



LEADING THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESILIENCE AND SECURITY COMMISSION

GROUNDTRUTH ALASKA | KENAI CHANGE | SUSTAINABLE SEWARD | COOK
INLETKEEPER | KACHEMAK BAY CONSERVATION SOCIETY | ALASKANS KNOW
CLIMATE CHANGE

A CHANGING PENINSULA

- Annual air temperatures in KPB have risen by 3.4° F since 1969, and July 2019 was the warmest month on record in Alaska.
- Over the past half-century, annual available water on the western Kenai Peninsula has declined 62%.
- Summer water temperatures in non-glacial Cook Inlet streams now routinely exceed physiological thresholds for salmon, and in 2019 warm water conditions caused high rates of prespawn mortality of salmon across the state.
- The 2017 census identified a 60% increase in the number of farms a on the Kenai Peninsula since 2012.
- There is a projected 66% increase in the estimated value of human structures that are at risk of fire in the next half century on the Kenai Peninsula.



PUBLIC PROCESS

RESOLUTIONS BY CITIES OF HOMER, SELDOVIA, SOLDOTNA AND SEWARD.

OVER 350 PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED PETITIONS IN SUPPORT.

“...the City of Soldotna stands at risk of strong economic and social harm should the integrity of local fisheries and surrounding natural environment be further compromised.”

–CITY OF SOLDOTNA RESOLUTION 2019-051



2019 KPBB COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- Land Use: “Form a Kenai Peninsula [Borough Commission on Sustainability](#)”
- Land Use: “develop a climate change action plan that includes a framework for [selecting, monitoring and sharing indicators that track environmental changes](#) associated with climate change; impacts of climate change at the neighborhood level; and, adaptation measures and their effectiveness. After identification of areas that are experiencing change and are likely to continue, outline [explicit adaptation and mitigation strategies.](#)”
- Agriculture & Mariculture: “Support a more [sustainable and resilient](#) Kenai Peninsula by increasing production and distribution of quality, healthy agricultural products for local, state and export markets,” and “encourage greater local and regional self-sufficiency,” and “sustain and create new agriculture-related jobs and businesses.”

GUIDE PROGRAMMATIC
RESPONSE TO
CHANGING CLIMATE.

SUPPORT ENERGY
SECURITY AND FOOD
SECURITY.

IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF
BUILDINGS AND
TRANSPORTATION.

INCREASE LIFETIME OF
LANDFILLS.



DISASTER PLANNING

- Projected 66% increase in the estimated value of human structures that are at risk of fire in the next half century on the Kenai Peninsula.
- The 2019 Swan Lake Fire cost \$46 million dollars to suppress and the U.S. Small Business Administration declared the Kenai Peninsula an “economic injury zone” and small business owners estimated 5 to 20 percent loss in revenue.
- In the absence of adaptation efforts, damage to public infrastructure caused by climate change could cost Alaska \$142 to \$181 million per year and a cumulative \$4.2 to \$5.5 billion by the end of the century.



- Create water reservoirs; ensure salmon streams are shaded.
- Create interagency private lands forestry initiative or a KPB program, similar to the federally-funded spruce bark mitigation task force, to increase green space and reduce fire risk.
- Bring research and policy to communities who are noticing concerning trends, eg. increasing incidents of blowdowns in Seldovia area.
- Promote FireSmart development by requiring underground wiring and positioning sidewalks, boulevards and highways to act as firebreaks and evacuation routes.

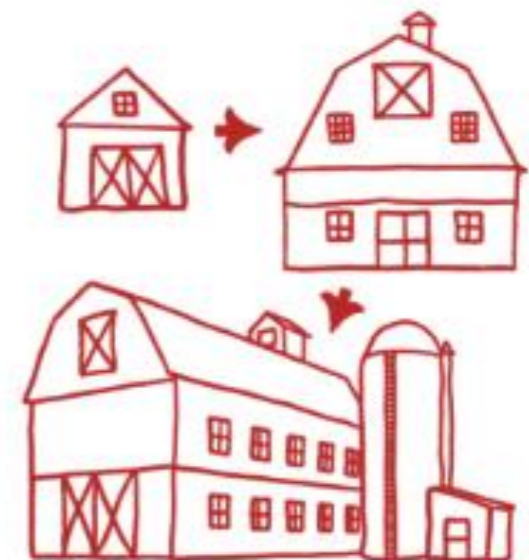
FOOD SECURITY

- 95% of the \$2 billion of food Alaskans purchase is imported — meaning \$1.9 billion leaves the state each year as Alaskans eat.
- Kenai Peninsula residents could generate \$1.1 million in the local economy by purchasing 10 % of their produce locally.
- Advisory committee for Borough Agriculture Initiative.
- Ensure that salmon streams are shaded and wild harvest is protected.
- Support local food processing and distribution through education and investment.

THE VALUE OF FOOD SOLD DIRECTLY TO CONSUMERS INCREASED FROM **\$2.2 MILLION** IN 2012 TO **\$4.5 MILLION** IN 2017



THE NUMBER OF ALASKA FARMS GREW **30%** OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS.



Thank you for your time.

WE CAN CREATE A BETTER FUTURE.

