

Summary / Rural Economic Strategies / Foundation and Agriculture Cluster Strategies and Actions / Oct. 2009

RES NUMBER	COMP PLAN POLICY	STRATEGY	ACTIONS [to be implemented by OSPPM, BRED, and/or the RES Coordinator]
RES MISSION: Sustain and enhance the long-term economic viability of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.			
	RES Goal 1: Support the diversity and richness of the rural economy by effectively engaging farmers, foresters, rural business owners, rural communities, and rural related organizations in an on-going dialogue.		
	RES Goal 2: Implement the intent and policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan to support a sustainable and vibrant rural economy.		
	RES Goal 3: Promote opportunities for rural residents to both live and work in the rural area.		
Foundation Strategies			
RES-FS1	ED-501, R-102	County Department Application: County departments recognize the importance of sustaining the rural economy and consider the applicable Rural Economic Strategies during development and implementation of their respective strategic plans, policies, and programs.	Continue to coordinate with county departments to ensure that existing and new policies, programs, and projects address and are responsive to rural needs, by participating on interdepartmental policy and project teams and departmental and/or county-wide strategic planning efforts.
RES-FS2	ED-501	Advocacy: Function as an advocate for, liaison with, and technical specialist to ensure that the interests of the rural economy are considered during policy, program, and regulatory development at all levels of government and by rural related organizations throughout the county and Puget Sound Region.	Continue to ensure that the interests and needs of the rural economy are represented in meetings and when reviewing documents regarding policy, program development, and regulatory review and or changes, by continuing to respond to rural issues and coordinating with both internal and external groups and organizations.

RES-FS3	ED-503(b), R-206, R-209, R-211	Policy and Regulatory Support: Ensure existing and proposed changes to county policy and regulations are written and implemented to provide the flexibility needed to sustain the economic vibrancy of rural businesses.	Continue to coordinate with county departments, particularly DDES, DNRP, the Agriculture and Rural Forest Commissions, and rural Unincorporated Area Councils, to ensure that existing and new policies and regulations are responsive to rural business needs, by 1) monitoring and evaluating rural economic impacts of proposed policy and regulatory changes, 2) ensuring rural involvement in the review of applicable proposed changes, and 3) initiating internal discussions of possible changes based on rural concerns and/or input.
RES-FS4	ED-503, R-102	Communication: Promote effective communication and maintain an on-going dialogue with rural residents, businesses and related organizations to exchange ideas, inform, and facilitate solutions to identified needs, issues, or concerns in the rural area.	Continue outreach to and dialogue with rural residents by 1) attending rural related organization meetings, 2) providing input for informational newsletters and the rural services website, and 3) responding to requests for information.
RES-FS5	ED-503(b), R-101	Partnerships: Continue, strengthen existing, and initiate new collaborations when necessary to encourage resource-based and compatible economic development in rural areas of the county and the Puget Sound Region.	Continue to participate in partnerships with individuals and organizations that support or enhance the viability of the rural economy.
	ED-503(c), R-101, R-603	1) Agriculture and Rural Forest Commissions and the rural Unincorporated Area Councils.	Continue to work with and support the programs and projects related to the enhancement of the rural economy by coordinating with county recognized commissions and councils.

	ED-107, ED-401, R-102	2) Rural communities, cities, and organizations that represent or impact on rural area interests (especially in areas not represented by an unincorporated area council).	Continue to work with and support the programs and projects related to the enhancement of the rural economy by organizations and entities within the county by 1) continuing to initiate contact, 2) raising rural issues with appropriate groups, and 3) partnering on economic enhancement projects.
	ED-106, ED-402, R-201, R-204, R-214	3) Puget Sound counties and regional organizations.	Continue to work with and support the programs and projects related to the enhancement of the rural economy in adjacent counties and throughout Puget Sound by 1) continuing to initiate contact, 2) raising rural issues with appropriate groups, and 3) partnering on economic enhancement projects.
RES-FS6	ED-201	Business and Technical Assistance: Strengthen existing and initiate new collaborations with professional organizations to provide rural businesses with business and technical assistance, resources, training, and networking opportunities.	Continue to explore and participate in opportunities to coordinate with local and regional efforts to provide business assistance, training, and networking venues for rural businesses by 1) continuing to initiate contact, 2) raising rural business needs with appropriate organizations, and 3) partnering on business assistance projects.
RES-FS7	ED-503(b), R-206, R-207, R-209	Incentives: Ensure rural residents and businesses are knowledgeable about and have access to grants, low-interest loans, tax, and other incentives that encourage agriculture, forest-based, compatible rural business development, and historic property redevelopment, consistent with rural character and the relevant policies.	Continue to explore and participate in evaluating existing and proposed incentives that will support rural businesses, by 1) leading an interdepartmental effort to identify countywide and regional incentives, 2) providing this information to rural businesses, and 3) continuing to solicit rural input on needs and ensuring incentive opportunities are explored by the proper entities.

