

List of STAR Sustainability Goals

ENVIRONMENT

Natural Systems

Natural Resource Planning & Inventory
Green Infrastructure
Land Use in Watersheds
Water Quality & Supply
Agriculture & Aquaculture
Resource Lands
Biodiversity & Invasive Species
Ambient Noise & Light
Waste Minimization

Planning & Design

Comprehensive Planning
Excellence in Design
Interconnected Land Use
Compact & Complete Communities
Design for People
Housing
Public Spaces
Transportation & Mobility
Land Conservation
Historic Preservation & Cultural Heritage
Code Barriers
Public Engagement & Participation

Energy & Climate

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation
Climate Adaptation
Energy Supply
Energy Use
Resource Efficient Buildings
Alternative Fuels & Infrastructure
Industrial Sector Energy Use
Agricultural Climate Impacts

ECONOMY

Economic Prosperity

Enterprise Support
Industry Sector Development & Revitalization
Market Development
Community-Based Economic Development
Economic Localization
Land Redevelopment & Revitalization
Food System

Employment & Workforce Training

Employment Opportunity
Employment Benefits
Labor Rights
Living Wages
Supportive Workplaces
Workplace Learning & Career Paths
Workforce Development Comprehensive Plan
Workforce Training
Resources for Success



City Hall Farmers Market, Seattle, WA

SOCIETY

Education, Arts & Community

Education Opportunities
Education Environments
School-Community Engagement
Ecological Literacy
Arts & Culture
Arts & Cultural Civic Support
Social & Cultural Diversity
Neighborhood Vitality
Civic Literacy + Engagement
Financial Literacy

Health & Safety

Health System
Health & Safety Literacy
Workplace Health & Safety
Food Access & Nutrition
Drinking Water Quality
Outdoor Air Quality
Indoor Air Quality
Toxics Reduction
Natural & Human Hazards
Emergency Prevention & Response
Safe Communities
Active Living & Recreation

Affordability & Social Equity

Government Transparency
Revenue Generation
Public Expenditures & Financial Investment
Infrastructure Investment
Social Cohesion
Human Services
Poverty Prevention & Alleviation
Civil & Human Rights
Cultural Practices
Environmental Justice
Equity Literacy
Adjudication & Restorative Justice
Community Empowerment
Equity Assessment & Planning

Goal: Food Access and Nutrition

Purpose

Reduce hunger and promote social equity, good health, and nutrition by ensuring every resident has physical and economic access to safe and nutritious food; provide opportunities for every resident to grow their own food; and educate residents about nutrition and the food system.

Validation Measure

The jurisdiction must complete the prerequisites and 5 of the 9 additional categories shown in bold below for 1 credit point in Food Access and Nutrition. Some categories have multiple options for achievement of that category (e.g. 1.a, 1.b, 1.c)—completion of only one of the options is required for completion of that category. Definitions and information regarding submittal templates are provided in the “Definitions” section.

Prerequisite: Policy Assessment and Planning Process

Document existence of a Local or Regional Food Policy Council.

Requirement Categories—Achieve 5 of 9

1. Local Food Production

- 1.a. Conduct a Food System Assessment of the local food economy and landscape.
- 1.b. Demonstrate a 15% annual increase in the total annual number of farmer-days at farmers markets within the jurisdiction per 10,000 residents in comparison to the previous year.
- 1.c. Amend Comprehensive/General Master Plan and zoning codes for the jurisdiction in order to establish land use protections for farmers markets, community gardens, or urban agriculture.

2. Food Procurement

- 2.a. Existence of a policy that mandates that all food sold at all facilities owned, leased, and operated by the jurisdiction meet healthy food and nutrition standards.
- 2.b. All schools in the jurisdiction have a school wellness policy for all food sold (e.g. meal menus and vending machines) that includes healthy food and nutrition standards. In addition, documentation must exist showing that the local government has conducted outreach to businesses in the jurisdiction by promoting the school wellness policies as models for workplace wellness policies that address food access and nutrition.

3. Food and Nutrition Literacy

- 3.a. Demonstrate effort to improve food and nutrition literacy by hosting or sponsoring ongoing nutrition and food production educational classes or promoting State led SNAP-Ed activities in the jurisdiction.
- 3.b. Presence of farm-to-school program at the school in the jurisdiction serving the largest number of students.

Health & Safety

Municipal Control

Yes

No

Yes: Municipalities typically have direct control over outcome.

No: Municipalities can influence outcome.

Note: For city governments, estimating items c9.1 and c9.2 based on county statistics is not acceptable – primary data collection specific to the city is required.

Submittal Requirements

Letter Confirming Existence

In general, proving existence of policies and programs in this measure requires providing documentation that they existed within six months of the submittal date, and also written attestation from the jurisdiction's certification administrator that they do continue to exist at the time of the submittal. Items that fall under this requirement include:

1.c 2.a 2.b 3.a 3.b 4.b 5.b 6.a 7.a 7.b 7.c.

Data and Calculations

Data collection and calculations for performance based items, and outreach activities required for certain items, must be shown to have occurred within 1 year of the submittal date. Items that fall under this requirement include:

1.b 4.a 4.c 5.a

Documentation of Practices

Practice based items such as assessments and action plan reports must be shown to have been completed within 2 years of the submittal date. Items that fall under this requirement include the Prerequisite (PR) and:

PR 1.a 6.b 8.a 9.a 9.b

Additional submittal requirements for select items are clarified below.

Prerequisite (PR)

The STAR submittal template for showing existence of an FPC will include the items below. All are required fields for this category's submittal.

