

ASSET MAPPING EXERCISE

Goal: To find the strengths of the Sitka Local Food System—focusing on assets but mindful of the challenges as we consider new possibilities.

Instructions:

Part 1: Please write down your responses in each category under “Assets.” (*Do not write beneath Leverage Points just yet!*) If you know or are willing to share specific information, such as quantifying the asset, or providing a location or contact information, please put that information in parenthesis following your entry. *Example: Moose harvest (260 a year, 95% by local residents)*

Part 2: Please review the list of assets in each category and under “Leverage Points,” your group should contribute ideas about how the assets in the list can support the goal, listed above—either alone or in combination with other listed assets. Please number these.

INDIVIDUALS

Guiding thoughts: Everyone is an asset and brings something to the table. You want to account for the gifts, skills, knowledge, and traits of people in your area. List specific individuals and categories of individuals, such as elders, or veterans.

Assets (What we have and know):

Kitty Labounty, botanist and mycologist at UAS, involved in teaching Master Gardener Class last year.

Jasmine Shaw, UAF extension service, also taught Master Gardener Class last year.

The Master Gardeners who were taught and another class is getting started this year

Norm Campbell, long time advocate for solid waste reform and community composting

Doug Osborne, concerned with getting a community garden through the Health Needs and Social Services Commission.

Participants in local composting group

Zahn, an intern from a Pardee-Rand PhD program who wrote an assessment of local composting issues

Eve Grutter raises rabbits, goats, and vegetables for food.

Carol Voisin wants to tear up her grass to create raised beds for neighborhood gardening

Two new Sitka residents with interest in composting: Chip Camden and a speech therapist at SEARHC, who helped create community composting for her small town in Colorado

Florence Welsh, amazing gardener,

Tommy Gee (Tommy Gamble), Tlingit harvester and teacher of subsistence practices (will lead ‘herring camp 2022 for young kids’)

Jud Kirkness, fruit tree grower and green thumb

Andrea & Kaleb with Middle Island Garden

Norm & Toby Cambell committed to composting

Tom Hart, composter extraordinaire
Linda Behnken, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Alaskans Own Seafood, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, etc.
Louise Brady/Judy Brady, Herring Protectors
Andrea Fraga/Kaleb Aldred, Middle Island Gardens
People who are already composting and vermicomposting
Laura Schmidt, lead gardener for St. Peter's Fellowship Farm
Lisa Sadleir Hart - grows, preserves
Traditional knowledge holder - Tlingit
Forest Service and Parks Service programs on edible plants - led by particular people
Andrew Jylkka - Southeast Dough
NSRAA Members
ALFA Members
Food Coop Members and Volunteers
Seafood Producers Cooperative
Organizers of the Sitka Kitch
Local Restaurateurs with local harvest focus
Almost everyone in town has a real passion for fish prep and preservation
Lori Adams, runs a small CSA and raises ducks (Down To Earth Garden)
Keith Nyitray has a lot of gardening experience from his years on Finn Island
Mandy Summer, Pacific High School principal
Chandler O'Connell who ran mutual aid out of SCS during pandemic
Homebrewers
Charles Bingham
The new gardens at Pacific High. Not sure on names
Grant writers - need names - city sustainability coordinator? Americorps/Sitka Fellows, Heather Meuret-Woody @ SEARHC, Linda Behnken @ ALFA, Mollie Kabler at Coast Radio

Leverage Points (How can we use these assets?):

1. Somehow document the local knowledge - oral stories or video
2. Regular gardening and subsistence classes held - Master Gardeners are holding "Weedy Wednesday" talks soon.
3. Southeast Alaska Farmers Summit held every other year includes commercial growers from around SE Alaska sharing their knowledge, targeted towards commercial growing, but also very relevant to home gardeners.
4. Southeast Conference also held every other year (needs food security component).

ASSOCIATIONS/GROUPS

Guiding thoughts: Wherever people gather intentionally, there is value. Think about groups in your region that share interests or a purpose.

Assets (What we have and know):

1. Sitka Food Coop

2. Sitka Mutual Aid - coordinated the Farm to Families Project during pandemic
Sitka 4H Club (led by Sitka Conservation Society) focused on teaching youth about living with the land/sea and aspects of subsistence culture
CBS Public Works, anyone with a wood chipper
SEARHC
NSRAA (Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association), fish hatcheries
Sitka Gardening and Horticulture group on Facebook
Alaska Blacktail Forum on Facebook
ANS kitchen at ANB Hall
Sitka Local Foods Network
Sitka Health Summit Coalition
Pacific High School's - committed to growing locally just got greenhouse or high tunnel
Herring protectors
STA and paralytic shellfish monitoring program (SEATOR)
Sitka Tribe of Alaska(STA)and their traditional food program
US Forest Service (Tlingit potato patch)
Transition Sitka
Salvation Army
Church food pantries
Sitka Mutual Aid
True Value
Spennard Builders Supply (high tunnels)
Garden Ventures
Sitka Sound Science Center
UAF Cooperative Extension Service
Salt and Soil Marketplace (online pre-order for local food products)

