

Recommendations

HIGH-LEVEL RECOMMENDATION: Councils need to prioritise food systems work as a whole-of-organisation and whole-of-community commitment. This requires embedding food systems actions in Council strategic plans as well as a stand-alone food system strategy and action plan. It also requires the creation, resourcing and support of a dedicated food systems officer role within Council.

Recommendation	Rationale	Resources	Responsibility	Timeframe	
1 Staff capacity and Council commitment					
Food systems work is complex and time-consuming. Staff need to be adequately resourced and supported to undertake it effectively. Ideally, each Council should have a dedicated, full-time food systems staff role to lead this work; and that person should be fully supported by Council leadership.					
2 Community engagement					
Build momentum and interest amongst a growing number of community members and organisations and create multiple and diverse opportunities for meaningful participation in local food systems work.					
2 a.	Monthly / quarterly e-news / similar about local / regional food systems / food security events / initiatives - ideally some in-person events if possible	To maintain momentum and keep motivated community members engaged and connecting with each other	Staff time from local govts	Local govts	Immediate - short-term
2 b.	Support the formation of a local food systems / food security network, if one doesn't already exist	To maintain momentum, build food systems literacy and keep key and motivated community leaders speaking with each other	Staff time from local govts and / or community organisation if external funding available	Local govts	Immediate - short-term

3 Capacity building / food systems literacy					
Support the development of food systems literacy amongst individual staff within different council teams; and build collective capacity through establishing and resourcing communities of practice within and across councils.					
3 a.	Each participating staff member create an action plan about progressing food systems work within their own organisation / community for the next 12-24 months	Renew commitment to food systems and the vision / objectives of the project. Creates an opportunity to secure buy-in and additional support from managers / senior leaders within Council	Local govt staff time	Project participants - Councils	Immediate - short-term
3 b.	Participating staff to share their respective work plans with each other and provide supportive and constructive feedback	Renews commitment to food systems and the vision / objectives of the project. Renews the sense of a collaborating collective, and means that staff are accountable to themselves and each other	Local govt staff time	Project participants - Councils	Immediate - short-term
3 c.	Build communities of practice within local governments, so that food systems work doesn't sit with just one person and become siloed / marginalised	Help to overcome the siloing effect through productive collaborations across teams and departments. Food systems and food security are cross-cutting issues that touch on so many areas of government practice and across different professional boundaries and disciplines	Participation / engagement from key staff working on food systems in councils	Local govts	Short to medium term

			Opportunity for pilot project involving one or more Councils, with external support and facilitation - see Sustain project with the City of Wyndham in Melbourne	State govt / philanthropy	Short to medium term
4 Coordination / Food systems governance Build coherence across the food system at the city, regional and state level through a structured and supported governance and coordination mechanism.					
4	Build on existing networks, such as The Food System Network, to establish a city-wide and / or state-wide food systems community of practice and peer-to-peer learning network.	Maintain momentum, relationships, support and incentives to continue applying the tools and resources generated by the project	Secretariat / coordination function Participation / engagement from key staff working on food systems in councils	State Govt / SA Urban Food Network / Green Adelaide Local govts	Immediate - short-term Immediate - short-term
5 Policy / Strategy development Embed an iterative process of long-term food systems change through the development, implementation and monitoring of food systems strategies and action plans.					
5 a.	Embed food systems work within councils and across communities by the participatory development of a food system strategy	Ensure the food systems work is prioritised within councils and that appropriate resources are allocated to it. Build support for this work amongst the community through a participatory and engaging process -	Local govt / State govt funding to support inclusive and participatory process of food system strategy development. Should not be rushed	State govt / local govt	Medium term

5 b.	Embed food systems work across State govt with a state-wide food systems and food security strategy	<p>as in the City of Greater Bendigo and Cardinia Shire Council</p> <p>State govt needs to send a clear signal that this work is to be prioritised across all levels of government.</p>	Staff / funding for extensive community engagement and participation	State govt / local govt	Medium term
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