

## Amy Buckler

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**Subject:** FW: Urban Ag at Council

**From:** TJ Johnson [<mailto:urbanagrarian@comcast.net>]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 06, 2014 5:50 PM

**To:** Amy Buckler

**Subject:** RE: Urban Ag at Council

Amy-

Thanks for the message. I am encouraged to hear about the study session on April 8. Unfortunately that is Spring Break week for Olympia schools and I will be in California visiting colleges with my son.

I am concerned with both getting the policies recommended by the Planning Commission adopted as part of the Comp Plan and seeing meaningful and aggressive implementation in the short, medium and long term. My sense is that Council and staff see urban ag and the food system as just another issue (hence 1 of 19 issues to look at), meaning that something will happen, but probably without significant enough focus or commitment to really make much difference. I and a growing list of experts across the world believe food and water availability, along with climate change, will be the defining issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we need to start dealing with these issue ASAP. Other cities are ahead of us in this regard.

Is the Land Use meeting really April 25 (Friday) at 5:30pm? Please confirm so I can put it on my schedule and inform others.

As far as partnerships for implementing Sustainable Thurston, the plan calls for the Thurston Food System Council (TFSC) to develop a regional food action plan. We are working on doing that (I am co-leading the effort along with Katie Rains from GRuB), and TFSC is being asked to act on our proposal for the process in early April. I would be happy to share additional information with you and the Land Use committee once the TFSC acts on our proposal.

**TJ Johnson**

[urbanagrarian@comcast.net](mailto:urbanagrarian@comcast.net)

***"Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory and a sterner sense of justice than we do." – Wendell Berry***

***"I arise in the morning torn by a desire to save the world and a desire to savor the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." – E.B. White***

***"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.***

***"Habit and routine have an unbelievable power to waste and destroy." – Henri de Lubac***

***"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable man persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man."- George Bernard Shaw***

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**From:** Amy Buckler [<mailto:abuckler@ci.olympia.wa.us>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2014 4:17 PM

**To:** [urbanagrarian@comcast.net](mailto:urbanagrarian@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Urban Ag at Council

Hi T.J.,

Recently, the City Council chose the topic of Urban Agriculture as one of 19 issues they want to delve into a little more during their preliminary review of the Comprehensive Plan. They have scheduled a Council Study Session for this on April 8 (time is TBA - probably 5:30 but might switch to 7:00.) Since this is a discussion about the Comp Plan, the purpose is to delve into to the proposed goal and policies to ensure these provide the right basis for future implementation efforts. Curiously, are you more concerned with the policies as stated at this point, or ensuring there will be strong implementation?

We expect Council will schedule a formal opportunity for public testimony to occur in May. You can also provide written testimony any time to [imagineolympia@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:imagineolympia@ci.olympia.wa.us) (forwarded at various times in batches) or directly to [citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us).

Also, we still have an item on the Land Use & Environment agenda for April 25 at 5:30 pm to discuss potential actions/partnerships to implement Sustainable Thurston. I'll be writing the staff report for that, so feel free to forward any comments my way (2 weeks in advance to make it in the packet.) Time for public comment is typical at LUEC meetings.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

**Amy Buckler**

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