



The Austin Travis County Food Plan

2026



Agenda

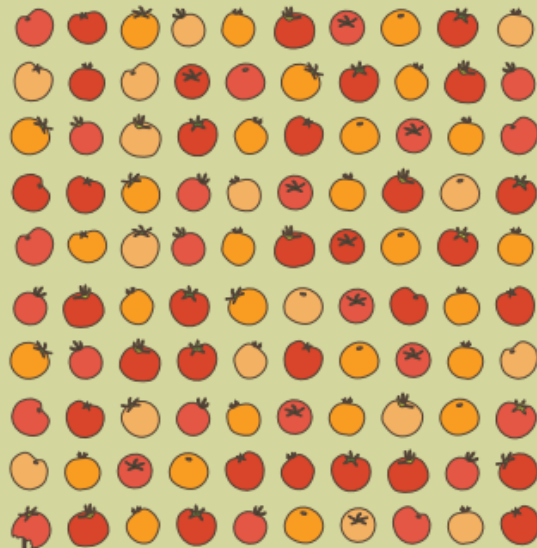
1. Background on Food Planning in Austin, Texas
2. How We Created the Austin Travis County Food Plan
3. What's in the Plan, and what's coming next
4. Questions and Answers



Background



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

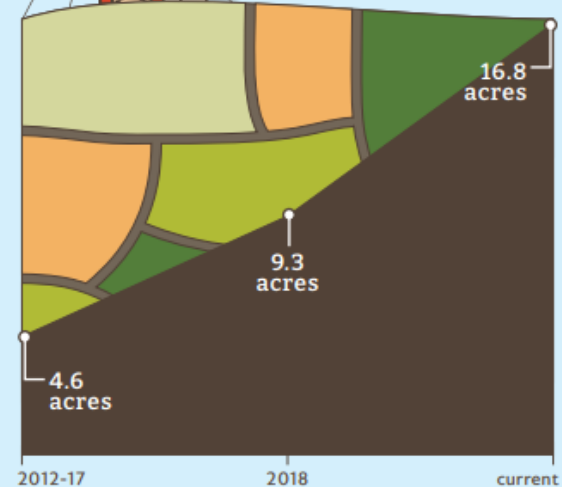
Food is responsible for **21% of all greenhouse gas emissions** created by everyone in our community



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



16.8 acres of farmland are lost every day in Travis County



Some of Our Food System Challenges



Disasters and severe weather events:
Winter Storms Uri and Mara



Rapid community growth and planning for land use



Supply chain disruptions:
COVID-19 pandemic



The climate impacts of the food system



How We Co-Created the Food Plan



Origins

- In June 2021, Austin City Council directed the City Manager to initiate a planning process.
- In December 2022, Travis County Commissioners Court approved formal Travis County participation in the plan.

Why a Food Plan?

- **Sets clear goals and strategies** to move toward a more equitable, sustainable, resilient food system.
- **Builds on existing plans and initiatives** from the County, City, and community to tackle key food system issues.
- **Centers equity** and the lived expertise of those most impacted by the current food system.

Co-Creation Through Stewardship: Who Wrote the Plan and Guided the Process?

Project Team Summary



Consultants &
City/County staff

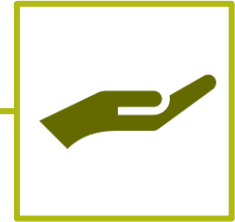
*Design &
Implement*



Community
Advisory
Committee
Guide & Approve



City/County
Executive
Leadership Team
*Review & Course
Correct*



Austin Travis
County Food
Policy Board
Support & Advise

Community Engagement Data Summary

1,399

Participants were involved in the Community Advisory Committee, Community Food Ambassadors, Issue Area Group workshops and other formal food plan meetings

2,226

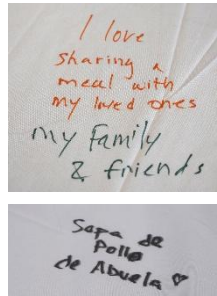
Additional participants are estimated to have been involved in tabling events and presentations

