

Portland Development Commission Food Processing Cluster Submission

- **Key Cluster Participants:** Food processing is an umbrella term used to describe the activities of manufacturing food and beverages for human consumption. Portland area companies include bakeries, specialty food product manufacturing, breweries, & dairy product manufacturers, including companies such as: YoCream, Nabisco, Franz Bakery, Red Wagon Store, Pepsico, Pacific Coast Seafoods Company, Marsee Baking, Bobs Red Mill Natural Foods. Other cluster participants include: Northwest Food Processors Association, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and The Food Innovation Center.
- **Contact:** Randy Evans, PDC, 503.823.0119, evansr@pdc.us
- **Geographic Location:** Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties
- **Structure:** PDC offers a full range of direct and indirect assistance to businesses looking to expand or locate in the Portland area. PDC also works to keep local businesses and jobs here. One of the areas where PDC focuses retention, expansion and recruitment efforts is in the food processing industry.
- **Mission:** Help foster a positive business climate for the food processing industry in Portland and throughout the State of Oregon.
- **Background:** Food processing is a relatively new target industry for the City of Portland. PDC's recent activities to support the industry include: exhibiting at the 2004 Northwest Food Processors Association's (NWFPA) annual convention for food processors from Oregon, Washington and Idaho (this is the largest regional food processing convention in the US), and supporting NWFPA's study on the competitiveness of the regional food processing cluster.

Oregon's Overall Business Climate

Areas to Address: Job Retention, Availability of Space, Escalating Real Estate Costs, Infrastructure

Top Core OBP Initiative Priorities

Target Workforce Development, Brand and Market Oregon More Aggressively, Increase Return on Investment in PreK-20 Education

Specific Cluster Priorities

1. Establish a technical assistance program with the Food Innovation Center that would focus on business/financial assistance for marketing and testing of food products
2. Support the development of policy initiatives on targeted issues that would make the region more competitive for the industry, such as water and sewer rates
3. Align initiatives with the Northwest Food Processors Association and support the Implementation of the Northwest Food Processors Association Cluster Strategy.