

Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board Planning/Tracking Tool

MANDATE: Evaluate and monitor residents' access to an affordable, diversified local-food supply and recommend measures to improve food security and nutrition.

Board Goals:

Recommend policies that facilitate:

1. equitable access to healthy food that will end hunger in Austin and Travis County;
2. the high availability and consumption of local, fresh, and quality sustainably-produced food;
3. culture of good food as a fundamental right [local governments help create conducive environments];
4. robust and just local economy through the strengthening all five sectors of the food system; and
5. preservation of agricultural land and family farming in Austin and Travis County.

Food Access and Wellness Area

1. equitable access to healthy food:

<i>Policy Objective</i>	Identify and map food deserts and provide incentives and support for grocery stores of different scales, farmers markets, food carts and other mobile vendors to locate and thrive in underserved communities. [Rid area of food deserts]			
<i>Working Group Name Purpose</i>	<i>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</i>	<i>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</i>	<i>Policy Outcome(s)</i>	
Food Security Work Group Assess current efforts in Austin/Travis County and identify relevant stakeholders (e.g. HHSC, USDA, THH, Share our Strength, grocers, existing and proposed co-ops)	<i>Ronda Rutledge/Griffin Kelp (Tx Hunger Initiative)/MMS</i>	February 2012	A thorough hunger assessment to guide the SFPB and others to make policy recommendations around hunger alleviation in the city/county.	

2. consumption of local, fresh, and quality sustainably-produced food;

<i>Policy Objective</i> 2.1:	Review best practices, current efforts and policies that support getting nutritious and local fresh food to all residents -- emphasizing those with difficulty accessing it.		
<i>Working Group Name</i> <i>Purpose</i>	<i>Board Member/ Chair /</i> <i>Area Liaison</i>	<i>Begin Date/</i> <i>Board Report(s)</i>	<i>Policy Outcome(s)</i>
Central Texas SNAP Participation Work Group (existing) Increase participation in, and impact of, federal food and nutrition programs such as SNAP, WIC, CACFP, Summer Food Program, etc. The working group may expand on its work to address enrollment in other nutrition programs, such as WIC.	Kathy Green, Capital Area Food Bank, as well as members of several community groups who work on hunger and food access issues.	Convened: <i>February 2012?</i> <i>Report to SFPB March 26, 2012</i>	The group reviewed the SNAP participation data for Austin/Travis County, and discussed barriers to enrollment. After review and discussion, the group made a recommendation that the City of Austin create a SNAP outreach campaign using a bilingual elected official. The Work Group created a draft letter for the SFPB to send to the city council outlining the work group's findings and recommendation. .

Policy Objective	Remove zoning and policy barriers and create incentives to improve and rebuild local food production, processing, and distribution systems appropriate to location and scale.		
2.2:			
Working Group Name	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
Zoning Research Group Work with various stakeholders and a research intern to determine local zoning pertaining to food retail in the city and the county as well as assess other city/county zoning-friendly practices.			

Policy Objective	Create local fresh food initiatives in institutions (e.g. schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, nursing homes, city and county departments/venues) and through encouraging food service purchasing policies that prioritize locally-sourced, nutritious, and sustainable foods.		
2.3:			
Working Group Name	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
Healthy, Local, Sustainable Food in City/County Venues Group's charge: To make policy recommendations to the Sustainable Food Policy Board pertaining to healthy, local, sustainable food served at and procured for City of Austin and Travis County sponsored events and property.	BrdMbr: Ronda/ Chair: Joy Casanovsky/ Liaison: MMS Participants: Wendy Scaperotta, Travis Co., Melissa Barry, DAA, Joe Barnes, COA, Sandra Evans, UTSOPH, Rose Jennings, UTSOPH, Reuben Olivo, PARD, Ian Kahn, PARD, Rebecca Saltzman, SFC, Marla Camp, SFPB, Robert Kingham, HHS-COA, Elizabeth Riachard, HHS-COA, Kristy Hanson, HSS-COA, Michele Hallahan,	Report by Aug 2012	Recommendations of policies promoting healthy, local, sustainable food served at and procured for City of Austin and Travis County sponsored events and property.

