



A Food Plan for Austin



The Office of Sustainability



OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY

CITY OF AUSTIN



About Us

Vision:

Austin is a thriving, equitable and ecologically resilient community.

Mission:

Protect and improve Austin's quality of life now and for future generations by leading efforts to achieve:

- Net Zero community wide gas emissions.
- A healthy and just local food system.
- A climate resilient and adaptive city.

Programs

- Climate Change And Resilience
- Air Quality
- Austin Green Businesses
- Food Systems



The Food Policy Team



Edwin Marty

Food Policy Manager

- Staff Liaison for the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board
- Provide strategic direction to the City of Austin to create a more equitable and sustainable food system
- Lead for the Office of Sustainability Food Policy team



Amanda Rohlich

Food Policy Advisor

- Food System Planning Support
- Values Based Food Procurement
- Equity Action Planning
- Food Justice Mini Grant



The Food Policy Team



Emmie DiCicco

Graduate Food Policy Intern

- Food System Planning Support
- Food Justice Mini -Grant Program
- Disaster Food & Drinking Water Appendix



Sergio Torres

Food and Resilience Coordinator

- Food System Planning Support
- Food and City Plans Analysis
- Food Ambassadors

Austin's Food System

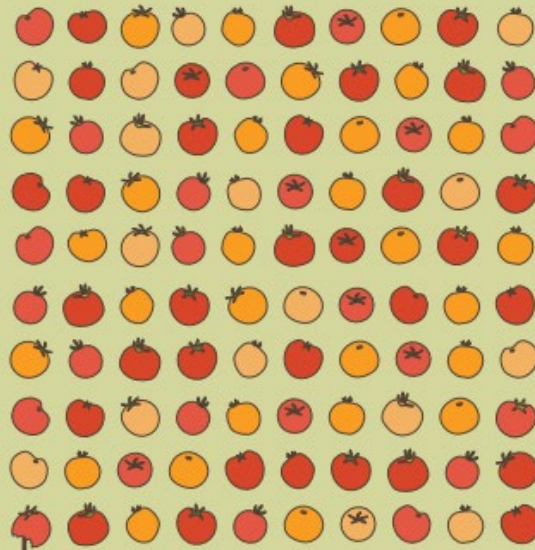


What is a food system?

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.



Some Food for Thought



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

1.24 million pounds of food is wasted every day in Austin

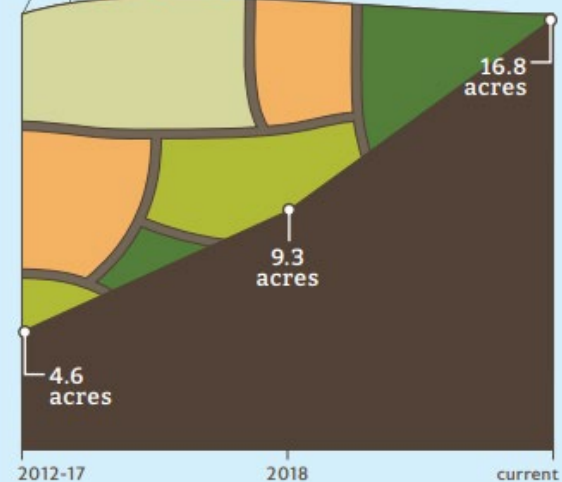
Food is responsible for **21% of all greenhouse gas emissions** created by everyone in our community



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




16.8 acres of farmland are lost every day in Travis County



Developing Austin's first ever Food Plan





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](#)

What about disasters?

- **Recent and ongoing crises** have caused a spike in food insecurity and revealed inadequate preparation for expansive and culturally appropriate food distribution
- We are working with HSEM & other departments to develop a **Disaster Food & Drinking Water Appendix**
- Will include learnings from **Winter Storm Uri, COVID-19**, boil water notices, and other recent emergencies





What about our infrastructure?

- The **Food Supply Chain Vulnerability Analysis** will identify issues that impact local food suppliers – This will assess the ability of sectors of the food system to rebound after a disaster and identify strategies to decrease chronic vulnerabilities.
- The Food Supply Chain Vulnerability Analysis will also allow us to have a more complete picture of the **needs** as well as the **capacity** of our food system

The State of the Food System 2022



A Baseline Assessment

- Provides a brief **history** of the Austin Food System
- Will provide the **foundation** for the Food Plan
- Each section contains: Overview, Trends and Challenges, Policy Actions, **Key Questions** & Facts