Leverage Points: (How can we use these assets?):

1. Sitka Farmers Market (gives small businesses a place to try out new products, services)
 2. Sitka Health Summits (hosted a lot of food-oriented projects over the years)
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CULTURE, STORIES & HISTORY

Guiding thoughts: Cultural traditions (including foodways like hunting or fishing), memories of when the community was at its best, stories of people helping people—please list anything that you think speaks to the unique culture of your region. One thing to remember here is political structures, (which are cultural). Do you have tribal leadership? County Commissioners? Does your State Rep have an office in your region?

Assets (What we have and know):

Sitka Native Education Program
Herring Protectors
Sitka Tribe of Alaska
Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research (SEATOR, testing for shellfish PSP, etc.)
Local Foods Potluck (put on most years by Sitka Conservation Society)
Alaska Experimental Farm on Geodesic Way by national cemetery
Tlingit Potatoes on Kruzof Island?
Filipino community and their foodways
Sitka Community Food Assessment Indicators Report (2014)
Commercial bycatch, bycatch limits in groundfish fisheries (can only sell 10% of total catch, forced to waste huge amounts of rockfish)
Sitka Gardeners community facebook page
Mollie Kabler and Kitty LaBounty's gardening show on Raven Radio
Kayaani Commission
Sitka Historical Society
Kitty LaBounty mushroom class
Chuck Miller

Leverage Points (How can we use these assets?):

1. XXXX Traditional & customary foods education (how to gather, how to preserve, etc.), SNEP, Herring Protectors, STA, Kayaani Commission
- 2.

PHYSICAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Guiding thoughts: Consider what is around you—the natural environment, but also the built environment, such as community gardens, buildings, paved roads, transportation, even infrastructure, such as sewer and water, electricity, solar, cable, or satellite tv connections

Assets (What we have and know):

Five harbors within a mile of downtown
Clean renewable local energy from Blue and Green Lakes
Smaller truck farms/large gardens (St. Peter's Fellowship Farm, Middle Island Gardens, Garden on Charles Street, Down To Earth Gardens, Welsh Family Forget Me Not Gardens)
Sitka Tribal Enterprises commercial kitchen
Sitka Kitch commercial kitchen
Forest Service public use cabins that allow people to rent cabins from which to hunt/fish/harvest, etc.
Berry bushes everywhere around town (huckleberries, blueberries, salmon berries)
Connections to private businesses with waterfront loading/unloading zones for subsistence harvesters

Edible landscaping (such as fruit trees, berry bushes)
Ecodrum 460 composter located on Price Street
Abandoned building on Airport Rd, boarded up, on way to SEARHC
Former Community Garden at Blatchley
Greenhouses growing marijuana
Sitka Food Business Innovation Contest
Ashmo's
Catch Sitka Seafood
Sitka Salmon Shares
Silver Bay Seafoods
Seafood Producers Co-op
Sitka Fine Arts campus has a small garden, and lots of space for a much larger garden
Pioneers Home has a small amount of edible garden beds, room for a lot more
Sitka Sound Seafoods
Pacific High School Greenhouse and Garden Project (Farm to Schools participant)
Sitka Sound Science Center hatchery
A/C Lakeside supermarket - butcher department grinds harvested meat for locals at a very cheap price (couple of bucks for a deer)
Alaska Mental Health Trust land at the end of Jarvis Street - proposed site of Sitka Cabin
Community and Community garden (around a bear proofing fence) 16 acre site
SEARHC lands
Seaweed
Fish hatcheries
GPIP - place for business to locate?Sp
Beaches - readily available seaweed and rocks for garden beds and the like
90 inches of rain a year
Garden Ventures - Penny Brown
Seamart
Sitka Bulk Foods
Sitka Smoothies Truck - Youth Advocates of Sitka Business Project
Barbara Palacios [sp?] - Poke Stall
Filipino food truck
Jo Michalski (Chef Jo's food cart, school district chef, Muddy Mermaid Mudd Pies)
Biosolids - Wastewater Treatment - incorporate this into a soil enhancement rather than bury it in broken glass
Mean Queen
Taco loco - Food Truck
Fish heads from the Processors for Fertilizers
Charlie Bower (mushrooms)
Levi Adams (mushrooms)
Sizzling Chow Cuisine
Jessie Natkong hot dog stand
Westmark
Bayview Pub

Leverage Points (How can we use these assets?):

1. Increase number of community supported garden/farm box programs

2. XXXX X Move Ecodrum to another location in town - UAS/MEHS/Recycling Center/GPIP

3. X X Revive the community garden behind Blatchley Middle School or find another location.

4. XX Aquaponics System - combine the seafood processing groups with GPIP space in Silver Bay and hatchery operations to make use of the seafood waste as fish food, and the fish poop as a soil enhancer for plants that can filter the water. Creating a closed circuit and diverting waste. (NOTE, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game regulations prevent the use of food fish, such as salmon and tilapia, in aquaponics systems in Alaska. You can use gold fish)

5. Wastewater treatment - why are we burying biosolids in broken glass (and why not fire up the bottling plant rather than break glass!?!?) rather than using it as a soil enhancer? Could this be combined with fish waste? And used for improving local soils?

