

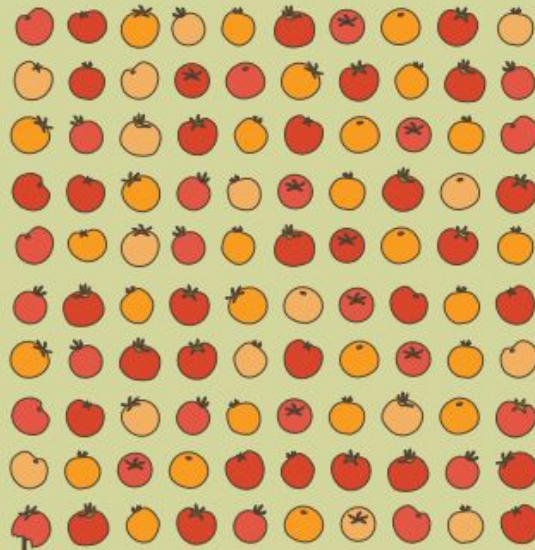


# A Food Plan for Austin-Travis County

Find your seat at the table



# Some Food for Thought



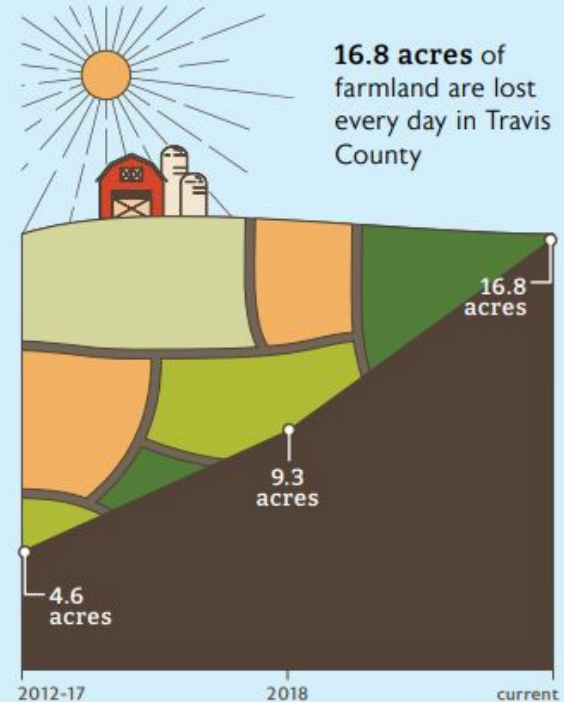
Approximately **0.06%** of food consumed in Travis County is locally produced

**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**



**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?

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- 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 decorative vertical bar on the left side of the slide, featuring a light green background with various botanical illustrations in a sketchy, line-art style. The illustrations include a bell pepper, a chili pepper, a slice of citrus fruit, a large oak leaf, a strawberry, a pomegranate, a sprig of rosemary, a pea pod, a slice of citrus fruit, a whole apple, and a corn cob.

# Good to Know

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- 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 has been reviewed by hundreds of community members.

[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 🏁

A decorative border on the left side of the slide, featuring various sketches of food and nature items: a tomato, a chili pepper, a slice of orange, a leaf, a strawberry, a pomegranate, a sprig of rosemary, a pea pod, a lemon slice, a peach, and a corn cob.

# Co-creating the plan

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- **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

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The food plan has **9 goals** and over **50 strategies** that seek to address many of the top concerns identified during the planning process:

- **Goal 1 - Land:** Increase local farmland for regenerative agriculture.
- **Goal 2 - Ownership:** Decrease barriers to farm ownership.
- **Goal 3 - Livelihoods:** Better conditions for food and farm workers.
- **Goal 4 - Preparedness:** Ensure food during emergencies.
- **Goal 5 - Institutions:** Strengthen local supply chains.
- **Goal 6 - Access:** Address food insecurity.
- **Goal 7 - Food Recovery:** Divert food from the landfill.
- **Goal 8 - Pro-Climate/Pro-Health Foods:** Decrease our carbon footprint.
- **Goal 9 - Empower:** Community supporting the implementation of the plan.

# Food Recovery surfaced in multiple goals and strategies

Suggestion to look closely at Goal 7

**GOAL 7:** Increase the amount of surplus food and non-edible food waste diverted from the landfill to support a circular food economy, healthy soils, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the food supply chain.

