



Community Economic  
Development Strategy

CEDS



---

***2011 Five Year CEDS Regional Project - Action Initiative***

---

**Title or Name of the Project:**

Building a stronger regional food system in Southeast Alaska

**Motivation:**

One of the region's greatest needs is a secure supply of food. Food is a critical component of healthy communities. Improving the regional food system can create jobs, improve health outcomes, and provide more food security for the Southeast population.

**Objective:**

More local food can be produced, processed, distributed and consumed in Southeast. New, small businesses can be created in each step of the food supply chain. It can result in more "food dollars" remaining in SE communities. These "food dollars" have a significant multiplier effect and will benefit other local businesses. Other benefits to the region can be measured by improved health outcomes, such as reduced levels of obesity, diabetes, and other food-related diseases. The project will also increase awareness about where our food comes from. It will also promote self-reliance, and stronger, more sustainable communities.

**Obstacles:**

Like other strategies to encourage small business entrepreneurs, this project will identify available resources, such as grants, loans, financing, technical support, education, skill-building, etc.

**Outcomes/ Results:**

Potential indicators include:

- Numbers of new small, food-related businesses created.
- Amount of local food consumed.
- Improving health indicators for residents
- Local food included in school lunch programs



Community Economic  
Development Strategy

CEDS



***2011 Five Year CEDS Regional Project - Action Initiative***

**Leadership:**

Danny Consenstein, State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, Southeast Conference

**Action Plan and Implantation:**

1. Cluster group formed (private sector businesses, federal, state, and local agencies, University researchers, etc) to identify barriers to local food production businesses.
2. Cluster group selects top five potential projects to overcome barriers.
3. Cluster group selects one project to champion.
4. Examples include: new greenhouse operation established in community with low cost power; school lunch program includes local fish product; schools adopt a school garden project; program to increase consumer awareness about the benefits of buying local fish and vegetables; work with Alaska Food Policy Council to recommend state legislation to encourage and support local food production; and, request preferential power rate from local utility for greenhouse operations.

**Resources Needed:**

**Timeline:**

**Performance Measures:**

**Funding:**