



# **Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board Strategic Planning**

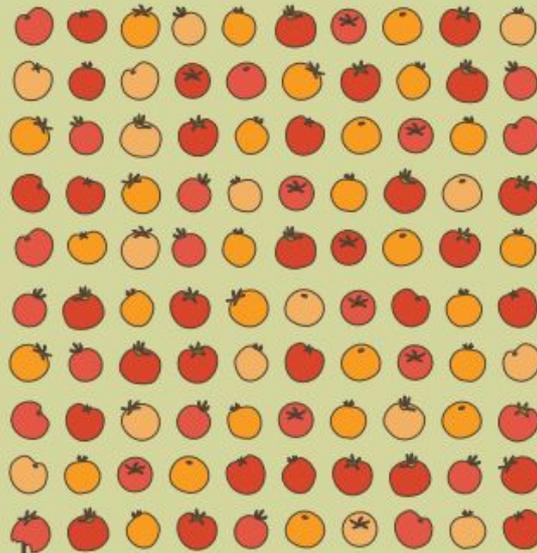


*Presentation to the ATCFPB – August, 2022*

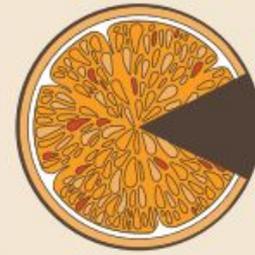
# What is a Food System?



# Food for Thought



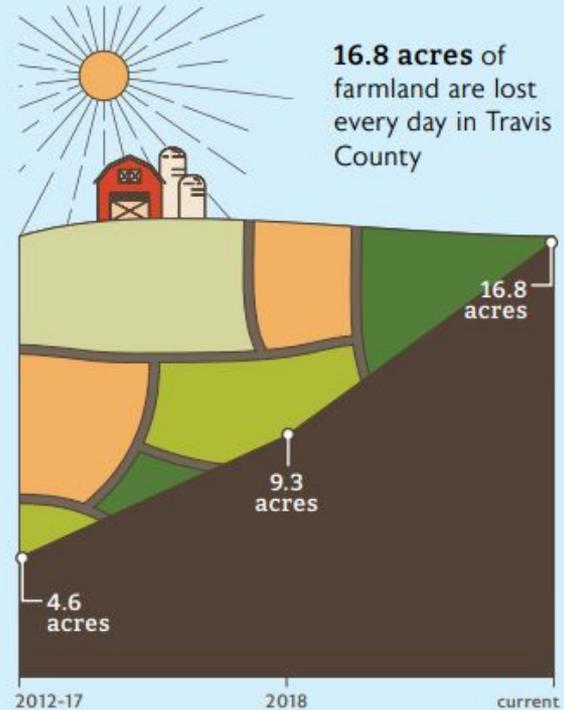
Approximately **0.06%** of food consumed in Travis County is locally produced



**14.4%** of people in Travis County experience **food insecurity**

**1.24 million pounds** of food is wasted every day in Austin

Food is responsible for **21% of all greenhouse gas emissions** created by everyone in our community



**16.8 acres** of farmland are lost every day in Travis County

# State of the Food System 2022

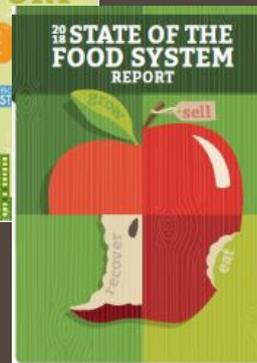
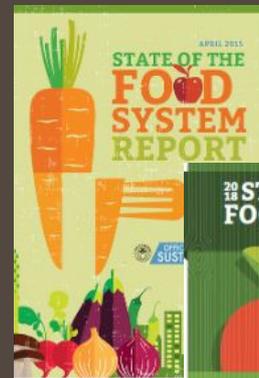


# A Baseline Assessment

*The State of The Food System  
2022*—an update to *SOFTS 2015* and  
2018.

Provides a brief history of the Austin  
Food System

Each section contains Overview, Trends  
and Challenges, Policy Actions, Key  
Questions & Facts





# Food Production

**Key Question: How might more of the food consumed in Austin be grown or produced locally?**

## Current State



- ❖ 53 community gardens, 218 school gardens, & 3 food forests in Austin.
- ❖ Fruits & vegetables are only 3.4% of county food production
- ❖ Farm land is overwhelmingly owned by white men

## Policy Actions



- ❖ Freedom Colonies & the 1928 Master Plan
- ❖ Urban Farm Ordinance
- ❖ Water use in Texas
- ❖ Austin Climate Equity Plan





# Food Processing & Distribution

**Key Question: How can we strengthen increased economic development, workforce development, and worker ownership in the food processing sector?**

## Current State

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- ❖ 166 CPF's & 114 Food Manufacturing sites in Travis County
- ❖ Over 4000 employed in Food Manufacturing & Processing sector
- ❖ 0 Food Hubs

## Policy Actions

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- ❖ Food Enterprises Permits
- ❖ Food Hub Feasibility Study
- ❖ Nourish Austin





# Food Markets and Retail

**Key Question: What role can food businesses play in food system resilience and disaster response efforts?**

## Current State

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- ❖ 2021—72% of TX restaurants are short-staffed
- ❖ Travis County food service workers average \$11.25/hr
- ❖ 25 Farmers Markets, 18 CSA's
  
- ❖ **\$2.3 billion food production—consumption gap in Central Texas.**

## Policy Actions

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- ❖ Neighborhood Pop Up Grocery
- ❖ Farmers' markets permitting & fees
- ❖ Community-owned retail establishment (ARPA \$)





# Food Consumption and Access

**Key Question: How can access to nutritious, healthy, and culturally relevant food be ensured throughout a person's entire lifespan?**

## Current State

- ❖ 101 of Supermarkets, 583 Convenience Stores
- ❖ 14.4% Food Insecurity in Travis County.
- ❖ 46% of Eligible Population for SNAP has yet to enroll
  - SNAP Vehicle Asset Test + other barrier
- ❖ Top 10 211 calls related to food access come from the Eastern Crescent.

## Policy Actions

- ❖ Fresh for Less
- ❖ Charitable Feeding Organization permitting
- ❖ Austin Climate Equity Plan
- ❖ Farmers Market Nutrition Program





# Post Consumption and Food Waste

**Key Question: How might we reduce food insecurity through the coordination and donation of surplus food?**

## Current State

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- ❖ 1.24 million pounds of food are wasted every day in the Austin Area
- ❖ Food waste is responsible for 1.2 million metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year
- ❖ Curbside & commercial compost pickups keep 6,434 metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions out of the atmosphere per year

## Policy Actions

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- ❖ Curbside Compost Program
- ❖ ARR and URO (2014)
- ❖ Chicken Keeping Rebate Program
- ❖ City of Austin's Zero Waste





# Food Justice

**Key Question: How can we support and develop leaders from low-income communities and communities of color that have been excluded from food policy conversations?**

## Current State

- ❖ Colonization, displacement & structural racism
- ❖ Racial disparity in health & food insecurity
- ❖ COVID-19: 60% of Hispanic/Latinx individuals reported food insecure compared to 24% of white people
- ❖ Low wage for food workers (predominantly people of color)

## Policy Actions

- ❖ Creation of the Austin Equity Office
- ❖ Food Justice Mini Grant Program
- ❖ Paid Sick Leave preemption



# Existing Work and Contracts:

Funding that COA provides to  
external organizations to  
improve food systems



**COA contracts to support food system FY 22**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Department (Contract Mgmt)</b>
Community-Owned Food Retail	\$500,000	EDD
Meals on Wheels and More	\$482,700	APH - Social Services
El Buen Samaritano - ARPA Food Access and Healthy Futures	\$408,859	APH - Social Services
Farmshare Austin - Mobile Markets / Curbside Delivery	\$341,141	APH - Social Services
EquidadATX - LiveWell Vive Bien Services	\$250,000	APH - Social Services
Food System Planning	\$250,000	OoS
Central Texas Food Bank - Food Distribution	\$240,123	APH - Social Services
Farmshare Austin - Mobile Markets / Curbside Delivery	\$204,000	APH - Chronic Disease Prevention
Sustainable Food Center - ARPA Nutritious Food Incentive Program	\$100,000	APH - Chronic Disease Prevention
Sustainable Food Center - Double Up Food Bucks	\$77,003	APH - Social Services
Food Justice Mini Grant	\$75,000	OoS
Foundation Communities - Healthy Food Access Pantries and Pop-ups	\$65,000	APH - Chronic Disease Prevention
Sustainable Food Center - Mobile Market Outreach	\$60,000	APH - Chronic Disease Prevention
Central Texas Food Bank - Social Services Outreach	\$59,720	APH - Social Services
Central Texas Food Bank - College Food Access Fund	\$57,500	APH - Social Services
Meals on Wheels and More - Healthy Equity	\$52,429	APH - Social Services
University of Texas at Austin - Program Evaluation	\$35,000	APH - Chronic Disease Prevention
Segovia Produce Limited - Healthy Corner Store Program	\$30,000	APH - Chronic Disease Prevention
Cooks Nook- Healthy Corner Store Program	\$14,000	APH- Chronic Disease Prevention
Chronic Disease Prevention Food Access Mini Grant	\$2,500	APH - Chronic Disease Prevention
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,304,975</b>	

# Travis County HHS Funding Summary FY21

## FUNDING SUMMARY

Agency Name	Program Name	FY 2021 Funding Amount
Capital Area Rural Transportation System	Rural Access	\$180,755
Caritas of Austin	Community Kitchen	\$84,000
Catholic Charities of Central Texas	Immigration Legal Services	\$90,000
Central Texas Food Bank, Inc.	Food Bank Core Services	\$57,766
Central Texas Food Bank, Inc.	Mobile Food Pantry	\$60,000
Sustainable Food Center	Grow Local	\$56,000
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.	Public Benefits Advocacy Project	\$60,000
Meals on Wheels Central Texas	Congregate Senior Centers Meal Program	\$143,059
Meals on Wheels Central Texas	Meals on Wheels	\$167,376
Vivent Health	HIV Food Pantry Program	\$123,882

## Travis County Food Related Spending NOT included here:

- Shelter-based services that may serve food
- One time spending from federal funds (CARES & ARPA)
- HHS direct services that provide food
- Food-related contracts managed by other departments other than HHS (i.e., food for purchased for corrections department, etc.)

# Disaster and Emergency Preparedness:

Development of a Disaster Food & Water  
Appendix to the Austin-Travis County  
Emergency Operations Plan



# What about disasters?

We are working with HSEM & other departments to develop a **Disaster Food & Drinking Water Appendix\***

A **Food Supply Chain Vulnerability Analysis\*\*** will be developed to complement the Plan and Appendix



\* Draft of the Disaster Food and Drinking Water Appendix is expected to be complete by fall 2022.

\*\* Draft of the Food Supply Chain Vulnerability Analysis is expected to be complete by 2023.

# Developing the Austin Food Plan:

Project team & where we are now





# What is a Food Plan & why do we need one?

- A Food Plan will set clear **Goals and Strategies** to move toward a more equitable, sustainable & resilient food system and provide a coordinating structure for all food related initiatives
  - The Food Plan build on several other initiatives made by the City to tackle food system issues.
- On June 2021 Austin City Council ***directed*** the City Manager to initiate a planning process

[Link to full resolution](#)

# Food Planning in the World



## Studying Best Practices

**14** Strategic Food Plans across United States and the World provided the framework for our own planning process.

- Food Forward: 10 Year Food Policy Plan( NYC)
- Eating Here: Greater Philadelphia's Food System Plan
- Seattle Food Action Plan
- Denver Food Action Plan
- Minneapolis Food Action Plan (MFAP)
- Santa Barbara County's 2016 Food Action Plan
- Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan
- What feeds us: Vancouver Food Strategy + Regional Food System Action Plan
- Edmonton's Food and Agriculture Strategy
- The London Food Strategy: Healthy and Sustainable Food for London
- Good Food for All - Advancing health equity through Hawaii's food system
- Multnomah Food Action Plan (OR)
- Vermont Agriculture and Food System Strategic Plan
- Food Vision 2030 (San Diego, CA)

# Food & City of Austin Plans Analysis



## Methodology

We analyzed **13 strategic plans** across the City of Austin where food plays a key role in their scope of work.

Analysis found **37 Goals, 102 Strategies**, and **196 Activities** related with Food Systems

Over **442,000** pieces of feedback received across all engagement plans.

- Austin Climate Equity Plan
- Our Parks Our Future
- Austin Public Health Strategic Plan 2020-2025
- Strategic Housing Blueprint
- Austin Strategic Direction 2023
- Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
- Austin Strategic Mobility Plan
- Watershed Master Plan
- Travis County Land, Water & Transportation Action Plan
- Community Health Improvement Plan CHA/CHIP
- Reimagining Public Safety
- AISD Sustainability Plan
- Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan

# Building Awareness



## Presentations to Boards & Commissions

- African American Resource Advisory Commission
- Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission
- Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission
- Parks and Recreation Board
- Joint Sustainability Committee
- Human Rights Commission
- Equity Action Team
- LGBTQ+ Quality of Life Advisory Commission
- Commission on Seniors
- Joint Inclusion Committee
- Commission for Women



# Centering Equity

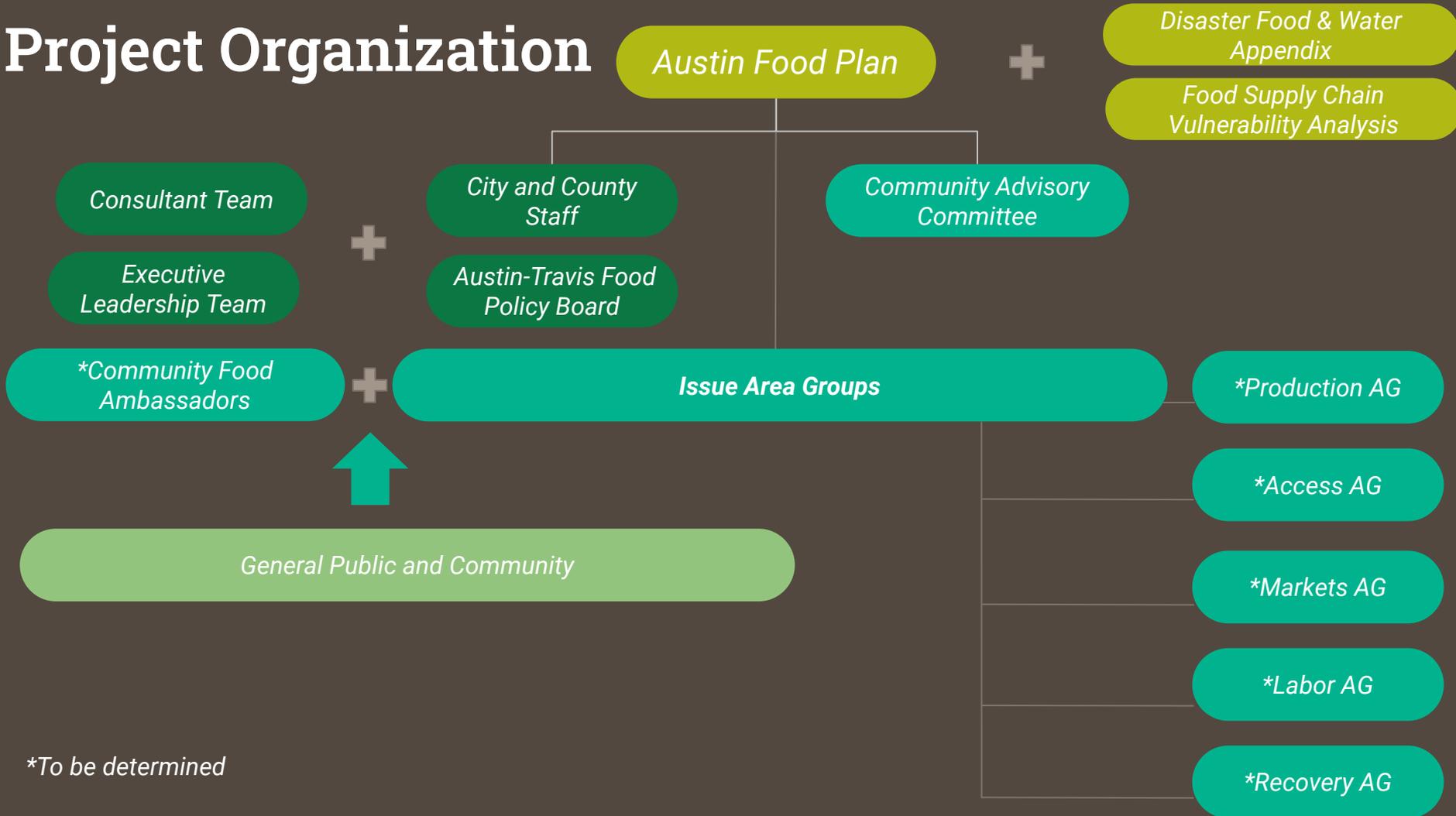
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The Austin Food Plan will center equity and the lived expertise of those most impacted by the current food system

This process be led by a **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**—the overseeing body of the food planning process, comprised of 50%+ individuals of color, a blend of community members, and other food system stakeholders.