Demographics

46% identified as having been directly impacted by the food system, e.g. having current or past experience of hunger, using public benefits, or struggling to meet basic needs

19% were engaged from Travis County areas outside City of Austin boundaries

13% engaged in a language other than English



**CO-CREATION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
LISTENING SESSIONS, WORLD CAFÉS**

Some of the organizations represented in the planning process





Major Themes

Two themes emerged across all community feedback:

1

Access to food and affordability

59% of all comments
(1,647 total comments)

2

Local food production and agriculture

52% of all comments
(1,452 total comments)

Adoption



October 29th, 2024

Resolution in Support of the Plan at
Travis County Commissioners Court



October 10th, 2024

Council Action to Adopt the Plan

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Award!

- City of Austin Wins Global Governance Award for Leadership in Building a Resilient and Equitable Food System
- The City of Austin has been recognized with the Governance Award at the [2025 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum](#), honoring cities leading the way in creating sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems around the world.



Supporting the Austin/Travis County Food Plan Through the MUFPP Global Forum Award

The City of Austin's Climate Action and Resilience (ACAR) is honored to receive the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum Governance Award, along with €20,000 to advance implementation of the Austin/Travis County Food Plan. ACAR will use this award to launch a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) in early 2026 to fund two community-based, shovel-ready projects that support a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient local food system.

These one-time awards are designed to help projects that are ready to start—or poised to scale—move quickly into implementation. Proposals must demonstrate a clear pathway to long-term sustainability beyond the grant period. ACAR will evaluate submissions using criteria modeled after the successful Food and Climate Equity (FACE) Grant process, ensuring transparency, equity, and impact-driven decision-making.

Funding awards are anticipated in March 2026, and awardees will have 12 months to complete their project activities and share a summary of their outcomes and community impact. Through this investment, Austin continues to strengthen local collaboration, support community-led solutions, and accelerate progress toward a just and climate-resilient food future.



Implementing The Food Plan





Progress Dashboard

Explore how we are working together to implement the plan's goals and strategies

The Austin/Travis County Food Plan features nine goals containing sixty-one individual strategies. The dashboard will be updated annually to reflect ongoing work on the plan.

Want to be involved in the Food Plan's progress?

[Sign up for our newsletters](#) to stay informed of the latest updates, events, and ways to get involved or [email us](#) your ideas.

Food Plan Web Site

City staff developed a web site and a dashboard to track progress on Strategies

Tracking Progress on the Plan's 61 Strategies

LAST UPDATED IN FEBRUARY 2025



Not Yet Started
23 STRATEGIES



In Progress
38 STRATEGIES



Complete
0 STRATEGIES



Goal 1 Land

Expand community food production, preserve agricultural lands, and increase the amount of farmland dedicated to regenerative food production long-term in Austin/Travis County.

12 associated strategies
[EXPLORE PROGRESS ON THIS GOAL](#)

All 9 goals and 61 Strategies are updated annually.

Additional information about how to get involved is included on the web site.



City Staff Report Back to Council

- Based on a City Council IFC in 2024, City staff provide Food Plan Update Memos to Council twice a year.
- City staff also provide a summary of the Food Plan Memo to the CWEP (Climate, Water, Environment, and Parks) Council Committee after Memo's are released.



Implementation Collaborative

- City and County staff developed an Interlocal Agreement to support a Food Plan implementation collaborative (**Strategy 9.1**)
- In 2025, City staff released an RFP for support of an implementation collaborative and selected a contractor. Contract was approved by City Council in December 2025
- Consultant has begun developing a 3-year Food Plan Implementation Collaborative.
- Public launch for the Collaborative is scheduled for **summer 2026**.

Questions?



Thank you!

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

Questions? Email sustainability@austintexas.gov



www.AustinTexas.gov/Climate