



Austin and Travis County Food Policy Board

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation Number: 20240318-9: Recommended Support for the Joint Sustainability Committee's budget recommendation on Sustainable Purchasing

WHEREAS, the Joint Sustainability Committee passed a budget recommendation on Sustainable Purchasing on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 with the following language:

Sustainable Purchasing: The City of Austin Climate Equity Plan Food & Product Consumption Goal 2 says “By 2030, greenhouse gas emissions from institutional, commercial, and government purchasing are reduced by at least 50%.” Strategy 2 to achieve that goal is “Strengthen the City’s sustainable purchasing program.” Recent analysis by the Office of Sustainability shows that over 80% of the City of Austin’s greenhouse gas emissions come from the products and services that the city purchases. It is essential that the City establish a comprehensive Sustainable Purchasing Plan that sets minimum standards for all products and services the City procures. And the City must prioritize ongoing staff support to educate all departments on sustainable purchasing and ensure that purchasing decisions comply with the Sustainable Purchasing Plan.

The Joint Sustainability Committee recommends that: a. \$125,000 be allocated to hire a sustainable purchasing contractor and/or purchase needed software and databases to develop a Sustainable Purchasing Plan that sets minimum standards for all products, materials and services purchased by the city; and b. A full-time Sustainable Purchasing Director position should be added to the Purchasing Department. If an FTE is determined to be infeasible in this budget cycle, a temporary Sustainable Purchasing Director position should be established and funded. (est. \$170,000)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board supports the Joint Sustainability Committee’s budget recommendation on Sustainable Purchasing with an additional recommendation to ensure consideration is taken in the implementation of this Plan for smaller businesses, and especially Black and Brown owned-businesses, to prevent unintended consequences, such as limiting participating in City business by minority-owned companies.

Date of Approval: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Record of the vote: 8 – 0 – 0

Voting in Favor: Andrea Abel, Lisa Barden, Marissa Bell, Joi Chevalier, Kacey Hanson, Rosamaria Murillo, Natalie Poulos, Larry Franklin

Voting Against: none

Abstaining: none

Not on the dais: Mark Bethell, Sari Vatske

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin Marty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edwin Marty, City of Austin, Office of Sustainability, Food Policy Manager/ ATCFPB Staff Liaison