



# Farmers Market Update

**Seattle City Council**

**Regional Development and Sustainability Committee**

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**August 2, 2011**

# Benefits of Farmers Markets



*Kimberly McKittrick*

- A major source of revenues for local farmers
- Increased commerce for adjacent business districts on market days
- Improved access to fresh, regionally produced farm products
- A neighborhood gathering place



# Farmers Market Permitting Process



- Annual vs. monthly permitting
- One annual permitting meeting with departments and market operators
- OED provides direct support to market operators to address permitting relocation needs, and troubleshoot issues



# Economic Impact of Farmers Markets

## 2010 Farmers Market Data\*

Total Shoppers	817,474
Vendor Sales	\$ 11,350,212
WIC/EBT Program/FMNP Seniors	\$ 216,306
Food Donated (lbs.)	67,542 lbs.

*\*Total from both Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance and Seattle Farmers Market Association (12 Farmers Markets in total)*



# OED's Support For This Sector

- Finding new locations
- Filling funding gaps
- Stabilizing management and oversight



# Ongoing Issues

- How many markets can Seattle sustain?
- Balancing the interests of neighborhoods and the needs of markets
- Ongoing need to relocate
- Changing nature of city support for markets



# City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development

[www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment](http://www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment)

[www.growseattle.com](http://www.growseattle.com)

[www.onlyinseattle.org](http://www.onlyinseattle.org)

[www.seattleinvestmentfund.com](http://www.seattleinvestmentfund.com)

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