



Annual Report

2020-2021



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that the City of Greater Bendigo is on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country. We acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung People, the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to leaders and Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.



The background of the page is a light green color with a pattern of various food-related icons and letters in shades of green and yellow. The icons include a truck, a plant, a recycling symbol, a pot with steam, a factory, and a hand. The letters are large and stylized, with some being green and others yellow. The word 'FOOD' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'S' and 'O' on either side. The word 'FOOD' is also repeated in a smaller font at the bottom right. The word 'FOOD' is also repeated in a smaller font at the bottom right.

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Our Vision, Guiding Principles and Objectives

Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy guides the actions of organisations and groups working to strengthen and support Greater Bendigo's food system from 2020-2030.

Our Vision

Greater Bendigo's food system is healthy, equitable and sustainable and supports the local economy, culture and health and wellbeing of our communities.

Guiding principles

- A healthy food system that promotes the health of people and enhances the natural environment
- An equitable food system that makes nutritious and culturally appropriate food accessible and affordable to everyone across our communities
- A sustainable food system that strengthens our local economy and builds the capacity and resilience of our communities

Objectives

1. Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks
2. Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally
3. Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture
4. Reduce and divert food waste from landfill





Introduction

Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted in June 2020 and this report outlines progress on actions for the first year of the Strategy's implementation.

It's been a challenging year with lockdowns, restrictions and associated impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These impacts have had a significant influence on the food system, contributing to an increase in people seeking emergency food relief, disruptions to supply chains and difficulty recruiting a seasonal harvest workforce.

Despite this there has been great progress made on the actions of the Strategy with work progressing on ninety-three of the Strategy's actions.

Throughout 2021 the City has also been undertaking Imagine Greater Bendigo, an initiative to consult the community on their vision for the future of Greater Bendigo. Information from this process is being used to inform a number of plans and strategies the City is developing including:

- Greater Bendigo Council Plan (Mir Wimbul) 2021-2025
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
- Climate Change and Environment Strategy (2021-2026)

These plans and strategies will align with the Food System Strategy and likewise information from Imagine Greater Bendigo will be used to help guide the future direction of the Food System Strategy.

The UNESCO City and Region of Gastronomy work has also continued to progress over the past twelve months including:

- Hosting the Djakitj Larr event, bringing together community, creative industry and food system stakeholders to discuss the future of gastronomy and the food system in the region
- Launching the Gastronomy Guide and Producer Directory
- Completing stage one of work with the Dja Dja Wurrung on how to develop the Six Seasons concept, resulting in a report with recommendations for how the City could work with DJAARA to incorporate the Six Seasons into events, projects and more
- Stakeholder engagement and development of new branding for City and Region of Gastronomy products and services, to be launched in the 2021/2022 financial year
- Working with DFAT and Australian High Commission in Malaysia on the Australia Now Malaysia campaign, which included showcasing Bendigo and the region on a new SBS cooking show hosted by Adam Liaw

Bendigo Foodshare provided:

823 tonnes of food

equivalent to 1.65m meals

12,500 meals

made by local businesses and social enterprises for food relief through Cafes for Covid project

489 tonnes

of food sourced through local supermarket rescues, food businesses, farms, and community

114

supermarket collections

\$6.21M

of food value

Organics collection service:

1,720

additional households received organics bins

14,720 tonnes

of food and garden organics diverted from landfill

Developing and implementing Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy and becoming a City and Region of Gastronomy has positioned the City as a leader in the food system space, being invited to present on the Strategy to a number of groups including:

- William Angliss Institute students
- Monash University Dietetics students
- A webinar for Sustain: The Australian Food Network
- A group of organisations from the Yarra Ranges and Outer East Melbourne
- The City of Onkaparinga

The City has also been approached to participate in several research projects as a result of demonstrating strong leadership in the food system space:

- Healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems: Growing the role of local government? (University of Sydney, University of Wollongong and the William Angliss Institute)
- Protecting our planet and our population: the policy response of local governments to facilitate the uptake of healthy and sustainable diet-related practices (Monash University, PhD project)
- Healthy and sustainable cities: tool for assessing local government food policy (Deakin University)

