



Food Working Group Goals and Strategies

Consumption Advisory Group

Austin Community Climate Plan 2020 Revision

Background

Goals of this Revision

Mission Statement

To protect and improve Austin's quality of life now and for future generations by leading efforts to achieve:

1. Net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions
2. A healthy & just local food system
3. A climate resilient and adaptive city



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Process overview and schedule

What's new in the revision

Last Time

- Eye on the prize: community-wide net-zero carbon by 2050
- Alignment with other plans
- Co-created with staff and community leadership

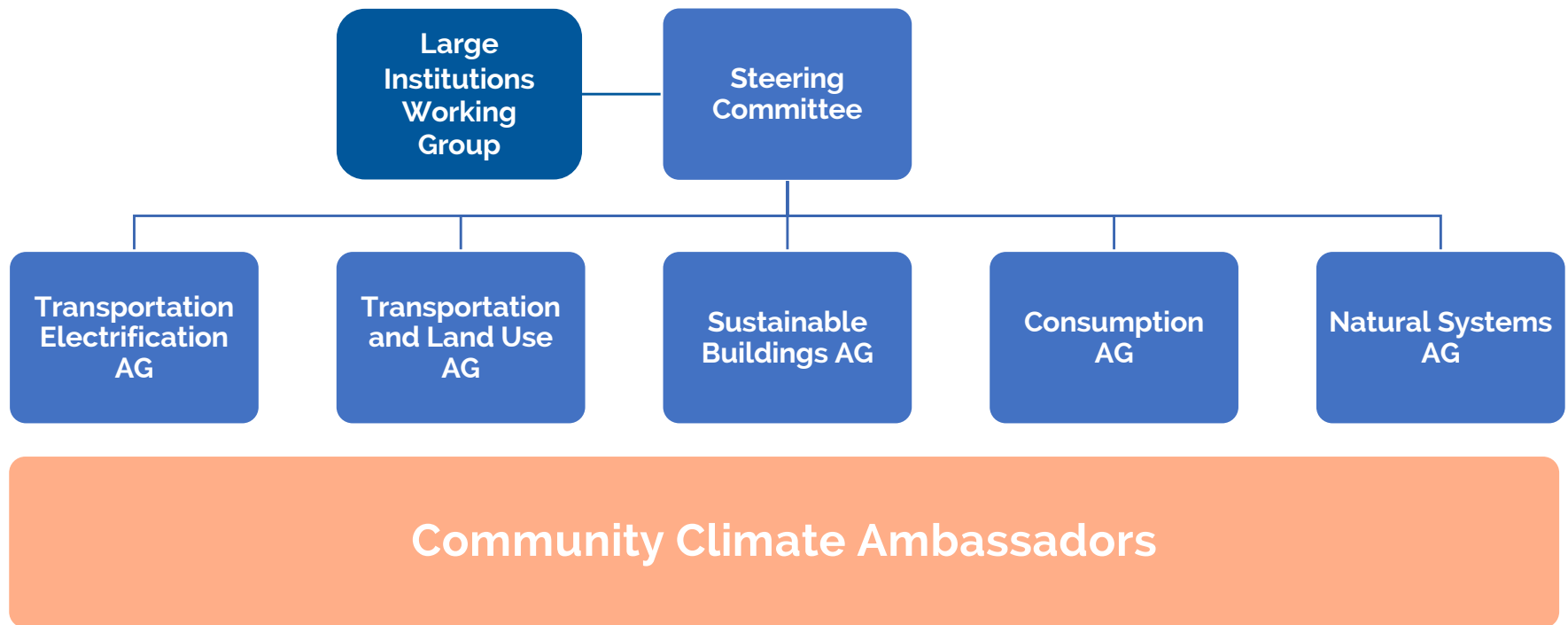


Refresh

- Equity focus
- Smaller number of high-impact actions
- Refined topic areas
- New consumption-based emissions lens
- Formal integration of natural systems and carbon sequestration
- Shared responsibility to reach beyond City-controlled activities

Process overview and schedule

Structure



Going Forward

The Next 5 Months

June - Full 1st Draft of the Plan

July - REVIEWS

August - Boards and Commissions Review and Public Comment

September - Finalization and take to Council for Approval

May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020
ID Goals & Strategies	Draft Plan	Plan Finalization		

Consumption: Food

Advisory Groups

Goal Areas for all 5 Sections of the Plan

Sustainable Buildings

- Building Materials
- Energy
- Water
- Refrigerants

Transportation and Land Use

- Increase Transit Ridership
- Increase People Powered Transit
- Right to Stay / Return
- Affordable Housing
- Transit Oriented Development
- Access to Open Space

Transportation Electrification

- Vehicle Adoption
- Charging Infrastructure
- Emerging Issues

Natural Systems

- Natural Lands
- Private Property
- Working Lands
- Public Urban Landscapes

Consumption of Goods

- **Food**
- Consumer Goods
- Institutional Purchasing

Advisory Groups

Food Working Group Members

- Lisa Barden
- Molly Costigan
- Jennifer Cregar
- Ricardo Guerrero
- Christine Jovanovic
- Kat Lopez
- Madison Matteus
- Karen Magid
- Cavan Merski
- Ona McGovern
- Samantha Night
- Amanda Rohlich

Goal

GOAL 1 (Pro-climate, Pro-Health Food System)

By 2030, ensure 100% of Austinites, with a focus on the food insecure, can access a pro-climate, pro-health food system built for equity and resilience. A pro-climate, pro-health food system is community-driven, prioritizes regenerative agriculture, supports dietary and health agency, prefers plant-based over animal-based foods, and minimizes food waste. Community-driven means located in, initiated, led, and evaluated by low-income communities and communities of color, with explicit mechanisms for soliciting community input, developing within-community leaders, and sharing outcomes within and outside the community.

