Farmers of all ages face many challenges in agriculture today. Challenges include uncontrolled variables like weather, but also practical variables like suitable land to operate a viable agricultural operation. A site's agricultural suitability can include access to water, infrastructure to manage excess water, access to markets, and more.

Young farmers have additional challenges and consistently cite access to land as their number one barrier. Young farmers in Washington are diverse, highly educated and strong entrepreneurs in their communities – but they face an uphill battle, facing high debt and ever higher land prices. Most have a second, off-farm job.

Particularly in rapidly urbanizing regions of Washington, pressure from increasing residential, commercial and industrial development and rapid appreciation of land values are critical challenges that threaten agricultural land and access to land for future farmers. According to the most recent USDA Agricultural Census, in the last two decades the number of acres of agricultural land in production in Washington fell by over one million acres and the number of farms declined by 10 percent.

At the same time, nearly half of Washington's agricultural land is set to change ownership in the next 20 years. This is because the average Washington farmer is near retirement, at over 58 years old. However, most Washington farmers do not have a succession plan to pass on the land and business to the next generation.

As a result of these factors, large portions of Washington's agricultural land base are vulnerable to fragmentation, conversion to non-agricultural uses, and transfer of ownership to non-farmers. While agricultural zoning generally protects larger parcel size, there is no active agricultural provision in most jurisdictions to actually require agriculture to occur in those zones and there are many agricultural areas that exist outside of agricultural zoning districts. With a growing population and in the context of climate change, the loss of our productive soils threatens to stagnate our rural communities and interfere with our food systems. Furthermore, rapidly escalating values of the farmland that remains can put it out of reach of beginning farmers and can lead to concentration of ownership in the hands of investors who are purchasing agricultural land in order to benefit from these rapidly escalating values.

Washington should invest in agricultural land protection tools like working land conservation easements, land use planning, tax incentives, and creative financing to keep a sufficient portion of our land base in production and aid land access for young and beginning farmers and ranchers.

Recommendations

Agricultural land, agricultural communities, and agricultural infrastructure provide significant economic, ecological, community, and food security benefits to the people of Washington as well as the rest of world. Washington should:

1. Support funding for tools to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses and assist farmers in transferring and accessing land, including:

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Ensure robust state and local funding for voluntary agricultural conservation easements. Under this tool, a landowner voluntarily sells development rights to a qualified easement holder; the land is kept in agricultural production, the landowner receives compensation, and the land can be more accessible to a new farm buyer because the development rights have already been sold.
- B. Develop streamlined, creative, and low-cost loan financing in support of agricultural land protection and land access for new and beginning farmers. These programs would support, for example, purchase of agricultural land by nonprofits or other qualified entities to prevent conversion of farmland to other uses and transfer farmland to a new or beginning farmer, and creative models for new and beginning farmers like lease-to-own or ground leases.

2. Incentivize landowners to sell, rent, or lease to beginning farmers, while encouraging producers to take on land-based projects through means such as:

*Consensus reached,
3 stand asides²⁰*

- A. Create a Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, which would provide a sales and use tax exemption for beginning farmers (less than ten years) and a real estate excise tax exemption for transfer of ownership between landowners and new farmers.
- B. Invest in the Open Space Farm and Agriculture Program to increase participation, allow for small-scale production, and update the application process.




3. Enact policies that reflect the significance of protecting agricultural land, communities, and infrastructure, and place a high priority on this goal. To achieve this priority jurisdictions should:

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Ensure that agricultural zoning code adequately protects agricultural land, agricultural communities, and agricultural infrastructure.
- B. Ensure that agricultural areas are accurately designated, including assessment of areas that are not currently designated as agriculture, but having a high degree of actively farmed grounds or having land suitable and available for agriculture, be considered for additional levels of agricultural protection.

²⁰ Stand asides are captured in Appendix D

- C. Ensure that jurisdictions that permit and plan for development, conservation, and other land use actions within agricultural areas minimize and mitigate for, in all permit approvals, the impact to agricultural land, agricultural communities, and associated agricultural infrastructure.
- D. Develop mechanisms to support agricultural producers for the positive ecosystem impacts that agriculture provides including benefits to water quality, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, and other open space values.

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals					
Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ²¹	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ²²	Examine ways to encourage retention ²³	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ²⁴	Identify ways to improve coordination ²⁵
1. Support funding for tools to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses and assist farmers in transferring and accessing land.					
2. Incentivize landowners to sell, rent or lease to beginning farmers, while encouraging producers to take on land-based projects.					
3. Enact policies that reflect the significance of protecting agricultural land, communities and infrastructure, and place a high priority on this goal.					

²¹ Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods

²² Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents

²³ Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state

²⁴ Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state

²⁵ Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies



Alleviating Barriers to Small and Medium Scale Farmers Accessing Markets, Including Institutional Purchasing

Background and Problem Statement

Two critical and interrelated goals of the Food Policy Forum are to increase direct marketing sales by Washington producers and increase the consumption of Washington-grown foods in order to maintain a vibrant and resilient agriculture industry in Washington. Ninety percent of farms in Washington are classified as small farms. Our agricultural sector is notable for the prevalence of small and mid-sized diversified farms, many of which are oriented towards direct market sales and value-added production for regional and local markets. Washington is among the top ten states in the nation for the number of farms engaging in direct sales to local and regional markets, including many school districts. Because of their scale, diversity of agricultural products, engagement in value-added processing, and use of local and direct sales channels, supporting the viability and vibrancy of these farms calls for new investments – both financial and human capital – across our state.

Barriers for both producers and purchasers impede the ability of small- and mid-sized farms to access and participate in regional markets within our state, including, but not limited to, institutional markets (such as schools, colleges, hospitals, child care programs, workplace cafeterias, senior programs, food pantries, etc.). Institutional buyers have limited access to regular information or awareness about Washington products, such as product availability and farm suppliers. Seventy-six percent of Washington school districts surveyed by WSDA are interested in purchasing products directly from farms and ninety-eight percent want to buy more Washington-identified products through their distributors. Meanwhile, producers often lack information about the requirements of different types of buyers and how to connect.

Small- and mid-sized farms lack access to appropriately-scaled distribution and processing infrastructure to serve local and regional markets. There is also limited access to capital needed to make investments in regional food infrastructure needed to scale up sales. Seventy-seven percent of surveyed school districts require some, if not all, of their ingredients to be at least minimally processed.²⁶ Producers and their regionally-oriented distributors have limited access to capital for investments in needed regional food infrastructure to scale up sales. In addition, institutional food service buyers lack kitchen equipment and staff capacity for using whole, unprocessed products that many small and mid-sized farmers produce. Food safety requirements; knowledge about contracting and procurement procedures; limited coding, tracking and promotional tools for local products; and limited funds for institutional purchasing of Washington produced foods all present significant barriers for producers and buyers alike.

²⁶ WSDA Farm to School Survey 2018 – School Districts. N=53

Recommendations

Agricultural land, agricultural communities, and agricultural infrastructure provide significant economic, ecological, community, and food security benefits to the people of Washington as well as the rest of world. Washington should:

1. Offer technical assistance and market-readiness support to farmers, co-ops, and distributors so they can meet market needs.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Fund WSDA Regional Markets Program and similar public and private entities to provide support services and technical assistance that help small- and medium-scale farms and producer co-ops be prepared to meet buyer needs (e.g. food safety, product specifications, vendor certifications, etc.).
- B. Fund equipment grants and offer cost-sharing to help small-scale producers and co-ops with the expense of food safety audits and certifications.²⁷
- C. Ensure WSDA's Regional Markets Program and similar entities have the resources needed to help producers sell their products with effective market strategies for a variety of markets in Washington including, but not limited to, schools and other public programs and institutions.

2. Improve the capacity and purchasing ability of schools and other institutions (child care, senior meal programs, food banks, hospitals, universities, etc.) to buy and use Washington farm products, including funding incentives.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Fund WSDA Regional Markets program and OSPI to provide farm to school technical assistance, resources, and trainings so schools and other institutions have access to best practices for how to purchase and use Washington products.^{28 29 30}
- B. Provide funds to schools and public institutions to incentivize purchases of Washington-grown products (models include grants, reimbursement, or cost-share programs).³¹

²⁷ Costs of food safety audits and inspections can be disproportionately higher for smaller-scale, diversified farms outside of the geographic areas served directly by audit programs, and which may require equipment upgrades.

²⁸ Ensure schools and other institutions have adequate access to training on best practices for local procurement by funding trainers, programs or service providers to offer education and technical assistance for free/low cost to schools. Topics include menu development, kitchen design and procedures, and budget management, and culinary skill development to work with fresh, seasonal ingredients. Other national training programs (private/non-profit/ online) are available but can be cost prohibitive (e.g. trainers in our state, Chef Anne Foundation, others).

²⁹ Invest in training opportunities that are jointly coordinated by WSDA and OSPI to ensure that sufficient funds/resources are available for district food service staff to learn about farm to school (farm visits); gain culinary skills to work with seasonal, whole foods ingredients (knife skills, ingredient familiarity, etc.); menu development; budgeting; procurement best practices, etc.

³⁰ A model program in the Wenatchee Valley is the culinary program at the Technical Skills Center that is funded by both the Eastmont and Wenatchee School Districts. This joint facility could be a great training venue for school district staff from the Educational Services District, which includes several counties.

³¹ Oregon's grant program is recognized as a leading model. <http://www.farmtoschool.org/news-and-articles/evaluating-oregon-s-farm-to-school-policy>. Examples to note from other states with grant and reimbursement incentives for farm to school purchasing include Michigan, New York, Maine, and Washington DC.

- C. Invest in kitchen capacity in public and private institutions so they can prepare, store and serve Washington products. This includes new equipment, new staff skills training, and ensuring institutions are built (or upgraded) to accommodate scratch cooking.

3. Increase purchases of Washington farm products with procurement policies and better visibility and promotion of Washington products in the marketplace.


*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Ensure Department of Enterprise Services and Department of Agriculture work together to clarify and implement Washington grown procurement policies and criteria in state food purchasing processes. Ensure entities using the state food contract are trained on procurement practices for Washington products and the best use of the state food contract.³²
- B. Create a Washington state brand program that makes local products – and specific producers/farms - more visible and easy to code and track through existing supply chains.
- C. Encourage and provide technical assistance to food distributors to increase their number of Washington suppliers, number of Washington products, and total sales of Washington products.³³
- D. Develop systems (e.g. information-sharing methods, contract development, ongoing procurement support, improved product availability lists, simple ordering systems, farm-level item coding) so buyers, including schools, can easily identify currently available products and find local suppliers.

³² Executive order 13-06 states, “Whenever practical, Washington-grown products shall be purchased and promoted.” DES, in consultation with WSDA, has begun incorporating specific criteria relating to provision and promotion of Washington-grown products into some portions of the state food contract. However, more can be done to clarify and educate about Washington-grown procurement policies and procedures.

³³ WSDA Regional Markets is exploring strategies with regional produce wholesalers to help their school and institutional purchasers identify and order Washington products (e.g. specific order sheets and dedicated item codes). A state branding program that makes WA-Grown product more easily identifiable could potentially assist.

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals

Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ³⁴	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ³⁵	Examine ways to encourage retention ³⁶	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ³⁷	Identify ways to improve coordination ³⁸
1. Offer technical assistance and market-readiness support to farmers, co-ops, and distributors so they can meet market needs.					
2. Improve the capacity and purchasing ability of schools and other institutions (child care, senior meal programs, food banks, hospitals, universities, etc.) to buy and use Washington farm products, including funding incentives.					
3. Increase purchases of Washington farm products with procurement policies and better visibility and promotion of Washington products in the marketplace.					

³⁴ Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods

³⁵ Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents

³⁶ Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state

³⁷ Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state

³⁸ Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies



Infrastructure and Rural Economic Development

Background and Problem Statement

Food system infrastructure includes the physical facilities, organizational, technological, and relationship networks, and agricultural business technical assistance that allows for the production, processing, storage, distribution, transportation, transfer, and retail of food.³⁹ Over the last 30 - 40 years the landscape of farming and associated infrastructure have evolved and changed in ways that have created gaps in much-needed regional scale infrastructure. Today, small and mid-sized producers lack appropriately scaled infrastructure to serve local and regional markets, face limited access to capital for investment in regional food system infrastructure, and desire greater coordination among local food system infrastructure projects to ensure infrastructure is regionally scaled and economically viable.

Washington is uniquely rich in the creativity, savvy, and innovation of its small farms sector. Washington has a wide diversity of small farms that are oriented to local and regional markets. In recent years, these producers have been increasingly calling for assistance to fill infrastructure gaps as the viability of their businesses depend upon their ability to access markets that have emerged from consumer demand for local, specialty, organic and value-added products.

Infrastructure for small and mid-sized producers has either migrated out of regions where it is needed, or it has become scaled⁴⁰ in ways that don't meet the needs of these producers. At the same time, there is growing consumer demand for local, specialty, organic and/or value-added products. Some Washington markets lack the necessary equipment, training, and space to work with fresh, raw, or unprocessed local ingredients from small and mid-sized farms or desire pre-processed products. Food system infrastructure is critical to the ability of Washington's small and mid-sized producers participating in local markets, and therefore critical to the economic viability of these farms.

Agricultural production and associated infrastructure are important drivers of rural economic development, creating off-farm jobs and contributing to the economic viability of farming and rural communities. However, there is insufficient understanding in Washington about the investment value of small and mid-sized farms. More information is needed to demonstrate how agriculture is an economic driver and how agriculture businesses can become economically viable with the appropriate investment. Agricultural and food businesses can be high risk

³⁹ Based on definition provided by CDFA Food Systems Finance Resource Center, <https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/resourcecenters/foodsystems.html>

⁴⁰ A good example is storage. Not all storage capacity is created equal respective to the market segment for which product is intended. The best storage capacity (relative to its ability to maintain product quality over time, as well as to how much of it actually exists) is challenging for producers and hubs like LINC Foods to use. For example, infrastructure and the businesses who run them often limit the frequency of access to their storage facility or require large volumes be brought in or out per access (i.e. "you can store your apples here, but you have to pull 6 pallets of your product any time you want access"). The storage capacity that is available and geared to producers or food hubs pursuing regional markets is often A) inadequate in capacity (not enough room to hold everything that could be sold); and B) overly multi-purpose to maximize maintenance of product quality (different goods require different storage conditions).

public investments and subsidies coupled with public-private investments are critical to getting them off the ground initially.

A key barrier to the development of food system infrastructure is insufficient funds and capital. Washington producers face limited access to capital for investment in regional food system infrastructure. Many small and mid-sized farms have yet to make infrastructure investments due to upfront financial commitment costs and impacts on cash flow; time and knowledge needed to access capital are also barriers. Yet such investments would allow expansion of markets and access to new markets.

Additionally, a variety of regulatory requirements can require additional investment to ensure compliance. For example, many fruit and vegetable growers are having to make additional investments to be compliant with more stringent food safety requirements related to water testing, traceability, etc. There are usually capital investment requirements connected with compliance which are more easily absorbed by large farms which have more cash reserves and more equity available as security for any financing that might be required.

While there is an increasing variety of investors interested in financing food system projects (traditional farm credit services to emerging PRI, social investment, etc.), little capital has been deployed compared to other industries. Thus, there is interest in public-private partnerships, development finance tools, and other innovative funding partnerships.

There are several examples of small and mid-sized producers who are creating the relationships and infrastructure needed to access regional and local markets. Examples include [LINC Foods in Spokane](#), Snohomish County Food and Farming Center, and the Agricultural Business & Innovation Park project in Tenino. However, there is insufficient coordination and information sharing between these county-by-county projects to optimally site appropriate, right-sized, and economically viable infrastructure around the state. Greater coordination would help avoid duplication and competition among regions, foster the ability to align and establish complimenting assets in abutting regions, and facilitate an overall sharing of best practices statewide.

While the Forum focused its rural economic development and infrastructure recommendations on processing, storage, aggregation, and distribution, it recognizes that additional big infrastructure investments in irrigation, broadband, public transportation, distribution networks, and national markets are also crucial to growing and supporting the food and agricultural sector in rural communities.

The subject of rural economic development and food system infrastructure aligns with several of the Food Policy Forum's goals, including increasing direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods; expanding and promoting programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents; examining ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small and mid-sized farms; and providing for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state.

Recommendations

1. Support efforts that increase the availability of regional-scale ag-related infrastructure (including processing, storage, aggregation & distribution) to increase the economic viability of small and mid-sized agricultural businesses, increase overall local production, and better supply a broad cross-section of Washington markets with regional products.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Build on existing projects oriented toward the needs of a variety of markets (institutions, large-scale food service entities, restaurants, food and beverage manufacturers, direct marketing customers, etc.), such as facilities to chop, slice, freeze, prepare salad greens, butcher and cut meat,⁴¹ process small grains, and develop prepared or shelf-stable products.
- B. Build on existing projects oriented towards Washington buyers of all types who seek expanded access to regionally grown products, such as scale-appropriate storage, processing, and handling infrastructure that extends the seasonal- and volume-availability of small-lot and source-identifiable products.
- C. Encourage emerging business models oriented towards expanding and optimizing regional market opportunities for small- and mid-size farmers (via supply chain and infrastructure innovation), such as food hubs,⁴² food innovation districts,⁴³ and public/private collaborations.
- D. Expand access and availability of technical assistance⁴⁴ needed for product storage, processing, and manufacturing facilities development and product development.
- E. Ensure zoning codes in or near agricultural areas support uses such as commercial kitchens and co-packing facilities that allow a producer to diversify and create new higher price-point products.
- F. Ensure zoning codes in or near agricultural areas support businesses such as feed supply stores, irrigation supply stores, stores that supply specialty crop producer needs, and agricultural water suppliers.
- G. Offer support and training for meat processing workforce development, including for custom slaughter butchers and WSDA meat cutters.

⁴¹ See success of the Island Grown Farmers Cooperative, Northwest Washington co-op of small livestock/meat producers, where the mobile unit and cut and wrap business are owned and operated by the Cooperative.

⁴² USDA's working definition of food hubs is "a centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products."

⁴³ Food innovation districts site related food system businesses in close proximity to each other, such as markets, food business incubators, and facilities for common storage, packing, and distribution needs.

⁴⁴ Example of type of services is combo of OSU Food Innovation Center services, IMPACT WA, Northwest Agricultural Business Center (NABC), private consultants, WSU Food Science, WSDA Food Safety program, and local business technical service providers like Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), SCORE Counselors, Washington Center for Women in Business, County ADOs and Economic Development Councils (EDC).

2. Identify funding and financing mechanisms for capital investment in regional food system infrastructure that is needed for rural food and ag entrepreneurship-based economic development.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Promote and support innovative public/private financing mechanisms that recognize regional food system infrastructure as critical economic assets.⁴⁵
- B. Explore and adopt successful financing and funding methods and models from other comparable agencies and states to inform future programming, such as a strategic reserve fund, loan guarantee fund, state capital fund, a revolving capital investment fund, etc.
- C. Increase awareness and education about types of funding and financing needed for different stages of growth for food and agriculture businesses.
- D. Identify funding and financing gaps currently blocking growth of state food and agriculture businesses.
- E. Engage appropriate entities to develop a coordinated regional / multi-county food system infrastructure investment strategy.
- F. Determine the multiple benefits of food system infrastructure investment.

3. Build statewide capacity to coordinate and share information among local projects so that we can build complementary regional systems that connect and work as one whole statewide system.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Create a Food System Infrastructure Advisory Committee (FSIAC) with a broad-based membership that includes representation from the farming and agricultural community, food processors and distributors, food and farm advocacy organizations, and state and local agencies.
- B. Fund dedicated staff position(s) to coordinate statewide agricultural infrastructure projects and facilitate the sharing of information and best practices (this could be done possibly through WSDA, WSU, an independent NGO, or some combination thereof).
- C. Commission the FSIAC with inventorying current food production, processing, and distribution infrastructure; researching and identifying current un-met infrastructure needs and opportunities; reviewing proposed infrastructure projects; and making recommendations with regard to investment that encourages the development of an efficient and effective approach to the development of new food system infrastructure.

⁴⁵ See, for example, [Council of Development Finance Agencies Food Finance White Paper Series](https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/pages/cdfakelloggproject.html), <https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/pages/cdfakelloggproject.html>.

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals

Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ⁴⁶	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ⁴⁷	Examine ways to encourage retention ⁴⁸	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ⁴⁹	Identify ways to improve coordination ⁵⁰
1. Support efforts that increase the availability of regional-scale ag-related infrastructure (including processing, storage, aggregation & distribution) to increase the economic viability of small and mid-sized agricultural businesses, increase overall local production, and better supply a broad cross-section of Washington markets with regional products.					
2. Identify funding and financing mechanisms for capital investment in regional food system infrastructure that is needed for rural food and ag entrepreneurship-based economic development					
3. Build statewide capacity to coordinate and share information among local projects so that we can build complementary regional systems that connect and work as one whole statewide system.					

⁴⁶ Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods

⁴⁷ Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents

⁴⁸ Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state

⁴⁹ Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state

⁵⁰ Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies



Impacts of Climate Change

Background and Problem Statement

Climate change will impact our state's water quality and availability, soil quality and condition, and other elements of food production in different ways across our diverse regions. Forecasted changes in water availability, particularly through changes in seasonal and regional distribution and availability can increase competition between in-stream and out-of-stream uses. Rising sea levels will create potential flooding issues at sea level and in existing floodplains, potentially requiring relocation or mitigation for infrastructure and farm businesses located within the floodplain and tidal inundation zone, and require reevaluation and redesign of stream buffer and habitat restoration projects. Accompanying reductions in the usable land base could push farming more into the foothills region. Bringing marginal farmlands into production in the future may become desirable or necessary, and protection for these marginal lands should be reviewed and increased; protection for agricultural lands overall from conversion will become more important as production and land use patterns change.

Washington should increase investment in research, revise policies to increase flexibility and adaptability in response to uncertain and changing conditions, and take action to support Washington food and farm producers of different scales and for different markets, to enable them to adapt and become more resilient in the face of the complex pressures driven by a changing climate. Because the effects of climate change go far beyond our state's borders, the legislature should also provide for coordination of this work with other West Coast and Inland Northwest states, and ensure that Washington experts are talking and working with other regions.

The long-term sustainability of agriculture in Washington will be impacted by how well our agricultural sectors adapt to climate change. Climate models project a rise in temperatures during both the winter chilling period and the growing season. Winter precipitation is projected to increase, while summer precipitation is projected to decrease, lengthening the dry season. These changes will impact water availability and demand, as well as facilitate the spread of fungal diseases, weed species, and other pests. Existing conflicts between agricultural production systems and the environment such as water quality impairments, water depletion, and species and habitat declines will likely become more pronounced in coming decades.

Stockle et.al. 2010 and Rajagopalan et.al. 2018 describe forecasted changes to crop production and crop water demand for various crops in Central and Eastern Washington. These include potential yield decreases in response to heat stress countered by potential yield increases in response to the "CO₂ fertilization effect" and longer growing seasons, and a shifting of crop water demand earlier in the growing season. Additionally, changes in crop protection (weeds, disease, and insects) are expected as well in response to warming and climatic variables, but less clearly understood at this time. While these effects are evaluated for Central and Eastern Washington, the biophysical principles are applicable to Western Washington as well.

A. Focus on differential impacts of climate change based on geography and differences in the scale and types of agricultural operations across the state.

There is a critical need for basic research and extension services within the various agroecological regions of the state to better identify likely climate related impacts and opportunities to create more resilient and adaptive agricultural management regimes and production systems.

B. Climate change will impact the economic viability of agriculture.

Secure, legal reserves of agricultural water supplies will be critical to continued agricultural viability in both Eastern and Western Washington. There is a pressing need for careful negotiation and immediate policy development and action to secure water availability for agriculture across the state, including additional storage options or other strategies where feasible and environmentally workable. There is a need for a comprehensive agricultural water availability strategy for Western Washington, where competing uses will have the largest potential impacts on agriculture uses.

Public support for agricultural innovations and new technologies to reduce input needs and costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and sequester carbon should be promoted, as well as development of environmental markets and funding streams that directly benefit working farms and ranches and the environment.

Recommendations

1. Work with policy makers, university researchers, Tribes, and agencies to project future agricultural water availability needs across the state, and to identify strategies to reduce water use conflicts.

*Consensus reached,
one stand aside⁵¹*

- A. Develop a strategy and set of policies to ensure water availability for Western Washington agriculture. Consider an Office for Western Washington Basins to coordinate efforts.
- B. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to increase water storage for agricultural purposes, using a cooperative approach to negotiations that will ensure that storage has neutral or positive environmental benefits and does not negatively impact fish and other core environmental requirements.
- C. Identify strategies to reduce impacts of sea level rise and prepare for and mitigate the effects of salt and sea water intrusion into aquifers and drainage systems.

2. Promote research and programmatic investments in agricultural viability, resiliency, and market development.

*Consensus reached,
no stand asides*

- A. Research and development have proven to be the most cost-effective means for supporting farmer responsiveness to an uncertain future. The State should continue to support the public-private partnerships in breeding, crop protection, and soil health that provide adaptable varieties, integrated pest management strategies and decision-support systems, and increased investment in soil health as a bank of resilience to climate change.

⁵¹ Stand asides are captured in Appendix D

- B. Consider the long-term sustainability of soils and agricultural lands in developing policies, recognizing that the impacts of climate change create new stresses on soils but also potential opportunities that can promote soil health and new production opportunities.
- C. Promote agricultural innovation, technology adoption, and management regimes that reduce input costs, energy demand, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- D. Create and deploy voluntary carbon credit programs or green incentive payments that can increase agricultural resiliency and support food producers.
- E. Improve water storage in soils by increasing soil organic matter.
- F. Support statewide efforts to achieve the food waste reduction goals established by the legislature in 2019, recognizing that wasted food is also wasted water and creates the worst kind of greenhouse gas emissions, ones that have no corresponding benefits.

3. Ensure agricultural adaptation resources are well coordinated, funded, and staffed to support farmers in making informed business decisions in a changing climate.

Consensus reached, three stand asides⁵²

- A. Increase and improve access to technical assistance to meet increasing demands around climate adaptation.
- B. Identify an appropriate agency to coordinate with other Western States on a strategy for climate adaptation in agriculture and food production.
- C. Identify current food and agricultural products that are most likely to be impacted by a changing climate and recommend specific strategies, like variety development, that can enhance adaptation.
- D. Increase engagement of businesses to discuss what public-private partnerships are needed to ensure appropriate adaptation, with an understanding that there are benefits and challenges in terms of public research dollars and private benefits.

Promising Ideas That Need Further Refinement

1. Work with policy makers, university researchers, Tribes, and agencies to project future agricultural water availability needs across the state, and to identify strategies to reduce water use conflicts.





- A. Build on our demonstrated effective cooperation on water management to meet the needs of farming and fish by developing strategies and mechanisms to minimize conflict and maximize positive outcomes for both farming and fish in future water management activities.

Narrative on refinement: There was general agreement in support of building cooperative agreements around water management that will work for both farming and fish, but there was a recommendation to revise and rework this language to communicate the ideas more clearly.

⁵² Stand asides are captured in Appendix D

- B. Increase the state’s policy emphasis on energy conservation and fostering non-water-based renewables in order to provide a more resilient energy system and allow more flexibility in managing water resources. In siting solar and wind resources, ensure that there are minimal impacts on prime agricultural lands and/or that farmers can integrate these resources into their agricultural operations and benefit from their installation while continuing to produce food.

Narrative on refinement: There was broad agreement with the second sentence of this recommendation, but one member felt that the first sentence concerned energy policy and was beyond the scope of the Food Policy Forum.

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals					
Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ⁵³	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ⁵⁴	Examine ways to encourage retention ⁵⁵	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ⁵⁶	Identify ways to improve coordination ⁵⁷
1. Work with policy makers, university researchers, Tribes, and agencies to project future agricultural water availability needs across the state, and to identify strategies to reduce water use conflicts.					
2. Promote research and programmatic investments in agricultural viability, resiliency, and market development.					
3. Ensure agricultural adaptation resources are well coordinated, funded, and staffed to support farmers in making informed business decisions in a changing climate.					

⁵³ Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods

⁵⁴ Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents

⁵⁵ Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state

⁵⁶ Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state

⁵⁷ Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies

The following table provides a cross-walk of the Forum goals established in 2017 to the Forum’s final recommendations.

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals					
Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ⁵⁸	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ⁵⁹	Examine ways to encourage retention ⁶⁰	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ⁶¹	Identify ways to improve coordination ⁶²
Topic: Food Insecurity					
1. Expand produce purchasing initiatives, prioritizing Washington-grown products.	✓	✓		✓	
2. Explore the use of state resources to maximize participation and access to nutrition assistance programs.	✓	✓		✓	
3. Address barriers to accepting and accessing benefits.	✓	✓		✓	
Topic: Agricultural land protection and availability and next generation farming					
1. Support funding for tools to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses, and assist farmers in transferring and accessing land.			✓		
2. Incentivize landowners to sell, rent or lease to beginning farmers, while encouraging producers to take on land-based projects.			✓		

⁵⁸ Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods

⁵⁹ Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents

⁶⁰ Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state

⁶¹ Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state

⁶² Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals

<p>3. Enact policies that reflect the significance of protecting agricultural land, communities and infrastructure, and place a high priority on this goal.</p>					
<p>Topic: Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing</p>					
<p>1. Offer technical assistance and market-readiness support to farmers, co-ops, and distributors so they can meet market needs.</p>					
<p>2. Improve the capacity and purchasing ability of schools and other institutions (child care, senior meal programs, food banks, hospitals, universities, etc.) to buy and use Washington farm products, including funding incentives.</p>					
<p>3. Increase purchases of Washington farm products with procurement policies and better visibility and promotion of Washington products in the marketplace.</p>					

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals

Topic: Infrastructure and rural economic development

<p>1. Support efforts that increase the availability of regional-scale ag-related infrastructure (including processing, storage, aggregation & distribution) to increase the economic viability of small and mid-sized agricultural businesses, increase overall local production, and better supply a broad cross-section of Washington markets with regional products.</p>	✓	✓	✓		
<p>2. Identify funding and financing mechanisms for capital investment in regional food system infrastructure that is needed for rural food and ag entrepreneurship-based economic development</p>	✓		✓		
<p>3. Build statewide capacity to coordinate and share information among local projects so that we can build complementary regional systems that connect and work as one whole statewide system.</p>	✓		✓		✓

Food Policy Forum Recommendations and Forum Goals

Topic: Impacts of Climate Change

<p>1. Work with policy makers, university researchers, Tribes, and agencies to project future agricultural water availability needs across the state, and to identify strategies to reduce water use conflicts.</p>					
<p>2. Promote research and programmatic investments in agricultural viability, resiliency, and market development.</p>					
<p>3. Ensure agricultural adaptation resources are well coordinated, funded, and staffed to support farmers in making informed business decisions in a changing climate.</p>					

Appendix A: Food Policy Forum 2018-2019 Membership

Washington Food Policy Forum Updated Membership Roster April 2019

The budget proviso provided the following guidance on the composition of the Forum:

- (a) *In making appointments, the director of the commission must attempt to ensure a diversity of knowledge, experience, and perspectives by building on the representation established by the food system roundtable initiated by Executive Order 10-02.*
- (b) *In addition to members appointed by the director of the state conservation commission, four legislators may serve on the food policy forum in an ex officio capacity. Legislative participants must be appointed as follows:*
- (i) *The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives; and*
 - (ii) *The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.*

- * Indicates Food Policy Forum leadership
- + Indicates member participated in the May 3 vote on recommendations
- x Indicates member participated in the June 7 vote on recommendations

Member	Affiliation	Sector
Aaron Czyzewski ^{*x}	Food Lifeline	Anti-hunger
Amy Ellings ^{*x}	WA Department of Health	Government/ Anti-Hunger
Aslan Meade ^{*x}	Thurston Economic Development Council	Economic Development
Babette Roberts ^{*x}	WA Department of Social and Health Services	Government
Brian Estes ^{*x}	LINC Foods	Agriculture/ Distribution
Carol Smith ^{*+x}	WA State Conservation Commission	Government
Chad Kruger ^{*x}	Washington State University	Agriculture
Chris Elder ^{*x}	Whatcom County Planning	Government
Chris Voigt ^{*x}	Potato Commission	Agriculture

Member	Affiliation	Sector
Christina Wong ^{*x}	Northwest Harvest	Food Interest/ Anti-hunger
Claire Lane ^{*x}	Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition	Food Interest/ Anti-hunger
Colleen Donovan or delegate	WA Farmers Market Association	Agriculture/ Economic Development / Food Interest
Dan Wood [†]	WA State Dairy Federation	Agriculture/ Food Interest
Dean Takko [†]	Senator	Government
Derek Sandison [*]	WA Department of Agriculture	Government
Diana Carlen	WA Association of Wheat Growers	Agriculture/ Food Interest
Diane Dempster ^{63*x} or PJ Cawley	Charlie's Produce	Distribution
Elizabeth Bragg ^{*x}	WA Young Farmers Coalition	Agriculture
Hannah Clark ^{*x}	American Farmland Trust	Agriculture
Heather Hansen	WA Friends of Farms and Forests	Agriculture
Jon DeVaney ^{*x}	WA Tree Fruit Association	Agriculture/ Food Interest
Josh Guntoli ^{**x}	Office of Farmland Preservation	Government
Keith Kisler	Finn River Farm	Agriculture
Jamie Wiggins ^x	Food Northwest	Food Interest
Laura Raymond ^{* **x}	WA Department of Agriculture	Government
Leanne Eko ^{*x}	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	Government/ School Food
Linda Neunzig ^x	Snohomish County	Economic Development/ Agriculture
Lisa Smith	Enterprise for Equity	Food Interest
Mark Clark ⁶⁴	State Conservation Commission	Government
Mary Embleton	King Conservation District	Economic Development/ Agriculture
Melissa Spear [†]	Tilth Alliance	Food Interest/ Agriculture
Mia Gregerson ^{*x}	Representative	Government
Nancy Warner ^{*x}	Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship	Economic Development
Patricia Hickey ^{*x}	WA Association of Conservation Districts	Economic Development
Richard Conlin ^{*x}	Puget Sound Regional Council	Economic Development/ Food Interest/ Government

⁶³ No longer with the organization as of April 19, 2019

⁶⁴ No longer with the organization as of February 1, 2019

Member	Affiliation	Sector
Ron Shultz*+*	State Conservation Commission	Government
George Brereton	Clark County Food System	Food Interest
Tim Crosby*+	Cascadia Foodshed Financing Project	Food Interest
Tom Davis*+	WA State Farm Bureau	Agriculture
Yvonne Pitrof ⁶⁵	WA Food Coalition	Food Interest/ Anti-hunger

⁶⁵ No longer with the organization as of March 1, 2019

+ Voted at the May 2019 meeting on recommendations for Food Insecurity (Rec Team 1) and Agricultural Land Availability and Protection and Next Generation Farming (Rec Team 2)

* Food Policy Forum Leadership

Appendix B: Forum Recommendations Survey – Results

In 2018, the Food Policy Forum moved from introductory (101-level) presentations on a variety of food system topics to seven prioritized 201-level discussions on potential policy recommendations. In January 2019, Food Policy Forum members were invited to complete a survey assessing their support for and opinion of the 59 recommendations ideas that emerged during the seven 201-level meetings July 2018-January 2019.

For each 201-level topic, respondents were asked to select up to 3 recommendations they believe are most likely to meaningfully improve our food system and garner support from the Forum’s diverse membership. Respondents were also asked to identify areas of controversy and if there is something very important about each 201-level topic that had not surfaced in the process so far.

This document outlines results from the survey. Twenty-six Forum members responded to the survey; please see pages 42-43 to review the members who responded to the survey. The document is organized into the following sections:

- Description of the top two highest voted recommendations by 201-level topic, including a summary of key points (e.g., anticipated controversy, characterizing favorable concepts, etc.) from the survey results for each topic.
- Table 1: Vote count for all 59 201 recommendation ideas.
- Table 2: Crosswalk of recommendations with 10 or more votes to the Food Policy Forum Goals.

Top Two Recommendations by 201-level Topic

Coordination with and among local food policy entities (July 9, 2018; First 201)

1. Food Policy Forum is established as a permanent entity to coordinate local, state, tribal, and federal entities on issues and opportunities in the food system arena (**18 votes**)
2. Develop 2030 plus statewide priorities/budgets for strengthening regional-state food systems (**14 votes**)

Narrative: There is interest in establishing the Food Policy Forum as a permanent entity; moving from planning to action; and establishing the Forum’s framework for decision-making, developing priorities, and working with other food policy councils around the state.

Food insecurity (Aug 2, 2018; Second 201)

1. Identify funding for local produce purchasing: Farm-to-Food Pantry spending; State investment in FINI; Farmers Market Nutrition Program for WIC & Senior vouchers; Child nutrition programs (school meals, summer meals, after school meals) (**13 votes**)
Reduce the barriers for producers that sell to institutions or offer incentives (**12 votes**)

Narrative:

- The top two recommendations for this topic have support from both anti-hunger and agriculture partners.
- Several survey respondents noted that these recommendations would require more and/or new funding, which is a “heavy lift in the current fiscal environment”.
- Explore ways we might shift existing purchasing and money streams that already exist to focus on purchasing from local farms, rather than seeking additional funds.
- Focus on increasing the amount of local farm product that flows through all nutrition and food access programs and the opportunity at the win/win nexus of economic opportunity for farms and healthy food access for those who need it.
- Food pantries need greater capacity, this capacity could be shared with other food-related enterprises and social services.
- The benefit to farmers of increasing the capacity of food pantries is not clear cut.
- What are barriers for producers to serve schools/food pantries/low income shoppers? It is important to specifically understand and name barriers with enough detail that we can suggest policy or rules changes that effectively and directly address them, (i.e. What are the regulations and requirements that farmers need to meet in order to sell to schools, and what is most difficult of those requirements to achieve? Is it about supporting farmers to achieve requirements? Or, loosening up requirements?)
- Data on impacts of different approaches within this space would help with decision making.
- Build on existing programs and activities rather than initiating new ones to start, but don't lose focus on the possibility for innovation and new models.

Agricultural land protection and availability (Sept 6, 2018; Third 201)

1. Support creative models for streamlined and low-cost financing in support of land protection and new and beginning farmers. (14 votes)
2. Make current use tax better serve young farmers (e.g., income rather than acres, non-farming landlords with tenants, etc.) (8 votes)
3. Use state tax credits and capital gains exclusions to create opportunities for young farmers. (8 votes)

Three policy ideas are included here because there is a tie for the policy idea that received the second greater number of votes.

Narrative:

- Has support from both anti-hunger and agriculture partners. Recognition of lack of technical knowledge on this topic from many Forum Members.
- Though not relevant to top voted recommendations, permanent easements are controversial, and some members would prefer flexible and volunteer initiatives.
- Tax policy was noted as likely to be controversial.
- There needs to be a climate change inspired extra emphasis on securing farmland, particularly in areas where climatologist agree future agriculture production is likely to be most suitable.
- It's not completely clear that lack of access to farmland is the most important obstacle to the success of beginning farmers. What is the correlation between land ownership, land access and success in establishment of new farmers? The link between operating costs and farmland preservation is also relevant.
- Recognition of need to engage/consult/consider different perspectives on this topic and find agreement around the problem and solutions (landowners, new farmers, other agencies/tribes)

- Are tribal lands being leased for farming (especially if leased to non-tribal members for farming), and what tribal farming interests exist in Washington?
- Desire for more comprehensive look at land issues beyond the local levels that many are more familiar with: Where are strongest pressures now? Where will they be in the future given ag adaptations to climate change? What have been outcomes of different ag preservation strategies? Desire more mapping and data on the role of land in success of beginning farmers.
- Comprehensive/integrated approaches may be more valuable than prioritized strategies for this topic.

Transportation and related infrastructure (Oct 4, 2018; Fourth 201)

- Additional facilities for cold storage/freezing distributed throughout state for farms to access for value-added production. (17 votes)
- Provide grants for increased market access and value-added model. (14 votes)

Narrative:

- The top two recommendations in this topic have support from both anti-hunger and agriculture partners.
- The recommendations on cold storage and value-added production garnered significantly more support than recommendations specific to highway improvements and truck weight restrictions.
- There were diverging thoughts regarding how controversial this topic (and suite of recommendations) may be.
- Value-added production is thought of as only for smaller producers and leading to production of expensive products.
- Idea of creating an agriculture lens that could be used when considering these sorts of road infrastructure and large-scale transportation system issues that are clearly impactful on the food system but many feel are not squarely within the realm of the Forum.
- Economic development dollars targeted to agriculture - how much, how long, what's the ROI?
- Additional cold storage is a possible a win-win for both agriculture interests and emergency food.
- Suggestion that cold storage is only one of a number of value-added options that should receive much more attention. Identified need for innovative solutions to transportation and/or agriculture infrastructure concerns.
- Lack of discussion on food hubs was noted. What are collaborative approaches to building and investing in local/regional infrastructure through coordinated ordering and delivery logistics with investments by local economic development entities in storage and processing facilities, etc.?
- There can be a role that the larger distributors and producers could play - learn about the very different business model and environment that direct marketing farmers and value-added producers work in and then identifying possibly synergies.
- What are bottlenecks for WA producers to get WA products to WA consumers? For many small and mid-scale farms it's about the shortage of infrastructure, whether transport, storage, or processing, to serve the regional/local markets. There is a need for investment to build a modern and regionally oriented system to more efficiently get products grown in a region to people in that region. Many farms simply don't have funds, financial/business advising, and access to loans or grants they would need to make investments in trucks, cold storage, etc.

Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing (Nov 1, 2018; Fifth 201)

1. Provide funding sources, grants, and legislative bills to increase capacity for school districts to work on farm to school. (16 votes)
2. Support business models that invest in Washington agriculture and align regional markets with public partners and resources. (16 votes)

Narrative:

- Several recommendations on this topic (including recommendations that were not the top two) have support from both anti-hunger and agriculture partners.
- It was noted that although these recommendations seem less controversial, they are also less defined/detailed. It was noted that funding, training, additional capacity, and support would likely be needed for the recommendations to be successful.
- Specific strategies or models are needed to scale up sales by smaller producers.
- Local food purchasing can benefit more than just small farms.
- Recognition of need for more funds to spend on food purchasing. Schools and institutions are constrained, often by federal limits
- Procurement support for schools to purchase from local farms because the procurement process is not easy. Set local procurement requirements to increase the amount of local food purchased.
- Questions about the use of a WA brand to assist with farm to institution and how it would interface with local brands.
- What are existing business models - food hubs? How can current distribution methods be used to move more WA foods to schools?
- Identify ways public partners (Port districts, WSDA, etc.) can support business development in this area to catalyze growth in this area.
- Other types of institutions may require different strategies from schools (for example, early childhood education).
- Reflection that the ideas presented still don't seem to consider historical farm to market pathways. The old 'public market' model is one that could fairly easily be replicated and could provide a simple structure for institutional buyers to have easy access to large quantities of products.

Rural economic development including next generation farming (Dec 6, 2018; Sixth 201)

1. Focus on supporting infrastructure. Specifically processing facilities (25 votes)
2. Engage in public-private partnerships (24 votes)

Narrative:

- The recommendation to “Focus on supporting infrastructure. Specifically processing facilities” has support from both anti-hunger and agriculture partners.
- There may be a high level of agreeability on this topic due to the fact that the recommendations are somewhat vague.
- Need a deeper dive to define and quantify the potential market opportunities, needs, and costs in order to make specific recommendations.
- Consider next generation farming in tandem with opportunities to improve processing infrastructure. Consider processing within the safety net food system as well as for general local markets.
- Identify opportunities for “early actions”.

- Questions about how to make infrastructure/processing investments financially viable - is it public/private investment? The private sector is the primary investor in most rural economic development options and in many of the great examples we have in Washington. However, for Washington much of this is "high risk" investment territory because of the need to succeed in multiple dimensions of a business plan. Research and public-private partnerships are risk reduction strategies.
- While we are supporting farmers to make more/better income through value-added products, we may be missing a piece if we are not looking at how selective the market may be for these value-added products. Are they able to be effectively sold where they are produced? Or, are they made primarily for a higher market such as Seattle?
- We need to add commercial kitchens for value-added production to the conversation.
- There is a ton of processing capacity in the state, what is being suggested is ultimately a scaling down and re-regionalizing of infrastructure that industry has worked away from over the past 30-40 years. Investment in such infrastructure could be contentious.
- Explore what innovative rural economic development could be without destroying rural values.
- Remember the bigger picture and ties to other parts of the system like protection of agricultural lands and supportive infrastructure needed by agricultural communities including well-funded schools, sufficient access to food, health, and other services.

Impacts of climate change (Jan 10, 2018; Seventh 201)

1. Addressing agricultural water vulnerabilities across the state (26 votes)
2. Importance of the long-term R&D/ commercialization partnership to improve adaptability and resiliency. Particularly for variety development/ testing, crop protection, and soil health (22 votes)

Narrative:

- There may be a high level of agreeability on this topic due to the fact that the recommendations are vague.
- The recommendation to "Addressing agricultural water vulnerabilities across the state" has support from both anti-hunger and agriculture partners.
- Questions about scope of recommendations and role of the Forum. These issues, while important, are being addressed in other groups, forums or agency planning efforts.
- Need to define the problem within the context of the Forum's charge. Could the Forum "signal" recommendations here that are high-level, so the issue is not ignored but does not step into area of other groups' work?
- Water issues are important and very complex and many additional partners would need to be engaged.
- How do we include a discussion about the role of agriculture as a contributor to climate change?
- Support Washington farmers to adapt and be resilient to the complexity of pressures driven by climate change.
- Engaging farmers through "resilience" may be more productive than looking for a climate "culprit".
- Soil health is an important piece of this discussion.
- Water issues and fish vs farm interests and how they can work together.
- Other states and countries are investing in WA agriculture which changes the economy and ability for family farms to own land.

Survey Participation

Survey Responses Received

Name	Organization
Claire Lane	Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Tom Davis	Washington Farm Bureau
Chris Voigt	Washington State Potato Commission
Amy Ellings	Washington State Department of Health
Melissa Spear	Tilth Alliance
Aslan Meade	Thurston Economic
Tim Crosby	Cascadia Foodshed Financing Project
Chad Kruger	WSU
Mary Embleton	King Conservation District
Yvonne Pitrof	Washington Food Coalition
Linda Neunzig	Snohomish County
Brian Estes	LINC Foods
Josh Giuntoli	WSOC - Office of Farmland Preservation
Diane Dempster	Charlie's Produce
Aaron Czyzewski	Food Lifeline
Jon DeVaney	Washington State Tree Fruit Association
Babette Roberts	DSHS/ESA/CSD
Christina Wong	Northwest Harvest
Amy Moreno-Sills	Four Elements Farm
Leanne Eko	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dan Wood	Washington State Dairy Federation
Chris Elder	Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
Nancy Warner	Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship
Richard Conlin	RFPC – PSRC
Laura Raymond	WSDA
Hannah Clark	American Farmland Trust

Survey Responses Not Received

Name	Organization
Colleen Donovan	WA Farmers Market Association
Diana Carlen	WA Association of Wheat Growers
Heather Hansen	WA Friends of Farms and Forests
Keith Kisler	Finn River Farm
Kirsten Ringen	NW Food Processors Association
Lisa Smith	Enterprise for Equity
Lucia Wyss or delegate	WA Young Farmers Coalition
Patricia Hickey	WA Association of Conservation Districts

Table 1: Vote count for all 59 201 recommendation ideas

July 9 201 Topic#1: Coordination with and among local food policy entities	Vote Count
1. Food Policy Forum is established as a permanent entity to coordinate local, state, tribal, and federal entities on issues and opportunities in the food system arena.	18
2. Foster new local food policy entities	1
3. Provide resources and money that goes beyond seed money for local food policy entities	4
4. Facilitate information sharing (e.g., policy blue prints, workshops, training sessions) that would be valuable to local entities	7
5. Assess what is working at regional levels in terms of wild and farmed food successes (e.g., Story Exchange)	2
6. Develop 2030 plus statewide priorities/budgets for strengthening regional-state food systems	14
7. Build capacity of conservation districts to partner with local non-profits to support the development and management of regional food coalitions	9
8. Develop Food Policy Forum as a Leadership Network that provides opportunities for diverse people to participate and learn	5
9. Develop metrics around coordination	3
10. Implement a process to decide what statewide policies to support	8
11. Utilize video conferencing to increase engagement during Forum meetings	3

Aug 2 201 Topic #2: Food insecurity	Vote Count
1. Address barriers to accepting benefits (SNAP, Farmers Market Nutrition Program, WIC) at farmers markets, farm stands, and other points of sale, specifically at non-traditional markets, including reducing administrative burdens and expenses.	8

Aug 2 201 Topic #2: Food insecurity	Vote Count
2. Increase availability of incentive programs at non-traditional markets (mobile and pop-up, farm stands, ethnic grocers).	4
3. Provide more incentive programs at farmers markets, farm stands, and other points of sale that are not linked to SNAP participation, particularly for those who fall into the food security gap or do not qualify.	1
4. Reduce the barriers for producers that sell to institutions or offer incentives to producers to meet those benchmarks.	12
5. Increase funding to purchase local WA produce for food banks.	8
6. Statewide funding for a matching incentive program.	3
7. Increased funding for Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.	0
8. Additional funding for DSHS to supply wireless point of sale terminals to all farmers markets.	1
9. Develop a funding stream to help increase capacity at food pantries.	5
10. Identify funding for local produce purchasing: Farm-to-Food Pantry spending; State investment in FINI; Farmers Market Nutrition Program for WIC & Senior vouchers; Child nutrition programs (school meals, summer meals, after school meals)	13
11. Ensure continued funding for WSDA's Regional Markets program.	9
12. Strengthen SNAP benefits: Raise the minimum benefit; Create standard medical deduction; Incentivize SNAP enrollment with seniors and people with disabilities.	5
13. Improve partnerships between grocery stores, brokers, and farmers so that when wholesalers distribute food to local stores, the local stores could provide a dock to move excess locally grown produce to warehouses.	4
14. Utilize existing retail systems that classify individual products into departments to establish EBT requirements for healthy food purchasing.	1

Sept 6 201 Topic #3: Agricultural land protection and availability	Vote Count
1. Conduct more GIS mapping and assessments to understand progress and current state of land use.	6
2. More stable funding for Purchase of Developmental Rights (PDR) programs.	5
3. State funding for ag easements including ag value (Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV)) clauses; Include non-farming landowners with long-term ag tenants.	5
4. Use state tax credits and capital gains exclusions to create opportunities for young farmers.	8
5. Support policies that address instability of heir property (multiple owners).	3
6. Increase access to state-owned farmland by beginning farmers.	1
7. Make current use tax better serve young farmers (e.g., income rather than acres, non-farming landlords with tenants, etc.)	8
8. Support robust money in easement programs (state & local)	6

Sept 6 201 Topic #3: Agricultural land protection and availability	Vote Count
9. Support flexible funding programs that allow Buy-Protect-Sell (a farmland preservation and access tool)	6
10. Support creative models for streamlined and low-cost financing in support of land protection and new and beginning farmers.	14
11. Recodify RCW46.21c.011 .02: "...The legislature declared that it is the policy of the state to identify and take into account the adverse effects of these actions on the preservation and conservation of agricultural lands; to consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could lessen such adverse effects; and to assure that such actions appropriately mitigate for unavoidable impacts to agricultural resources."	3
12. Pursue Gubernatorial Executive Order to require the protection of farmland; Re-introduce draft EO to Governor's Office and Agency Directors and pursue adoption circa 2019-2020	3

Oct 4 201 Topic #4: Transportation and related infrastructure	Vote Count
1. Provide grants for increased market access and value-added model.	14
2. Additional facilities for cold storage/freezing distributed throughout state for farms to access for value-added production.	17
3. Change RCW46.44.042 to allow for new generation wide based tires	4
4. Complete I-90 East of Snoqualmie Summit	4
5. Correct the I-90/ Highway 18 interchange	4
6. Complete Highway 167 gateway project into the Port of Tacoma	1
7. Rural bridge replacement for water capacity building projects	1
8. Expanding high school vocational education to include commercial driver's license (CDL) coursework	8
9. Improving seasonal road weight restrictions	3
10. Advocate to increase Federal max weight to 97K pounds with 3rd axle	1

Nov 1 201 Topic #5: Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing	Vote Count
1. Create a system for identifying local/Washington products, including minimally processed foods.	12
2. Provide analysis that identifies Washington farms, including details on their food production and location so that schools can proactively reach out to local farms.	6
3. Provide funding sources, grants, and legislative bills to increase capacity for school districts to work on farm to school.	16
4. Offer consultants who could work with school districts one-on-one to provide guidance on how implement farm to school.	10
5. Support initiatives that could enable local farms to provide services similar to a broadline distributors and align inventory in a way that makes purchasing easier.	12

Nov 1 201 Topic #5: Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing	Vote Count
6. Support business models that invest in Washington agriculture and align regional markets with public partners and resources.	16

Dec 6 201 Topic #6: Rural economic development including next generation farming	Vote Count
1. Invest in research	22
2. Engage in public-private partnerships	24
3. Focus on supporting infrastructure. Specifically processing facilities	25

Jan 10 201 Topic #7: Impacts of climate change	Vote Count
1. Addressing agricultural water vulnerabilities across the state	26
2. Importance of the long-term R&D/ commercialization partnership to improve adaptability and resiliency. Particularly for variety development/testing, crop protection, and soil health	22
3. Improve our understanding of inter-state, inter-region, and inter-national competitiveness	16

Table 2: Crosswalk of Recommendations with 10 or More Votes to FPF Goals

Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ⁶⁶	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ⁶⁷	Examine ways to encourage retention ⁶⁸	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ⁶⁹	Identify ways to improve coordination ⁷⁰
July 9 Forum Meeting - Coordination with and among local food policy entities					
Food Policy Forum is established as a permanent entity to coordinate local, state, tribal, and federal entities on issues and opportunities in the food system arena.	X	X	X	X	X
Develop 2030 plus statewide priorities/budgets for strengthening regional-state food systems	X	X	X	X	X

⁶⁶ Increase direct marketing sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods

⁶⁷ Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents

⁶⁸ Examine ways to encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers, and provide for the continued economic viability of local food production, processing, and distribution in the state

⁶⁹ Reduce food insecurity and hunger in the state

⁷⁰ Identify ways to improve coordination and communication among local food policy entities and communication between the local food policy entities and state agencies

Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ⁶⁶	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ⁶⁷	Examine ways to encourage retention ⁶⁸	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ⁶⁹	Identify ways to improve coordination ⁷⁰
August 2 Forum Meeting - Food deserts and inequitable access to food					
Reduce the barriers for producers that sell to institutions or offer incentives to producers to meet those benchmarks.	X	X	X	X	
Identify funding for local produce purchasing: Farm-to-Food Pantry spending; State investment in FINI; Farmers Market Nutrition Program for WIC & Senior vouchers; Child nutrition programs (school meals, summer meals, after school meals)	X	X		X	
September 6 Forum Meeting – Agricultural land protection and availability					
Support creative models for streamlined and low-cost financing in support of land protection and new and beginning farmers			X		
October 4 Forum Meeting – Transportation and related infrastructure					
Provide grants increased market access and value-added model.	X	X			
Additional facilities for cold storage/freezing distributed throughout state for farms to access for value-added production.		X	X		
November 1 Forum Meeting – Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing					
Create a system for identifying local/Washington products, including minimally processed foods.	X	X	X		

Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ⁶⁶	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ⁶⁷	Examine ways to encourage retention ⁶⁸	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ⁶⁹	Identify ways to improve coordination ⁷⁰
Provide funding sources, grants, and legislative bills to increase capacity for school districts to work on farm to school.	X	X		X	
Offer consultants who could work with school districts one-on-one to provide guidance on how implement farm to school.	X	X			
Support initiatives that could enable local farms to provide services similar to a broadline distributors and align inventory in a way that makes purchasing easier.		X	X		
Support business models that invest in Washington agriculture and align regional markets with public partners and resources.		X	X		
December 6 Forum Meeting – Rural economic development including next generation farming					
Invest in research			X		
Engage in public-private partnerships			X		
Focus on supporting infrastructure. Specifically processing facilities			X		
January 10 Forum Meeting - Impacts of climate change					
Addressing agricultural water vulnerabilities across the state			X		

Food Policy Forum Recommendations	Increase direct marketing sales ⁶⁶	Expand and promote healthy, Washington-grown food programs ⁶⁷	Examine ways to encourage retention ⁶⁸	Reduce food insecurity and hunger ⁶⁹	Identify ways to improve coordination ⁷⁰
Importance of the long-term R&D/ commercialization partnership to improve adaptability and resiliency. Particularly for variety development/testing, crop protection, and soil health			X		
Improve our understanding of inter-state, inter-region, and inter-national competitiveness			X		

Appendix C: Food Policy Forum Recommendation Process

The Food Policy Forum Recommendation process is summarized in the following **Figure 2** and detailed narrative follows.

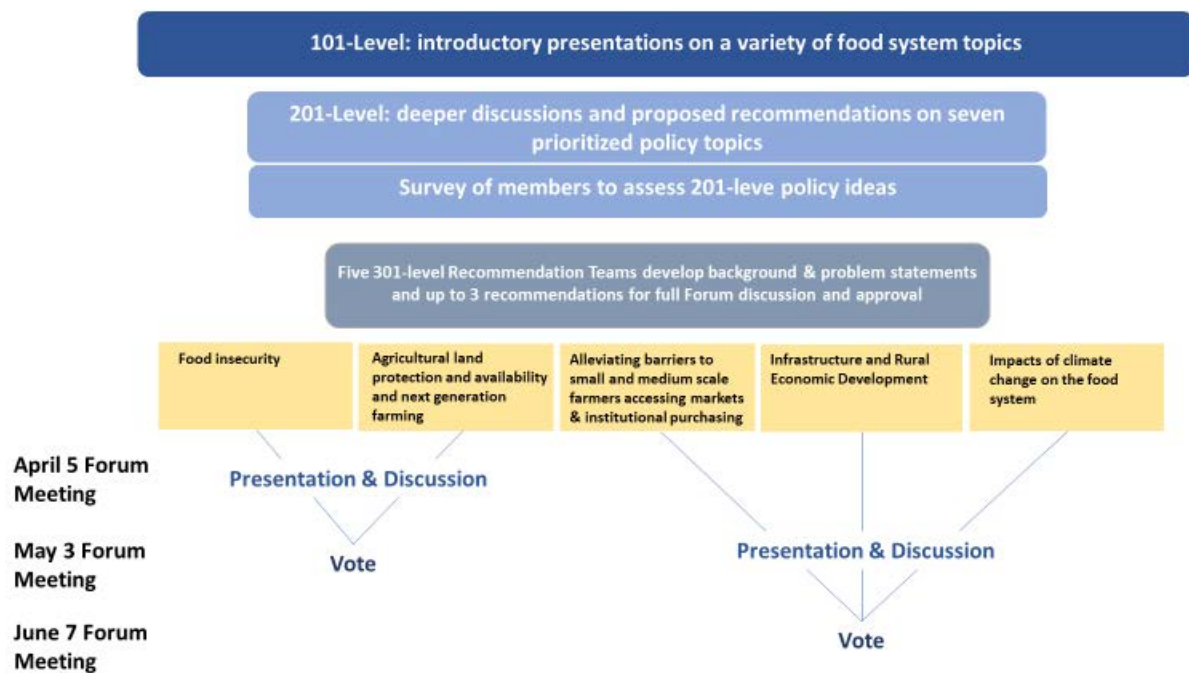


Figure 2: Food Policy Forum Recommendation Process

101-Level Meetings

From January to April of 2018, the Forum conducted a series of food system 101-level conversations to ensure a holistic understanding of the big picture in Washington. This phase grew from the landscape assessment that began in 2017. The 101-level topics and speakers are listed below. Meeting summaries can be found online on the [SCC Food Policy Forum website](#).

Washington is unique among agricultural states in our broad diversity of crops and robust food products sector, scales of agriculture, and in our creative and applauded approaches to addressing hunger and food insecurity. We have significant strengths to build upon, but issues are complex and need to be addressed holistically.

- Getting a next generation farmer onto a piece of land is only one part of the equation. Promoting agricultural land protection and access in concert with rural economic development is the optimal approach.
- Right-scaled aggregation, distribution, processing, and storage logistics are key to improving market access (e.g., institutional markets), particularly for small- and mid-sized farms.
- There is a need to engage diverse stakeholders to create multi-sectoral impacts by identifying win-win solutions. For example, addressing food access issues while promoting Washington-grown food.
- Work is needed to increase the value consumers place on Washington-grown food and reduce inefficiencies in the food system so that the price is lower while supporting farm business economic viability.

101-level Meeting Presentations

<p>January 5, 2018</p>	<p>International Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rianne Perry, WSDA <p>Commodity Commissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Street, WSDA
<p>February 2, 2018</p>	<p>Farmland Preservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Guntoli, OFP • Chris Elder, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services • Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District <p>Next Generation and Small-Scale Farmers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Campbell, POC Farmland Trust
<p>March 12, 2018</p>	<p>Agricultural Business Viability and Local Food Production in WA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aslan Meade, Thurston Economic Development Council <p>USDA Meat Processing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrice Barrentine, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks <p>Local Inland Northwest Cooperative (LINC) Foods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Estes, LINC Foods <p>WA Grown Food – Incentives for Low Income Populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Lane, Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition <p>Policy as a Vehicle to Promote WA-Grown Foods: Executive Order 13-06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Benson, Washington State Department of Health <p>Incentivizing Food and Agriculture Improvements in WA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Iberle, WSDA
<p>April 4, 2018</p>	<p>Funding and Financing Food – Philanthropy’s Role in Food System Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosalie Sheehy Cates, Philanthropy Northwest • Brad Hunter, Craft3 <p>Distribution of WA-Grown Foods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Dempster, Charlie’s Produce

Prioritization Exercise

In June 2018 the Forum engaged in a prioritization exercise to identify a short list of food system topics that warrant deeper consideration. A draft list of potential 201-level topics was developed based on the 101-level landscape assessment meetings held from February 2017 to April 2018. The 201-level topic list was shared with the Forum before the June meeting for additions and revisions. These suggested edits were incorporated into a final list of all topics the Forum covered in its 101-level landscape assessment phase. At the beginning of the June meeting, participants offered additional amendments to the list, such as language clarification or organizational revisions.

More than 20 Forum participants provided their input, including three elected officials. Members of the Forum who had participated in at least one Forum meeting in 2018 and who could not attend the June meeting were contacted after the June meeting and given an opportunity to provide their 201-level topic priorities.

Based on the results of the prioritization exercise, the 201-level meeting topic for the 2018-19 process were:

- **Coordination with and among local food policy entities:** July 9, 2018
- **Food Insecurity:**⁷¹ August 2, 2018
- **Agricultural land protection and availability:** September 6, 2018
- **Transportation and related infrastructure:** October 4, 2018
- **Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing:** November 1, 2018
- **Rural economic development including next generation farming:** December 6, 2018
- **Impacts of climate change:** January 10, 2019

Prioritization Exercise

The facilitator called on a participant at random and asked that person to share one of their three policy priorities. Other participants who also marked that policy priority were asked to raise their hands and a tally was taken.

The facilitator then turned to the first person and asked that person to share their rationale for choosing that topic. Those who also chose that priority were then invited to add to the rationale.

The facilitator turned to a second person at random and repeated the exercise until everyone had a chance to share and all top three policy priorities were tallied.

201-Level Meetings

The 201-level meetings focused on policy opportunities and in many cases examined the intersection of various food system challenges and opportunities. Interested Forum participants were engaged to identify themes and speakers for each meeting through a one-hour conference call. Speakers at the 201-level meetings were food system experts, and typically elevated local or regional perspectives. Each 201-level speaker was asked to prepare remarks on the challenges they encounter in their area of the food system; creative, innovative, and/or collaborative approaches being used to address these challenges; and 2-3 recommendations for the Forum to consider in terms of regulatory/policy recommendations, capital investment, or supporting collaborative/innovative projects.

⁷¹ The prioritized topic was “food deserts and inequitable access to food” but the discussion focused on food insecurity.

Through its 201-level conversations with food systems experts, the Forum was presented with a list of 59 recommendations to consider. These recommendations grew out of the seven policy priority areas the Forum selected in June. The recommendations generated during the 201-level conversations formed the basis for the Forum's own recommendations to the Legislature.

The following provides a high-level view of the 201 topics July to November 2018. Meeting summaries can be found online on the [SCC Food Policy Forum website](#).

July 9, 2018 Forum Meeting – Coordination with and among local food policy entities

Planning Committee: none

The following subject matter experts provided presentations and shared their perspectives for the first 201-level meeting on coordination among and with local food policy entities:

- Ron Shultz, Washington State Conservation Commission
- Richard Conlin, Regional Food Policy Council, Puget Sound Regional Council
- Nancy Warner, Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship
- Nathan Calene, Spokane Food Policy Council

August 2, 2018 Forum Meeting – Food deserts and inequitable access to food

Planning Committee: Aaron Czyzewski, Food Lifeline; Amy Ellings, DOH; Babs Roberts, DSHS; Christina Wong, Northwest Harvest; Laura Raymond, WSDA; Ron Shultz, SCC; Tom Davis, WA Farm Bureau; Yvonne Pitrof, Washington Food Coalition; and Nancy Warner, IRIS

The following subject matter experts provided presentations and shared their perspectives for the following presentations were provided for the second 201-level meeting on food deserts and inequitable access to food:

- Jen Hey, WSU Extension, SNAP-Ed
- Laura Titzer, Washington State Farmers Market
- Jenn Tennet, Northwest Harvest
- Jeff Lau, Owner, Plaza Super Jet (Wenatchee)

September 6, 2018 Forum Meeting – Agricultural land protection and availability

Planning Committee: Josh Giuntoli, SCC; Ron Shultz, SCC; Tom Davis, WA Farm Bureau; Laura Raymond, WSDA; Chris Elder, Whatcom County; and Linda Neunzig, Snohomish County.

The following subject matter experts provided presentations and shared their perspectives for the third 201-level meeting on agricultural land preservation and protection:

- John Piotti, American Farmland Trust
- Hannah Clark, American Farmland Trust
- Chris Elder, Whatcom County
- Lucia Wyss, Washington Young Farmers Coalition
- Dan Schilling, Washington State Housing and Finance Commission

- Hillary Aten, PCC Farmland Trust
- Allen Rozema, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland

October 4, 2018 Forum Meeting – Transportation and related infrastructure

Planning Committee: Laura Raymond, WSDA; Mary Embleton, King County Conservation; Aaron Czyzewski, Food Lifeline; Chris Voigt, Potato Commission; David Bauermeister, Northwest Agriculture Business Center; David Bobanick, Rotary First Harvest; and Diane Dempster, Charlie's Produce.

The following subject matter experts provided presentations and shared their perspectives for the fourth 201-level meeting on transportation and related infrastructure:

- Diane Dempster, Charlie's Produce
- David Broering, President, N.A. Non-Asset, NFI Industries
- Chris Voigt, Potato Commission
- Harley Soltes, Bow Hill Blueberries / Puget Sound Food Hub

November 1, 2018 Forum Meeting – Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing

Planning Committee: Ron Shultz, SCC; Laura Raymond, WSDA; Josh Giuntoli, SCC; Chris Iberle, WSDA; Lucia Wyss, WA Young Farmers Coalition; Loretta Seppanen, South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust; Amy Ellings, DOH; and Chris Benson, DOH.