RES-FS8		Performance Management: Identify and track rural indicators and trends to help direct policies, the rural economic strategies, and implementation actions that support and/or enhance the rural economy.	Continue to identify, develop, and monitor rural indicators and trends that will support development of county policies and the rural economic strategies as well as implementation actions to support the rural economy, by 1) leading an effort to identify measurable rural indicators, 2) soliciting input on the indicators from the rural area, 3) developing an indicator and trends report by the end of 2010, and 4) continuing to monitor the indicators to ensure that county policies and the rural economic strategies are responsive to changes in rural economic trends.
RES-FS9	ED-503	RES Flexibility & Responsiveness: Address changing rural business needs and guide future economic development by modifying and/or adding strategies and implementation actions as needed to reflect the evolving nature of the rural economy.	Continue to respond to evolving rural business needs by 1) exploring options for solutions to the identified needs and 2) adding or modifying strategies and action items as appropriate.
Rural Economic Cluster Strategies			
RES-AG		AGRICULTURE	
		Purpose: Strengthen and enhance the agriculture cluster - raising of crops and livestock and production of value-added goods - in both the Rural Area and the Agricultural Production Districts.	

RES-AG1	Chapter 3, Section VI(C), ED-501, R-204, R-205	Retain the agricultural land base of King County and strengthen the policy, regulatory, and business environment to sustain and enhance the businesses that comprise the agricultural cluster.	Continue to support and partner with the DNRP Agriculture Program, Agriculture Commission, and non-profit organizations, such as the Cascade Harvest Coalition, whose goals are related to the support and enhancement of agriculture in the county, by 1) attending meetings as an advocate for and specialist on the rural economy, 2) reviewing draft documents, and 3) providing support for agriculture related economic enhancement projects.
RES-AG2	Chapter 3, Section VI(C), ED-503, R-204, R-205,	Assist implementation of the Agriculture Commission's annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain and conserve agricultural lands for agriculture and enhance agricultural production.	Continue to support the activities of the Commission and partner with DNRP Agriculture Program staff on projects that influence or have a direct impact on the economic health of the agricultural economic cluster, by 1) attending key Commission meetings, 2) reviewing planning documents, 3) assisting in developing revised agriculture regulations to provide more flexibility for the cluster, based, in part, on the recommendations of the FARMS Report that the Commission will send to Council in late 2009.
RES-AG3	Ed-503, R-656	Support and partner with programs that provide business and technical assistance to businesses within the agriculture cluster.	Continue to support and partner with the DNRP Agriculture Program and other organizations whose goals support agricultural business and technical assistance, by 1) attending meetings as an advocate for and specialist on the rural economy, 2) reviewing draft documents, and 3) providing economic technical assistance.

RES-AG4	ED-503, R-657, R-658, R-659, R-660, R-661	Support and partner with programs that promote marketing and market development for agricultural products and value-added goods.	Continue to support and partner with the DNRP Agriculture Program and other organizations whose goals are related to the marketing of value-added agricultural products, by 1) attending meetings as an advocate for and specialist on the rural economy, 2) reviewing draft documents, and 3) providing economic technical assistance.
RES-AG5	ED-503, R-204, R-659, R-668, R-669, R-670	Solicit and respond to identified needs of the agriculture cluster and its required infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable agricultural practices.	Continue to review county policies and regulations relating to agriculture, by 1) exploring solutions to agricultural issues raised, 2) reviewing new and existing policies and regulations, and 3) promoting and ensuring rural input on proposed regulatory changes.
RES-AG6	R-656, R-657	Support and partner with programs that provide assistance to new farmers with a focus on minorities, low-income, and immigrants.	Continue to support and partner with the DNRP Agriculture Program and other organizations whose goals support providing agricultural business and technical assistance to minorities, low-income, and immigrants, by 1) attending meetings as an advocate for and specialist on the rural economy, 2) reviewing draft documents, and 3) providing economic technical assistance.

RES-AG7	ED-501, R-661	Solicit partners and support businesses or programs conducting efforts to develop secondary markets for added farm revenue, including but not limited to biofuels, manure digester systems, and agri-tourism.	Continue to support and partner with the DNRP Agriculture, green programs, and other organizations whose goals support businesses such as biofuels, manure digesters and agri-tourism, by 1) continuing to initiate contact with potential partners, 2) attending meetings as an advocate for and specialist on the rural economy, 3) reviewing draft documents, and 4) providing economic technical assistance.
RES-AG8	R-672, R-673, R-674, R-675	Educate and promote the importance of buying local produce and value-added products to all county residents and businesses.	Continue to partner with programs and projects, such as Puget Sound Fresh, that support the rural/urban interface, by 1) educating county residents about the county's agricultural base and products, 2) exploring opportunities to promote this message, 3) attending meetings as an advocate for and specialist on the rural economy, 4) reviewing draft documents, and 5) making presentations on and providing information on the rural economy.



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