107 TOTAL ACTIONS

2 COMPLETED ACTIONS

91 ACTIONS IN PROGRESS

3 NEW ACTIONS

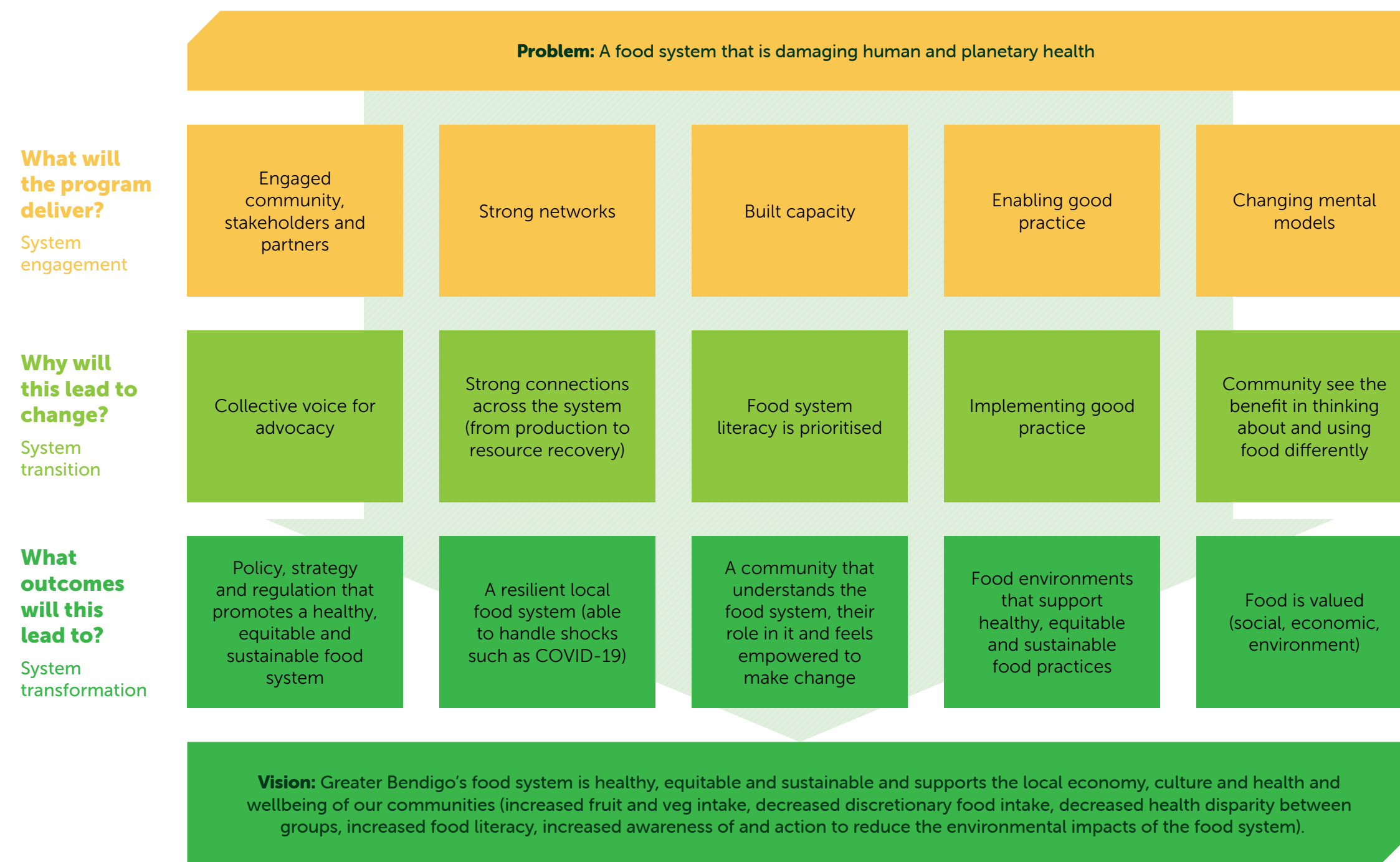
14 ACTIONS NOT YET STARTED



Theory of change: Food System Strategy

Theory of change is a process of thinking about and documenting how a program or intervention is supposed to work and why, who it will benefit and how, and the conditions needed for success.

A theory of change is usually developed in the design phase of program development and is built on evidence, beliefs and assumptions¹. A theory of change has been developed for the Strategy to help articulate how we will reach our vision.



Approach

- Collective impact

Guiding principles

- A healthy food system that promotes the health of people and enhances the natural environment
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Objectives

1. Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks
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3. Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture
4. Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Assumptions

- Contribution of food system action to outcomes (rather than attribution)
- All 'pillars' are interconnected

¹ Goldsworthy, K, 2021, *What is theory of change?*, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne, <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/expert-panel-project/what-theory-change>

Objectives



Objective 1: Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks

Food system partners undertook a wide range of work to enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks. Despite and in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic our partners rose to the occasion to help our community.

Sharing the Active Living Census

Healthy Greater Bendigo and Healthy Heart of Victoria developed a video to support community understanding of the Active Living Census and encourage use of this data to advocate for funding. A mapping project is also underway to support a clearer spatial understanding of health and wellbeing issues and needs across the municipality.

Healthy Sports Rewards

The City received funding from VicHealth to implement the healthy sports rewards project, providing vouchers to sporting clubs from local sport and recreation facilities to reduce fast-food rewards in junior sport. Ten clubs from eight different sports participated over the 2021 winter sport season and the program will continue over the summer season.