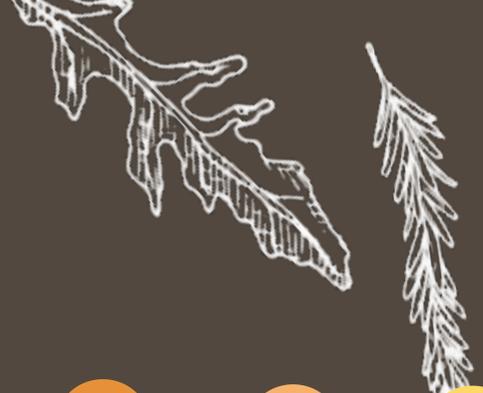
All members of the CAC , Project Team, and Issue Area Groups will participate in an Equity Workshop(s)

# Project Organization



*\*To be determined*

# Project Timeline



*Spring 2022*

*Summer-Fall 2022*

*Winter 2022*

*Spring 2023*

*Summer - Fall 2023*

*Early 2024*

# Next Steps for the Austin Food Plan



## Internal Review of Food Goals

Inter-departmental review of  
the food-related goals analysis

## State of the Food System Release

Available SOON at:  
[austintexas.gov/food](http://austintexas.gov/food)

## Onboarding the team

We are working to onboard  
Woollard Nichols &  
Associates.

CAC Recruitment and Food  
Planning Kick Off this Fall

# Opportunities for the Austin-Travis County Food Policy Board:

How to get involved





# Options for Plugging into Comprehensive and Disaster Food Planning

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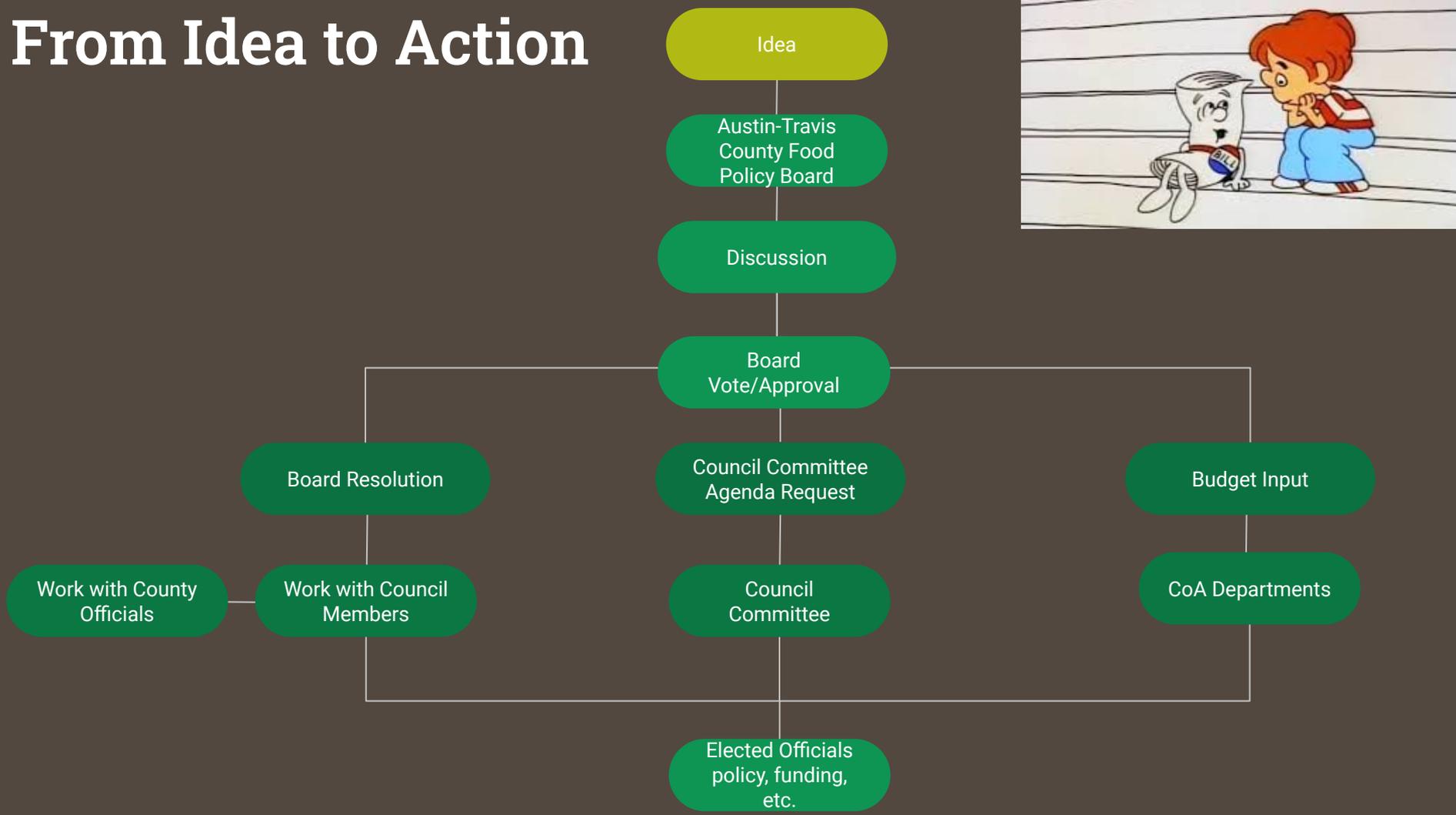
1. The Comprehensive Food Planning process will have at minimum one member from ATCFPB on the CAC.
2. Board can ask CAC member to report back at every full meeting and give them feedback to take to process.
3. Create an ongoing Working Group
4. Individual Board Members to participate in an Issue Area Group
5. Board Members to report regularly to Elected Officials on plan
6. Participate in community/stakeholder vetting of the Disaster Appendix
7. Once plan is developed, help with implementation



