



Alaska Food Policy Council 2021

ANNUAL
REPORT

health.
self-reliance.
prosperity.





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akfoodpolicy
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2021 AFPC GOVERNING BOARD



OUR BOARD IS 100% VOLUNTEER RAN

THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY BOARD MEMBER,
AS WELL AS YOUR HOME ORGANIZATIONS,
FOR YOUR TIME, ENERGY, AND IDEAS.

2021 WELCOMED THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

MARISSA WILSON

Alaska Marine Conservation Council, *Executive Director*

TIKAAN GALBREATH

Intertribal Agriculture Council, Alaska
Region, *TA Specialist*

SARA RENARD

Alaska Seeds of Change, *Lead Greenhouse
Grower and Coordinator*



OUR 2021 SUMMER INTERN,
Alexis Berard, joined us remotely
from New England. As a junior at
College of the Holy Cross majoring
in political science, she developed
a passion for food systems and
agriculture policy. She assisted
on a variety of projects, including

researching national cottage food, food freedom, and home
kitchen sales policies. She also investigated food organization
funding opportunities and helped us organize and update our
website and outreach tools. Thanks so much Alexis!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF FOR THE YEAR 2021

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Robbi Mixon, Homer

CHAIR

Rachael Miller

*Assistant Professor of Business, Alaska Pacific
University/ Director, FRESH, Anchorage*

VICE-CHAIR

Amy Seitz

Executive Director, Alaska Farm Bureau, Soldotna

SECRETARY

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*Section Manager, Alaska Department
of Environmental Conservation, Food
Safety and Sanitation, Fairbanks*

TREASURER

Melissa Sikes

*Natural Resource Education Specialist,
Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District*

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Ronnda Angasan

*Alaska Village Initiatives Agriculture
Program Director, Anchorage*

Melissa Chlupach

*Dietetics & Nutrition Assistant Professor,
University of Alaska Anchorage*

Daniel Consenstein

Food System Consultant, Anchorage

Cara Durr

*Director of Public Engagement,
Food Bank of Alaska, Anchorage*

Brian Himelbloom

*University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of
Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, retired, Kodiak*

Tikaan Galbreath

*Technical Assistance Specialist - Alaska Region,
Intertribal Agriculture Council, Anchorage*

Heidi Rader

*University of Alaska Fairbanks, Associate
Professor, Cooperative Extension Service,
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks*

Sara Renard

*Greenhouse Coordinator,
Alaska Seeds of Change, Anchorage*

Marissa Wilson

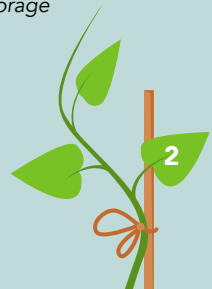
*Director, Alaska Marine
Conservation Council, Homer*

Ryan Wiswesser

*Chugach Chocolates,
Girdwood*

Evie Witten

*Founder, Evie's
Brinery, Anchorage*



“

*I want to write
to you about
what gives me*

HOPE.”



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I want to write to you about what gives me hope.

I look around at the connections my local community is weaving to support each other, and I see a vision for the future that centers the principle of nurturing healthy relationships, through kindness and connection. We are working to honor equity and acknowledge our dependence upon such riches as soil, ocean, and a diversity of life.

This is what gives me hope amidst it all. Let's acknowledge what weighs on us collectively: a global pandemic, climate change and social tension. Our globalized food system continues to crack with the fragility of its scale. Food workers are demanding fair wages, hazard mitigation and immigration reform. Severely delayed global supply chains have led to massive food waste and higher food costs. We collectively crave respite and rest, liberation and renewal.

Luckily, people everywhere are accessing their own power to decentralize and stabilize their local food systems, and the same goes for Alaskans. Food hubs and farmers' markets are growing statewide. Cooperation between local producers and processors is driving more than resilient and diverse economies by directly connecting supply and demand; localized systems thrive through accountability and collaboration. Community-based farmers and fishermen collectively develop shared knowledge systems that nourish much more than food production alone. Even global food companies are looking for ways to be more sustainable and find partnerships with local producers.

The space between this vision and where I find myself now looks a lot like policy reform, but the concepts are not new. Indigenous stewards have honored and protected biodiversity since time immemorial, and the federal government is taking steps to catch up. Increasingly, decision-makers are working toward reducing social and environmental costs along the food chain, while thinking creatively on how to build a better Alaska food system.

In Alaska's future, I see that our food system will embody values of equity, access and renewable energy; that it will be planned and operated by place-based local leadership and by the hard-working farmers, fishers, and processors that keep the world fed. Our food system of the future is localized and regenerative.

We have great challenges ahead of us, but I am glad that you, too, hear the call to transform our food system into a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable one.

Thank you for joining the journey of strengthening Alaska's food system. Each of you gives me hope.

Robbi M. Mixon

Robbi Mixon, Executive Director
Alaska Food Policy Council





WITHOUT INFRASTRUCTURE, THERE IS ONLY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF GROWTH IN FOOD PRODUCTION ALASKA WILL REALIZE.



STORAGE

Cold, dry, frozen storage facilities would assist in increased production and extending availability to products. Rural communities need temperature-controlled storage facilities to improve access to fresh foods.



PROCESSING/MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

A facility that processes meat and veggies to a prepackaged, ready-to-go meal will be more enticing to many consumers and provide more Alaska Grown food year-round. Also, this could provide ready-to-go meals for institutions and local, healthy foods with a longer storage life and easier shipping to rural communities.



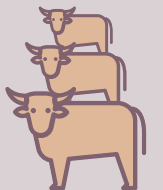
SHARED KITCHEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Investment into community buildings with rentable kitchen space that includes manufacturing equipment, cold and dry storage, and public-facing retail to create entrepreneurial opportunities.



POULTRY

Egg and meat chicken production would provide quick turnaround proteins developed in-state. Poultry farmers rely heavily on USPS to get chicks. Incentives for building infrastructure around in-state hatcheries and poultry processing units would increase the production of healthy foods.



IMPORTING LIVESTOCK

High fees for federal veterinary inspections of imported livestock is a barrier to significant increases in livestock in Alaska. Establish a fund to help with vet fees for 2021/2022 imports and encourage USDA to find lower-cost methods for inspections.



INCREASED ACCESS TO BROADBAND/POWER

Many rural areas in the state (even on the road system) do not have 3-phase power, or reliable access to internet/cell coverage. Alternatives to these are more expensive (generators, satellite phones, etc.). Expanding sustainable power infrastructure will lower expenses for farmers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

During the last legislative session, Alaska Food Policy Council partnered with like-minded organizations to carry out a **Food Security Week** highlighting issues around food access, production, and the transportation system. These sessions were well attended by stakeholders as well as legislators, and provided updates and dialog around these important aspects of Alaska's food system.

With continued COVID-19 disruptions and supply chain issues, increasing the production of local food and improving access to healthy foods for Alaskans were topics of interest to legislators and the Alaska Administration. Based on this interest, and the knowledge that we would be seeing an influx of federal funds directed toward our state for COVID recovery, the Alaska Food Policy Council saw an opportunity to highlight critical opportunities to strengthen our food system, in both the short and long term. We worked with other relevant organizations to put together recommendations that we could use to advocate for key investments that would increase Alaska's food security:



LOCAL FOODS PURCHASING PROGRAMS

Guaranteed markets will give farmers security in expanding operations and will help address the heightened levels of hunger Alaska has seen in the past year.

LOCAL FOOD



TO FOOD BANKS

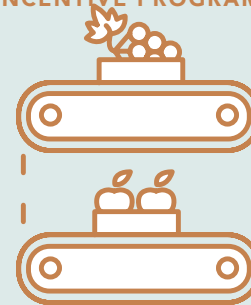
Funding program for Food Banks to purchase local foods and distribute to families in need.

INSTITUTIONAL

PURCHASING

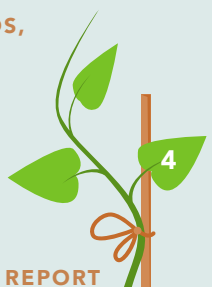
Get the Product Preference Program working for local food purchases

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR



LOW-INCOME ALASKANS TO SHOP AT FARMERS MARKETS, FARMSTANDS, FOOD HUBS

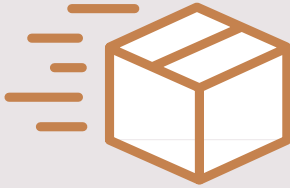
"Double bucks" program for SNAP, WIC or voucher system similar to senior farmers market coupons



FOOD SYSTEM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Many farmers and fishers depend on seasonal workers from outside the state, who often leave with new skill sets. Processors and value-added manufacturing require specialized skills, which tend to be acquired by on-the-job training. Partnering with educational institutions to build programs that meet the needs of our Alaskan food system, we can create career pathways and a long-term workforce.



TRANSPORTATION

Alaska is a large state, and it is inefficient for every sector of our food system to have to transport everything (supplies, products, etc.). There are also big problems with transportation to the off-road communities.



ON-ROAD SYSTEM

Coordination with existing companies with temperature-controlled trucks—i.e., fish processing facilities. Explore what's available and how to better utilize it. Develop a rail system.



OFF-ROAD SYSTEM

Need to continue to be able to transport food around the state while also expanding local production/harvesting in communities. Continue funding for ferries, bypass mail, etc., and other systems crucial for distributing food to rural communities. Consider supplemental transportation funding to food banks to help equitably distribute nutritious food throughout the state.



