



18           B. The report and motion acknowledging receipt of the report shall be transmitted  
19 to the council by March 31, 2015, in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy  
20 to the clerk of the council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to  
21 all councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the transportation,  
22 economy and environment committee, or its successor."

23 Delete Attachment A, Rural Economic Strategies Plan 2013, and insert new Attachment  
24 A, Rural Economic Strategies Plan, revised August 19, 2014

25 **EFFECT: Section 1 of the ordinance is amended to adopt the Rural Economic**  
26 **Strategies (RES) plan, rather than approve and adopt. This reflects the direction in**  
27 **Ordinance 17485 to adopt an update of the RES.**

28 **Section 2 of the ordinance directs the next steps in the implementation of the Rural**  
29 **Economic Strategies.**

30 **Attachment A is amended to add an introduction, and to add additional strategies**  
31 **reflecting recent rural economic development activities.**

## **Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Plan Update 2013**

King County is updating the Rural Economic Strategies (RES) to meet both evolving economic conditions and to ensure implementation of policies relating to the rural economy within the 2012 King County Comprehensive Plan update. This RES update was directed by Ordinance 17485, which adopted the 2012 Comprehensive Plan update. This document is organized by the overall mission and goals of the RES, overarching foundational strategies, and a series of specific strategies that cover clusters of the rural economy identified in Chapter 9 of the Comprehensive Plan. ~~2009 Policies updated consistent with the 2012 Comprehensive Plan.~~

Mission: Sustain and enhance the long-term economic viability of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands consistent with the unique character of rural King County.

### **Rural Economic Strategies (RES) Goals:**

1. Implement the intent and policies of the King County Comprehensive Plan and the objectives of the King County Strategic Plan Economic Growth and Built Environment Goal to support a sustainable and vibrant rural economy, within existing resources.
2. 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.
3. Advocate for and partner with projects and programs that promote the economic viability of existing and start-up businesses in the Rural Economic Clusters: Agriculture, Forestry, Equestrian, Home-Based Business, Tourism/Recreation, and Rural Commercial Neighborhood Centers/Rural Towns/Rural Cities.
4. Promote opportunities for rural residents to both live and work in the rural area and on natural resource lands.

### **Foundation Strategies:**

- A. 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 and programs.
- B. Policy and Regulatory Support: County policy, regulations and programs should be reviewed and developed in partnership with appropriate community stakeholders to support the preservation and enhancement of traditional rural economic activities and lifestyles, while supporting evolving compatible commercial uses and job opportunities.
- C. Communication: Solicit input, exchange ideas, inform and facilitate dialogue to address solutions to identified issues between rural residents, rural business owners, organizations and the county. Coordinate evaluation of and updates to the RES with the Community Service Areas Work Plans.
- D. Partnerships: Participate and/or support collaborations that encourage compatible economic development in rural areas of the County and the Puget Sound Region.
- E. Business and Technical Assistance: Partner with professional organizations and provide referrals to rural businesses regarding business and technical assistance, resources, training, and networking opportunities.

- F. Incentives: Identify and inform the public about grants, low-interest loans, tax, and other incentives that encourage agriculture, forest-based, historic property redevelopment, and other rural business development consistent with ecological values and rural character.
- G. Performance Management: Identify and track rural indicators and trends to help direct policies, the rural economic strategies, and actions related to the rural economy.

## **Rural Economic Clusters Strategies**

### **Agriculture: Strengthen and enhance the agricultural cluster-raising of crops and livestock and production of value-added goods in both the Rural Area and the Agriculture Production Districts.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support agriculture and its infrastructure.
2. Assist implementation of the Agriculture Commission's annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain, conserve and expand agricultural lands and infrastructure.
3. Support and partner with programs that promote new and existing markets for agricultural products and value-added goods.
4. Support and partner with programs that provide business, marketing and technical assistance to businesses within the agricultural cluster.
5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the agriculture cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable agricultural practices.
6. Support incentives, including transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation easements and current use taxation, to encourage agricultural activities in the Agricultural Production Districts (APDs) and in lands that could be farmed outside the APDs.
7. Support and partner with programs that provide assistance to new farmers with attention to minorities, low-income residents, and immigrants.
8. Solicit partners and support businesses or programs conducting efforts to develop secondary markets for added farm revenue, including but not limited to, manure digester systems, and agri-tourism.
9. Promote and support programs that educate and encourage all County residents and businesses on the importance of buying local produce and value-added products, including support for farmer's markets.
10. Support and partner with programs that promote local food access to institutions, School Districts, hospitals, food banks.
11. Support incentives to locate infrastructure such as food processing, farmers markets, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) drop offs near Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) to reduce costs.
12. Fund capital projects that maintain and improve farm infrastructure, thereby increasing the viability of existing agricultural land.

13. Support and implement projects and policies that improve the drainage for farmland, increasing the viability of existing agricultural land.

**Forestry: Strengthen and diversify the forestry cluster while maintaining healthy forest ecosystems.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support forestry and its infrastructure.
2. Assist implementation of the Rural Forest Commission's annual work plans and its recommendations for priority actions to retain and conserve forests and needed forest infrastructure.
3. Support and partner with programs that support market development for forestry products and value-added goods.
4. Support and partner with programs that provide business and technical assistance to small forest landowners and forest-related businesses.
5. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the forest cluster and its infrastructure to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable forestry practices.
6. Promote and support programs that educate and encourage all County residents and businesses on the importance of buying locally grown/locally milled wood.
7. Support and partner with programs that provide incentives to landowners for forest health improvement.
8. Support incentives, including transfer of development rights (TDR), conservation easements and current use taxation, to encourage forest conservation.

**Equestrian: Sustain and enhance the diversity of equine uses that support the equestrian economic cluster.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support the business and recreational aspects of the equestrian cluster and its infrastructure.
2. Support and partner with programs that educate horse owners and potential purchasers on best equestrian husbandry and manure management practices.
3. Encourage and promote the continuation and expansion of equestrian trail connectivity throughout King County and the region as appropriate.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs from horse owners, equestrian business owners, and related rural organizations to ensure that policies and regulations support appropriate equestrian uses and the needed infrastructure.
5. Support and partner with the communities that promote equestrian businesses, tourism, and recreational opportunities, including trail connectivity.

**Home-Based Business: Strengthen and enhance the diverse home-based business cluster with uses ranging from sole proprietorships to cottage industries to natural resource-based support businesses.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible home-based businesses and cottage industries.

2. Support and partner with chambers of commerce, small business assistance centers, and other programs that provide business and technical assistance to home-based businesses and cottage industries.
3. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the home-based business cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are an appropriate use and scale for the area being proposed.

**Tourism and Recreation and Tourism: Strengthen and enhance the tourism and recreation cluster while ensuring that the business use and scale is compatible with the area in which the activity or activities are located or provided.**

1. Promote, enhance, and partner with programs that support compatible tourism and recreation opportunities including agricultural and forest tourism and value-added programs related to the production of food, flowers, forest products and wine in the County.
2. Lead and/or partner in efforts to unify regional tourism efforts to maximize program effectiveness and support individual tourism or recreation related businesses.
3. Support and partner with efforts to provide both private and public local recreational opportunities, as well support appropriate regional connectivity of recreational uses and trails.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the tourism and recreation cluster to formulate policy and regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are an appropriate use and scale for the area being proposed.
5. Support and promote programs and initiatives that integrate economic development and recreation with forestry uses.

**Commercial and Industrial: Strengthen and enhance the commercial and industrial cluster to sustain compatible businesses on sites designated for commercial or industrial uses within the following land use classifications: 1)Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, 2)Rural Towns, ~~3)Rural Cities/Rural City Urban Growth Area, 4) Industrial, and 5) Mining/Mineral Resource Lands.~~**

1. Promote and support compatible businesses in the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers in their role of providing limited retail goods and services for the surrounding rural area.
2. Promote and partner with the Rural Towns to support economic vitality in their role of providing retail businesses and services for the surrounding rural area.
3. ~~Sustain partnerships with the Rural Cities, chambers of commerce, and other related organizations on programs that support businesses and provide services and employment for the residents in the surrounding rural area.~~
4. ~~Sustain partnerships with the cities to support and maintain the economic vitality of businesses located within the Urban Growth Areas.~~
5. ~~Sustain partnerships with rural and small cities within the county to promote appropriate regional tourism efforts.~~

3. Encourage mining and mineral resource businesses to employ operational practices that protect environmental quality, fisheries, and wildlife, in balance with the needs of the industry.
4. Solicit and respond to identified needs of the commercial and industrial cluster to formulate policy and as appropriate, regulatory changes to ensure sustainable and economically viable businesses that are of appropriate use and scale for the area.
5. Promote and support regional industrial and commercial facilities in the rural area that are designated as projects of statewide significance, including those that specialize in development of innovative and green technologies and provide jobs in the region.

**Rural Cities: Partner with the Rural Cities to strengthen and enhance their economic development efforts.**

1. Sustain partnerships with the Rural Cities, chambers of commerce, and other related organizations on programs that support businesses and provide services and employment for the residents in the surrounding rural area.
2. Sustain partnerships with the cities to support and maintain the economic vitality of businesses located within the Urban Growth Areas.
3. Sustain partnerships with rural and small cities within the county to promote appropriate regional tourism efforts.