

Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board

Proposed 2016 Purpose, Goals, and Working Groups

Proposed 2016 Board Purpose:

“The purpose of the Austin/Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board is to address health disparities, increase local sustainable food production, and end food injustice through advocacy and researched-based policy. We strive to ensure the community has a voice in policy decisions that support a healthy, thriving, and resilient community-based food system in Austin and Travis County.”

Proposed 2016 Board Goals:

- More participation in 2016 leading to a thriving Board
- Training options for Board members in (but not limited to) A/TC policies and procedures, Texas Open Meetings Act, Robert’s Rules and Meeting format, technology options available to Board members, and the state of the food shed in Central Texas
- Monitoring and advancing (within limits and decorum) of our recommended policies and budgetary items
- Continue working on City and County policies to support healthy, local, sustainable food
- Lend support to Working Groups and individual Board members to encourage regular outreach to and engagement of Council members, Commissioners, stakeholders, and the public at large to promote the mission of the SFPB
- Work with Code Next to promote the policy space and options needed for a vibrant community-based food system
- Begin work with departments and stakeholders on “Tip Sheets” for working in and with the various parts of the local food system
- Promote the work of the SFPB Working Groups

Proposed 2016 Working Groups:

- Farmland Preservation and Access
 - “Develop policies and procedures to preserve existing farmland and to increase access of new farmland to aspiring and seasoned farmers alike from diverse backgrounds, diverse communities, and diverse skillsets.”
- Codes and Ordinances
 - “Work to ensure a comprehensive yet accessible set of codes, ordinances, policies, rules, and billing throughout Austin and Travis County to stimulate a thriving community-based food system.”
- Food Safety and Innovation

- “Encourage thoughtful and needed innovation in the local food system while working with stakeholders to ensure appropriate standards of food safety.”
- Healthy Food Security and Access
 - “Use the tools of advocacy and researched-based policy to encourage greater access of healthy food and education options in traditional and nontraditional venues and work towards a secure food future for all.”
- Budget and Policy
 - “Collaborate with the Austin City Council, the Travis County Commissioners’ Court, and their staff to monitor and advance budgetary and policy items related to the goals of the Sustainable Food Policy Board.”