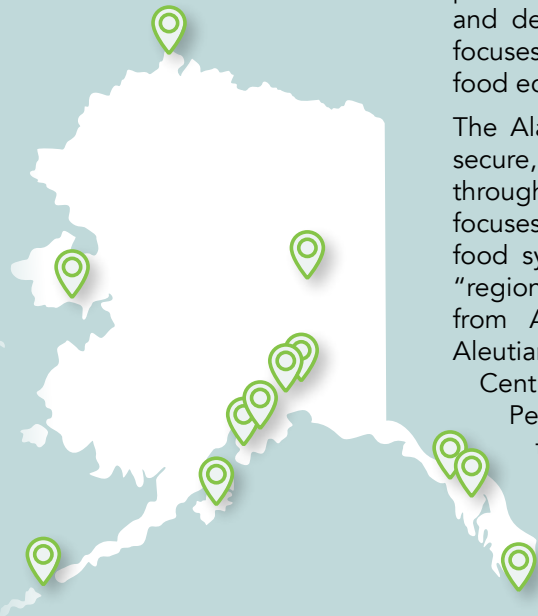
ALASKA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL AND BEYOND: GROWING CONNECTIONS AND BUILDING NETWORKS FOR GREATER FOOD SECURITY

In 2021, we launched our [Regional Food System Partnership Project](#), with a two-year planning grant awarded by the USDA. The Regional Food System Partnerships (RFSP) Program “supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems.” The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination.

The Alaska Food Policy's goal is to create a healthier, more secure, and resilient Alaska by improving our food system through advocacy, education, and connection. Our project focuses on place-based solutions and aims to connect localized food system organizations to create a statewide network of “regional nodes.” Node locations include multiple partners from Anchorage/ Girdwood, Northern Alaska (Utqiagvik), Aleutian Region, Northwest Alaska (Nome), Palmer & Wasilla, Central Kenai Peninsula (Soldotna, Kenai), Lower Kenai Peninsula (Homer, Anchor Point, and communities around the Bay), Fairbanks, Kodiak, and Southeast (including Haines, Juneau, Sitka, Annette Island, Prince of Wales Island, and neighboring communities).

Through direct facilitation, each node was guided through a series of network planning discussions. In early 2022, we will conduct node-specific asset mapping workshops to identify unique capacities for local food systems, while revealing barriers and system deficiencies. Through regular statewide connection, communication, and collaboration the regional nodes will collectively identify linkages and partnerships which can be leveraged to create a 10-year statewide food security action plan.

The core of this project is based on democratizing the food system through network weaving: building intentional relationships and cooperative structures that can create change in a complex adaptive system. Through improved statewide connection, communication, and collaboration of food system organizations and community-based food groups, we will create a statewide 10-year food security action plan aimed at improving Alaska's food system, informed by regional Alaskan nodes representing a wide range of locations and stakeholder groups. Stay tuned for more information as the project progresses!





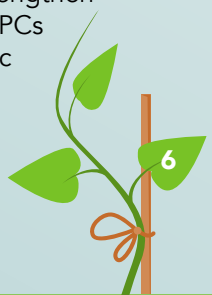
Community Members and AFPC Board assist in orchard planting day.



THE POWER OF FOOD: CULTIVATING EQUITABLE POLICY THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION,

was hosted virtually and coordinated by the John Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. This year AFPC funded attendance for over 35 Alaskans, including board members, committee members, and the Regional Food System node members.

The Power of Food Forum was the first-ever national forum dedicated to supporting food policy councils (FPCs) and similar groups advocating to advance policies that create a more equitable and sustainable food system at the local, regional, state, and national levels. It utilized a mix of innovative convening formats to create an interactive, engaging, and welcoming space for attendees to share experiences and ideas; explore how to shift power in the policy process; develop advanced organizing and advocacy skills, and examine the intersections of the food system with other emergent policy issues. The Forum aimed to strengthen the effectiveness of FPCs as a collaborative, civic engagement model for equitable food systems policy change.



STICKLEBACK FARM AND NATIVE HERITAGE GARDEN: ORCHARD TAKES ROOT

Moody, grey clouds moved quickly above the Chugach range as people began to gather at the former site of the Alaska Native Medical Center on Anchorage’s 3rd Ave. It was a mid-September Sunday afternoon, and the occasion was a community service day and fruit tree-planting workshop at the emerging Stickleback Farm, which is literally taking root along the busy urban thoroughfare adjacent to Bean’s Café.

The planting was special due to the diverse group effort, but also unique because we set the 28 apple and 5 sour cherry trees in soil-packed, recycled fish totes, where they will grow as part of an experiment in establishing a cold-hardy urban orchard. Funded by a grant from the Alaska DNR Division of Forestry, the orchard project is one of the community-based projects AFPC has supported as part of our commitment to strengthening local food systems in Alaska. The orchard contributes to a larger effort focused on the development of the site that has been supported by multiple partners including the 3rd Street Radicals, the Municipality of Anchorage, UAA Division of Population Health, UAA Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies, FRESH—the Food Research, Enterprise, and Sustainability Hub, Alaska Seeds of Change, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and the Anchorage Museum. Part of the collective goal is to revitalize the

long-neglected parcel of land and demonstrate how urban food production can beautify, bring community together, and ultimately help make more healthy foods available.

Stickleback Farm, named after a resilient small fish endemic to neighboring Ship Creek, is slated to occupy about 2 acres of the overall 15 acre parcel, as part of a vital urban mixed use development. The site doesn’t look like much of a farm yet, but some foundational pieces are beginning to emerge, including the fish tote orchard, a moose fence, a connection to municipal water, and two Conex containers that house tools and two water tanks.

Alaska Seeds of Change, with help from a recent Partners for Places grant is poised to help lead further development of the farm, including long term care of the orchard. One of the greatest challenges to urban food production and grassroots neighborhood revitalization is competing land use priorities and the uncertainty associated with time-limited land use permits. Helping establish the fish tote orchard and nascent compost program that September day felt like a significant, tangible, and proactive step toward realizing the community vision of a vital, community-centric growing space in Anchorage’s Ship Creek neighborhood.

WEBINAR SERIES

This past year, AFPC partnered with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Alaska Farm Bureau, and the Alaska Farmers Market Association to hold a three-part Cottage Food webinar series to help clarify regulations, share with producers requirements and models for scaling up to brick and mortar businesses and to put their products into wholesale distribution. We concluded with a listening session where producers and others interested could share their ideas and comments on the current exemptions and regulations. The feedback from this session will be used by DEC to determine whether and what types of amendments should be made to the current exemptions.



The Alaska Food Code allows the sale of foods that don't require temperature control for safety to be sold directly from the producer to the consumer without a permit as long as certain conditions are met. These foods are commonly referred to as "cottage foods" because the food can be made in producers' homes. Cottage food producers, food vendors, and farmers market managers often have questions about these exemptions, and many would like to know what it takes to scale up to a permitted food establishment once they reach the sales threshold of \$25,000 per year, or they would like to put their food into wholesale distribution. Many producers are also often confused because requirements are different for the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) than they are for the rest of the State as the MOA has its own food safety regulations.

A special thanks to our speakers and guests: DEC Food Safety and Sanitation Program, Municipal of Anchorage, Veracity Insurance, Evie's Brinery, Bagel Shop, Lucy's Market, and Alaska Salt Company. The cottage food webinars were well received, and since they were recorded, the series is available for reference to those who weren't able to attend and would like to learn more.

COLD STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION WEBINARS & TECHNICAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

Cold storage and transportation are both issues that are critical to communities across Alaska. To address these important food system issues, APFC sponsored two separate webinars on the topics.

AFPC kicked off the food system webinars in January with a working lunch session on "Food Transportation in Alaska." The webinar began with background information on the current food transport state-of-affairs and challenges in the state, followed by an expert panel. Speakers included representatives from the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska WIC, AC Stores, Arctic Harvest Deliveries, and Twitter Creek Gardens.

"... the system operates an aging ferry fleet that is costly to maintain and operate, poorly matched to ferry route needs, with limited flexibility to adjust to changing circumstances."

–October 2020, Alaska Marine Highway Reshaping Work Group report to the Governor

"The most successful of these efforts have often been small in scale. All would be strengthened if Alaska created lasting infrastructure to support local foods. This is a necessity since food transportation routes have been an afterthought in state planning—at first these routes were dictated by the mining industry, and now by public investment in highways, railroads, and airports."

–September 2018, Potential Infrastructure Investments for Alaska-Grown Food, report commissioned by AFPC

In April, AFPC held a Cold Storage webinar with coordinated presentations and facilitated conversations. The speakers provided presentations on the background of the current cold storage

state-of-affairs and challenges in the state, followed by an expert panel. Speakers included representatives from University of Alaska Fairbanks Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center, Blood Sweat and Food Farm, Spork Consulting and Su Salmon Co, Ag Alaska - Alaska Village Initiatives, Copper Valley River Salmon Collective, and University of Alaska Anchorage (Climate Action Plan). Both of the webinars concluded with interactive breakout sessions where AFPC collected feedback and comments on the issues presented. Both sessions were recorded and can be accessed on the AFPC website for those that were unable to attend or who would like to reference these important food system conversations.



In June we hosted a "Technical Skills Workshop for Community Food Projects," presented in partnership with our Regional Food System Partnership project organizations and participants and facilitated by FRESH: The Food Research, Enterprise, and Sustainability Hub (FRESH) of the North. The workshop provided an introduction to Zoom, Shared Document Platforms, & Chat Apps, and was open to any and all Alaska food systems organizations.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

