

Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) Conference

Hosted by Sustainable Connections

Tuesday, June 14—Friday, June 17, at WWU

We know that people in Bellingham and Whatcom County like to Think Local First. We know that 72 percent of the people in our community recognize Sustainable Connection's Think Local logo and report that they've changed their shopping behavior to prioritize independent, locally owned businesses. We also know that so many of you make a great effort to support one another when making choices every day.

We have a great opportunity to learn what next steps we can take to deepen our local living economy and to be inspired by others doing this same important work at this year's BALLE Business Conference to be held in Bellingham. BALLE is a national network of socially responsible businesses working to connect organizations like Sustainable Connections and our best ideas.

The conference, themed "Place Matters," will include more than 80 speakers, 16 plenaries, 24 interactive sessions, three intensive pre-workshops, four local living economy



tours, and a variety of networking and social events. This don't-miss event brings together more than 600 independent business owners

and innovators, local living economy entrepreneurs, community investors, government economic development professionals, and sustainability leaders to spotlight the most innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to growing healthy, resilient local economies. The conference will give participants the inspiration, guidance, and tools needed to address issues facing communities and to encourage local economic development.

For more information and to register, see www.livingeconomies.org/conference-2011.