

Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board Yearly Planning 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) a culture of good food as a fundamental right [local governments help create conducive environments];
- 4) a robust and just local economy through the strengthening all five sectors of the food system; and
- 5) the preservation of agricultural land and family farming in Austin and Travis County.

Existing SFPB Work Groups

Access and Wellness (Kathy Green)

- Central Texas Food Security – Kathy Green and Mary Teeters
- Healthy, Local, Sustainable Food in City/County Venues – Ronda Rutledge
- Community Engagement and Outreach – Michele Murphy-Smith
- Data and Information Monitoring/Collection/Distribution – Meagan Jones
- Retail Capacity Building – Paula McDermott and Rob Borowski

Food Production and Business (Michele Murphy-Smith)

- Code Coordination and Agriculture Metrics – Katherine Nicely
- Processing and Distribution of Local Meats – Erin Flynn
- Affordable Water for Sustainable Farms – Erin Flynn/Katie Petrie
- Land Use for Sustainable Agriculture – Karla Loeb
- Buy Local Food Campaign – Marla Camp

4 Priority Policy Objectives indicated by *below

Food Access and Wellness Area

1. equitable access to healthy food;

<p>Policy Objective: 1.1*</p>	<p>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]</p> <p>WG: Central Texas Food Security – Kathy Green and Mary Teeters</p>
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<p>Policy Objective: 1.2</p>	<p>Remove zoning and other barriers (ex permits) to the development of small grocery stores and other alternative retail outlets (including farmers markets, mobile veggie carts, etc.) in residential areas [Increase # of alternative retail outlets across city/county]</p> <p>Proposed: WG: Code Coordination and Agriculture Metrics – Katherine Nicely</p>
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2. the consumption of local, fresh, and quality sustainably-produced food:

<p><i>Policy Objective:</i> 2.1</p>	<p>Review best practices, current efforts and policies that support getting nutritious and local fresh food to all residents – emphasizing those with difficulty accessing it.</p> <p>WG: Central Texas Food Assistance Programs (closed - wrapped into Food Security)</p>
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<p><i>Policy Objective:</i> 2.2</p>	<p>Remove zoning and policy barriers and create incentives to improve and rebuild local food production, processing, and distribution systems appropriate to location and scale.</p>
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<p>Policy Objective: 2.3*</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>WG: Healthy, Local, Sustainable Food in City/County Venues – Ronda Rutledge</p>
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3. a culture of good food as a right:

<p><i>Policy Objective:</i> 3.1</p>	<p>Continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with universities and local schools to integrate educational programs with conservation, agriculture and sustainability policies and projects.</p>
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<p>Policy Objective: 3.2*</p>	<p>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</p> <p>WG: Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan (closed) WG: Community Engagement and Outreach – Michele Murphy-Smith</p>
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<p><i>Policy Objective:</i> 3.3</p>	<p>Improve food and nutrition literacy by connecting and supporting stakeholders and potential partners in establishing effective ongoing nutrition and food preparation educational efforts</p>
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<p>Policy Objective: 3.4*</p>	<p>Support social marketing efforts around local (central Texas) food culture based on best practices</p> <p>WG: Buy Local Food Campaign – Marla Camp</p>
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Food Production and Business

4. a robust and just local food system;

<p><i>Policy Objective:</i> 4.1</p>	<p>A thorough economic assessment of the city and county food system (including relevant data for all five sectors) in order to Inform policy makers, administrators, and the public at- large about the status of the region's food system and food security and to influence strategic planning.</p>
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<p><i>Policy Objective:</i> 4.2</p>	<p>Assess potential resource recovery for farmers and residents inherent in the wastage/surplus of food in Austin/Travis County.</p> <p>WG: Food Surplus & Salvage (spun off into a community group)</p>
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<p>Policy Objective: 4.3</p>	<p>Support and establish diversified and specialized distribution and processing businesses and mechanisms for sustainable foods produced locally.</p>
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<p>Policy Objective: 4.4*</p>	<p>Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.</p> <p>WG: Retail Capacity Building – Paula McDermott WG: Increasing Distribution/Processing of Local Meats – Erin Flynn WG: Affordable Water for Sustainable Farms – Erin Flynn/Katie Petrie</p>
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5. the preservation of agricultural land and family farming in Austin and Travis County.

<i>Policy Objective:</i> 5.1	Assess the availability of land suitable for sustainable agriculture in Austin and Travis County, and compile best practices for leasing/managing public and/or private lands to make related recommendations for preservation. WG: Preservation and accessibility of farmland (not just community gardens) – check with Karla Loeb Check with Meg on status
<i>Policy Objective:</i> 5.2	Define “Local or Regional Food System” range for Austin and Travis County (default 300 miles)
<i>Policy Objective:</i> 5.3	Minimize barriers to agricultural water access and create a comprehensive water conservation strategy for food producers in Austin and Travis County that serves as a catalyst for multi-county initiative