



# A Food Plan for Austin

Developing the City's first -ever Food Plan



# 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?

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- 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



# When disaster strikes

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- Lack of supplies and limited organized means of distribution
- Road conditions can prevent people from getting what they need
- Support services closed
- Long lines and bare shelves
- Emergency supplies lack food that meets culture and dietary needs

A vertical decorative border on the left side of the slide, featuring a light green background with white line-art illustrations of various food items and nature elements. From top to bottom, the illustrations include: a speech bubble icon, a pumpkin, a chili pepper, a slice of citrus fruit, a leafy vegetable, a strawberry, a pomegranate, a pea pod, a slice of citrus fruit, a whole fruit, and a corn cob.

# Disaster Food & Water Appendix

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- 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

# Developing Austin's first ever Food Plan





# Why do we need a Food Plan?

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- 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



# Resolution

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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. 20210610039](#)



# State of the Food System 2022

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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.



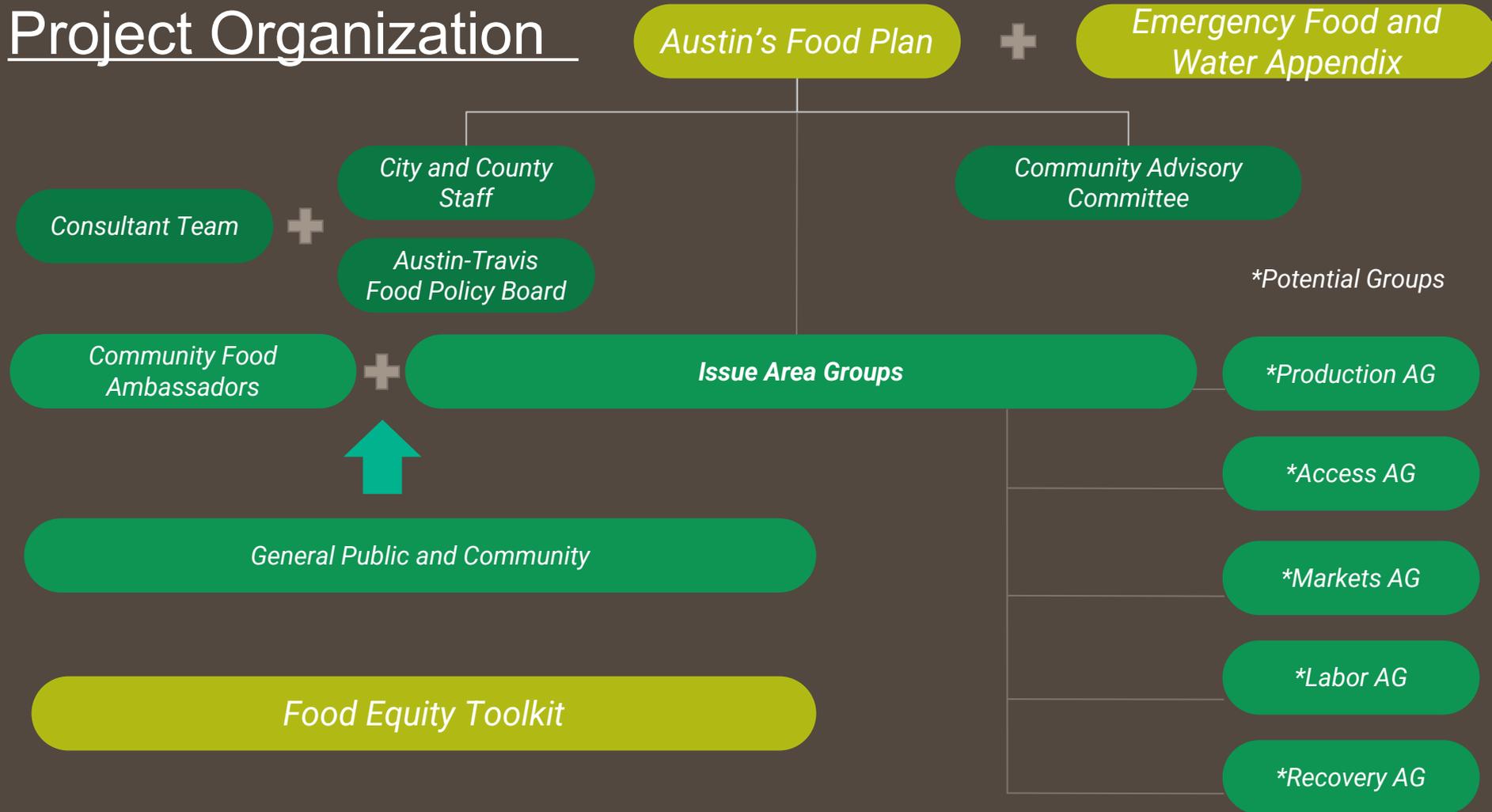
# Finding the Right Project Team

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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





# Community Advisory Committee

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A good plan has to be grounded in its community.

The City Council's resolution requires this process be led by a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) – which will be comprised of community members impacted by food system inequities, small business owners, food access organizers, & other stakeholders.

The CAC will oversee the planning process, help determine the Focus Areas for the Issue Area Groups, refine goals for the Plan, and assist in community outreach.



# Issue Area Groups

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The Issue Area Groups will be *thematic* working groups that will provide of background information on an specific food system area based on the participants experience.

The number and the themes of the AG's will be determined with the help of our Community Advisory Committee and will provide critical input when developing goals and metrics.



# 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

# Next Steps



Coming up soon



*Now*

*Summer 2022*

*Fall 2022*

Outreach and Community  
Awareness

Consultant Onboarding  
and Kickoff Meeting

CAC Recruitment  
and Selection



# Stay involved

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## 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](http://austintexas.gov/department/sustainability)

## Spread the word

Outreach materials coming early this Summer. Email : [Sergio.torres - peralta@austintexas.gov](mailto:Sergio.torres-peralta@austintexas.gov) for updates.



In your community,  
Who needs to be  
involved in the Food  
Planning process?



# Thank You!

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[www.austintexas.gov/food](http://www.austintexas.gov/food)



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