

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE)	Bridget Igoe	Akshay Iyengar

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION adopting the 2024 Food Action Plan and directing the Office of Sustainability and Environment to continue interdepartmental coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the Food Action Plan.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: The Food Action Plan is the City of Seattle’s framework to foster an equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system. It outlines strategies and actions the City can take to increase community food security, support locally grown foods, support an equitable local food economy, and prevent food waste and climate pollution. The City’s first Food Action Plan was developed in 2012 and adopted by Seattle City Council in 2013. The 2024 Food Action Plan is an update to the 2012 Food Action Plan.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? Yes No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City? Yes No

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.

Not applicable; this legislation has no financial implications for the City of Seattle.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Please describe how this legislation may affect any departments besides the originating department.

This legislation is a non-binding resolution adopting the 2024 Food Action Plan (Plan). For decades, the City of Seattle has administered a variety of food policies and programs related to food security, food waste and composting, and urban agriculture. The Plan outlines the City’s existing food or food-related programs and indicates which departments are involved in administering these notable programs. Nevertheless, the legislation would not affect any departments besides the originating department, the Office of Sustainability & Environment (OSE).

b. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.

Not applicable; this legislation would not affect a piece of property.

c. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.

The actions in the 2024 Food Action Plan (Plan) specifically aim to address racial and social disparities in the local food system. Adopting the Plan by resolution would signal the Seattle City Council’s support of this Executive Plan that outlines priorities and strategies for how multiple City departments can foster an equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system. This will address disparities in communities most impacted by economic, social, racial, and environmental injustices.

The food system disparities addressed in the Plan were identified and analyzed by conducting two Racial Equity Toolkits (RETs, see links below) and a root cause analysis workshop, facilitated by Seattle Office of Civil Rights, with the City’s Food Action Plan interdepartmental team (ITD). The RETs and root cause analysis were then used to guide the community engagement strategies for the Food Action Plan update process and to prioritize the actions within the Plan. Seattle’s Environmental Justice Committee (EJC) was also involved throughout the update process and helped to design community engagement strategies and prioritize actions in the updated Food Action Plan.

In addition to the EJC, community engagement to develop this updated Plan included representatives from all parts of the local food system and focused on community leaders who authentically represent populations and communities most impacted by the disparities identified in the equity analyses. Community engagement methods

included 25 interviews, 22 focus groups/listening sessions, and five surveys together reaching over 250 subject matter experts. Multiple reports from these engagement efforts are available on the [Food Action Plan webpage](#).

ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.

In 2021-2022, two Racial Equity Toolkits (RETs) were completed to analyze how the Food Action Plan could impact racial equity across the food system. The RETs focused on (1) the community engagement process and (2) the issue areas within the Plan itself:

1. Food Action Plan *Issue Areas* RET: [2022 RET](#) and [2022 RET Summary](#)
2. Food Action Plan *Community Engagement* RET: [2021 RET Summary Sheet](#)

iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?

As part of the 2024 Food Action Plan release, OSE produced a video to communicate about the updated Plan and highlight existing community work that reflects the Plan's goals and priorities. Once the Plan is released publicly, the video will be available in English as well as with subtitles in the following languages: Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Somali, Korean, and Amharic. The video will be featured on the Food Action Plan webpage and via OSE's social media platforms.

d. Climate Change Implications

i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.

Preventing food waste and climate pollution created by the food system is a key goal in the 2024 Food Action Plan (Plan), and implementation of this Plan will decrease carbon emissions associated with the local food system. Uneaten food contributes six percent of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Meanwhile, even though food is banned from the garbage, it is the single largest material in Seattle's waste stream. Approximately 20% of residential garbage and 19% of business garbage is composed of food waste [1, 2].

Meanwhile, food emissions represent 24% of consumption-based GHG emissions in Seattle, accounting for 7.9 metric tons of carbon dioxide per household [3].

There are nine actions in the Plan specifically aimed at preventing food waste and reducing consumption-based food emissions. For details, see the actions in the Plan within *Strategic Priority #6: Food Waste* and *Strategic Priority #7: Environment & Climate*.

Sources:

1. Seattle Public Utilities. (2022, February). 2020 Residential Garbage and Recycling Stream Composition Study. Prepared by Cascadia Consulting Group. <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SPU/Documents/Reports/SolidWaste/2020ResidentialWasteCompositionStudies.pdf>
2. Seattle Public Utilities. (August 14, 2023). City of Seattle 2022 Commercial Garbage Stream Composition Study. Prepared by Cascadia Consulting Group. <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SPU/Documents/Reports/SolidWaste/2022-CommercialWasteStreamCompositionStudy.pdf>
3. City of Seattle. (2023, February). Seattle Communitywide Consumption-based GHG Emissions Inventory 2019. Puget Sound Regional Emissions Analysis. Final Report. <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OSE/ClimateDocs/GHG%20Inventory/Seattle%20Consumption%20Based%20Emissions%20Inventory%202019.pdf>

- ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle’s resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

The actions in the 2024 Food Action Plan will increase Seattle’s resiliency to climate change. Increasing community food security and access to nutritious and affordable foods, shifting to sustainable food consumption, and strengthening disaster preparedness and external shocks to the food system are all key to resiliency and are focus areas within the Plan.

- e. **If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program’s desired goal(s)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

Not applicable. The 2024 Food Action Plan is a continuation and update to the original 2012 Plan and this legislation does not include any major programmatic expansions.

5. CHECKLIST

- Is a public hearing required?
- Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required?
- If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?

- Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

6. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None.