

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (RDS) COMMITTEE **2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Appointing a New OSE director. The Committee recommended appointment of Jill Simmons to lead the Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE).

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation. In 2010, the Committee advanced the Council's new goal to create a carbon neutral city by:

- Hosting a presentation by Van Jones from the Center for American Progress on how green jobs can help Seattle increase employment while reducing climate-changing emissions.
- Following up on the Council's Carbon Neutrality Community Forum with briefings from community members on developing a carbon neutral food system and green career pathways.
- Discussing a 2010 Council Statement of Intent response by OSE that outlined a work plan for adapting City actions to a changing climate.
- Reaching agreement with OSE and the Mayor to update the City's Climate Action Plan, starting with technical analysis in 2010.

Eco Industrial Development. The Committee explored opportunities for environmentally sustainable growth in Seattle's industries, following a model called "eco industrial" development. The Committee tapped the expertise of Andreas Koeing from Eco Industry to convene forums with local industries and identify local opportunities based on experiences in Asia, Europe, and other U.S. cities.

Appointing a New OED Director. The Committee recommended the appointment of Stephen Johnson to lead the Office of Economic Development (OED).

Business Retention and Expansion. In 2010, the Committee worked with OED to develop and execute a competitive strategy for awarding \$300,000 in annual contracts that support the provision of business retention and expansion services by non-City entities. As part of the strategy, OED and its contracted partners work to provide outreach and assistance to 700 businesses per year. Businesses in the following four industry sectors are the primary focus of this work: manufacturing/maritime, central business district, clean technology, and life sciences/global health.

New Markets Tax Credit Program. The Committee reviewed and adopted various ordinances and resolutions related to implementing the NMTC program. Approved legislation established program policies and procedures, including governance structure, investment criteria, and reporting requirements. The NMTC program is a federal program that provides funding for economic development projects that increase jobs and improve the overall economic climate in the City.

Recovery Zone Bond Program. The Committee reviewed and adopted legislation authorizing use of this program in certain designated areas of the City. This program was established by the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009.

Seattle Public Library. The Seattle Public Library (SPL) is funded almost entirely by City funding. In the past several years, SPL's budget has been impacted by the economic conditions that have reduced City revenue. In response to a Council Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) the City Librarian worked with the SPL Board, the Executive, the City Law Department and Council on identifying and analyzing potential funding sources that could help diversify SPL's funding. The RDS committee was briefed on these options. The Council requested that work continue in 2011 to research and recommend a potential property tax Levy that could begin to support a portion of the SPL budget in 2013.

Food System Interdepartmental Team. 2010 was declared the Year of Urban Agriculture jointly by the City Council and Mayor. Many City departments are working on issues related to food access, production, distribution, and waste disposal. However, there isn't a City department or person responsible for coordinating the City's efforts. The City has formed an Interdepartmental Team which has been and will continue to meet monthly so City staff can share information on current projects and help shape the City's future policy and projects on food.

Interdepartmental Agreements on Using City Land for Urban Agriculture. Reviewed the Statement of Legislative Intent response.

Land Use Code Changes related to Urban Agriculture. Approved urban farm and community garden legislation improving access to locally grown food. The legislation took effect on Sept. 23, 2010.

Local Food Action Implementation. Established the Regional Food Policy Council at the Puget Sound Regional Council; completed the consultant's recommendations for a Seattle Food Policy Plan; completed a consultants' study on the Economic Opportunities for the Local Food; continued work on the \$300,000 Community Food Grant for the USDA; continued work on a Transfer of Development Rights agreement with King County; renewed the agreement for a City Hall Farmers' Market for 2011 and 2012.

Economic Development for the Local Food Sector. The City was awarded funding through Seattle King County Public Health to participate in program to deliver healthy foods to low-income neighborhoods that may be lacking fresh fruits, vegetables, etc. This will be accomplished by working with existing neighborhood grocers and other retailers interested in providing such products. The Office of Economic Development is the lead on this program for the City. The Committee received several briefings from OED on the proposed program and timeline for implementation.