

**From:** [Bart Catching](#)  
**To:** [Jude Wait](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeffrey Delapena](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Agriculture and Food in the Climate Chapter, GMP Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026 7:34:08 AM

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Jude,

Your comment is received.

Jeff, please link this public comment received on the meeting page for the Agricultural Advisory Commission.

Thank you.



**Bart Catching**  
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COMMUNITY PLANNING

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**From:** Jude Wait <wellsavellc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026 6:07 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>  
**Cc:** Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Ann Foster <annfoster5093@gmail.com>; Dillon Haggerty <dilishfarm@gmail.com>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Bart Catching <Bart.Catching@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; justin@burgerfamilyfarm.com; Joe Zimmerman <joezimm@live.com>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Diane Dempster <dianedempster36@gmail.com>; hollyhansenagcomm@gmail.com; zoppenheimer@clarkcd.org; O'Dea, JUSTIN <justin.odea@wsu.edu>; matthew.cornwell@clarkcountyfoodbank.org; Hector Hinojosa <vanwametro.47026@gmail.com>; Tim@futurewise.org; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Mo McKenna <farmermomckenna@gmail.com>; Ron Barca (Planning Commission Member) <Ron.Barca@clark.wa.gov>; niels@ouramericanroots.com; Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>; ehamiltonrosales <ehamiltonrosales@gmail.com>; kdharless@gmail.com; Patricia Haggerty <farmfoodjustice@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Agriculture and Food in the Climate Chapter, GMP Update

**EXTERNAL:** This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Bart,

Please include this submission of Public Comment into the record and distribution to the whole Agricultural Advisory Commission. Apologies for the same-day relay.

Please share this link to the [Climate Chapter](#) on the Planning Commission website for the Ag Comm meeting information.

For the record, I also intend these comments for the whole Planning Commission, all the County Council members, and staff,

The purpose of this comment is to further explanation of one of the Policies: Right-to-Food (RtF).

Please See attached PDF and refer to the *DRAFT Climate Element as of 2025-1204*

respectfully submitted,

Jude Wait, Ph.D., MiM  
/ Farm and Food Justice Network /  
/ Wellsave, LLC:  
/ [wellsavellc@gmail.com](mailto:wellsavellc@gmail.com)

Public Comments for February 25, 2026 public meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Commission

TO: Agricultural Advisory Commission (AAC) et al

RE: Right to Food (RtF) in the [Climate Chapter](#)

From: Jude Wait,<sup>1</sup> Ph.D., Co-founder of Farm and Food Justice Network<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of this comment is to further explain one of the Policies: Right-to-Food (RtF). I elevate this policy among many that will likely capture the attention of the Ag Advisory Commission [see also below for other [excerpts of the Climate Goals-Policies](#)]. The entire [Climate Chapter](#) is an important document for the Ag Commission. Sorry I assumed it being on the agenda would trigger sharing. Ag / farm / producers are all on the “front lines” of Climate impacts—as are the “consumers” of products.

I am suggesting Right to Food (RtF) be among priority strategies for the Agricultural Advisory Commission (AAC) to pursue in 2026, pursuant also to the Agriculture Lands Study attention on Food Security issues, as well as Commission testimony to the Public Hearing on DEIS alternatives.

\*\*I propose the Right to Food implies a corollary

**Growing food is a community service.**

And furthermore absolutely within the Ag Advisory’s mandate.

Congratulations to Clark County: The Right to Food is codified into a whole set of County policies in the context of the Growth Management Plan Climate Element (2025), as follows:

"14.5.7 Develop and implement "The Right To Food" policies and strategies for Clark County 1 that support community-wide access to sufficient nutritious food. This right ensures 2 equitable access to enough high quality food in the county under a variety of climate 3 emergency scenarios and year round. [RES]"

*DRAFT Climate Element as of 2025-1204*

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<sup>1</sup> Jude Wait co-represented the Farm and Food Justice Network (FFJN) [2] on the Environmental Justice Coalition (EJC) for Clark County’s Climate resilience planning. Each of the 15 EJC members engaged our respective communities, submitting detailed feedback on the 33 Climate Element Goals and 123 associated Policies (including RtF).

<sup>2</sup> FFJN’s mission is to enhance the capacity of farms and food enterprises to be climate resilient by prioritizing farmers supporting farmers’ networking to gain equitable access to resources and support. Our vision is for locally-grown food in our region to reach vulnerable families in our communities.

In general, the right to food means having access to a wholesome diet of healthy, culturally acceptable food, free of harmful substances. Adequate food access should be without violating other rights, and secure for present and future generations.

RtF is codified by the United Nations, and an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Maine. We have an active initiative in WA State. Exemplary initiatives are blooming [across the U.S.](#) (West Virginia; Syracuse, NY, etc).

The [National Right to Food Community of Practice](#) provides the following [recommendations](#):

1. Support, subsidize, and incentivize independent and small-scale food producers that implement sustainable, regenerative, and agroecological practices.
2. Fund and support infrastructure for local, small-scale processing, especially for meat.
3. Hold agricultural companies accountable for their role in accelerating climate change and their negative impacts on food production, access, equity, and sustainability.
4. Develop and support integrated regional policy that recognizes the intersections of food, farming, conservation, healthy soils, land and water access, health, housing, healthcare, racial health, and economic disparities.
5. Protect the fishing, hunting, water, and land rights of Indigenous peoples.

## Excerpts from the *DRAFT Climate Element as of 2025-1204*

Please find these Goals and Policies in the *DRAFT Climate Element as of 2025-1204*

“Goal: Promote holistic and resilient local food economies. [RES] “

### 14.5 Policies [[all]]

“Goal: Promote holistic, regenerative, and sustainable agriculture and landscaping community-16 wide that provides high quality food while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving resilience to changing environmental conditions. [GHG, RES]”

### 14.6 Policies [[all]]

Note also:

14.3.3 Promote ways to protect the health and wellbeing of outdoor workers exposed to 1 extreme heat and other climate-exacerbated hazards including, but not limited to: 2 compliance with Washington State (Labor & Industries) legislation health and 3 wellbeing protections related to severe weather and providing training on ways to 4 protect the health and wellbeing of outdoor workers and indoor workers who lack 5 access to cooling in extreme heat. [RES]