

4.0 Economy

Issues

Craig supports moderate economic development. Most existing infrastructure adequately serves the existing and future needs of businesses — especially with regards to sewer, telephone, electricity, and roads. With the addition of Silver Bay Seafoods in 2009 the city is near maximum capacity for water treatment and distribution, especially in the summer months. Increasing water capacity should be considered as economic development proceeds in Craig. Projects like the False Island development, JT Brown Industrial Park, and currently, the Craig Cannery site are important economic development efforts supported by the community. These developments help diversify the local economy, create long-term, year-round jobs and open up more lands for mixed uses in Craig.

Craig's economy took a sharp downturn with the collapse of the timber industry, cancellation of long term timber contracts and the closing of a regional pulp mill in the late 1990's. Since 2001 the economy has been fairly stable with some recovered growth. Capitalizing on its place as a center of government and economic activity on Prince of Wales Island to ensure that it remains stable, while continuing to grow a diversified economy, will be the focus during the next 20 years. Craig has seen an increase to value added processing in the fishing industry and growth in the tourism industry. The tourism industry is generally viewed as desirable provided it is compatible with the local lifestyle and does not negatively impact the quality of life valued by Craig residents. Supporting the continued growth of existing businesses will also be important; newer is not always better. Many of the existing local businesses have great opportunity to expand and contribute to Craig's economy. Supporting their growth could be as important as seeking new developments.

Economy Goal Statements (E)

- Goal E1.1** Encourage a diverse economy that provides long-term, year-round employment for local residents compatible with the local lifestyle.
- Goal E1.2** Keep the cost of doing (private and public) business low by concentrating on reliable and efficient marine and air transport access and facilities, efficient local traffic circulation and delivery of goods, and keeping energy and utilities costs as low as possible.
- Goal E1.3** Promote private and governmental cooperation and coordination in developing small businesses and enterprises and in attracting and locating new industry that benefits Craig.
- Goal E1.4** Encourage development that capitalizes on Craig's economy and strategic location on Prince of Wales Island and in Southeast Alaska.
- Goal E1.5** Encourage development of value-added industries.
- Goal E1.6** Work with local businesses to promote hazard mitigation, emergency preparedness, and continuity of operations planning and development.
- Goal E1.7** Promote improved quality of life for Craig residents in all aspects (health, recreation, and other socioeconomic activities) to encourage business location and growth in Craig.

Economic Strategies (E)

- Strategy E1** Use the land use codes and plan policies to protect existing and planned commercial and industrial areas from intrusion by incompatible land uses.
- Strategy E2** Support community economic development planning efforts such as the Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee. This committee should meet at least annually and provide a report to the city council. The CEDS report should outline priority projects and strategies that are incorporated into the comprehensive plan by reference.
- Strategy E3** Support educational and occupational training programs and when appropriate, make city resources available for these programs.
- Strategy E4** Provide adequate industrially zoned upland and tideland at North Cove, False Island, Craig Cannery site, Craig Fisheries, and on the western and southwestern shore of Crab Bay to allow for expansion of marine related industries.
- Strategy E5** Zone tidelands seaward of commercial and industrial uplands to allow for commercial and industrial uses, except where otherwise noted in this plan.
- Strategy E6** Encourage and/or partner with private industry to promote increased suitable tourist activities.
- Strategy E7** Encourage and support existing business and industries in Craig.