



A Food Plan for Austin

Overview of the Comprehensive Food Plan, Food Appendix,
and Resilience Hubs



What is a Food System ?

The Office of Sustainability defines the *food system* as an *interconnected network* that includes everything that happens with food —where and how it is grown, distributed and sold, consumed, and ideally recovered. The food system is shaped by its stakeholders, practices, and the laws that regulate both.





Did you know ?

- 14.7% food insecurity in Travis County and 18 out of 47 zip codes in Travis County don't have a full service grocery store
- 16.8 acres of farmland are lost every day in Travis County
- Less than 1% of food consumed in Austin-Travis County is locally produced
- 1.24 million pounds of food is wasted every day in Austin

Developing Austin's first ever Food Plan





Resolution

In June 2021, Austin City Council directed the City Manager to initiate a planning process and multilingual engagement strategy for the creation of the Austin Travis County Food System Plan, which shall convene experts and stakeholders to craft a 5-year plan.

The Office Of Sustainability is the department in charge of overseeing the achievement of this goal.

Source: Austin City Council [RESOLUTION NO. 20210610-039](#)



Why do we need a Food Plan?

- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic & Winter Storm Uri exposed and exacerbated deficiencies in our food system.
- A Food Plan will set clear **Goals and Strategies** to mitigate the impact of future crises, correct the system's inequalities, and move toward a more equitable, sustainable & resilient food system that serves everyone.
- This will be Austin's first ever Food Plan; when completed, it will provide a coordinating structure for all food related initiatives to work towards a shared vision and address key issues



State of the Food System 2022

Office of Sustainability is currently drafting an updated version of Austin's State of the Food System .

Builds off State of the Food System Reports from [2015](#) and [2018](#).

The State of the Food System report will serve as a foundational document to help ground participants in the planning process with context of our local food system . It will cover key terms, trends & challenges, key questions, and facts around the various sectors of the food system .

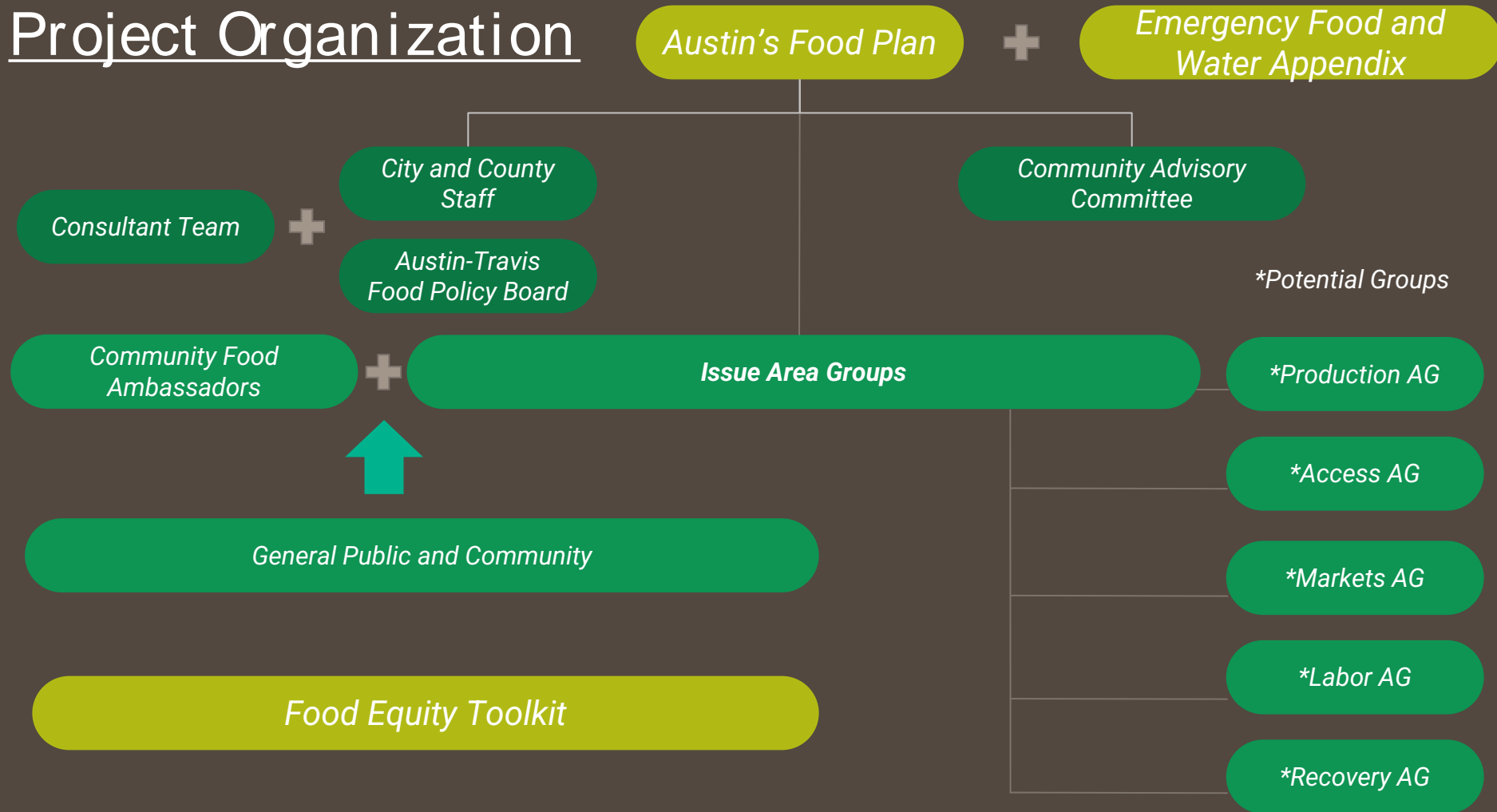


Finding the Right Project Team

The Office of Sustainability is in the process of hiring a Consultant Team experienced in project planning, food systems and equitable community engagement to support the development and implementation Austin's first Food Plan.

