

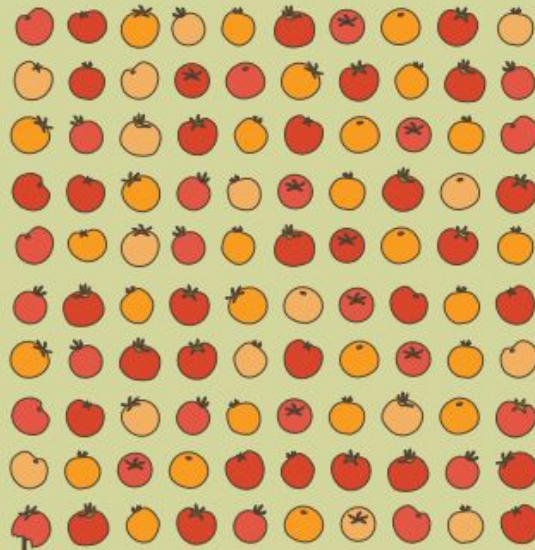


A Food Plan for Austin-Travis County

Find your seat at the table



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

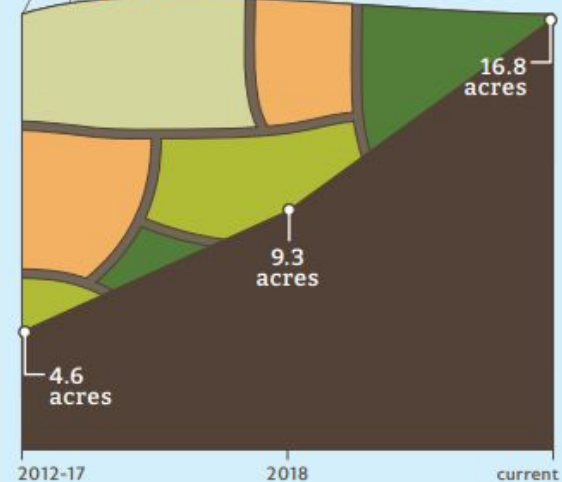
Food is responsible for **21% of all greenhouse gas emissions** created by everyone in our community



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



16.8 acres of farmland are lost every day in Travis County



Food Production: Where our food comes from, including everything from farming to ranching to backyard gardening.

Food Processing & Distribution: What happens to food from where it is grown to when it reaches your plate, including how food is moved and processed.

Food Markets & Retail: Where food is sold, purchased, or provided cost-free.

Food Consumption & Access: How we eat our food, who struggles to get enough food, and what impact our consumption has on our health.

Post-Consumption & Food Waste: What happens to the parts of food we don't eat and the impact of food waste on the environment.



Developing a Food Plan





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

- A Food Plan sets clear **Goals and Strategies** to move toward a more equitable, sustainable & resilient food system
- The Food Plan builds on **several other initiatives** made by the County, City, and Communities to tackle key food system issues.
- The Food Plan **centers equity** and the lived expertise of those most impacted by the current food system

A vertical decorative border on the left side of the slide, featuring a collage of food items including a tomato, a chili pepper, a slice of orange, a leaf, a strawberry, a pomegranate, a pea pod, a lemon slice, a peach, and a corn cob, all rendered in a sketchy, hand-drawn style.

Good to Know

- On June 2021 Austin City Council *directed* the City Manager to initiate a planning process
- Travis County Commissioners Court *approved formal participation* in the plan in fall 2022
- A *draft was released on March 18th* and it's now open for public comment.

[Link to full resolution](#)

Project Timeline



Phase 0: Planning for the Plan

*September 2021 -
January 2023*

- Building Community Awareness 📰
- Release of State of the Food System Report 📖
- Onboarding Planning Consultant ★
- Recruitment of Community Teams 🚀

Phase 1: Vision Development

March - August 2023

- Website launch 📊
- Listening Sessions & Tabling at events 📞
- Equity Grounding Workshops 🤝
- Community Circles 👐
- Selecting Issue Area Groups 🎯

Phase 2: Goal & Strategy Development

*September 2023 -
February 2024*

- World Cafe's ☕
- Issue Area Group Meetings 🏠
- Develop Goals and Strategies 🎯
- Review Goals and Strategies 🔍
- Develop a draft for the Food Plan ✍️

Phase 3: Review and Ground truthing

*February -
Summer/Fall 2024*

- Community Review of Plan 🗣️
- Council and Commissioner Review ⚖️
- Approval 👍
- Adoption 🏁



Co-creating the plan

- **Planning Team:** Coordinating and managing all moving parts
 - Includes:
 - City of Austin staff
 - Travis County staff
 - Consultant Team
 - Equity Consultants
 - Austin Travis Food Policy Board
 - Executive Leadership Team
- **Community Advisory Committee:** Advisory body overseeing the planning process
- **Issue Area Groups:** Developing goals and strategies for the plan
- **Community Food Ambassadors:** Connecting the plan to our communities
- **Broader community feedback:** Provide input at different stages of the plan

Food Plan Structure

- **Vision:** Describes and articulates our shared aim - the kind of future we agree we would like to move toward together.
- **Objectives:** The ends towards which the goals and strategies of the food plan will aim to achieve.
- **Goal:** A specific target or desired end result to meet one or more objectives.
- **Strategy:** A specific action we will take to achieve one or more goals.