The following subject matter experts provided presentations and shared their perspectives for the fifth 201-level meeting on alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing:

- Chris Iberle, WSDA
- Vickie Ayers, Bethel School District
- Gina Sadowski, Seattle Children's Hospital
- Brian Estes, LINC Foods

December 6, 2018 Forum Meeting – Rural economic development including next generation farming

Planning Committee: Laura Raymond, WSDA; Chris Voigt, Potato Commission; Christina Wong, Northwest Harvest; Evan Sheffels, WSDA; Yvonne Pitrof, Washington Food Coalition; Ron Shultz, SCC; Chris Elder, Whatcom County; and Steve Bramwell, WSU Thurston County Extension.

The following subject matter experts provided presentations and shared their perspectives for the sixth 201-level meeting on rural economic development including next generation farming:

- Scott Peterson, Port of Skagit
- Carlotta Donisi, USDA Rural Development

January 10, 2019 Forum Meeting – Impacts of Climate Change

Planning Committee: Aaron Czyzewski, Food Lifeline; Chad Kruger, WSU; Chris Elder, Whatcom County; Chris Voigt, Potato Commission; Evan Sheffels, WSDA; Laura Lewis, WSU; Laura Raymond, WSDA

The following subject matter experts provided presentations and shared their perspectives for the seventh 201-level meeting on impacts of climate change.

- Nick Bond, University of Washington
- Chad Kruger, Washington State University

Survey on 201 Recommendations

In 2018, the Food Policy Forum moved from introductory (101-level) presentations on a variety of food system topics to seven prioritized 201-level discussions on potential policy recommendations. In January 2019, Food Policy Forum members were invited to complete a survey assessing their support for and opinion of the 59 recommendations ideas that emerged during the seven 201-level meetings July 2018-January 2019.

For each 201-level topic, respondents were asked to select up to 3 recommendations they believe are most likely to meaningfully improve our food system and garner support from the Forum's diverse membership. Respondents were also asked to identify areas of controversy and if there is something very important about each 201-level topic that has not surfaced in the process so far. **See Appendix A Forum Recommendations Survey – Results for more detail.**

301-level Meetings

Based on the survey results, five Recommendation Team topics were identified from the seven 201-level topic areas. The Forum decided to set aside the first 201-level topic, coordination with and among local food policy entities, because these ideas concern the Forum's own structure and function and can be taken up by the Forum after the recommendations are submitted. Next generation farming was pulled out of rural economic development and moved into agricultural land protection and availability because the top voted recommendations for agricultural land protection concerned next generation farming. Rural economic development was combined with transportation and related infrastructure because top voted ideas for each of these topics were related, with a focus on processing infrastructure.

From March to June 2019, the Forum engaged in an accelerated recommendation refinement process that included launching five Recommendation Teams based on results from the **Recommendations Survey**. Members participating in each Recommendation Team used the Forum's charge, agreements (See Appendix E), prior discussions, and findings from the Survey to develop A) a background and problem statement and B) up to three recommendations for their assigned topic for the full Forum's discussion and approval.

Teams met twice via webinar in-between Forum meetings to clarify the problem statement and refine and finalize proposed recommendations. The April, May, and June Forum meetings were used for presentation, discussion, and approval of the recommendations that emerged from each Recommendation Team.

The Forum sought unanimous consensus from attending members. Only two recommendation sub-ideas failed to achieve full consensus but did achieve two-thirds support, which are included in the Impacts of Climate Change section as promising ideas.

Recommendation Teams were convened to include a mix of members with expertise and/or passion for each topic. See Team rosters below.

Recommendation Team Rosters	
Food Insecurity	
Amy Ellings	<i>Department of Health</i>
Babette Roberts	<i>DSHS</i>
Chris Voigt	<i>Potato Commission</i>
Christina Wong	<i>NWHarvest</i>
Katie Rains	<i>WSDA</i>
Stacy Carkonen	<i>Tacoma Farmers Market</i>
Agricultural land protection and availability and next generation farming	
Chris Elder	<i>Whatcom County</i>
Hannah Clark	<i>American Farmland Trust</i>
Jon DeVaney	<i>WA Tree Fruit Association</i>
Josh Guntoli	<i>Office of Farmland Preservation</i>
Nicole Witham	<i>WSU</i>
Elizabeth Bragg	<i>Washington Young Farmers Coalition</i>
Alleviating barriers to small and medium scale farmers accessing markets, including institutional purchasing	
Chris Iberle	<i>WSDA</i>
Claire Lane	<i>Antihunger and Nutrition Coalition</i>
Laura Raymond	<i>WSDA</i>
Keith Kissler	<i>Finn River Farm</i>
Leanne Eko	<i>OSPI</i>
Mary Embleton	<i>King Conservation District</i>
Melissa Spear	<i>Tilth Alliance</i>
Nancy Warner	<i>Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship</i>
Infrastructure and rural economic development	
Aslan Meade	<i>Thurston Economic Development Council</i>
Brian Estes	<i>LINC Foods</i>
Patrick Cawley	<i>Charlie's Produce</i>
Diane Dempster	<i>Charlie's Produce</i>

Recommendation Team Rosters

Linda Neunzig	<i>Shohomish County</i>
George Brereton	<i>Clark County Food System</i>
Laura Lewis	<i>WSU</i>
Jamie Wiggins	<i>Food Northwest</i>
Tom Davis	<i>WA State Farm Bureau</i>
Impacts of Climate Change	
Aaron Czyzewski	<i>Food Lifeline</i>
Chad Kruger	<i>Washington State University</i>
Dan Wood	<i>WA State Dairy Federation</i>
Patricia Hickey	<i>WA Association of Conservation Districts</i>
Richard Conlin	<i>Puget Sound Regional Council, Food Council</i>
Melissa Spear	<i>Tilth Alliance</i>
Hannah Clark	<i>American Farmland Trust</i>
Tim Crosby	<i>Slow Money NW</i>

Appendix D: Voting Stand Asides

The following table depicts the Forum recommendations in which some members chose to stand aside for voting.

Recommendation Team	Recommendation	Stand Asides
<p>Recommendation Team 2: Agricultural land protection and availability and next generation farming</p>	<p>2. Incentivize landowners to sell, rent or lease to beginning farmers, while encouraging producers to take on land-based projects through means such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Create a Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, which would provide a sales and use tax exemption for beginning farmers (less than ten years) and a real estate excise tax exemption for transfer of ownership between landowners and new farmers. B. Invest in the Open Space Farm and Agriculture Program to increase participation, allow for small-scale production, and update the application process. 	<p>Babette Roberts, <i>DSHS</i> Claire Lane, <i>AntiHunger and Nutrition Coalition</i> Dean Takko, <i>Senator</i></p>
<p>Recommendation Team 5: Impacts of Climate Change</p>	<p>1. Work with policy makers, university researchers, Tribes, and agencies to project future agricultural water availability needs across the state, and to identify strategies to reduce water use conflicts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Develop a strategy and set of policies to ensure water availability for Western Washington agriculture. Consider an Office for Western Washington Basins to coordinate efforts. B. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to increase water storage for agricultural purposes, using a cooperative approach to negotiations that will ensure that storage has neutral or positive environmental benefits and does not negatively impact fish and other core environmental requirements. C. Identify strategies to reduce impacts of sea level rise and prepare for and mitigate the effects of 	<p>Jamie Wiggins, <i>Food Northwest</i></p>

Recommendation Team	Recommendation	Stand Asides
	salt and sea water intrusion into aquifers and drainage systems.	
Recommendation Team 5: Impacts of Climate Change	<p>3. Ensure agricultural adaptation resources are well coordinated, funded, and staffed to support farmers in making informed business decisions in a changing climate.</p> <p>A. Increase and improve access to technical assistance to meet increasing demands around climate adaptation.</p> <p>B. Identify an appropriate agency to coordinate with other Western States on a strategy for climate adaptation in agriculture and food production.</p> <p>C. Identify current food and agricultural products that are most likely to be impacted by a changing climate and recommend specific strategies, like variety development, that can enhance adaptation.</p> <p>D. Increase engagement of businesses to discuss what public-private partnerships are needed to ensure appropriate adaptation, with an understanding that there are benefits and challenges in terms of public research dollars and private benefits.</p>	<p>Chris Voigt, <i>Potato Commission</i> Claire Lane, <i>AntiHunger and Nutrition Coalition</i> Tom Davis, <i>Washington Farm Bureau</i></p>

Appendix E: Approach to Decision-Making: Food Policy Forum Agreements

1. Membership is to be the affiliation with the invited individual as representative of that affiliation. If that individual is not able to participate in an ongoing manner or in a particular meeting, then the expectation is they or their affiliation will designate an alternate. Consistent membership is critical for the Forum to be able to have productive conversations. Members are expected to brief alternates adequately so that alternates can represent them at meetings.
2. Consensus is desirable but not required. The deliverable due to the Legislature in June 2019 will lay out the recommendations for which there is full consensus and include recommendations for which there is less than full consensus with details about how member opinion differs. Working definition of consensus is “I can live with it”. A recommendation has value even if there is not full consensus. The report will be unique in its ability to describe the nuance of how perspectives differ on important food systems policy topics.
3. Members may choose to ‘stand aside’ if they feel they do not understand the opportunity sufficiently to weigh in. Members are asked not to over use this option because it could minimize the value of the Forum to bridge spheres of expertise and make collective recommendations.
4. There is an assumption that within a sector there may be natural agreement on certain recommendations, but it is not necessary for there to be consensus within a ‘caucus’. Formal caucuses are not part of the Forum’s process.
5. The Forum will focus on “common ground and set more contentious issues aside for the future. Topics that are found to be contentious will be described in the final report and can be taken up in the future.
6. The Forum should have a shared perspective on what the problem is even if proposed solutions are different. A shared understanding of the problem is the foundation for discussion of solutions.
7. Members must be present (in person or online via webinar) in order to vote on recommendations or be in communication with the Forum leads as soon as possible to plan for their absence, including inviting alternates.
8. The Forum will still welcome open participation from any stakeholder during meetings and agenda planning; however, voting will be limited to Forum members.