- Name, Title, Agency, and contact information for each member of the FPC, showing representation from each of the groups listed in the definition above.
- Listing of all governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders in the community related to food access and nutrition, such as representatives from the general public, nonprofit and community-based organizations and coalitions, public agencies, and private firms and businesses.
- Description of existing governmental and nongovernmental programs and policies in the community, neighborhood, school, and workplace environments related to food access, food and nutrition literacy, nutrition, and local food production.
- Description of goals, objectives, and actions steps for every category listed in the Food Access and Nutrition validation measure.

Definitions

Food Policy Council (FPC) is a formal coalition of community members that includes low-income and food insecure residents, and representatives from public agencies (particularly the planning and public health departments and school districts), nonprofit and community-based organizations, direct farmer-to-consumer sales spokespersons, and relevant private firms and businesses. The function of a FPC is to help inventory, analyze, and assess food security, food access, nutrition, and the local food economy, and then develop goals, objectives and action steps for improvement in these areas, using a participatory process of community engagement.

Food System Assessment is a comprehensive assessment of the local food economy as defined by the TAC4 goal area “Food Systems”. For the purpose of this Beta version of STAR, since the TAC4 Food Systems goal has not been completed yet, a Food System Assessment will be defined as a report that demonstrates the collection of data on the number, type, location, and size of community gardens and food production sites in the jurisdiction, and inventory of the availability of land, buildings, and other assets in jurisdiction for potential new food production sites, direct farmer-to-consumer sales locations, distribution centers, or storage areas.

Farmer-day is any part of a calendar day spent by a farm vendor at a farmers market, excluding craft vendors and prepared food vendors. The number of annual farmer-days for a particular farmers market can be estimated by multiplying the number of days that the farmers market was open in a year by the number of farm vendors present on a given day.

Farmers market [TBD...Licensed? may or may not need definition?]

Land use protections are incorporation of language into the jurisdiction’s Comprehensive/General Master Plan to protect and expand farmers markets or urban agriculture, and explicit inclusion of these uses in zoning codes, thus establishing operation of an outdoor farmers market or urban garden as an approved use of land in any specific zoning districts chosen by the community. This reduces the vulnerability of the site being closed down as an “illegal” land use or being displaced by development that is expressly allowed in the zoning district. The zoning code amendment can also include language that ensures farmers markets and urban agriculture are subject to other regulations the community wishes to impose.

Increase Your Food Bucks is a program that expands the benefits of the federal government Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by matching funds spent at participating local farmers markets with tokens that can be used to buy locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Grocery store is a supermarket or full-service grocery store that holds official status as a WIC Vendor, a vendor with requirements for fruit, vegetable and other food group sales. The store must also accept federal food assistance stipend via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT).

Direct farmer-to-consumer sales location are sites where consumers can buy directly from farmers, including farmers markets, farm stands, CSA programs, food buying clubs, and pick your own.

Healthy Food Financing Initiative is a program designed to attract investment in underserved communities by providing critical loan and grant financing to new fresh food retailers looking to overcome the higher-cost initial barriers to entry. Comprehensive programs of this type also include support for renovation and

Policies and Programs

- Community Food Security Coalition, *Getting Food on the Table: An Action Guide to Local Food Policy* includes a department by department inventory of local programs, policies and functions that provide opportunities for supporting community food security. The guide also includes case studies, advice from experienced food policy advocates, a resource guide and federal funding sources.
- PolicyLink. This research institute has released several reports on community food policies and programs, and tracks the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) -- recent state legislation and pending federal legislation designed to attract investment in underserved communities by providing critical loan and grant financing to fresh food retailers looking to overcome the higher-cost initial barriers to entry.
- Prevention Institute, *Recipes for Change: Healthy Food in Every Community* was originally developed as a learning document for the Convergence Partnership. The paper outlines organizational practices and public policies to expand access to healthy foods in support of healthy eating and better overall health.
- Public Health Law & Policy (PHLP). This independent nonprofit organization partners with government staff, advocates, and other community leaders to provide practical solutions to a wide range of public health problems. They have authored a number of reports that address healthy food access and nutrition through the lens of preventing childhood obesity. The reports titled *Model Healthy Food Zone Ordinance* and *Establishing Land Use Protections for Farmers' Markets*, which are linked below, are particularly informative.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Recommended Community Strategies and Measurements to Prevent Obesity in the United States* was published in July 2009 and includes specific strategies for promoting the availability of affordable healthy food and suggests potential indicators and measures of success.
- Center for Ecoliteracy, *Rethinking School Lunch* is a guide that explains the rationale for reforming school food and explores ten pathways to achieve a vision of healthy children ready to learn, food literate graduates, invigorated local communities, sustainable agriculture, and a healthy environment. The *Model Wellness Policy Guide* provides suggestions for improving school wellness policies, which are often mandated by federal law but could be greatly improved.
- Fair Food Network. Programs such as Double Up Food Bucks expand the benefits the federal government Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by matching funds spent at participating local farmers' markets with tokens that can be used to buy locally grown fruits and vegetables.
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Green Cart Program. NYC's Green Cart program provides permitting and regulation for raw fruit and vegetable mobile vendors in each of the city's boroughs.

Assessment, Data Collection and Mapping

- Community Food Security Coalition, *What's Cooking in Your Food System? A Guide to Community Food Assessment* includes research methods and case studies of nine Community Food Assessments; tips for planning and organizing an assessment; strategies for promoting community participation; and ideas for turning assessment into action.
- United States Department of Agriculture, *Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit*