

From: [Jude Wait](#)
To: [Bart Catching](#)
Cc: [Jeffrey Delapena](#); [Lauren Henricksen](#)
Subject: Re: Ag, Food, and Climate resilience ala GMP policy 260325
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 4:26:05 PM

Thanks, Bart et al,
Here are my oral comments for today to add to the record.

Right to food is more than mere food security, but a longer term, systemic and holistic view, where growing food links to natural resources.

Some of you farmers know first hand how much food security is a part of **economic activity**, such as farm-to-food bank and other Local Food Purchasing markets. Some local farms obtained – 5-30 % of their market sales in these market channels. before the current funding freezes and program terminations –

What do we mean by RtF:
Availability, Accessibility, & Sustainability directly relate to the Ag Commission.
Holistic includes the effects on Small Farmers

Agency is a big part of RtF framework. To better actualize “agency” or voice—including your Community Engagement and Economic viability committees, consider whether you have an opportunity to open up Ag Comm COMMITTEE work to include more voices from across stakeholder currently not well represented such as Environmental Justice Coalition participants.

RtF is a policy strategy, in the GMP, and can integrate MANY related policies. Climate resilience is in WHAT committee? Food security is where?

On the grower advocacy side – if we can promote RtF, a natural corollary, IMHO, is that growing food is a community service. – You can list the ecological, social, political, and economic, environmental, and natural resource SERVICES that agriculture contributes.

AG is not just an entrepreneurial activity in the context of extremely unfavorable economic conditions. From local land use to import tariffs, from corporate concentration to farmers markets – farmers face huge hurdles to their resilience...

Thanks to the Agricultural Advisory Commission for your great work

On Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 3:03 PM Bart Catching <Bart.Catching@clark.wa.gov> wrote:

Jude,

Your comments have been received. I will print hardcopies to distribute to the members for

today's meeting.

My co-worker (who posts items to the meetings web page) is out the rest of the day, but we'll get digital versions attached tomorrow.

Thanks,



Bart Catching
Planner III
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4909

From: Jude Wait <wellsavellc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 2:56 PM
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>; Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>; ehamiltonrosales <ehamiltonrosales@gmail.com>; kdharless@gmail.com; Patricia Haggerty <farmfoodjustice@gmail.com>
Subject: Ag, Food, and Climate resilience ala GMP policy 260325

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Hi Everyone {1st to Ag Commission 3-25-2026 meeting TODAY)

(including TO Ag Advisory Commission, Planning Commission, County staff, County Council, and other friends -- please forward to all of the above via email + public comment tracker:)

I'm writing to continue the Right to Food conversation. Attached are 2 1-pagers on the Right to Food.

Remember from last month 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

For your policy and strategy menu. AND an opportunity to open up Ag Comm COMMITTEE work to include more voices from across stakeholder currently not well represented such as Environmental Justice Coalition participants.

Thanks for your attention. Apologies for "late" yet allowable public input. It's busy out in the Farm and Food Justice Network world, as you well know!

respectfully submitted,

Jude Wait, Ph.D., MiM

/ Farm and Food Justice Network /

/ Wellsave, LLC:

/ wellsavellc@gmail.com

On Wed, Feb 25, 2026 at 6:07 AM Jude Wait <wellsavelle@gmail.com> wrote:

RE: Agriculture and Food in the Climate Chapter, GMP Update

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.

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A Holistic Approach to Right to Food in the U.S.

Human rights are all [interconnected and indivisible](#) - each one supports the other in a multitude of ways. International law states that any given human right cannot be truly fulfilled until all of a person's human rights have been realized. The right to food strongly intersects with other human rights, including the right to health, the right to housing, the right to water, the right to life, and the [newly recognized](#) right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. A holistic approach to human rights, and the right to food specifically, requires a close analysis of not only the immediate violation occurring, but also the systemic issues that enable human rights violations, the impact on interrelated human rights, and the individual and collective needs of people and communities in protecting and asserting their rights.

By approaching human rights holistically, we can come up with long-term solutions, and also understand that remedies to rights violations will not look the same for everyone, nor will expression of those rights. For example, the right to food requires that food meet the nutritional and cultural needs of an individual. The fulfillment of the right to food will thus look differently for people from different cultures and with different demographics, such as age. Further, it is important to note that some people may be impacted by human rights violations differently than others. For instance, groups that are more vulnerable to systemic discrimination may be more likely to experience further long-term individual and community harm due to right to food violations.

When it comes to food, addressing systemic issues such as low wages, lack of affordable housing, corporate capture of the food system, land loss, environmental harm, and deleterious effects on small farmers allows us to target right to food violations at their root. A holistic approach to human rights recognizes that rights violations typically don't happen in a vacuum - multiple systemic failures and harms must first occur to set up the circumstances for a violation to take place. Once we understand these circumstances, we can advocate for changes in policy, laws, systems and institutions and then monitor their implementation to ensure such violations will not occur again.



National Right to Food Community of Practice

Contact: info@righttofoodus.org

Website: www.righttofoodus.org

What do we mean by the right to food?



The Right to Food is a call to action and a legal framework for coordinated reform in food, agriculture, health, labor, and the environment. For the Right to Food to be realized in the United States, food must be universally:

Available: Individuals and communities are able to feed themselves by producing their own food, through the natural resources available to them, or by purchasing food through a well-functioning food system.

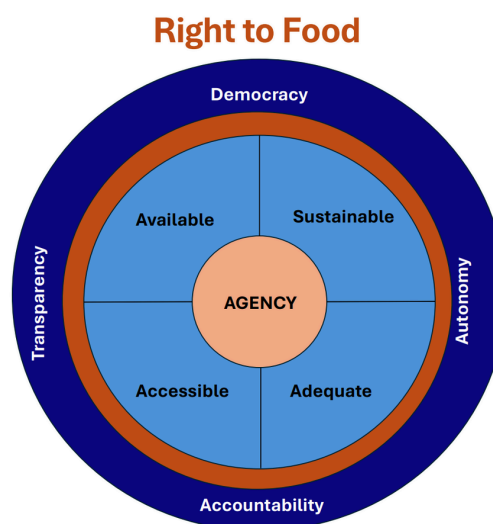
Accessible: Individuals and communities have sufficient physical and economic infrastructure and support to enable everyone to access the food they need and desire, obtained in a dignified way. Everyone has the resources to purchase that food without sacrificing other basic needs.

Adequate: Food is nutritious for growth, development, long-term health, and physical activity. Food is safe for consumption and acceptable within a given culture. Individuals are able to consume enough calories, nutrients, and micronutrients to lead healthy and safe lives.

Sustainable: Food is produced in such a way that the local ecology is not harmed, and natural resources are protected and regenerated. Food production protects our health and the health of our communities for both present and future generations.

See [General Comment No. 12 on the right to adequate food](#) for more on these four principles.

As explained by the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in General Comment 12: “Right to adequate food is realized when [everyone], alone or in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement.”



As a final characteristic, communities must have self-determination and **Agency** in defining their own local food and farm systems and economies that ensure the right to food.

See [Food Sovereignty | Explained](#) by La Via Campesina to learn more about the concept of agency and the right to food.