Multicultural Nutrition Projects

Bendigo Community Health Services works with groups of refugee background to build health literacy. As part of these programs a Karen Healthy Eating Guide was developed in Bendigo that was culturally safe and easily understood. They facilitated a partnership with Diabetes Victoria and Bendigo Karen community members to develop the first Karen Healthy Eating Guide. The community consultations and food styling were all conducted in Bendigo by Bendigo Community Health Services staff, Bendigo Community Health Services bicultural workers of lived experience and Diabetes Victoria staff. The Guide was piloted to ensure the content was culturally safe and easily understood. Content experts Diabetes Victoria ensured the Karen Healthy Eating content were referenced and accurate. Bendigo Community Health Services bicultural staff have also been trained and have delivered healthy eating sessions to Karen, South Sudanese and Afghan people.

Healthy Food Basket study

The City hosted two Monash University Master of Nutrition & Dietetics students for their work based public health nutrition placement in February-March 2021. The students used the ASAP tool and Store Scout app to undertake an assessment of supermarket environments across the municipality. These tools assisted the students to investigate the cost and affordability of a healthy basket of food and examine the marketing and promotion practices of stores. This study will be repeated in future to track affordability and marketing within supermarkets across Greater Bendigo.

COVID-19 Response

Equitable and reliable access to safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks became a much more visible issue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Loss of income, restrictions on the distance able to be travelled from home, panic buying, and supply

chain issues all effected the community's access to food and contributed to a rise in food insecurity.

In response to this the Bendigo Community Farmers Market responded quickly to increase their market frequency to have a weekly market every Thursday to assist the community to have regular access to local fresh produce.

Bendigo Foodshare and the local emergency food sector also mobilised quickly and worked with a wide range of partners to be able to provide meals and groceries to those in need. Some of the innovative initiatives implemented to allow this to happen include the Bendigo Food Pantry website, Cafes for Covid, and providing recipe cards with hampers to assist recipients to utilise ingredients in their hamper.

► For a full list of progress toward actions see [Appendix 1](#).





Objective 2: Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally

Many of the actions under Objective 2 are longer term projects that will require progress across a number of years. Some great ground work has been happening to plan and get started on these projects over the past year. Some projects of note are highlighted below.

Climate Change and Environment Strategy

The City has been working hard on developing the next iteration of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy for 2021-2026. The strategy includes sustainable food system targets and actions for the City and for community. Food systems have also been included in several flagship projects that will be undertaken to progress many of the strategy's actions.

Regional Gastronomy Guide

The Regional Gastronomy Guide was launched in March 2021 and showcases leading local producers, venues, experiences and trails across Greater Bendigo. The interactive map allows tourists and locals alike to explore all the region has to offer. The Guide will be expanded to include the whole region of gastronomy and additional businesses added.

City and Region of Gastronomy Branding

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken for new branding to promote City and Region of Gastronomy products and services. The new suite of branding is now under development and will be launched in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Good Living Pack

The Bendigo Visitor Centre have developed the 'Good Living Pack' that contains healthy, local food and drink items from across the region. The hamper retails for \$45.95.

► For a full list of progress toward actions see [Appendix 1](#).

Objective 3: Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture

Not all that has come from COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and lockdowns has been negative. One positive that has come from people spending more time at home is an increased interest in growing food². Community feedback from the Imagine Greater Bendigo process and Djakitj Larr event also revealed the important role the community sees for school and community gardens. Several projects are underway to help our community to grow, source, cook and share food knowledge, skills and culture.

Community and School Gardens

The City, Healthy Greater Bendigo and Kalianna School hosted the Sowing the Seeds to Success event at PepperGreen Farm in March 2021. This event brought together community members who are involved in or interested in school and community gardening to learn, share knowledge and network. Guest speakers from the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, Bendigo Foodshare, the City, Coliban Water, Marong Neighbourhood House, Violet Street Primary School, Kalianna School, spoke about the many ways to get involved in school and community gardens and resources available to assist gardens.

This event also offered an opportunity to launch the Bendigo Community Garden Network and the City's community garden info hub. The event was funded as part of the Health is Everybody's Business – Leadership Activation Project funded by a VicHealth Reimagining Health Grant.

Bendigo Foodshare - YouFoods Project

Bendigo Foodshare undertook youth food insecurity research in 2020, the first research of its kind conducted in Central Victoria. Insights from this research have been used to inform the YouFoods Project to tackle youth food insecurity, break barriers, grow knowledge and skills and uphold dignity.

The project works with and supports local youth organisations, agencies and schools to build awareness about food relief information and services, increase engagement with Bendigo Foodshare, help simplify access to food and develop strategies to create resilience amongst this demographic.