**Strategy 7.1:** Convene food rescue and community stakeholders to develop shared food rescue protocol to achieve reduced inefficiencies considering the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wasted Food Scale. Address any gaps with appropriate supports (e.g., storage, transportation, technology), prioritizing investments to serve areas of the City/County experiencing food insecurity or facing barriers to food access.

**Strategy 7.2:** Create a resource to promote the safe use of edible food scraps for animal consumption. This resource would engage and connect food scrap producers with appropriate livestock producers, backyard chicken farmers, and pet food entrepreneurs.

**Strategy 7.3:** Establish base-level service and diversion activity requirements for all businesses that generate organic waste and align with Austin Resource Recovery's Comprehensive Plan.

**Strategy 7.4:** Expand institutional and business support to share sector-specific best practices on food waste diversion through training, technical assistance, and financial incentives.

**Strategy 7.5:** Develop ongoing educational opportunities, including a public campaign, to encourage food waste prevention and diversion, for example, through menu planning to reduce waste, understanding best-by dates, composting, mindful eating, etc., and provide incentives such as access to free compost.

**Strategy 7.6:** Explore the creation of community compost drop sites for Travis County residents.

Read all the draft goals and strategies at  
[bit.ly/FoodPlanningATX](https://bit.ly/FoodPlanningATX)

**FOLLOW me FOOD** **SIGUE la COMIDA**

**Any Area** **Áreas clave**  
**Food** **de alimentos**

**Food Production** **Producción de alimentos**

**Food Distribution** **Distribución de alimentos**

**Food Preparation and Service** **Preparación y servicio de alimentos**

**Food Consumption** **Consumo de alimentos**

**Food Waste** **Residuos de alimentos**

**Office of**

**food team**  
**FIND YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE**

**OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY**

**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.<sup>o</sup>

**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

<sup>c</sup> — 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
<b>Internal Review of Draft Plan</b>	<b>Public Review of Draft Plan</b>	<b>Public Review Meeting on April 3rd</b>  <b>Integrate public input into existing strategies</b>	<b>Creating the Final version of the Plan</b>  <b>CAC Approves Final Plan</b>	<b>Present Plan to City Council and Commissioners Court</b>  <b>Implementation Begins</b>

***Celebrate with us!***

*Join our final event*

- Meet us this May 11th at For the Love of Parks:
  - Saturday, May 11th from 11am - 3pm at the Richard Moya Park
  - Stop by our table and join the celebration!

# *Stay in touch*

*Subscribe to never miss a beat!*

- Implementation will need even more people involved!
- Subscribe to [Austin Food Notes](#), our monthly newsletter to receive timely updates!

# Thank you



Visit our [website to learn more about the plan!](#) and read the full list of draft strategies.

Questions? Email [sustainability@austintexas.gov](mailto:sustainability@austintexas.gov)



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CITY OF AUSTIN

# 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

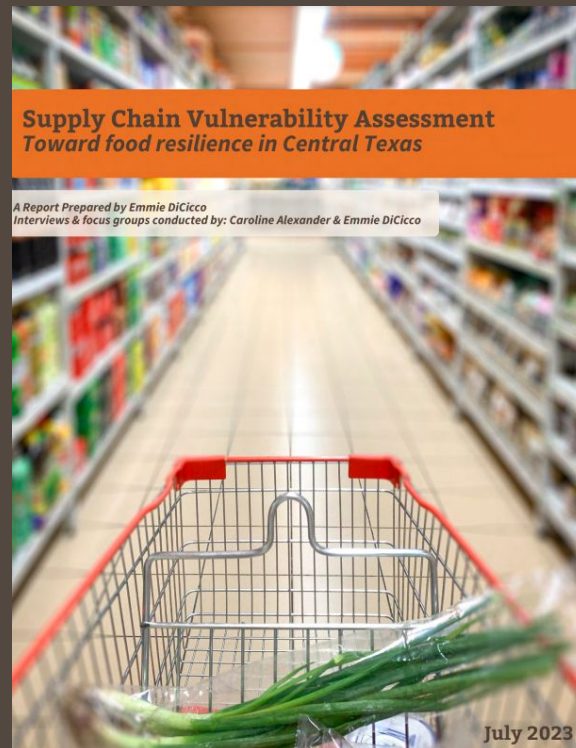


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# Food Supply Chain Vulnerability Assessment

- 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](#).