



Joint Proclamation



WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham has committed to long-term legacy statements and related strategic commitments, and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County has committed to support the Agriculture Strategic Plan which calls for strategies to maintain an economically viable and thriving agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham is a leader in the support of growing the local food system, as evidenced by its support for private urban gardens around the city, a growing number of community garden projects, two renowned farmers' markets, a Food Bank Farm, a successful gleaning project, and policies and actions in support of low impact development; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County is a leader in the State of Washington in agricultural market value, is renowned for its dairy production, ranking 2nd in value, and first in red raspberry production in the state, provides key support for increasing Whatcom agri-tourism and on-farm sales, development of community oriented farmers markets, and is an emerging center for new community gardens in Everson, Sudden Valley, Maple Falls and others, family-owned sustainable farms and Farm-to-School projects; and

WHEREAS, the success and viability of local farmers and fishers is integral to the success and viability of all agriculturally related businesses of the region and to the preservation of productive farm lands; and

WHEREAS, strengthening the local food economy and direct market is paramount to the health, security, sufficiency and resilience of the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the local food system contributes to long-term economic prosperity, creates new year-round and seasonal green industry jobs and keeps money circulating within the community of Bellingham and Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, local food systems promote access to nutritious, safe, sufficient and culturally acceptable food for all, which is essential to human health in our communities; and

WHEREAS, local food represents important opportunities for children to connect with community-based farms and fishers, learn about local and historical food cultures, and increase healthy eating habits; and

WHEREAS, September Eat Local Month promotes and celebrates all aspects of the food system within Bellingham and Whatcom County.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Dan Pike, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Pete Kremen, Whatcom County Executive, on behalf of the citizens in our community, hereby proclaim September

EAT LOCAL MONTH

now and into the future and we urge all community members to join in the month-long celebration of food artisans and workers, and of the farmers and fishers who provide our nutritious food, and we encourage reconnection with neighbors, family, and friends as we cultivate our local food culture.

Signed this 3rd day of September 2011.

Handwritten signature of Dan Pike in blue ink.

Dan Pike, Mayor
City of Bellingham

Handwritten signature of Pete Kremen in blue ink.

Pete Kremen, County Executive
County of Whatcom