Some of the key outcomes of this project so far include providing assistance to three schools and a community house to develop their Cooking Clubs, connecting with schools to improve food security amongst disengaged youth, linking local schools with the Grow a Row project to grow and share more food.



Healthy Heart of Victoria - Schools Kitchen Garden Project

The Healthy Heart of Victoria Schools Kitchen Garden Project was a six-month project, concluding in December 2020. Seven primary schools and two early learning centres participated in the project with each education setting identifying how this initiative could support an increase in growing food and healthy eating activities within their school or centre. Participating schools and centres were supported with education sessions and funding for infrastructure and resources. Healthy Heart of Victoria and the City will continue to support schools and early learning centres to incorporate food education into their curriculum.

Gravel Hill Community Garden

Fresh produce shortages from supermarkets for emergency relief occurred occasionally due to COVID-19. When this happened excess produce from the Gravel Hill Community Garden was able to be harvested to include in emergency food relief parcels and the food pantry. Excess produce from the community garden was also made into meals that were frozen and distributed for food relief.

► For a full list of progress toward actions see [Appendix 1](#).

² Donati, K., & Rose, N, 2020, 'Every seed I plant is a wish for tomorrow': Findings and Action Agenda from the 2020 National Pandemic Gardening Survey, Sustain: the Australian Food Network, Melbourne, <https://sustain.org.au/projects/pandemic-gardening-survey-report/>



Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Significant progress has been made to reduce and divert food waste from landfill in the past 12 months. This has largely been due to the expansion of the City's Organics collection and an increase in food rescue by Bendigo Foodshare.

Organics waste

The City has expanded its household organics collection to include Heathcote, Elmore, Axedale and Goornong and continues to offer the Compost Revolution program in all other rural areas and townships. The City's organics collection is also being expanded to provide services to schools and local businesses.

Organic materials collected through this service are converted to Biomix compost which is used by the City in its parks and gardens. The compost is also available for school and community gardens that have participated in the City's waste education sessions.

The Resource Recovery team are also trialling community compost days to re-distribute compost back into the Greater Bendigo community, hosting two community compost distribution events in Bendigo in the 2020/2021 financial year. This program will be expanded to other townships in the 2021/2022 financial year.

► For a full list of progress toward actions see [Appendix 1](#).





Partners

- Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.
- Be.Bendigo
- Bendigo Community Farmers Market
- Bendigo Community Fruit (auspiced by Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc.)
- Bendigo Community Health Services
- Bendigo Foodshare
- Bendigo Health
- Bendigo Manufacturing Group
- bHive
- Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)
- Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc.
- Bendigo Student Association Inc.
- Bendigo Sustainability Group
- Coliban Water
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster
- Food Fossickers
- Food Relief Network (City of Greater Bendigo)
- Heathcote Community House
- Healthy Eating Advisory Service
- Healthy Greater Bendigo
- Healthy Heart of Victoria
- Library of Things (auspiced by Bendigo Sustainability Group)
- Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services
- Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership
- Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group
- Monash University
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Peppergreen Farm (Access Australia Group)
- Salvation Army Bendigo
- Smiles 4 Miles, Dental Health Services Victoria
- Sports Focus
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation

For more information about any of these projects
or for information on getting involved contact
foodsystems@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Appendix 1: Action updates for 2020/2021 financial year



Objective 1: Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
1.1 Support the establishment of the Greater Bendigo Food Hub	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Foodshare • Bendigo Community Farmers Market • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Food Hub Industry Reference Group 	<p>City of Greater Bendigo have been working with Bendigo Foodshare to assist them to find a new site and have committed funding to contribute to the fit-out.</p> <p>Bendigo Foodshare has been working with the community to raise funds for the fit-out of the new Food Hub. The need for the Food Hub with increased food warehousing space has become more urgent with food insecurity rising due to the economic impact of COVID-19 in Central Victoria.</p>
1.2 Continue to support implementation of the Healthy Choices Guidelines in sport and recreation settings	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	Working with sport and recreation settings to assist them to continue to comply with Healthy Choices Guidelines following re-activation post COVID-19 restriction closures.
1.3 Investigate feasibility of expanding the Healthy Choices Guidelines to other settings i.e. workplace cafes, Universities, Hospitals and Health Services	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Eating Advisory Service • Bendigo Health • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>Healthy Greater Bendigo continue to advocate for Healthy Choices Guidelines to be expanded to other settings, providing information and support as available.</p> <p>City of Greater Bendigo is working with Bendigo Community Health Services to create Healthy Choices Catering Guide to share with workplaces and community.</p>