State of the **Food System** Report

2022



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Food Production

Facts

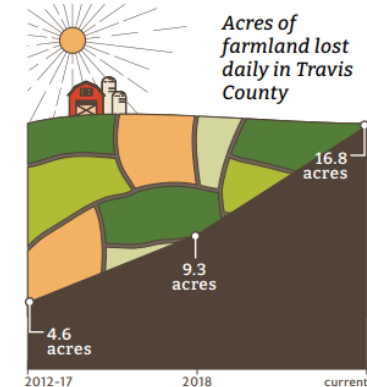
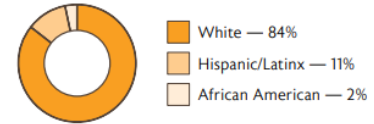
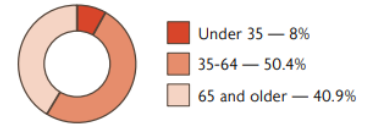
Approximately **0.06%** of food consumed in Travis County is produced locally.

Central Texas is home to **8,498** farms. Of these:

- **9** are urban farms
- **21** are certified Organic
- **13** claim regenerative practices
- **0** are Fair-Labor Certified

There are **13,647** people employed in farm labor in Central Texas.

Farm Labor Demographics for Travis County



Food Processing & Distribution

Facts

Central Texas is home to:



4 Milk Manufacturing Facilities

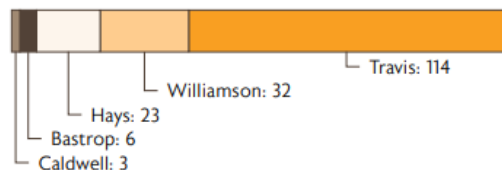


12 Animal Slaughtering & Processing Facilities



178 Food Manufacturing Facilities

Number of Food Manufacturing Facilities by County

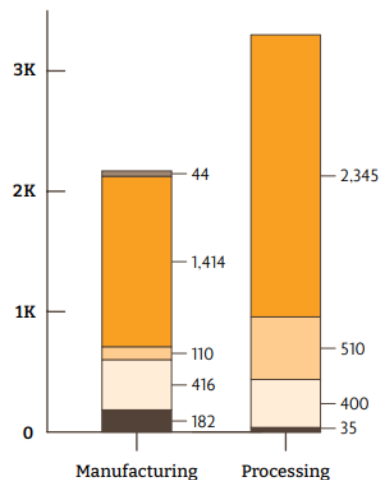


Food Manufacturing & Processing Employment

In Central Texas, **2,166** people are employed in **food manufacturing** and an additional **3,290** are employed in food processing.

Number of Employees by County

No data available for food processing employees in Caldwell County

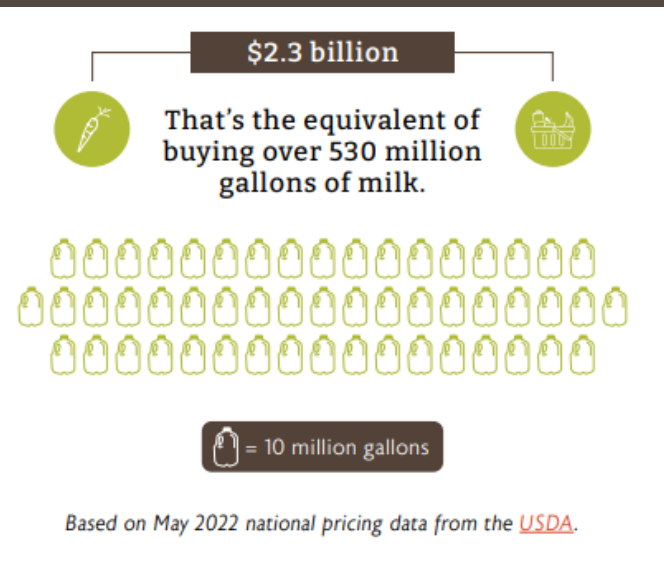


Food Markets & Retail

Facts

Central Texas has **25 Farmers Markets** and **18 CSAs**. Combined with farm stands, these services provide **\$7.7 million** in direct-to-consumer agriculture sales.

The gap between the total food purchased and the total food produced in Central Texas is **\$2.3 billion**.



Food Consumption & Access

Facts

Within Travis County there are:



→ **101** Supermarkets



→ **583** Convenience Stores

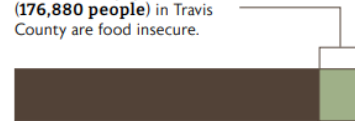
The City of Austin's budget allocated **\$3.3 million** in 2021 for contracts to organizations working to address healthy food access.

84.4% of Travis County Residents do not meet daily fruit and vegetable intake recommendations.