The proposals have been evaluated and the decision will be shared with Council for approval in late July.

Project Organization



Next Steps



Coming up soon



Now

Summer 2022

Fall 2022

Outreach and Community
Awareness

Consultant Onboarding
and Kickoff Meeting

CAC Recruitment
and Selection



Project Timeline



- 1 • Research
- Planning for the Plan
- Consultant RFP

- 2 • Develop a Baseline Report
- Initial Engagement
- Consultant Selection

- 3 • CAC Recruitment
- Consultant Onboarding
- Kickoff Meeting

- 4 • Community Engagement
- Operationalize Equity
- Visioning

- 5 • Goal setting framework
- Develop Strategies
- Community workshops

- 6 • Community Review
- Accountability Structures
- Develop evaluation tools

- 7 • Final Community Review
- Presentation to stakeholders
- Plan Adoption



Stay involved



Regular Updates

Sign up for our [Food Plan Interest Form](#) to stay in the loop!

State of the Food System Release

Dive deeper into Austin's Food System. Available this Summer at austintexas.gov/department/sustainability

Spread the word

Outreach materials coming early this Summer. Email : Sergio.torres-peralta@austintexas.gov for updates.

A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a light green background with white line-art illustrations of various food items including a pumpkin, a chili pepper, a slice of citrus, a leafy vegetable, a strawberry, a pomegranate, a pea pod, another slice of citrus, a whole fruit, and a corn cob.

Disaster Food & Water Appendix

- Working with Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) and other departments
- Creating a plan to supplement the Emergency Operations Plan
- Will include learnings from Winter Storm Uri, COVID-19, boil water notices, and other possible scenarios



Project Overview

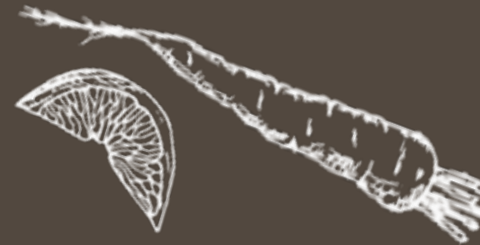
HSEM and the Office of Sustainability have contracted Hagerty Consulting to support the City of Austin in building out the capability and planning components related to **food and drinking water access operations specific to disasters**.

The goal is to develop a plan for responding to various types of disasters with food and water resources that will be needed by our community, and clear roles and responsibilities to implementing the Plan.

The objectives are to develop a Disaster Food Access and Drinking Water Appendix that:

- Engages City departments and key disaster food/water partners,
- Builds upon the current organization structure within the EOC to coordinate disaster food and water response,
- Leverages lessons learned from COVID-19 response and Winter Storm Uri, and
- Increases knowledge through a Mass Care Training for City of Austin personnel and key stakeholders.

Project Overview



Project 1: Disaster Food Access and Drinking Water Appendix

- Develop an Appendix to HSEM's Emergency Operations Plan that will describe disaster food/water operations and incorporate lessons learned from recent emergency events and provide training on the Appendix.
- Project duration: 6 Months.

Project 2: Mass Care Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

- Create a unifying tool that incorporates the ~15 existing mass care-related plans and guides coordination between the Mass Care Branch Chief and other EOC leadership.
- Project duration: 4 Months.



Resilience Hubs

PLAN:

- Conduct an **assessment** to identify potential locations for resilience hubs.
- Explore "**passive survivability**", redundant power and water.
- Engagement with each community, center the needs of the **most vulnerable** and affected community members.
- Potential resilience hubs are based on **15-minute walkshed** of each neighborhood.

DELIVERABLE:

- **Budget** sufficient to fund recommendations and strategies to design and equip hubs.
- Plan, budget recommendations, funding strategies, and a timeline for designing and equipping an initial **six pilot hubs for disasters**.
- Intergovernmental **memorandum** necessary to memorialize community partnerships necessary to create resilience hubs."



Why do we need a Resilience Hub Network?

Disaster Frequency and Intensity is Increasing

- Extreme Weather Events
- Power and Water Outages
- Health & Safety emergencies

Extreme Weather Events Highlight the Need For:

- Accessible community spaces
- Distribution centers (water, food, medicine, etc.)
- Back-up power & water
- Sheltering during events
- Truly engaging community

Equity Focus

- Empower low-income communities and communities of color in the planning process
- Build an equity lens for all staff participating in the process
- Move as much as possible towards community leadership and ownership of the work

Intersections: Resilience Hub Network + Disaster Food & Water Appendix + 5-Year Food Plan



Feedback from 5-Year Food Planning process and table-top exercises (as well as lived experiences) **inform** amendments to Disaster Food & Water Appendix

Thank You!



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