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
1.4 Investigate the need to establish and coordinate a Healthy Choices Network for local settings implementing the Healthy Choices Guidelines. The network may work towards developing internal healthy food and catering policies with workplaces, implementing the guidelines in sport and recreation facilities etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Health • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>City of Greater Bendigo is working with Bendigo Community Health Services to create Healthy Choices Catering Guide to share with workplaces and community.</p> <p>Healthy Greater Bendigo will promote the network when established. Until then, we promote opportunities to link into other Healthy Choices training opportunities.</p>
1.5 Facilitate a Healthy Choices Forum including a food and drink Expo or equivalent per year	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Eating Advisory Service • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>Forum planning underway, to be linked with Healthy Facilities Policy implementation.</p> <p>Healthy Greater Bendigo will promote when date of Expo is set. Healthy Greater Bendigo continues to promote other Healthy Choices training opportunities.</p>
1.6 Develop a Healthy Catering Guide for workplaces across the Greater Bendigo municipality	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Community Health Services • Healthy Eating Advisory Service • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>City of Greater Bendigo is working with Bendigo Community Health Services to create Healthy Choices Catering Guide to share with workplaces and community.</p>
1.7 Support Zouki's catering menu to comply with the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines and once compliant, support its utilisation and usage	Bendigo Health		<p>Bendigo Health is working in partnership with the Healthy Eating Advisory Service to support Zouki's catering menu to ensure it aligns to the policy directive for Victorian public health services.</p>
1.8 Investigate opportunities to improve the food environment on campus at La Trobe University Bendigo such as implementing the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines in vending machines and the retail food outlet (managed by Bendigo Student Association) on campus	Bendigo Student Association		<p>Sweeney's Café permanently closed. Seven Healthy Choices compliant vending machines installed. Bendigo Student Association merged with the newly formed La Trobe Student Association Ltd which now has university wide responsibility for this action.</p>



Action	Lead team	Support
1.9 Support settings such as early learning centres, schools and workplaces through the Healthy Eating (and oral health) priority area of the Achievement Program and Smiles4Miles	Bendigo Community Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Greater Bendigo • Healthy Eating Advisory Service • Smiles 4 Miles, DHSV • Healthy Greater Bendigo • Coliban Water
Update		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 Early Learning Centres completed the Healthy Eating and Oral Health benchmark - 0 Schools have completed Healthy Eating and Oral Health benchmark - 0 workplaces have completed the healthy eating benchmark (refer 1.6) • Smiles4Miles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 Early Learning Centres were awarded in the Smiles4Miles program within the 2020-2021 financial year. As part of the award process Centres are required to submit their Healthy Eating/Active Play/Oral Health policy to Dental Health Services and Cancer Council (if participating in Achievement Program) for approval. 19 Centres Healthy Eating/Active Play/Oral Health policy were approved in 2020-2021. Eight centres (who provide food) had their menus assessed and approved by the Healthy Eating Advisory Service. - Further, as part of the program Centres are required to deliver "learning experiences" for children and parents/ caregivers on the three key messages: eat well, clean well and drink well. Of the engaged centres all have water policies. Water is readily accessible for children at these centres. Centres undertake a range of learning experiences for "eat well": growing fruits/vegetables, cooking classes, education sessions targeted at healthy eating (sometimes food, dietary guidelines etc). - Of the 35 Early Learning Centres currently enrolled in Smiles4Miles, 21 have received approval of their Healthy Eating and Oral Health Policy. • Promotion of Achievement Program through Healthy Greater Bendigo newsletter. • Coliban Water has been liaising with early childhood centres registered with Smiles4Miles to provide education sessions, resources and drink bottles. Please note that ongoing we will no longer provide drink bottles and will focus on offering education resources and sessions. 		

