



# Food & Beverage Cluster Strategy

## Contact

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## Description

We are working on creating a regional craft food and beverage (F&B) sector strategy focused on growth and assistance for the sector. There are a great number of craft food and beverage businesses in the Corvallis Benton County area. This initiative seeks to first understand the barriers that food and beverage business face, and then create a working plan to overcome those obstacles. We anticipate opportunities in the areas of workforce development, supply chain, creating local connections and the potential for F&B incubators.

We would measure success on businesses assisted and connections created. There is also the possibility to look at job creation in the sector.

This strategy is important to the area as there is great opportunity to create synergies, and strengthen this component of our local economy. A strong and vibrant food and beverage economy benefits our local businesses, creates opportunities for increased tourism, and strengthens our own local food networks, which is good for resiliency in our area, the environment, and our citizens.

## Timeframe

This initiative is underway, but in the early stages. It began in 2018 when it was included as a strategic goal in the annual plan for the Economic Development Advisory Board. Staff anticipates that the heavy lifting for this project will take place in late 2018/early 2019, but that the initiative will continue for the next 2-5 years.

## Funding

Funding sources for this initiative have not been identified. Our EDO has some funds, but they are fairly limited. I would anticipate looking for grant and partnership opportunities with the state and possibly from local businesses.

## Equity and Accessibility

Strengthening our local food and beverage network is good for all members of our community. Incubation of small, or micro, businesses can be focused on disadvantaged, women, and minority owned businesses as well.

## Approvals

No. This project has been approved to move forward by EDAB. Depending on the specific items implemented there may be a need for working agreements in the future; we just do not know what those look like yet.

**Date Accepted:** 10/03/2018

### **Community Action Plan (CAP) Objectives**

SS5: Agricultural Lands & Food Security

IP2: Nurturing Small-to-Medium Sized Businesses

IP3: Recruitment of New Companies & Job Creation

IP6: Balanced Economic Growth & Livability

### **Partners**

Linn-Benton Community College Small Business Development Center (LBCC SBDC)

Corvallis Foundry

Business Oregon

Oregon State University Extension Office

Visit Corvallis

**Which sections of the Climate Action Plan does your Initiative address?**  
Food and Agriculture

**Action Type:** Mitigation & Adaptation

**What direct impact will your project have on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or preparing community members to adapt to the impacts of climate change (drought, wildfires, flooding, etc.)?**

Cultivating local food and beverage businesses reduces our reliance on outside food. It lessens the transportation of threat outside food into our area, and keeps local money in the area.

**Does your project have any co-benefits (e.g. healthy local economy and local self-reliance, energy efficiency and greater energy independence from fossil fuels, sound economic investments, community livability, environmental quality and ecosystem resiliency, public health and well-being, equity and accessibility for low income/disadvantaged community members)?**

The food and beverage sector strategy, with the potential variety of projects, has a number of co-benefits including creating a healthy local economy and local self-reliance. Not to mention expanding the number of great food and beverage businesses and opportunities for local, authentic food from our area.

**What type of help, if any, do you need from the members of the Climate Action Advisory Board?**

Contact with consulting experts

Suggested partners