Will also require an **Implementation Plan:** A roadmap of how we will accomplish the goals and strategies in the food plan (TBD, when we get there!).










Food Plan Vision



We envision a just, accessible, and culturally diverse food system, built by undoing inequities, that supports and sustains inclusive thriving communities, healthy ecosystems, and solutions to climate change where everyone can reach their full potential now and for generations to come.

Food Plan Objectives

	Sustain and restore living ecosystems including air, soil, water, and biodiversity.
	Invest in an equitable local food economy and workforce, including strengthening local food production, agriculture, processing & distribution, and food recovery.
	Improve emergency food distribution preparedness and response.
	Strengthen food supply chains to support community health and nutrition, the well-being of workers, the environment, and animal welfare.
	Support health and eradicate food insecurity through equitable access to nutritious and culturally relevant food.
	Act as a climate solution, considering the food system from field to fork and beyond.
	Build collective community power and coordination to strengthen the local food justice movement towards the fundamental human right to food.

Goals and Strategies



Goals & Strategies (New!): Where did they come from??

- 3400+ pieces of community feedback from 30+ engagement activities/events throughout Austin & Travis County
- 200+ volunteers across 20 workshops for 5 issue area groups
- Comprehensive review of existing City and County plans
- Aggregated and organized by the project team (consultants + City/County staff)



Co-creating the plan



The draft goals and strategies for our community's first comprehensive food plan are here!



NOW, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Join us for a virtual public review meeting. Share what is most important to you in the food plan and let us know if we missed anything.

 Language interpretation and other accommodations are available on request.

APRIL 3 | 5:00 - 6:30 PM | OVER ZOOM

Take our brief online survey. Review the draft goals and strategies and share your feedback with a short online survey by April 19.



The Austin/Travis County community has been deeply engaged in shaping the plan, demonstrated by community member participation in plan meetings and events, feedback collected, and the commitment of many individuals to working tirelessly on all aspects of the planning process:

2,707

— individuals engaged in plan meetings and events.

3,468

— pieces of feedback collected.

2,524

— hours of committed community participation.*

39%

— of participants identified as having current or past experience of hunger, using public benefits/financial assistance, or struggling to meet basic needs.°

21%

— of participants reside in Travis County areas outside City of Austin boundaries.°

9%

— multilingual engagement in a language other than English.°

* — committed community participation is defined as persons attending more than one plan meeting

° — of 879 participants who completed an engagement form

Next Steps



The Path to the Final Plan

March 4 - March 11	March 18 - April 19	April	May	Summer 2024
Internal Review of Draft Plan	Public Review of Draft Plan	Public Review Meeting on April 3rd Integrate public input into existing strategies	Creating the Final version of the Plan CAC Approves Final Plan	Present Plan to City Council and Commissioners Court Implementation Begins

Review the plan together

Join our virtual session!

- Joins us on Zoom,
Wednesday, April 3rd, at
5:30pm
- Multiple languages
available by request!

*Provide feedback
online*

*Visit our website this
March!*

- Window for public input:
 - March 18th - April 19th
- Survey is available online for you to review the Food Plan Draft!

Stay in touch

*Subscribe to never
miss a beat!*

- Subscribe to [Austin Food Notes](#), our monthly newsletter to receive timely updates!

Important Resources and Information



The State of the Food System 2022

- Provides a brief **history** of the Austin Food System
- Provides 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

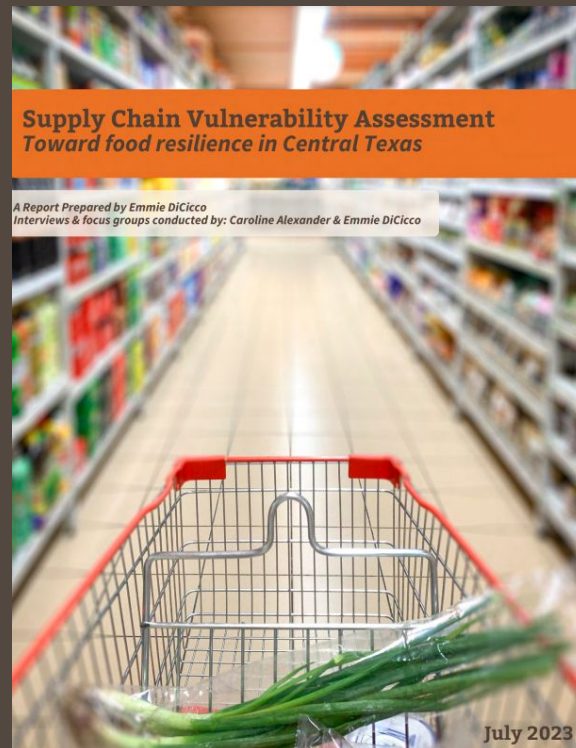


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Food Supply Chain Vulnerability Assessment

- describes **issues** that impact local food suppliers
- assesses the **ability to rebound after a disaster** for different sectors of the food system
- identifies **strategies to decrease chronic vulnerabilities**



View full report [here](#).

Stay in touch



Visit our [website to learn more!](#)

Questions? Email sustainability@austintexas.gov



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