Every year, **3.5 million metric tonnes** of greenhouse gas are emitted through food consumption in Austin. That's the equivalent of powering **681,011 homes** per year.

Food Insecurity in Travis County

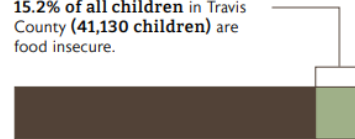
14.4% of the population (**176,880 people**) in Travis County are food insecure.



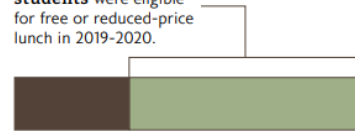
Nearly half (46%) of income-eligible people in Travis County are not enrolled in SNAP.



The percentage of food insecurity is slightly higher among children. **15.2% of all children** in Travis County (**41,130 children**) are food insecure.



67% of Austin ISD students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch in 2019-2020.



Nearly **1 in 3** college students experience food insecurity.

Post Consumption & Food Waste

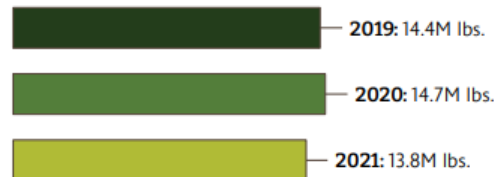
Facts

1.24 million pounds of food are wasted **every day** in the Austin Area.

Food wasted in Austin is responsible for **1.2 million metric tonnes** of greenhouse gas emissions each year. That's the equivalent of using 1.4 million gallons of gasoline.

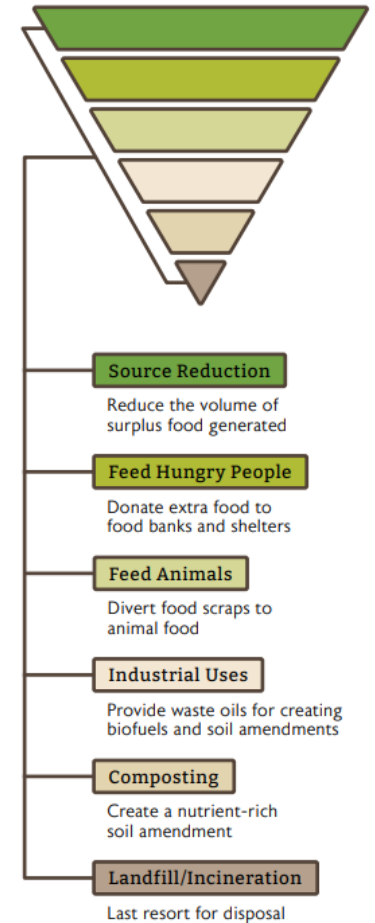
210,000 households have access to curbside composting in 2020, representing a **130%** increase from 2018 (**120,000**).

From 2019-2021, **42.9 million pounds** of food was recovered for human consumption in Central Texas.



Food Recovery Hierarchy

From most to least preferred



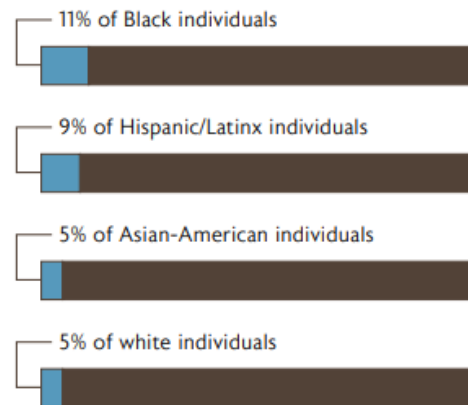
Adapted from the EPA.

Food Justice

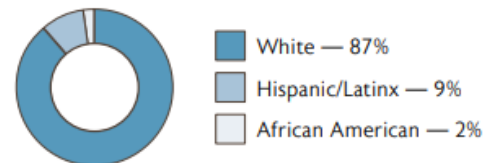
Facts

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, **60% of Hispanic/Latinx individuals** reported being food insecure compared to **24% of white individuals** in Austin.

Black individuals in Travis County are more likely to live in areas that face the **highest barriers** to food access.



Most farmers in Central Texas are white.



Where we are now?



Making a Food Plan



Making a Plan of Plans

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

- 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 Strategic 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



Channeling Community Voices

Community Advisory Committee

- This process be led by a **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**– The overseeing body of the food planning process, comprised of a blend of community members, and other food system stakeholders.

Issue Area Groups

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



Grounding Equity

Equity Grounding Workshops:

- Create a shared understanding of the impact of racism/colonization, as well as discuss food cultures and traditions.