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
1.10 Support sporting clubs to implement the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines or equivalent, with a focus on sponsorship deals, player vouchers, fundraising and food sold through canteens	City of Greater Bendigo	Sports Focus	Healthy Sports Vouchers project progressing, winter season 2021 vouchers provided to 10 clubs from 8 sports. The program will continue in the summer season.
1.11 Review and update the City's Healthy Food and Catering Policy as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Review complete, to be adopted by Council in 21/22 financial year.
1.12 Develop and implement City of Greater Bendigo's Healthy Facilities Policy which sets expectations for users of Council facilities and future facility design with regards to the Healthy Choices Guidelines i.e. catering, sponsorship, advertising and signage, vending machines, food retail	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Initial consultation undertaken with only a small amount of feedback provided. To progress to community exhibition. Implementation plan to be developed. Advocating for policy to be linked to other Council policies eg. Community Grants Policy review is also ongoing.
1.13 Explore opportunities to conduct a healthy food basket audit to update Greater Bendigo's food affordability data and replicate as required to maintain and monitor current data	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Monash Dietetics students undertook this project in Feb-March 2021. This project measured the affordability of a healthy fortnightly shop for a range of household types and analysed instore marketing promotion at supermarkets and retailers across the municipality. This project will be completed again in 2025 to track affordability and health promoting practices of supermarkets.
1.14 Develop a food security factsheet that incorporates the location of food deserts to guide organisations work and target areas to support food security locally	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	The food security section of the Active Living Census addresses this. Promoted through Healthy Greater Bendigo newsletter.
1.15 Support the installation of water fountains in locations of need	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water	Project plan in development.
1.16 Map all water fountains in Greater Bendigo and make publicly available	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coliban Water Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Mapping complete, not yet publicly available. Healthy Greater Bendigo will promote when available. Until then, we continue to promote water consumption.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
1.17 Advocacy to address legislative and policy barriers to healthy eating	Healthy Greater Bendigo	City of Greater Bendigo	Various advocacy efforts underway, including research to understand those legislative and policy barriers (INFORMAS), plus participation in other advocacy efforts (i.e. Obesity coalition, brands off our kids).
1.18 Investigate and develop local planning controls for the planning scheme that discourages convenience and takeaway restaurants and encourages fresh food outlets	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo promoting the need for a broad coalition of partners to advocate for changes to the state planning scheme to reduce barriers to action at a local level.
1.19 Support the Food Relief Network by providing regular updates to the 'Food Relief in Greater Bendigo' brochure and make publicly available	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Food relief Flyer is updated every 3-4 months. Existing and new agencies are requested to check info on new draft prior to publishing. Updated flyer is put on City of Greater Bendigo web site and emailed out to various NFP/charitable groups as well as individuals who have requested it or would have an interest in the information. These agencies and individuals then distribute in further as they see fit.
1.20 Support food relief agencies and programs such as Bendigo Foodshare, community meals and school breakfast programs	City of Greater Bendigo		<p>Auspice the "Strengthening Victoria's Foodshare Operations" project - external consultant appointed.</p> <p>Supported Bendigo Foodshare in administrative work, service delivery, the establishment of the Bendigo Food Pantry, and in convening the first 5 meetings of food relief service agencies.</p> <p>Supporting agencies currently involved in food relief work, as well as new initiatives in this area or complementary to it with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance advice • Grant funding advice • Venue assistance • Compliance with local laws
1.21 Support the community to interpret Greater Bendigo's Active Living Census data to address local food security issues	Healthy Greater Bendigo	City of Greater Bendigo	Video to support understanding shared across networks, further mapping project underway to support a clearer spatial understanding of this data.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
1.22 Seek funding opportunities to conduct future Active Living Census to collect and maintain local healthy eating and food security data	Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership		The Active Living Census was included as part of a budget bid for 2021/22 state government funding. The funding request was for \$7 million over 4 years to continue Healthy Heart of Victoria, a three-part response to improving health and wellbeing outcomes across the Loddon Campaspe region (Active Living Census is one part). Healthy Heart of Victoria was included in the 2021/22 state budget, receiving \$1.4M funding for a twelve-month period. This budget and timeline do not include delivery of the Active Living Census. Healthy Heart of Victoria plans to apply for funding in the next state budget and will again include the Active Living Census as part of this.
1.23 Investigate platforms to share successful strategies to reduce food poverty locally	Bendigo Foodshare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Community Health Services • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>Bendigo Foodshare developed the Bendigo Community Food Pantry website and order system in partnership with over 30 agencies and businesses in response to COVID in 2020. Now developing the Community Food Pantry online ordering system with ability for multiple agencies to support short term food relief orders.</p> <p>Bendigo Community Health Services has shared the City of Greater Bendigo food relief information flyer with staff to assist consumers experiencing hardship. The flyer has also been placed on the Bendigo Community Health Services website and has been downloaded 619 times.</p>
1.24 Investigate feasibility of and subject to a successful funding application, deliver a program that includes food relief supermarket vans going to food deserts	Bendigo Foodshare		Not started yet. No funding available at present.
1.25 Support emergency food relief agencies to access and rescue fresh, local produce to distribute to educational, organisational and community settings	Bendigo Foodshare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency food relief agencies • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 	Fresh food availability increased with Bendigo Foodshare rescuing 7 days a week from supermarkets. Grow a Row project has encouraged local fresh food growing and donations through Bendigo Foodshare, along with apple gleaning in Harcourt and growing food for food relief in local market garden.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
1.26 Improve access to healthy food by supporting the community to access produce from local suppliers i.e. coordinate a regular Farmers Market	Bendigo Community Farmers Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>Weekly Thursday Farmers Market started.</p> <p>Promoted Farmer's Market through Healthy Greater Bendigo newsletter.</p>
1.27 Support multicultural groups to be able to access foods that they know from their culture, locally	Bendigo Community Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Greater Bendigo • Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services 	<p>Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services</p> <p>2020 June to December: Culturally appropriate food boxes distributed over six weeks to 18 families: 108. Food Bank provided on our behalf self-choice and collection: 30 families and 54 individuals per week.</p> <p>2021 January to June: Food Bank provided for self-choice and collection: 42 families and 92 individuals per week. Distribution of 36 culturally appropriate meals.</p>
1.28 Work with multicultural groups to deliver healthy eating education	Bendigo Community Health Services		Karen diabetes resource created in partnership with community and Diabetes Victoria. Intercultural workers have been trained and delivered healthy eating sessions to Karen, South Sudanese and Afghani young people.
1.29 Become a signatory to The Australian Food Network's Urban and Regional Food Declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 		<p>Bendigo Regional Food Alliance will become a signatory in 2021-2022.</p> <p>Neighbourhood House Cluster invited to become signatories 2021-2022.</p>

