

# Sustainable Business Alliance

## BALLE Annual Business Conference, 6/14 – 6/17/11

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Those of us who are deeply interested in building “vibrant local living economies,” should give serious consideration to attending the Business Alliance For Local Living Economies (BALLE) Annual Business Conference, June 14-17, 2011, in Bellingham, WA. This is the biggest and most intense opportunity for networking in this particular sector of the American entrepreneurial community. It is also an unparalleled opportunity to learn about “sustainable economic development” best practices that have been developed around the country over the last eight to ten years.

Of particular interest is a new all-day program BALLE will be offering on Tuesday, June 14, “Celebrating Community Capital: Pioneering Models to Connect Regional Investors with Regional Businesses.”

Bellingham has served, in many respects, as the incubator for the “buy local first” and “vibrant local living economies” movement. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to see how Sustainable Connections, the very dynamic and successful BALLE Network that Derek and Michelle Long have nurtured over the past few years, has turned Bellingham into a paradigm of “a vibrant local living economy.” Beautiful city, resourceful local living economy!

You can, incidentally, also get a good insight into the powerful economic development tool that Sustainable Connections has developed in Bellingham by viewing the terrific film, “Fixing The Future,” that David Brancaccio (Senior Producer for NPR) produced in 2010.

If you attend the Conference, I guarantee that you will leave invigorated and with an ambitious work plan to implement in your own community over the next twelve months. For details: [www.livingeconomies.org](http://www.livingeconomies.org)