Civic Engagement Workshops*:

- Empower our community to participate in local Food Policy.

Food and Land Healing Circles*:

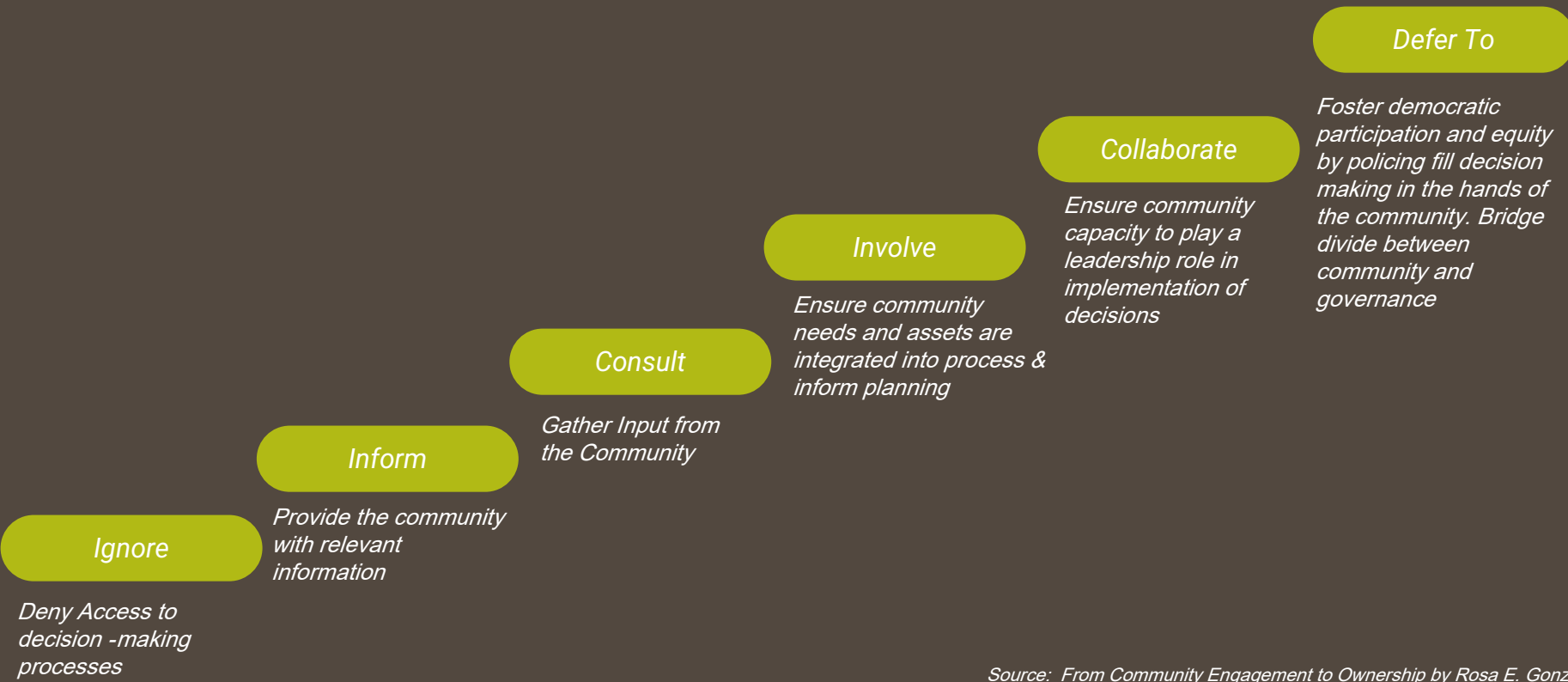
- Safe space for BIPOC and non-white communities to share food goal priorities
- create accountability and transparency by sharing how these priorities are incorporated into the plan
- build relationships and trust in ongoing work; center lived expertise

Community Engagement

From Extraction



To Co-Creation



Source: From Community Engagement to Ownership by Rosa E. Gonzales

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



The Public Engagement Strategy

We are developing a **Public Engagement & Empowerment Plan** to address:

- A multilingual approach focused on **accessibility**
- CAC Distribution and **Outreach**
- Creating **Lasting Relationships** with our Community
- Engaging **Impacted** Communities
- **Power Structures** within the planning Process & society
- **Process Longevity** and Participant Rotation

Project Timeline



Stay involved



Regular Updates

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

Participate Food Planning!

Applications to Participate coming [this Fall](#) as well as more engagement opportunities!

Read the full State of the Food System 2022 report [here!](#)

Thank You!



www.austintexas.gov/food



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