Strategy 1

Food Strategy 1

Apply a purchasing framework, support supply-chain infrastructure, and build a regional food system network to bolster institutional and corporate food procurement of pro-climate, pro-health options.

Implementation Suggestions

1. Using the Good Food Purchasing Program as a model, engage food purchasers locally, especially large institutional purchasers, to use value-based food procurement practices, ensuring participation of the 10 food procurers who have the largest food spends.
2. Offer a certification program to recognize institutional and corporate pro-climate, pro-health menus.
3. Support a regional food hub and regional food system network to facilitate and coordinate large-scale pro-health and pro-climate food purchasing and distribution from regenerative agricultural producers.

Strategy 2

Food Strategy 2

Increase the availability and accessibility of pro-climate and pro-health foods through community-driven food solutions by providing and equitably allocating funding sufficient to reach the goal of full access for all.

Implementation Suggestions

1. Develop/Support/Implement economic incentives for those offering an increasing minimum percentage of plant-based menu choices, at least XX% menu items by 2030.
2. Develop funding programs focused on organizations/community initiatives led by people of color, especially women of color, to support creative thinking and innovation in the food system, specifically as it pertains to food access and security.
3. Implement a voluntary program (modeled after [Zero Foodprint](#)) for commercial food businesses to generate funds to support local food organizations and producers promoting a pro-health and pro-climate food system.
4. Co-create community and City evaluation criteria and accountability metrics

Strategy 3

Food Strategy 3

Implement community-driven programs to incentivize and promote more affordable and culturally relevant pro-health, pro-climate choices in prepared and retail food options, with a focus on minimizing displacement.

Implementation Suggestions

1. Develop/Support/Implement economic incentives for those offering an increasing minimum percentage of plant-based menu choices, at least XX% menu items by 2030.
2. Implement a voluntary program (modeled after [Zero Foodprint](#)) for commercial food businesses to generate funds to support local food organizations and producers promoting a pro-health and pro-climate food system.
3. Ensure double dollars are accepted at all SNAP retail outlets
4. Develop programs that support online and delivery services for SNAP and WIC clients, and facilitate ease of use.
5. Innovate ways to provide greater access to local produce for food insecure community members, such as a subsidized CSA model from regenerative ag producers who employ marginalized community members.

Strategy 4

Food Strategy 4

Develop a variety of community-driven programs and tools to equitably engage and empower the full spectrum of Austin's communities to make affordable and culturally relevant pro-health, pro-climate food choices.

- Expand resources and tools to make empowered decisions based on the impact of meat consumption on the climate and the benefits of plant-based foods grown through regenerative practices.
- Promote tools that enhance product transparency and empower consumer choice through tools such as an app or labeling scheme that recognize pro-climate, pro-health foods.

- Implementation Suggestions

1. Ensure diversity of engagement/outreach - not just technology
2. Promote school gardens and partner with K-12 education
3. Link to outreach and engagement on institutional purchasing
4. Specific examples include:
 1. Program to recognize climate-friendly food options (green check mark similar to <https://greenseal.org/about/faq>)
 2. App that scans and provides Life Cycle Analysis info for individual foods (bar or QR code) to inform about more sustainable choices and offer alternatives.

Strategy 5

Food Strategy 5

Conduct a food waste “root cause analysis” and implement changes and new programs informed by the analysis to increase participation by 50% among all customer types (single-family home, multifamily, commercial) in food waste reduction strategies practices that prioritize the highest and best use according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Food Recovery Hierarchy.

Implementation Suggestions

1. [Source Reduction](#)
 1. App to track and encourage use of food before it spoils (i.e. "Too Good to Go," "Food Rescue")
2. [Feed Hungry People](#)
 1. Incentivize connection to food recovery organizations and donations for grocery/retail stores, restaurants, caterers, all food establishments.
3. [Feed Animals](#)
4. [Industrial Uses](#)
5. [Composting](#)
 1. Align with Austin Resource Recovery to promote citywide expansion of municipal composting especially for multi-family dwellings
 2. Create/Support/Increase local markets for compost (thinking of the current huge increase in gardening, and attention on community and school gardens) and how a certified city compost could also help with best practices linking to food
 3. collection standards

Targets/Metrics - *How will your goal and strategies be measured?*

To evaluate success towards the 2030 goal, we propose the following probative questions to assess alignment of the 2025 strategies with the core features of the desired food system:

Community-driven – Are the strategies being pursued to achieve pro-climate, pro-health food access located in low-income communities and communities of color? Are the strategies initiated, led, and evaluated by low-income communities and communities of color? Do the strategies provide explicit mechanisms for soliciting community input? Do they develop and build capacity of local community leaders? Do they share outcomes within and outside the targeted communities?

