

***Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board
2015 Working Groups – PROGRESS REPORTS***

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

2015 Board Goals:

The purpose of the SFPB is to address health disparities, increase local sustainable food production, and end food injustices through research and advocacy. We strive to ensure the community has a voice in policy decisions that support a healing, thriving, and sustainable local food system in Austin/ Travis County.

Recommend policies that -

1. Ensure community engagement and participation in food systems-related discussions that address food access-at different scales.
2. Increase farm land preservation for sustainable food production - especially for potential farmers with limited resources and from diverse communities.
3. Increase farmland access for sustainable food production - especially for potential farmers with limited resources and from diverse communities.
4. Improve food access via improved transportation, affordability, and distribution addressed at different scales through participation in Code NEXT process.

2015 WORKING GROUP PROGRESS

Note to Working Group Chairs:

- Every time your working group meets, please report on progress and meeting details.
- Updates should be made and saved to this document by the Wednesday before each Board meeting, so that agenda items relating to your working group can be added to the following full board meeting's agenda.
- Please use the existing outreach channels at your disposal to announce your working group meetings, including the Austin Food Notes listserve, Community Partner Distribution List, and EcoNetwork Calendar. Contact the SFPB staff liaison for assistance.

FOOD SECURITY and CODES AND ORDINANCES			
Purpose: Ensure community engagement and participation in food systems-related discussions that address food access-at different scales.	Board Chair/working group members : Kathy Green Brandon Reed Selena Booth Sandra Evans	Begin Date/Board Report(s)	2015 Policy Outcomes:
<u>Meeting Date/Activities</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Next Steps</u>
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FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND ACCESS			
Purpose: Increase farmland preservation for sustainable food production and increase farmland access - especially for potential farmers with limited resources and from diverse communities.	WG Chair/working group members : Adrienne Haschke Ronda Rutledge Felipe Camacho	Begin Date/Board Report(s): Inaugural meeting: 04.24.2014 First 2015 meeting: 02.18.2014 WG reports will be provided at Board meetings, as necessary	Policy Outcomes: 2014 Recommendations to: 1) protect existing foodshed, 2) create access to ag land and resources for aspiring farmers, 3) conduct stakeholder process to develop Foodshed Preservation and Foodshed Development Policy, and 4) develop and implement foodshed policies
<u>Meeting Date/Activities</u> Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 11:30 – 1pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member introductions and recap of last year’s work • Reviewed 2014 policy recommendations submitted to Council • Began to work with Advocacy Strategy Planning Template 	<u>Details</u> 10 members present	<u>Outcomes</u> Defined problem; brainstormed changes to seek in 2015; identified target audiences	<u>Next Steps</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next meeting March 11, 11:30 – 1pm 2. Continue to work on advocacy tool
<u>Meeting Date/Activities</u> Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 11:30 – 1pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced a few new members • Continued to work with Advocacy Strategy Planning Template 	<u>Details</u> 13 members present	<u>Outcomes</u> Chose priority changes to pursue in 2015; identified advocacy partners; determined new use of advocacy tool	<u>Next Steps</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next meeting April 8, 11:30 – 1pm 2. Hear updates on Travis Co Conservation Easement Plan, LWTP and Texas Land Link

		moving forward	3. To prioritize short-term policy recs
<u>Meeting Date/Activities</u> Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 11:30 – 1pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard updates on several already existing programs and plans • Discussed Natural Resources Conservation Service ag conservation easement program, • Discussed goals and best practice examples of farmland preservation 	<u>Details</u> 10 members present	<u>Outcomes</u> Developed an additional short-term policy rec; identified best practices to help guide group actions	<u>Next Steps</u> 1. Next meeting May 13, 11:30 – 1pm 2. Various WG members to follow-up with programs and plans discussed and provide updates at next meeting
<u>Meeting Date/Activities</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Next Steps</u>
<u>Meeting Date/Activities</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Next Steps</u>

RETAIL CAPACITY			
Purpose: Educate the public on and promote traditional and non-traditional venues for healthy foods. Recommend new policies to increase local, sustainable meat processing and distribution	Board Chair/working group members : Dominique Bowman Carla Jenkins Erin Flynn	Begin Date/Board Report(s):	2015 Policy Outcomes:
<u>Meeting Date/Activities</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Next Steps</u>
<u>Meeting Date/Activities</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Next Steps</u>
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