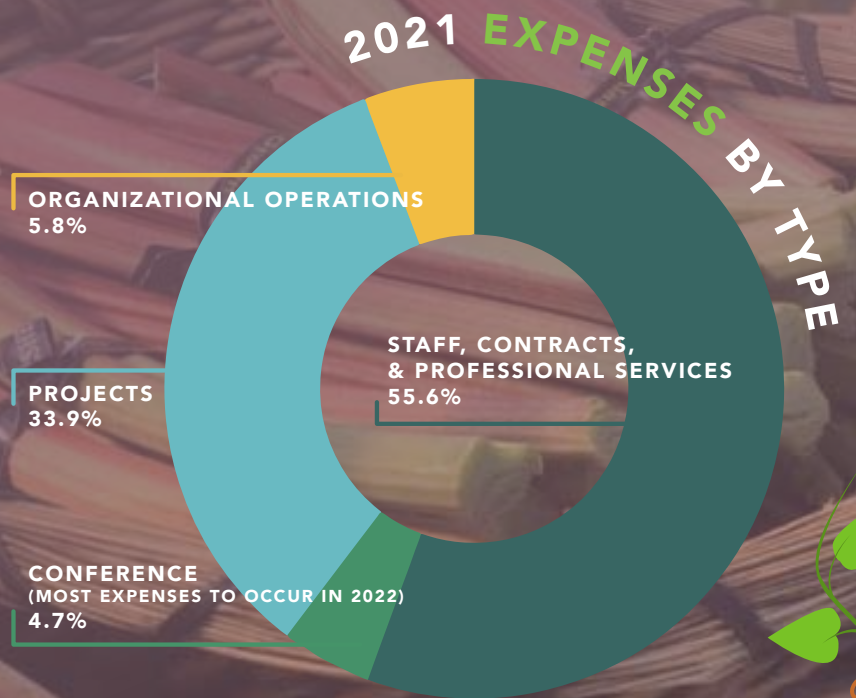
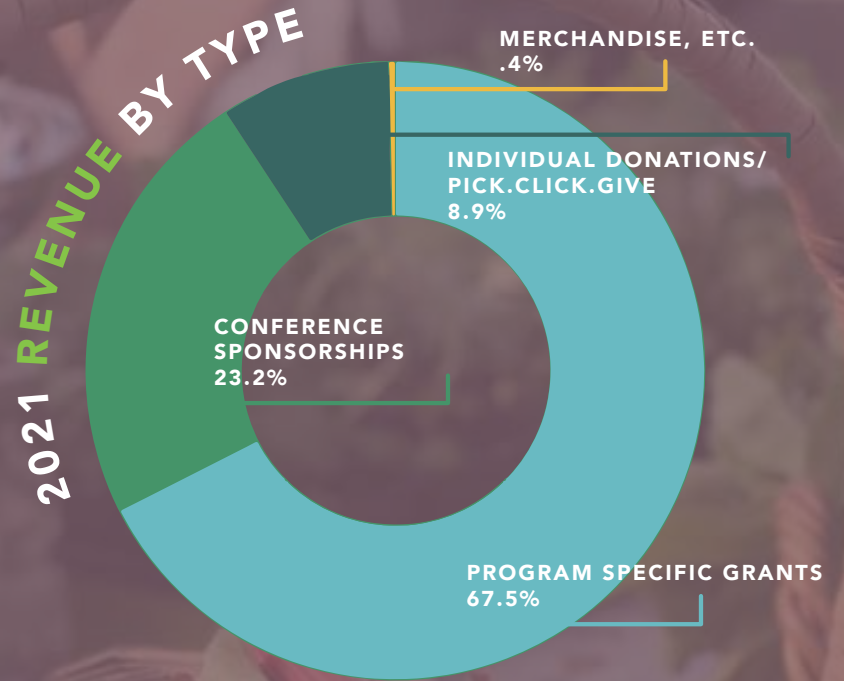
AFPC IS A SMALL BUT MIGHTY ORGANIZATION, WITH A 15-member all-volunteer board, supporting one, less than half-time Executive Director. We depend on volunteers to help with outreach, special projects and events, to provide services like bookkeeping, and to help with fundraising. With great assistance from Katya Koteff and her team of financial wizards at Koteff Accounting Group, we have been able to master quickbooks online and streamline our bookkeeping processes. We are able to accomplish quite a bit with volunteer dedication, a handful of grants, and generous individual donations.

WE EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY person, organization, and business who has donated time and resources over the past decade of AFPC's existence.

THANK YOU to our 2021 Funders and 2020 Conference Sponsors:



We apologize ahead of time for anyone we unintentionally left out.



JOIN AN AFPC COMMITTEE TODAY!

A benefit of your membership in the Alaska Food Policy Council is the opportunity to contribute your talents by actively participating on a committee or working group to help us move our statewide mission forward. This is a good way to learn more about the topics the AFPC is working on and is a pathway to becoming a governing board member. Board membership isn't required though—help out as long as you'd like! Typically, each committee meets via Zoom or teleconference monthly, along with email communications. Learn more at: akfoodpolicycouncil.org/working-groups



ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

This committee follows issues important to building a more sustainable food system in Alaska, and engages with policymakers and the public to increase awareness of these issues. The committee submits recommendations to the Governing Board on what AFPC's priorities should be for the year, works on comments or suggestions to submit on these issues, and works with other organizations to coordinate efforts in Juneau for Food Security Week. Advocacy Committee has also taken on developing a candidate survey to use as a way to let voters know how their candidates feel about food system issues.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for outreach and the outward-facing communications of the AFPC. Members work together to aggregate content and create newsletters, create and post social media content, oversight and recommendation of AFPC web pages including writing blogs or recruiting for contributions, draft and distribute press releases, promote the Alaska Food Festival and Conference and other special events, and create and maintain the AFPC Annual Report. If you are creative, enjoy writing and making social media posts, this committee is for you.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The conference planning committee helps to plan the semi-annual Alaska Food Festival and Conference, one of AFPC's key outreach and networking events that allow us to connect, educate and advocate on the food system. Committee work includes choosing a venue, working with catering, recruiting and coordinating presenters, promotion of the conference, recruiting sponsors, soliciting silent auction donations, coordinating volunteers, and much more! It is somewhat demanding committee work, but enriching— you will be part of something that you can be proud of. If you like figuring out the little details, coordinating people, and creating special events, this committee is for you.



INDIGENOUS FOODS COMMITTEE

The diversity that exists across Alaska's landscape is reflected in the diversity that exists between Tribes. Yet, there are things that connect us all, no matter the culture, language, or history. We all eat. What we eat and how we eat is something that defines us, and it is something that connects us. Over the past year, the Indigenous Foods Committee has continued to refine the scope and strategic plan for the committee to help ensure that the priorities being pursued were meaningful to the committee members. Priorities include identifying and supporting policy that helps ensure continued access to traditional use harvest areas, increased opportunities for funding and technical support, and strengthening relationships between the State of Alaska and Tribes to support food sovereignty and security.

The committee meets on the third Thursday of every month. We are currently recruiting for more participants to increase the scope and capacity of the work that is occurring.



FOOD WASTE COMMITTEE

Food waste is a constant challenge for this planet's population. The Food Waste Committee has three goals: compile food waste information and policies, find activities for people to reduce food waste, and encourage food waste reduction locally.

Committee members continue to learn about the various information streams regarding food waste, its causes, and potential solutions to apply in Alaska. Priority strategies are: encourage consumers to take action, promote institutional efforts to reduce food waste, and collaborate with food-related businesses such as restaurants, grocers, etc. to look for ways to reduce waste. We are looking for additional committee members who are energetic and have ideas and solutions to address this common topic in their local communities.



This year our festival partners are the **Intertribal Agriculture Council** and **University of Alaska Anchorage Dietetics & Nutrition** and our theme is "Everybody Eats: Nourishing Our Culture, Our Health, Our Future," and will be held on March 17–19, 2022.

The Alaska Food Policy Council's goal is to create a healthier, more secure, and more self-reliant Alaska by improving our food system. One of our primary means for doing this is through convening the AFPC Alaska Food Festival and Conference every 18 months. The goals of this event are to: **increase awareness** of Alaska food issues among the general population; **provide training**, resources, and networking opportunities to increase involvement in local food issues by community members and decision-makers; and **increase connections** and build community between the public, Alaska food businesses, NGOs, governmental entities, Tribal entities, and others to support local economic development and innovative solutions.

Visit <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/2022-festival-conference> for more information.



ALASKA FOOD COALITION

The Alaska Food Coalition (AFC) was founded in 1996, with encouragement from Alaska's Department of Health and Human Services. While initially focused on increasing resource access for agencies and village councils who distribute food, the coalition has transformed over time to have a greater emphasis on advocacy and education. The mission of the Alaska Food Coalition is to **address the root causes of hunger in Alaska through research, education, advocacy, and collaboration**. In this endeavor, we support policies and programs focused on alleviating hunger, building healthy communities, and promoting access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. The AFC aspires to create systems change to end hunger in Alaska through the cultivation of a strong anti-hunger network.

The AFC consists of a dynamic group of more than 150 partners, including food banks, food pantries, state agencies, Alaska Native groups and tribal councils, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, among others. We work to promote and advocate for state and federal policies to reduce food insecurity and provide a platform with which to network with other partners across Alaska allowing them to share best practices and work together

to accomplish our shared goals.

We have worked on many different initiatives over the years including school meal legislation, Child Nutrition Reauthorization, Hunger in Alaska studies, and SNAP Outreach. Recent accomplishments include collaborating with federal partners on a [child nutrition sign-on letter](#), creating a [Snapshot of Hunger in Alaska](#) document, and hosting virtual sessions on Food Banks and Food Pantries: The Sharing of Best Practices and Child Nutrition and Federal Programs. In addition, AFC funds [mini-grants](#) each October intended for small-scale, capacity-building projects that will have a long-term impact on addressing food insecurity in Alaska. We hold a Legislative fly-in to Juneau every February which includes lunch and learn sessions at the State Capitol and meetings with legislators.

The Alaska Food Policy Council is a proud partner of the Alaska Food Coalition. **Whether you're a seasoned advocate of food security policy or just getting started, we welcome your involvement!** Email rmeehan@foodbankofalaska.org or call 907-222-3103 if you are interested or want to learn more! Additional information can also be found at <https://foodbankofalaska.org/alaska>.



INTERIOR ALASKA FOOD NETWORK

The Interior Alaska Food Network, IAFN, is a group dedicated to food security in Interior Alaska. It was launched in March of 2016 under the fiscal sponsorship of AFPC by Fairbanks community members looking to start a local food group. The group has met monthly for almost 5 years at the Fairbanks Community Food Bank and virtually.. Their first major project was developing the **Golden Heart Grown** program, developed to help the local farmers to identify their products as local. The local Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation manages the program.

Projects the IAFN has done have included Taste of Golden Heart Grown events at the Tanana Valley State Fair, an Alaska Grown Day at the Georgeson Botanical Garden, and a \$5 Golden Heart Grown Challenge encouraging folks to support the local farmers by buying at least \$5 of local products every week. Without the support of the Alaska Food Policy Council, none of these projects would have been possible. The IAFN is currently participating in the AFPC's Regional Food System Partnership grant project and will be conducting a community asset map to identify food system partners and hopefully strengthen food security in Interior Alaska.



2010

Alaska DHSS Physical Activity & Nutrition Program received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to consider establishing a food policy council in Alaska. Joining the efforts were:

- USDA Alaska Farm Service Agency
- Alaska DEC Food Safety & Sanitation
- Alaska DNR Division of Agriculture
- Alaska Center for the Environment



2011

Developed the 012-2015 Strategic Plan. The foundation for the AFPC's work was set with the following goals:

- All Alaskans have access to affordable, healthy (preferably local) foods.
- Alaska's food-related industries have a strong workforce and operate in a supportive business environment.
- Food is safe, protected and supplies are secure throughout Alaska.
- Alaska's food system is more sustainable.
- Alaskans are engaged in our food system.

Established the Governing Board of Directors along with communications and advocacy committees

2013

Led the charge to establish the State Food Resources Working Group:

- Governor Parnell signed legislation calling for the creation of the Alaska Food Resource Working Group (AFRWG) under Administrative Order 265, with the goal of building Alaska's food economy.
- The administrative order established a state agency workgroup focused on recommending "policies and measures to increase the purchase and consumption of local wild seafood and farm products"

Hosted first of three AmeriCorp VISTA volunteers

2015

- Continued town hall meetings in Homer, Palmer, & Anchorage
- AFPC hosts AmeriCorp VISTA for the University of Alaska Anchorage Farm to School project, as part of a Division of Ag Specialty Crop Grant
- Participated in the development of a statewide emergency feeding plan.
- Hosted the Wallace Center Food Hub Workshop
- Launched statewide advocacy campaign supporting food systems policy recommendations

2010 (cont.)

Held first council meeting in May and formed committees:

- Governance
- Education & Regulation
- Production
- Food Security
- Hunger
- Social Justice & Health
- Supply Chain: Processing, Distribution/Transportation, Infrastructure, Development
- Indigenous & Cultural Foods for Health

Established AFPC website

2012

Established Statewide Work Groups to implement activities around priority strategies:

- School Programs
- Locally Grown
- Emergency Preparedness
- Public Engagement
- Research & Information
- Legislative

Published AFPC's strategic plan

2014

- Hosted 1st Alaska Food Festival & Conference in Anchorage
- Received 501 c 3 status
- Hosted town hall meetings around the state, including Nome, Juneau, Fairbanks, & Bethel
- Developed organizational bylaws
- Collaborated with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, USDA Director of Tribal Relations to discuss the 2014 Farm Bill, advocating for Alaska traditional foods and Native food sovereignty.
- Contracted with Ken Meter to conduct a qualitative economic assessment, "Building Food Security in Alaska"



2017

Participated in the Alaska Food Coalition's "Food Security Week" in Juneau

3rd AK Food Festival & Conference in Fairbanks in partnership with the Interior Alaska Food Network

Received grant from AgriLogic to assist with promoting USDA Crop Insurance Program

2019

- 4th AK Food Festival & Conference, co-hosted with Alaska Farmers Market Association in Homer
- Collaborated with Agrilogic to hold New Farmer Expos in Anchorage and Fairbanks
- Continued partnership with Municipality of Anchorage, Local Food Mini-Grants

2021

- Participated in Virtual Food Security Fly-in Week
- Hosted "Quarterly Webinar Series" on food system transportation
- Coordinated three-part webinar series on Alaska Cottage Food
- Conducted six food system statewide networking workshops
- Installed fruit orchard and fencing at Stickleback Urban Farm, Anchorage
- Produced first-ever Annual Report
- Provided food systems investments recommendations, created with multiple organizations, to Alaska Legislature and Governors Office



2016

- 2nd AK Food Festival & Conference in Anchorage
- Hosted "Community Kitchen Table Discussions" listening sessions to help AFPC improve engagement and responsiveness to diverse communities in Anchorage
- Provided recommendations to Anchorage Mayor Berkowitz, urging action on food policy priorities
- Served as fiscal sponsor for Interior Alaska Food Network-local food policy group in Fairbanks

2018

- Partnered with Municipality of Anchorage on Downtown Urban Farm Project
- Received EPA Local Foods, Local Places Program Planning Grant
- Facilitated Anchorage Local Food Mini-Grants Program
- Contracted with Ken Meter to write "Potential Infrastructure Investments for Alaska-Grown Food"

2020

- Hired first-ever Executive Director
- Awarded a USDA Regional Food System Partnership Grant to create a 10-year Statewide Food Security Action Plan
- 5th Alaska Food Festival & Conference (virtual), co-hosted with Alaska Village Initiatives, Alaska Pacific University, & FRESH
- Participated in Food Security Fly-in Week in Juneau, including presentations to the House Resource Committee on three priority areas: increasing food production, increasing food access, and reducing food waste
- Launched two new AFPC working groups: Indigenous Foods, & Food Waste Committees
- Conducted Candidate Survey to inform voters on candidates' views on food issues

2022

- Hosts 6th AK Food Festival & Conference, partnering with Intertribal Agriculture Council & University of Alaska Anchorage Dietetics and Nutrition Program

To be continued...



HELP US MEET OUR MISSION TO:

CONNECT, ADVOCATE, AND INFORM ALASKANS ABOUT OUR FOOD SYSTEM.

AFPC membership is open to anyone interested in improving Alaska's food systems—agencies and individuals representing federal and state agencies, tribal entities, schools, university programs, farmers, fisheries, food systems businesses, and consumers. Contributions help build and support a more robust and secure Alaska food system. Direct community support is critical to our ability to do our work. Recent contributions have been used to support:

CONTINUED COMMUNITY-FOCUSED PROGRAMS like our recent regional food system partnership project, and mini-grants initiative.

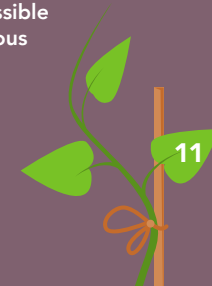
DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS and sharing them with policymakers at the local, state, federal and tribal levels; and to share information, resources, opportunities, and risks with all food stakeholders (anyone who eats!).

HOSTING THE SEMIANNUAL ALASKA FOOD FESTIVAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE to bring together individuals, organizations, and agencies to connect and to educate each other, and act as a "food system think tank" regarding the work that is being done in Alaska.

SPECIAL EVENTS such as the Farmers Market COVID-19 workshop and Cottage Food webinar series

THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS, COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS!

Our work is only possible thanks to the generous support of many organizations, agencies, and individual donors.





SUPPORT AFPC THROUGH PICK.CLICK.GIVE.

Each year while Alaskans apply for their Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) they can choose to make a tax-deductible donation to a non-profit. Donating through Pick.Click.Give is a simple and easy way to donate—and one that will make a big impact in your community.

LOOKING FORWARD

Despite it all, we welcomed 2021 in good spirits, riding high on the aftermath of an amazing virtual conference in November 2020. We listened to speakers from around the globe, who shared with us their expertise, then hopes and dreams for a more collaborative and food-just future. The Alaska Food Policy Council took those sentiments to heart and this report lays out our efforts to make them actionable—connecting, informing, and advocating for a healthier and more food secure Alaska.

Our world is a different place. My note in the 2020 AFPC Annual Report was about Alaskans' resilience in the face of a global pandemic and ongoing supply chain shocks—things that seemed like they should have ended by now. Yet here we are another year later and my lens on the months ahead is opportunity and hope, tempered by the sobering fact that so much has been lost in the last few years. If nothing else, our collective challenges have firmly placed food security and sovereignty front-of-mind for many, and the time is ripe to bend your legislator's ear, talk to your neighbors about sharing a garden, learn how to preserve food from our Elders, and spend time intentionally thinking about the sustainability of our individual and societal food consumption choices. If you don't know where to start, let's talk. We welcome and encourage our state-wide community to join any one (or many!) of our committees to learn and share about food waste, Indigenous foods, policy; or propose your own idea. If AFPC can support your own food project in any way or amplify your message, please do reach out to discuss!

Looking ahead in 2022, I see another robust virtual conference in March, a dedicated Executive Director at the AFPC helm, fresh faces and ideas from new Governing Board members, a rapidly growing network of food leaders across the state, advocacy and education, additional grants, growing committee membership, and a healthy interest from all Alaskans in becoming more food secure.

Finally, it's time to step aside as Chair of this incredible organization and welcome Amy Seitz, former AFPC Vice-chair, into the role. Amy is a proven leader in policy and food systems. Her current roles as a third-generation Alaskan farmer and Executive Director of the Alaska Farm Bureau make her the perfect candidate to lead AFPC into our next chapter. Welcome Amy!

It's been a great honor to serve my fellow board members, community partners, and AFPC members across the state. I am so humbled by my colleagues at the Alaska Food Policy Council, who work every day to help our communities thrive. I look forward to my continued service on the AFPC board. Many thanks to everyone who has helped our organization grow, we're here because of and for you.

Let's keep going, Alaska.

Yours in good food and good health,
Rachael Miller, AFPC Chair



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