Prioritizes regenerative agriculture – Do the strategies provide access to foods produced using practices that build soil fertility and health, increase water percolation and retention, enhance biodiversity and ecosystem health and resiliency, and increase carbon held in soils and vegetation?

Supports dietary and health agency – Do the strategies increase pro-climate, pro-health food options available to all of Austin, with a focus on communities with a present and past history of food insecurity?

Prefers plant-based over animal-based foods – Do the strategies provide equitable access to plant-based foods? Do they encourage a shift towards plant-based diets that are aligned with cultural preferences and requirements?

Minimizes food waste – Do the strategies decrease the percent and amount (tons) of organic waste being sent to area landfills? Is the reduction in line with the City's zero waste goal and Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan? Are strategies aligned with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Food Recovery Hierarchy?

Addressing equity - *How will your goal and strategies advance racial equity?*

Addressing equity:

How will your goal and strategies advance racial equity?

The impacts of climate change are disproportionately felt by low-income communities and communities of color, as are high rates of chronic disease. By creating a food system that emphasizes equitable access, enhances community agency, empowers individual action, and requires institutional/organizational responsibility, health inequities may be reduced while empowering communities and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions.

By prioritizing community-driven action, we can harness and enhance the unique attributes of each community to power its own solutions, engaging and leveraging within-community assets (both human and organizational) to drive change. Racial and cultural factors shape barriers to pro-health, pro-climate food choices and must be the foundation of systemic solutions to overcome those barriers. The strategies included here provide a framework that reflects diverse needs within the local food system; builds from within communities rather than imposing on communities; and promotes equity across race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

Partnerships

Which partners will be needed to ensure success? Think: City department, community, and other agency partners.

Achieving the goal of full access to an equitable, resilient, pro-health, and pro-climate food system will require sustained and likely enhanced participation from the existing network of actors upon which Austin's local food system is built. These food providers, connectors, and other supporters have developed new ways of relating and delivering community services in light of the food insecurity and supply constraint challenges wrought by COVID-19. Our food system's response to the coronavirus pandemic and the inequities that it has highlighted demonstrate the ingenuity for which Austin is known. The same creativity and passion will be required to unite diverse parties to build a more robust pro-climate, pro-health food system for all.

Ideas for Potential Partners?

Going Forward

Thank you!

<http://austintexas.gov/climateplan>

- Public Meeting Schedule
- Link to [public google drive](#)
- [Public participant list](#)

<https://www.speakupaustin.org/community-climate-plan>

- Overview process
- Public survey available

Equity Tool

Our Climate Equity Commitment

Racial equity is the condition when race no longer predicts a person's quality of life outcomes in our community. The City of Austin Climate Plan Revision Process recognizes that racial inequity is wrong and solving climate change is impossible without racial equity. In Austin, this means our Climate Plan Revision Process will only succeed if we center racial equity in the goals, strategies, and plans developed through the Revision Process. We realize that City of Austin infrastructure, policies, and investment have historically and systemically neglected and harmed low-income communities and communities of color. The City acknowledges these injustices and the need to right these wrongs by changing its institutions and creating a culture of equity. We recognize:

- Low-income communities and communities of color are the most impacted by extreme weather, and climate change will worsen existing harms and challenges.
- Low-income communities and communities of color must be prioritized to receive the disproportionate benefits of the transition to a pollution-free society.
- If we design and implement programs to serve low-income communities and communities of color, we will positively impact all residents in the Austin area.

Because of this, we have created the following themes and associated Equity Tool with Screening Questions to ensure our climate plan will increase racial equity: Health, Affordability, Accessibility, Just Transition, Community Capacity, Cultural Preservation & Accountability.

Equity Evaluation Tool – [link](#)

Health - Strategy improves health (physical and mental) outcomes for low-income communities and communities of color. The strategy upholds the fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food, education, transportation, safety, and housing.

Affordability - Strategy lowers and stabilizes costs related to basic living needs (housing, food, utilities, healthcare, transportation, etc.) for low-income communities and communities of color.

Accessibility - Strategy increases access to jobs, housing, transportation, funding, education, healthy foods, and a clean environment for low-income communities and communities of color. Strategy removes barriers through city infrastructure, policy, and investments.

Just Transition - Strategy ensures economic justice so that low-income communities and communities of color are prioritized in the benefits of the strategy and are protected from any potential negative consequences.

Community Capacity - Strategy elevates the voices of low-income communities and communities of color by developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, and resources that a community needs to survive, adapt, and thrive.

Cultural Preservation - Strategy deliberately and respectfully honors cultural relevance and history to maintain cultural heritage from the past and present for the benefit of all generations.

Accountability - Strategy ensures that low-income communities and communities of color can hold governments and institutions accountable for equitable implementation.

Recommended process for advisory groups

Please refer to the following 6 steps for building racial equity, adapted from GARE, as you develop goals and strategies:

