

# **Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board**

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

## **Workgroups by Goals:**

### **Recommend policies that facilitate:**

#### **1. equitable access to healthy food;**

*1.1 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]*

*1.2 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]*

- a. Food Security**-Assess current efforts in Austin/Travis County and identify relevant stakeholders to: 1) *identify, inform, and connect assessment and planning efforts* relates to food security in Austin and Travis County, 2) identify critical issues, needs and gaps and 3) identify public policy priorities and barriers.
- b. Retail Capacity Building Work Group** - Identify specific city codes, permits, variances, policies, programs, and/or procedures that will facilitate the creation and success of 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. Bring recommendations to SFPB.

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

*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.*

*2.2 Remove zoning and policy barriers and create incentives to improve and rebuild local food production, processing, and distribution systems appropriate to location and scale.*

*2.3 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.*

- a. 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.
- b. Code Coordination and Agriculture Metrics** This working group will look closely into any code barriers that current exist in order to have a more sustainable local and regional food system in the City of Austin. Group will define main metrics at a City and County level in coordination with Sustainability office. These will be the base for any future code barriers found. Work with Planning department in any further code barriers in order to help eliminate Food Deserts.

#### **3. culture of good food as a right;**

*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 and support social marketing efforts around local (central Texas) food culture based on best practices*

*3.4 support social marketing efforts around local (central Texas) food culture based on best practices*

- a. City/County Bond Issues Work Group**-Monitor/assess any city/county bond creation projects to ensure that, wherever possible, City/County SFPB objectives from Imagine Austin are included in a clear and comprehensive manner.
- b. Data Tracking and Collating WG** Develop and begin the process of collecting and reporting data regarding the availability, price and quality of food throughout Austin and Travis County, food security and the nutritional status of city and county residents. Data from existing working groups regarding food security, food assistance

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programs, community gardening and agriculture, among other topics shall be collected and collated through this working group.

- c. **Community Engagement and Outreach WG** - establishment of a user-friendly and effective process for engaging the community in ongoing dialogue and work activities related to the mandate of the SFPB
- d. **Buy Local Food Campaign** - support social marketing efforts around local (central Texas) food culture based on best practices

## **4. robust and just local food system:**

*4.4 Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.*

- a. **Code Coordination and Agriculture Metrics** (see details at 2 above)
- b. **Retail Capacity Building Work Group** - Identify specific city codes, permits, variances, policies, programs, and/or procedures that will facilitate the creation and success of 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. Bring recommendations to SFPB.
- c. **Increasing Distribution/Processing of Local Meats Work Group** -Recommend new policies to increase local, sustainable meat processing and distribution by: 1) identifying barriers local, sustainable farmers have for processing their livestock and distributing meat locally; 2) researching best practices; 3) seeking to quantify health benefits and economic opportunities of growing this sector; and 4) recommending new policies
- d. **Affordable Water for Sustainable Farms**- 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 policies.