

Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board Planning/Tracking 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 [through local governments facilitating conducive environments];
4. a robust and just local economy through strengthening all five sectors of the food system; and
5. the preservation of agricultural land, family farming, food traditions and heritage in Austin and Travis County.

Food Access and Wellness Area

1. equitable access to healthy food

<i>Policy Objective</i> 1.1 (7 votes)	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]		
<i>Working Group Name</i> <i>Purpose</i>	<i>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</i>	<i>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</i>	<i>Policy Outcome(s)</i>
<u>Food Desert Stakeholder Identification Group</u> Assess current efforts in Austin/Travis County and identify relevant stakeholders (e.g. HHSC, USDA, THI, Share our	<i>Ronda Rutledge/Griffin Kelp (Tx Hunger Initiative)/MMS</i>	<i>February 2012</i>	<i>A thorough hunger assessment to guide the SFPB to make policy recommendations around hunger</i>

Policy Objective 1.1 (7 votes)	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]		
Strength, grocers, co-ops)			<i>alleviation in the city/county.</i>

2. consumption of local, fresh, and quality sustainably-produced food:

Policy Objective 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.		
Working Group Name Purpose	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
<u>Central Texas SNAP Participation Work Group (existing)</u> Increase participation in, and impact of, federal food and nutrition programs such as SNAP, WIC, CACFP, Summer Food Program, etc.	Kathy Green		

Policy Objective 2.2: (6 votes):	Remove zoning and policy barriers and create incentives to improve and rebuild local food production, processing, and distribution systems appropriate to location and scale.		
Working Group Name Purpose	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
<u>Zoning Research Group</u> Work with various stakeholders and a research intern to determine local zoning pertaining to food retail in the city and the county as well as assess other city/county zoning-friendly practices.			

Policy Objective 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.		
Working Group Name Purpose	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
<u>Better Foods in City/County Venues Work Group</u> (existing group) 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.	BrdMbr: Ronda/ Chair: Joy Casanovsky/ Liaison: MMS	Report by Aug 2012	

3. culture of good food as a right;

Policy Objective 3.2: (7 votes)	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		
Working Group Name Purpose	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
<u>Imagine Austin Work Group</u> Influence Imagine Austin comprehensive plan process to ensure that the City/County SFPB objectives are included in a clear and comprehensive manner. Understand the Imagine Austin process to enable full stakeholder response and participation in issues important to the City and County relating to food and the local economy.	BrdMbr: MMS /Chair: MMS /Liaison: MMS	Begin: October 2011 Final Report April 25, 2012	Provide research and policy recommendations throughout the Imagine Austin process to city planners, the Citizens Advisory Task Force, the relevant Planning Commission work group, and ultimately, City Council prior to final approval.

Food Production and Business

4. robust and just local food system;

Policy Objective 4.2:	Assess potential resource recovery for farmers and residents inherent in the wastage/surplus of food in Austin/Travis County.		
Working Group Name Purpose	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
<u>Food Surplus & Salvage Working Group (existing group)</u> Clarify existing policies as they relate to food surplus and salvage activities and expand the capacity for food to be safely delivered to its highest and best use (1. Humans 2. Animals 3. Compost), and none to the landfill.	Mbr: Paige /Chair: Brandi Clark /Liaison: Adam King		

Policy Objective 4.4: (9 votes)	Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.		
Working Group Name Purpose	Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison	Begin Date/ Board Report(s)	Policy Outcome(s)
<u>Local Food Retail Capacity Building</u> To identify specific city and/or county codes, permits, variances, policies, programs, and/or procedures that will facilitate the creation and success of new (or existing) 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. The working group will then make suggestions to SFPB to recommend to relevant policy makers. Participants: <i>Existing and potential food businesses, retailers, city/county staff, researchers, related organizations and individuals, specifically those familiar with code/planners.</i>	P.McDemott/ Chair - TBD (possibly member of Congress for New Urbanism) Liaison: Adam King	Convene: May 2012 1st report to SFPB Exec. Committee - June Recommendations to SFPB - September	Implementation of new policies/procedures or programs by city and/or county; and system of data collection on metrics to measure success of said policies/procedures and or programs.

Policy Objective 4.4: (9 votes)	Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.		
<u>Distribution/Processing Assessment Work Group</u> Research national models for processing facilities and assistance via incentive monies from the city-county for food production	<i>Brd Mbr: Erin Flynn</i> <i>Chair:</i> <i>Liaison: Adam King</i>		
<u>Sustainable Water Use and Conservation (3 votes)</u> Convene stakeholders to: 1. review barriers to agricultural water access and 2. create a comprehensive water conservation strategy for food producers in Austin and Travis County that 3. serves as a catalyst for multi-county initiative	<i>Brdmbr: Erin</i> <i>/Chair: K.Kraemer</i> <i>Liaison: Adam King</i>		