



Marking Our Accomplishments: 2010-2016

The Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC) has made progress on its strategic priorities and building its coalition.

- **Implementing the Strategic Plan.** In 2012, a broad group of stakeholders organized priorities for improving Alaska's food system into a concise strategic plan, with five goals and five priority strategies. The goals outlined in the Strategic Plan continue to guide the AFPC's work.
- **Building the coalition.** The AFPC currently has 403 members on its listserv, and its Facebook posts reach over 12,200 users. The AFPC acts primarily through three static Governing Board committees. Specific projects and policy goals are addressed by task forces comprised of members, with participation of at least one Governing Board member. Through agreements with the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health and Social Services, and Alaska Center for the Environment, AFPC offered two Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) positions to develop the Quest / Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Program at farmers' markets in Alaska and to coordinate AFPC's outreach from 2013 – 2016.
- **Facilitating research about Alaska's food system.**
 - In 2014-2015, the AFPC conducted a series of Town Hall meetings in seven Alaska communities: Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Nome, and Palmer. The Town Hall series gave the AFPC insight into the concerns of different communities throughout the state. It also provided an opportunity for outreach by putting AFPC members in contact with people engaged in the food system in each of these communities.
 - In 2014, the AFPC and the Department of Health and Social Services worked with Ken Meter of the Crossroads Resource Center to produce a report entitled *Building Food Security in Alaska*. Meter's report reviews data on Alaska's food system and includes interviews with stakeholders throughout the state. It also identifies recommended actions for improving the system.
 - In 2012, working with the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), AFPC commissioned a preliminary report of good food-related indicators in Alaska which can be tracked in future years to measure AFPC's progress in improving the food system. AFPC representatives also participated in the Rasmuson Foundation's food assessment research project conducted by University of Alaska Anchorage.
 - The AFPC's website includes a library of research about Alaska's food system that is available for public use.
- **AFPC Food Festival & Conference.** In February 2016, the AFPC held its second conference at the University of Alaska- Anchorage. We received support from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Rasmuson Foundation, the UAF Cooperative Extension, and many Alaska food businesses. The conference was attended by about 300 people and included 25 presentations and workshops.
- **Building key partnerships in Alaska and beyond.** AFPC is exploring partnering opportunities with organizations throughout the state to bring speakers involved in food systems to communities. In the past year, we hosted a food hub workshop with the Wallace Center's National Good Food Network, and visits by Severine Fleming of the Greenhorns young farmer network and food policy expert Mark Winne. We have collaborated with the Alaska Native Medical Center to increase the amount of traditional foods served in medical facilities and schools.
- **Communications and Outreach.** Over the years the communications committee has developed outreach materials: a PowerPoint presentation to educate others about Alaska's food system and the work of the AFPC, a 2-page handout, a 4-page handout, and a monthly newsletter. The AFPC established its website in 2010, and maintains a Facebook page for informal information sharing and dialogue about food.
- **Webinar Series.** In 2016, we started a webinar series that provides content from our Conference and from visiting speakers. We hope the webinars will be a cost-effective and accessible way to share the great work our partner organizations are doing around the state while engaging more Alaskans to understand our food system.
- **Legislative successes.** During the 2012 and 2013 legislative sessions, AFPC members advocated successfully for the creation of an interagency food working group made up of various state commissioners under Governor Sean Parnell. Since then, the AFPC's advocacy efforts have focused on funding for food-related programs at



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the state level, including Nutritional Alaskan Foods in Schools, Farm-to-School, and the EBT in Farmers' Market program. In 2016, we joined the Alaska Food Coalition in advocating that Alaska repeal a lifetime ban preventing drug felons from receiving food stamps. On a federal level we voice our support for the Farm to School Act of 2015 and the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 2016. The group continues to refine AFPC's legislative priorities and engage with elected officials.

- **Grassroots Advocacy.** In 2015 the AFPC launched its first grass roots letter writing campaigns. The largest was focused on educating Governor Bill Walker about 10 steps he could take to improve the Alaska food system. We asked our members to write to the governor to share their support for the letter, and over 50 responded.
- **Working with the Mayor of Anchorage.** In 2016, Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz asked the AFPC to provide him with recommendations about opportunities for the Municipal Government to improve its food system, and we responded. Mayor Berkowitz has already implemented one of our recommendations – a pilot program for municipal composting – and is in the process of establishing a task force to work on the remaining goals.
- **Incorporation as a 501(c)(3) organization.** In 2014, the AFPC became an independent 501(c)(3) organization.
- **Developing a sustainable organization.** In addition to the Strategic Plan produced in 2012, the AFPC worked with Foraker to develop a Business Plan and Denali Daniels and Associates to develop a Communications Plan. In 2015 we received a grant from the Alaska Community Foundation to create a Development Plan.
- **Emergency Preparedness Task Force.** Members of the AFPC participated in a statewide disaster planning workgroup. The AFPC and Alaska Cooperative Extension Service worked together to produce a template for a community emergency food planning. In 2015, communities that used the template found it to be successful in responding to Alaskan wildfires.