

Urban Agriculture Workshop

February 25, 2016

KCD invited participants from KCD Member Jurisdictions and community partners to a workshop to discuss the processes for initiating Community Food Projects.

Kristen McIvor from Harvest Pierce County brought her colleagues Dan Thompson, Division Manager of Wastewater Operations for the City of Tacoma, and Stephanie Leisle of Pierce County Public Works, and the three of them spoke about the process they have been using to increase the number of community food projects in Tacoma/Pierce County from 8 to 76 in just 8 years. Kristen highlighted the need for small groups of community leaders and volunteers to work together to develop their own organizational guidance, rather than being a program run by the jurisdiction. She noted that the individual jurisdictions are instrumental in helping volunteer groups facilitate the process and can provide support in ways such as supplying land, funding, in-kind donations of materials (like water), or other planning related resources. Kristen also provided a handout Harvest Pierce County frequently uses entitled **Questions to consider when starting a Community Food Project**. This handout is attached.

We broke into groups and discussed barriers and solutions to land access, organizing volunteer groups, and funding. The following is a list of areas where people would like more information, which we are researching for the next workshop:

1. Policy information on selling food that was grown on public land
2. Policy information on street vending
3. Land with Utility Easement
4. Access to water and soil amendments – who pays and how does this work
5. Public Health Seattle/King County partnerships
6. Potential partnerships with schools, food banks, places of worship, etc.
7. List of Grant Opportunities, i.e. SARE, USDA, Public Health, etc.
8. Ask Food Policy Link (Regional Food Policy Council) for policy assistance

KCD is planning a follow up workshop on **April 2nd from 10am to 1pm**. [Click here to RSVP](#). The workshop will be held again at the Administration building of the King County South Treatment Plant. Lunch will be provided. This workshop will include more community leaders who are interested in starting a program in their community, and will attempt to provide more information on the topics listed above. We welcome anyone to attend this workshop. Please get in touch with KCD if you have questions.

After this workshop, KCD will begin scheduling one-on-one outreach with communities who are interested in beginning projects, and these will be held in the interested communities. KCD is committed to providing services to diverse and broad-based constituents and is willing to adjust how and where we provide these services in order to best accommodate those in need. In addition, if you know of any community members who may be interested in starting a Community Food Project in their neighborhood, please advise them that KCD is available to help.

Please contact Cari Simson, KCD Urban Agriculture Consultant, 206-234-5102 or cari@urbansystemdesign.com with your questions.

King Conservation District
Urban Services Program