# Getting an idea to Elected Officials for consideration & further action

1. A **resolution** (see template) would be written to express your board's desire for Council and Commissioners to do something, and you write the "Whereas" clauses to express the context of it. The "Now therefore, be it resolved" section is where you make the ask.
  - a. **Resolutions may or may not be taken up and moved forward by a Council office or County Commissioners, and it requires advocates of the issue to proactively reach out and discuss this with potential Council or Commissioner champions.**
2. A **Council Committee Agenda Request** would make the request to the Mayor's Office to assign this topic to a Council Committee where it could give you all an opportunity to talk about it with a subset of Council members and they could decide to move it forward to the full City Council.
3. Budget **input** and engagement

# From Idea to Action



# Thank You!

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



[/austinsustainability](https://www.facebook.com/austinsustainability)



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CITY OF AUSTIN

# Appendix

Data, Charts, and Graphs





# Food Production - Key Questions

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How might more of the food consumed in Austin be grown or produced locally?

How could the City connect farmers and farmworkers with policymakers and involve them in planning processes?

Given land use competition, development pressures, and jurisdictional issues, how can we preserve land for farming and urban agriculture initiatives?

What is the city and county government's role in supporting local food production?

How might local food producers improve resilience in the face of climate disasters?

How could we measure the environmental impact of the regional food system?



# Food Processing & Distribution - Key Questions

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How might we establish food hubs to support networks of local food packaging and distribution?

How can government organizations and private food retailers support more local food in consumer packaged goods?

How can we support better conditions for workers in food processing and distribution?

How can we strengthen increased economic development, workforce development, and worker ownership in the food processing sector?



# Food Markets & Retail - Key Questions

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How can we support community-driven or publicly owned food retail models?

How might we increase access to capital and assistance for small and legacy food businesses?

What role can food businesses play in food system resilience and disaster response efforts?

How might we support our food industry workforce, and workers of color in particular?



# Food Consumption & Access - Key Questions

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How could full participation in federal nutrition programs be ensured?

How might food access programs in low-income communities and communities of color be supported without increasing gentrification?

What support can be provided for communities to implement their own solutions to food insecurity?

Amid the climate crisis, how can the City work with food producers, food retailers, and community members to promote a food system that is more resilient and prepared for disruptions?

How can access to nutritious, healthy, and culturally relevant food be ensured throughout a person's entire lifespan?



# Post-Consumption & Food Waste - Key Questions

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How can generators of discarded food, such as restaurants and grocery stores, build relationships with local or regional farms in need of feedstock?

How might we create higher demand for locally produced compost?

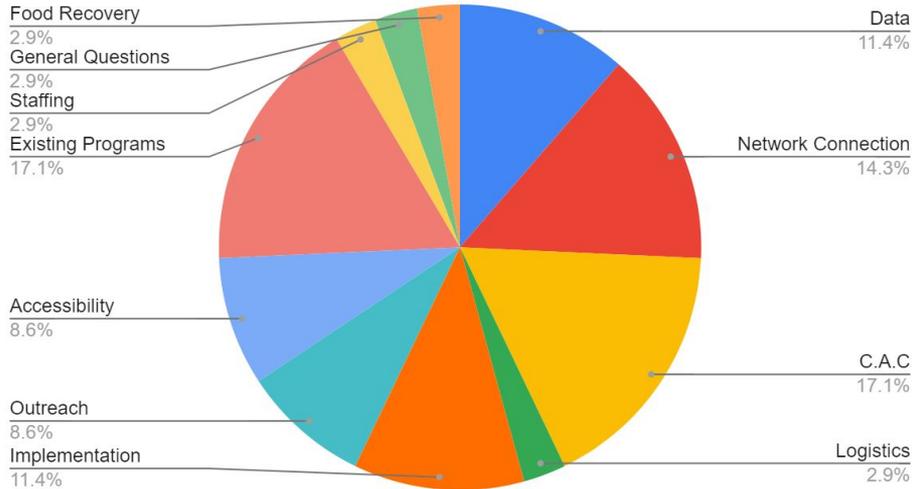
How can we reduce food waste in our community?

How might we reduce food insecurity through the coordination and donation of surplus food?

# Boards and Commissions Analysis



## Questions per Plan Area



## 35 pieces of feedback

17% of questions centered around C.A.C composition and its criteria.

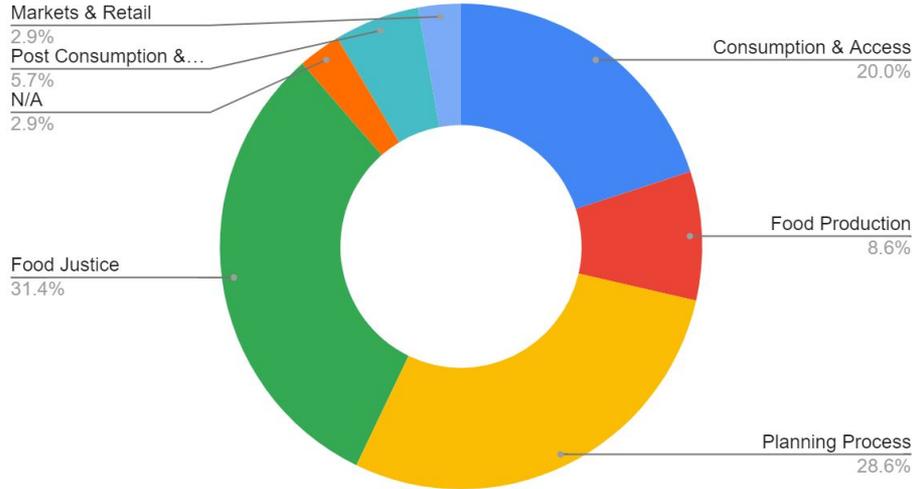
17% of the feedback received inquired about the compatibility of our process with existing programs.

Network connection ( who is involved in the process, and how to connect people with resources ) was the third most popular topic at 14%

# Presentations to Boards and Commissions Analysis



## Questions per System Areas



**Approximately 136 attendees**

31% of questions and comments were centered around Food Justice

28% of the feedback received was regarding logistics around the planning process. Many of them to ensure planning is as equitable as possible.

# Food & City of Austin Plans Analysis



## Visualizing our work

Analyzed data was exported into **Airtable**, A relational database and spreadsheet hybrid to helps us record, visualize, and analyze our work.

The screenshot displays a dashboard with four plan cards, each showing a summary of goals, strategies, activities, department, year, engagement strategies, priority populations, and status.

- Austin Climate Equity Plan**
  - GOALS: Overarching Strategies, Aggressive
  - STRATEGIES: Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship
  - ACTIVITIES: Develop initiatives and programs to
  - DEPARTMENT: Office of Sustainability
  - YEAR: 2020
  - ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES: Steering Committee, Advisory grou
  - PRIORITY POPULATIONS (PLAN LVL): People of color, community memb...
  - STATUS: Recently Published
  - # OF PARTICIPANTS: 2101
- Our Parks Our Future**
  - GOALS: Ensure Parks Act as a Relief From Ur
  - STRATEGIES: Increase the number of community
  - ACTIVITIES: Establish a community garden at ev
  - DEPARTMENT: Austin Parks and Recreation
  - YEAR: 2019
  - ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES: Virtual Meetings, Focus groups OP
  - PRIORITY POPULATIONS (PLAN LVL): Off-leash dog advocates, active ol...
  - STATUS: Ongoing
  - # OF PARTICIPANTS: 5058
- Austin Public Health Strategie...**
  - GOALS: Promote healthy development and I
  - STRATEGIES: Percent of women enrolled in Wom
  - ACTIVITIES: Percentage of residents eligible for :
  - DEPARTMENT: Austin Public Health
  - YEAR: 2019
  - ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES: -
  - PRIORITY POPULATIONS (PLAN LVL): -
  - STATUS: Ongoing
  - # OF PARTICIPANTS: 0
- Strategic Housing**
  - GOALS: Prevent households
  - STRATEGIES: Use Incentives to Su
  - ACTIVITIES: Incentives should be
  - DEPARTMENT: Housing and Plann
  - YEAR: 2017
  - ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES: Public meetings SHB
  - PRIORITY POPULATIONS (PLAN LVL): Underrepresented gr
  - STATUS: Ongoing
  - # OF PARTICIPANTS: 431

Below these are the top sections of three more cards:

- Watershed Master Plan**
  - GOALS: Protect lives and property by reduci
- Land, Water & Transportati...**
  - GOALS: Improve the Quality of Life of Travis
- Community Health Improv...**
  - GOALS: Every Travis County resident has acc
- Reimagining Pub...**
  - GOALS: Open five Communi

# Food & City of Austin Plans Analysis



Strategies by Food System Area



Food System Area

- All
- Consumption & Access
- Justice
- Markets & Retail
- N/A
- Post Consumption & Waste ...
- Processing & Distribution
- Production

Activities by Food System Area



Food System Area

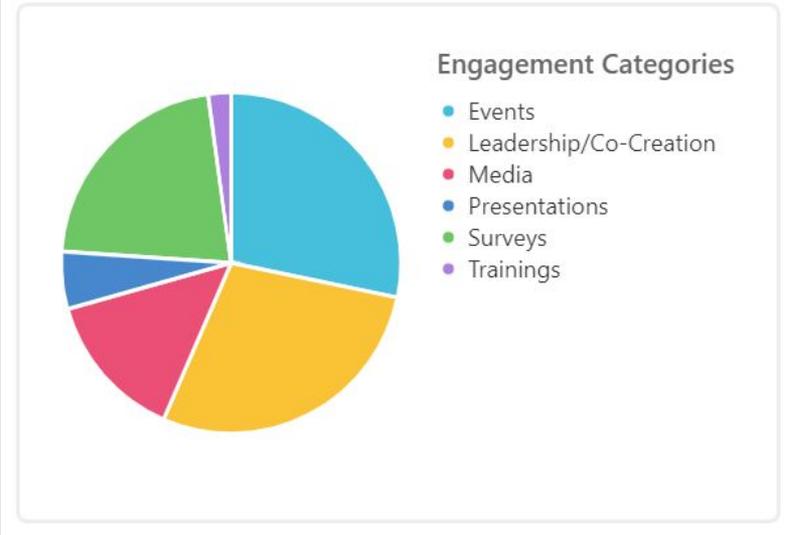
- All
- Consumption & Access
- Justice
- Markets & Retail
- N/A
- Post Consumption & Waste ...
- Processing & Distribution
- Production

## 6 Food System Areas

Over **250** Strategies and Activities were analyzed according to their scope of work:

- Consumption and Access
- Justice
- Markets and Retail
- Post Consumption and Waste Diversion
- Processing and Distribution
- Production

# Food & City of Austin Plans Analysis



**89** Total strategies used to gather public input

## 6 Categories of Engagement

Common patterns of engagement among the **13** plans reviewed:

- **2,074** Events
- **251** Leadership/Co-Creation
- **401,797** Media
- **2,770** Presentations
- **35,793** Surveys
- **70** Trainings