

Board and Commission Council Committee Agenda Item Request

Name of Board or Commission: Joint Sustainability Committee

Request Number: 20180228-04A

Description of Item:

The Joint Sustainability Committee encloses the attached Proposed Food and Climate Addendum to the Austin Community Climate Plan for your consideration. The strategies and actions in this addendum are intended to be effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and are based on extensive best-practice research. The recommendations take into consideration:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the food system, which accounts for 25% of Austin's carbon footprint.
- Creating healthy food systems, which steward natural resources and mitigate carbon emissions.
- Aligning environmental health with healthy bodies, vibrant communities, and strong local economies by encouraging a plant-based diet.
- Enhancing the resilience and sustainability of Austin's local food production capabilities in the face of climate changes and challenges.

The Joint Sustainability Committee supports this Addendum because Austin has committed to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emission by 2050 (Resolution 20140410-024), and the food sector is an important contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. While current plans address energy and natural gas, transportation and land use, and waste and materials management, the food system has not been leveraged in the pursuit of a sustainable and green city. Including strategies which address the food system in Austin's Climate Action Plan will also realize co-benefits such as a healthier population and a healthier environment.

Achievable, practical and effective approaches identified here are critical to the success of this effort, and build upon the experiences of other forward-looking and innovative municipal governments from across the United States. By including the food system in the larger goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, the Austin City Council will move closer to fulfilling its 2007 resolution to "make Austin the leading city in the nation in the effort to reduce the negative impacts of global warming." We recommend that anticipated updates to Austin's Community Climate Plan include the food system in emissions mitigation strategies.

Board or Commission Vote to refer item to Council: Approved unanimously on a 11-0 vote, with Vice Chair Kaiba White and Committee Members Mary Ann Neely and Patricia Seeger absent

Date of Approval of Request: February 28, 2018

Attachments: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list the attachments: Food and Climate Addendum draft

Attest:



Jim Walker, Chair, Joint Sustainability Committee

MAYOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY	
Council Committee Assigned: <input type="checkbox"/> Audit and Finance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Human Services Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Housing and Planning Committee	
Recommend a Fiscal Analysis be completed?	
Recommend a Legal Analysis be completed?	
Notes:	
Mayor Signature & Date:	