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
1.30 Identify ways to increase the regular, affordable supply of fresh, local foods to communities where this may be currently lacking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 		<p>Heathcote Community House coordinates welfare including food relief efforts, participated in Grow, Cook, Share, involved with Food Connect with Bendigo Foodshare, Facebook promotion of the Bendigo Community Farmers Market, community garden open to public.</p> <p>Eaglehawk Community House offer community meals and food parcels, community garden open to public, participated in Grow, Cook, Share and the Youth Food project.</p> <p>Long Gully Neighbourhood House Community garden open to public.</p> <p>Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub cooking classes online.</p> <p>Marong community garden open to public.</p> <p>Kangaroo Flat Community House community garden open to public, participated in Grow, Cook, Share.</p> <p>Neighbourhood House Cluster involved in general food relief referrals.</p> <p>Bendigo Regional Food Alliance researched (and continue to research) sustainable models for the Edible Oasis project.</p>
1.31 Investigate ways to include healthy options in emergency food relief packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Foodshare Salvation Army Bendigo 		<p>Bendigo Foodshare provides fresh food and where possible purchases additional healthy food to fill gaps in donated food availability.</p> <p>Bendigo Foodshare and the City printed simple and easy recipe cards to include with bags of chickpeas</p> <p>Salvation Army Bendigo - Fresh produce shortages occurred occasionally from supermarkets due to COVID, however excess produce from the Gravel Hill Community Garden was able to be harvested to include in emergency food relief parcels and the food pantry.</p> <p>Excess produce from the community garden were made into meals that were frozen and distributed.</p>



Objective 2: Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
<p>2.1 Create a 'local food' brand for the Greater Bendigo municipality that will support an increase in consumer awareness about where food comes from and may also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investigation of 'food traceability' options for food retailers • A 'buy local, eat local' campaign that may promote farm gates, local growers and producers etc. • A 'local food hero's' campaign 	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Food Fossickers • Bendigo Community Farmers Market • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster • bHive • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>A creative agency was employed to progress this piece of work. Initial 'creative territories' presented to City of Greater Bendigo and other stakeholders and feedback provided to agency.</p> <p>New logo and brand identity to be launched before end 2021, with further discussions planned regarding the 'local food brand' element. Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee to develop guidelines for the logo and brands use and further develop the concept of ambassadors or 'food heroes'.</p>
<p>2.2 Conduct a rural and environmental study that looks at land type, quality and collects environmental data to inform future work such as protection of agricultural and horticultural land across the municipality</p>	City of Greater Bendigo		<p>Brief has been presented to Councillors (April). One study will be completed to inform the Managed Growth Strategy. Approval process is underway.</p>