Policy Objective 2.3:	Create local fresh food initiatives in institutions (e.g. schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, nursing homes, city and county departments/venues) and through encouraging food service purchasing policies that prioritize locally-sourced, nutritious, and sustainable foods.	AE-COA	
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3. culture of good food as a right;

Policy Objective 3.2:	Coordinate with the sustainability office, other city and county staff, and local/regional environmental groups to ensure that the issues involved with supporting a sustainable local food system are incorporated in any relevant plans, initiatives, or activities		
Working Group Name <u>Imagine Austin Work Group</u>		Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison <i>BrdMbr: MMS /Chair: MMS /Liaison: MMS</i>	Begin Date/ Board Report(s) <i>Begin: October 2011 Final Report April 25, 2012, May 2012</i>
	Influence Imagine Austin comprehensive plan process to ensure that the City/County SFPB objectives are included in a clear and comprehensive manner. Understand the Imagine Austin process to enable full stakeholder response and participation in issues important to the City and County relating to food and the local economy.		Policy Outcome(s) <i>Provide research and policy recommendations throughout the Imagine Austin process to city planners, the Citizens Advisory Task Force, the relevant Planning Commission work group, and ultimately, City Council prior to final approval.</i>

Food Production and Business

4. robust and just local food system;

Policy Objective 4.2:	Assess potential resource recovery for farmers and residents inherent in the wastage/surplus of food in Austin/Travis County.
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Policy Objective	Assess potential resource recovery for farmers and residents inherent in the wastage/surplus of food in 4.2:		
Working Group Name	Austin/Travis County.		
Purpose	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
Food Surplus & Salvage Working Group Clarify existing policies as they relate to food surplus and salvage activities and expand the capacity for food to be safely delivered to its highest and best use (1. Humans 2. Animals 3. Compost), and none to the landfill.	Mbr: Paige /Chair: Brandi Clark /Liaison: Adam King	Convene: 9.16.2011 Report to SFPB: Final Report:	

Policy Objective	Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.		
4.4:			
Working Group Name	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
Food Systems Policy Capacity Building Work Group To identify specific city and/or county codes, permits, variances, policies, programs, and/or procedures that will facilitate the creation and success of new (or existing) local food retail businesses (e.g., compact urban groceries, cafes, food trailers, green carts, coops), particularly those that source locally and/or sustainably produced foods and locate in areas with limited access. The working group will then make suggestions to SFPB to recommend to relevant policy makers.	P.McDemott/ Chair - TBD (possibly member of Congress for New Urbanism) Liaison: Adam King Participants: Existing and potential food businesses, retailers, city/county staff, researchers, related organizations and individuals, specifically those familiar with code/planners.	Convene: April 2012 1st report to SFPB Exec. Committee - June Recommendations to SFPB - July	Implementation of new policies/procedures or programs by city and/or county; and system of data collection on metrics to measure success of said policies/procedures and or programs.

Policy Objective	Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.			
4.4:				
<u>Retail Capacity Building Work Group</u> Build capacity of local food retail businesses to source and sell locally and/or sustainably produced foods in areas with limited access. Identify specific city and/or county codes, permits, variances, policies, programs, and/or procedures that will facilitate the creation and success of new (or existing) local food retail businesses (e.g. compact urban groceries, cafes, food trailers, green carts, coops), particularly those that source locally and/or sustainably produced foods and locate in areas with limited access. The working group will then make suggestions to SFPB to recommend to relevant policy makers.	Brd Mbr: Adam Chair: TBD Liaison: Adam King Participants: existing and potential food businesses, retailers, and farmers, city/county staff, individuals with knowledge of city and county codes.	C onvene: June 2012 1st report to SFPB Exec. Committee – August 2012 Recommendations to SFPB – Sep 2012	Implementation of new policies/procedure or programs by city and/or county, and a system for collecting metrics on progress.	
<u>Increasing Distribution/Processing of Local Meats Work Group</u> Recommend new policies to increase local, sustainable meat processing and distribution by: (1) identify barriers local, sustainable farmers have for processing their livestock and distributing meat locally; (2) research best practices; (3) seek to quantify health benefits and economic opportunities of growing this sector; and (4) recommend new policies	Brd Mbr: Erin Flynn Chair: TBD Liaison: Adam King	Convene: May 2012 Recommendations to SFPB - March 2013	Recommend new policies to increase local, sustainable meat processing and distribution	
<u>Affordable Water for Sustainable Farms</u> Convene stakeholders to: (1) identify existing barriers to affordable water for sustainable farmers serving the city/county (2) research best practices (3) seek to quantify health benefits and economic opportunities of securing this resource and (4) recommend new water policy	Brdmbr: Erin Flynn Chair: K.Kraemer Liaison: Adam King Participants: Stakeholders invited to participate:	Convene: May 2012 Recommendations to SFPB - March 2013	Recommend new policies to: 1) ensure availability of affordable water for sustainable agricultural use and 2) seek to establish this water use as a priority for the city/county.	

<i>Policy Objective</i> 4.4:	Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.			
		Professional Farmers Water Utility Employees City Planners Water Activists Environmentalists General Public		