6. Commercial Greenhousing - high end herbs would make this profitable. But... could other types of crops be useful/tradeable with other communities?

7. Co generation/Cotreatment for use in growing infrastructure: example - Waste heat - who has it? Where are they? Who could set up next to them to make use of it to grow things, dry things?

Water - 100 inches per year and the pot growers are using it (along with clean energy) to produce a reliable product that is marketed locally. What can we learn from their use of these assets?

People - 8500 persons is a lot of person power - and a lot of purchasing power - collective purchasing. This is being demonstrated by the Sitka food coop.

FINANCIAL/ ECONOMIC

Guiding thoughts: What brings wealth into your communities? What wealth does your region hold? Consider the businesses, banks, and credit unions, as well as other grant funders, resources, and organizations that have invested in your region.

Assets (What we have and know):

Micro-grants for Food Security program (USDA/AK grown)

Sitka Mutual Aid (Sitka Conservation Society), helps get food to lower-income people

Sitka Rotary Club does rotating mini grants to non profits

Sitka Legacy Foundation

Beak Restaurant (Renee Trafton)

Alaska Pure Sea Salt (Darcy & Jim Michener)
 Theobroma Chocolate (Carrie Iwamoto, Brian LeBlanc - new owner)
 Our Town Catering (Edith Johnson)
 The Wild Flour Cafe (Grace Ivers)
 Harbor Mountain Brewery
 Southeast Dough Co. (Andrew Jylkka)
 High tunnel funding program
 Sitka Health Summit with monies from RWJF award
 Anam Cara Family Garden & Kitchen, Middle Island Gardens, Down to Earth Garden,
 Forget-me-not Garden, St Peter's Fellowship Farm, The Salty Gardener
 Baranof Island Housing Authority (large landholder with community building objectives)
 Garden Ventures
 True Value
 Sitka Kitch
 Ludvig's Bistro
 Spenards
 Sitka Salmon Shares
 Pressure Canning Session - Sarah Lewis (UAF Cooperative Extension)
 Fish To Schools (Sitka Conservation Society)
 Ashmo's food truck
 Alaskans Own
 Catch Sitka Foods
 SSS Retail shop
 Sitka Food Co-op
 SEARHC - native foods as medicine
 Electrical Department
 Spenards Building Supply
 Local fishing vessels
 Silver Bay Seafood
 Seafood Producers Coop
 Sitka Ready Mix
 Bayne Construction/Troy's excavation
 Sitka Organic (Renee Pierce)
 Sitka Bulk Foods (Savannah Plank)
 Hydroelectric power
 Sweet Sisters Caramels (Mary and Terry Suminski)
 HB 298 in state of Alaska legislature (Liz Snyder)
 New shellfish farms and mariculture farms

Leverage Points (How can we use these assets?):

1. X Create a local food destination for "travelers"(tourism/restaurants/growers)
2. XXX Vertical garden in building using clean energy(abandoned buildings)
3. Replicate "seeds of change" in Anchorage (YAS, 4H,Sitka Counseling, others, at-risk youth run a food growing operation)

4. Local restaurants invest/buy in local food production
5. X Increase capacity of ALFA to provide fish to local families (ALFA, STA, Salvation Army, church groups/SAFV/Sitka Mutual Aid/SCS)
6. X Find programs that match WIC/SNAP dollars at Sitka Farmers Market and other events (GCI/Sitka Legacy/White E)
7. Assist local or new growers in accessing USDA micro grant for food security (grant writers/AK Dept Ag/local growers/schools)
8. X Replicate Chena grow tower in Sitka Schools or for low income families (schools/SLFN/USDA/AK Dept Ag)
9. X Create agricultural zones in Sitka (City/citizens)
10. BIHA/AHFC - creating small community gardens on their properties
11. US Forest Service/USDA land set aside land for community gardens (USDA)
12. Revisit BMS community garden with new principal (school district/gardeners)
13. Create community garden on land adjacent to baseball fields (city/grant writers)
14. XX Any community garden advocates could work with the Electric Department on utilizing green energy for greenhouse (Kord Christianson)
15. X Work with Fisherman's Quay to provide. access to herring harvesters (Devon Calvin)
16. XX X XX X New community garden at the top of Jarvis Street - cabin community (12 cabins for chronically homeless) and community garden. It's a 16 acre parcel, AK Mental Health Trust Land.

Need storage facilities to store emergency and off-season food