

2015 - 2016 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
122	1	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Add \$50,000 of GSF to OSE in 2015 for additional support to the Fresh Bucks food assistance program

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Budget Proviso: No

Councilmembers: Godden; Harrell; O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Eric McConaghy; Vinh Tang

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	SB	BH	SC	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

**Summary of Dollar Effect**

*See the following pages for detailed technical information*

	<b>2015 Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>2016 Increase (Decrease)</b>
<b>General Subfund</b>		
<b>General Subfund Revenues</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>General Subfund Expenditures</b>	\$50,000	\$0
<b>Net Balance Effect</b>	(\$50,000)	\$0
<b>Total Budget Balance Effect</b>	(\$50,000)	\$0

**Budget Action description:**

This green sheet would add \$50,000 of General Subfund (GSF) in 2015 to the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) for additional support to the Fresh Bucks food assistance program.

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At Seattle farmers markets, City-funded, Fresh Bucks vouchers match every dollar of food stamp purchases up to \$10, doubling the purchasing power of families receiving food stamp benefits. The program results in more customers for farmers markets and more access to healthy locally grown food for families receiving food stamp benefits. OSE estimates that Fresh Bucks served more than 3,000 Seattle residents in 2013 and will serve about 5,000 in 2014.

In 2014, Council added \$50,000 to the Mayor’s proposed budget for a total of \$150,000 to fund Fresh Bucks. The Mayor’s Proposed Budget maintains this level of funding: \$150,000 for 2015 and 2016. OSE reports that an ongoing budget of \$200,000 would provide enough funding to keep the program running at its current level through the 2015 market season, without expansions. Last year, OSE received a grant of \$75,000 from the Seattle Foundation and the Chase Foundation for the Fresh Bucks program. OSE reports that these foundations will not be supporting Fresh Bucks in 2015.

OSE reports seeking funding through numerous avenues, including hospitals and a grant proposal to the Aetna Foundation. At this time, none of these funds for 2015 have been secured.

OSE has plans for an expansion of Fresh Bucks in Seattle and King County, with a budget of \$400,000, which includes extending the Fresh Bucks season to year-round, piloting Fresh Bucks for community supported agriculture (CSA), and planning for expansion into select grocery stores. OSE reports that expansion would cost \$120,000 for the increased service in Seattle and \$130,000 for the increased service to King County, outside Seattle.

To pay for this expansion, OSE, in conjunction with the State Department of Health (DOH), is in the process of applying for federal funds for Fresh Bucks through the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program. This competitive grant program requires a dollar-for-dollar match.

In order to reach the \$400,000 budget for the expansion plans, OSE could request \$200,000 through the FINI grant program, to match \$200,000 local funding. The local dollars may come from multiple sources, including City funding, private funding, and partner funding, as well as in-kind support.

OSE may apply for as many federal matching dollars as can be demonstrated in local funding. At current funding levels, OSE could apply for \$150,000 in federal funding for a total of \$300,000 for Fresh Bucks. Federal funding through the FINI program is not guaranteed, and OSE expects to face significant competition for limited federal dollars.

OSE will continue to lead the program through at least 2015, and will coordinate the program through 2017 if Seattle receives the federal grant. OSE is working with many partners, including Human Services Department, Public Health Seattle & King County, the Washington State Farmers Market Association, and others as they expand Fresh Bucks. As the program grows in King County, OSE would continue to collaborate with partner programs throughout the State. There is the potential to create a unified statewide program in 3-5 years.

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**Budget Action Transactions**

**Budget Action Title:** Add \$50,000 of GSF to OSE in 2015 for additional support to the Fresh Bucks food assistance program

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase funding for the Fresh Bucks food assistance program				OSE	Office of Sustainability and Environment	X1000	00100	2015		\$50,000