

SeattleFarmBillPrinciples

Supporting Healthy Farms, Food and People Guidance for the 2012 Farm Bill

- **1 Health-centered Food System**

The driving principle of the Farm Bill must be the relationship of food and ecologically sound agriculture to public health. Food that promotes health includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, legumes, dairy, and lean protein. Improving the health of the nation's residents must be a priority in developing policies, programs, and funding.
- **2 Sustainable Agricultural Practices**

Promote farming systems and agricultural techniques that prioritize the protection of the environment so that the soil, air, and water will be able to continue producing food long into the future. Integral to both domestic and global agricultural policies should be agricultural techniques and farming practices that enhance environmental quality, build soil and soil fertility, protect natural resources and ecosystem diversity, improve food safety, and increase the quality of life of communities, farmers and farm workers.
- **3 Community and Regional Prosperity and Resilience**

Enhance food security by strengthening the viability of small and mid-scale farms, and increasing appropriately scaled processing facilities, distribution networks, and direct marketing. Develop strategies that foster resiliency, local innovation, interdependence, and community development in both rural and urban economies. Opportunities that create fair wage jobs are key to a strong economy.
- **4 Equitable Access to Healthy Food**

Identify opportunities and reduce barriers by developing policies and programs that increase the availability of and improve the proximity of healthy, affordable, and culturally-relevant food to urban, suburban, and rural populations. Protect the nation's core programs that fight food insecurity and hunger while promoting vibrant, sustainable agriculture.
- **5 Social Justice and Equity**

The policies reflected in the Farm Bill impact the lives and livelihoods of many people, both in the U.S. as well as abroad. Develop policies, programs, and strategies that support social justice, worker's rights, equal opportunity, and promote community self-reliance.
- **6 Systems Approach to Policymaking**

It is essential to reduce compartmentalization of policies and programs, and to approach policy decisions by assessing their impact on all aspects of the food system including production, processing, distribution, marketing, consumption, and waste management. Consider the inter-related effects of policies and align expected outcomes to meet the goal of a comprehensive health-focused food system.

The Seattle Farm Bill Principles were initiated by Seattle City Council President Richard Conlin as part of the Seattle Local Food Action Initiative. http://www.seattle.gov/council/conlin/food_initiative.htm

The founding co-signers include civic leaders in Seattle and Washington farmers who believe it is important to create a healthy food system, strengthen the connections between our urban, suburban and rural communities, and support sustainable agriculture.

Founding Co-Signers

Richard Conlin, President, Seattle City Council

Denis Hayes, President Bullitt Foundation, National Coordinator of the first Earth Day

James Kelly, CEO, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

Dr. David Fleming, Director, Public Health Seattle-King County

Mary Embleton, Executive Director, Cascade Harvest Coalition

Trudy Bialic, Public Affairs Director, PCC Natural Markets

Fred Fleming and Karl Kupers, Co-founders of Shepherd's Grain

Reverend Dr. Robert L. Jeffrey, Executive Director, Clean Greens

Siri Erickson-Brown, Co-owner, Local Roots Farm

Dr. David R. Montgomery, MacArthur Fellow and author, DIRT: The Erosion of Civilizations

Andrew Stout, CEO-Founder, Full Circle Farm

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