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
2.3 Develop local planning controls to protect horticultural/agricultural land across the whole municipality	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Policy will be developed related to land capability study.
2.4 Investigate the healthy, local products that are available from local suppliers to support the creation and sale of a 'healthy local' hamper	City of Greater Bendigo		<p>The Bendigo Visitor Centre sourced a number of local items to be included in this 'healthy hamper' and have had this hamper on sale over the last couple of months both in-store and online as the 'Good Living Pack'. This hamper retails at \$45.95 and includes the following suppliers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husk and Harvest – natural walnuts • Simply Green Tomatoes – sliced green tomatoes • Bridgeward Grove – olive oil • Harcourt Cider – apple cider vinegar • Salute Olives – Mazanillo olives • Wallaby Water – still spring water
2.5 Advocate for changes to regulations that are prohibitive to small and medium food businesses (including farm gates) while maintaining food safety requirements	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Work in this space is ongoing. To date, the City of Greater Bendigo has advocated for inclusion of healthier food options in fundraising, food business classes, and has provided input on update to food business classification scheme via small business review reference group.
2.6 Investigate opportunities to increase the amount of fresh produce available at markets	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		The Market currently has 12 regular bread, egg, apple, spices, fruits and vegetables stalls plus 10+ seasonal stalls for cherries, berries, pumpkins, potatoes and have identified further fresh produce opportunities as per 2.7.
2.7 Develop facilities to enable a wider range of produce to be available for markets	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		This is an ongoing action item which has also been flagged in our Master Plan, which includes expansion to refrigerated facilities for meats, fish, dairy and fresh produce.
2.8 Assist the local business community to understand and promote Food Matters through Be.Bendigo events and communications	Be.Bendigo		No update.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
2.9 Improve connection of food businesses to the wider business community through targeting food businesses to attend Be.Bendigo training and events	Be.Bendigo		No update.
2.10 Support farmers to learn and use regenerative farming practices and plan for climate change	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)	Plans to support a Regenerative Agricultural Officer shared between Hepburn, Macedon Ranges and City of Greater Bendigo councils. Planned to start from start of 21/22 financial year. Loddon Shire has also started a Regenerative Agriculture Group under the funding provided by NCCMA, which supplements the group at Raywood. TAFE Cert III Agriculture Regenerative Agriculture course established.
2.11 Support the coordination of the creation of a network of linked food precincts across the region such as farm gates, community gardens, restaurants and cafes serving local produce	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Fossickers • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 	Gastronomy Guide links local food businesses together across the region. Invitation sent to all LGAs in Gastronomy Region to be involved, broadening the scope of the guide and the potential precincts. Community garden network launched.
2.12 Explore opportunities to support urban food growing at a commercial scale	City of Greater Bendigo		Not started yet.
2.13 Promote existing resources to support food businesses to grow their business (i.e. available funding support)	City of Greater Bendigo		Promotion through the Gastronomy Guide, Local Producer Directory, Gastronomy newsletter.
2.14 Develop and maintain a local commercial kitchen resource that includes details of the commercial kitchens suitable for hire in the region	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Project plan in development.
2.15 Support organisations to prioritise local food procurement through healthy food and catering policies	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Community Health Services • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Not yet started.



Action	Lead team	Support	Update
2.16 Support local food tendering and ordering through the promotion of relevant platforms such as <i>Localised</i>	City of Greater Bendigo	Be.Bendigo	Not yet started.
2.17 Implement key food system related actions from Greater Bendigo's Environment Strategy and update the Strategy and Action Plan as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Draft environment strategy developed, to be adopted in 21/22 financial year.
2.18 Investigate the feasibility of starting a young farmers program	Peppergreen Farm		Young Farmer Business Bootcamp workshop scheduled mid-June 2021 through Agriculture Victoria.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
2.19 Develop and disseminate information about the types of foods that can be sold without application fees	City of Greater Bendigo		Information has been produced and is about to be published on the City's webpages in the Food Business section.
2.20 Support an increase in value of primary producers and encourage and support primary production as a career choice i.e. supporting secondary schools and tertiary institutions to deliver programs that promote and encourage agricultural career pathways	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Heathcote Community House 	<p>Bendigo Food Share connecting with site design and Production Horticulture Programs.</p> <p>TAFE Cert III Agriculture Regenerative Agriculture course established.</p>
2.21 Identify and promote relevant platforms and pathways for young farmers and support initiatives that address barriers to entry into farming	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)		<p>Bendigo Food Share connecting with site design and Production Horticulture Programs.</p> <p>TAFE Cert III Agriculture Regenerative Agriculture course established.</p>
2.22 Establish a business mentoring program for small food producers and growers	City of Greater Bendigo	Be.Bendigo	Supported the development of Business Bootcamps for young farmers in the Bendigo region (focused on grain and livestock producers) with Agriculture Victoria.
2.23 Facilitate a food swap at the Bendigo Community Farmers Market	Bendigo Community Farmers Market		Unable to start due to COVID.
2.24 Include indigenous food growing at Gravel Hill Community Garden	Salvation Army Bendigo		<p>Project Plan has been developed to turn the front of the site into an Indigenous food garden using the Work for the Dole initiative. Project was put on hold due to COVID lockdowns.</p> <p>Project will continue to progress with the following planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial planting of indigenous food crops in the community garden Consultation with Indigenous community Seek funding opportunities to progress landscaping and irrigation system

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
2.25 Partnership project to identify emerging technologies that support healthy food production	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latrobe University Bendigo Bendigo Manufacturing Group Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence) 	Not yet started.
2.26 Develop and disseminate information about growing and selling food to the general community and to commercial enterprises i.e. cafés, restaurants and food outlets	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Initial scoping has commenced on this action. Further consultation required.
2.27 Investigate feasibility of rate incentives, differentials, rebates or communications which support farmers in the use of sustainable farming practices. If feasible, implement accordingly	City of Greater Bendigo		The work of the Regenerative Agricultural Officer prefaces this work and allows this work to start.
2.28 Conduct a study into the effects of climate change on the existing food production in the area	City of Greater Bendigo		Planning to consider the high value agricultural land in the region, looking over a time period of 10, 30, 50 years, considering the effects of climate change. A larger study across the Northern Central Catchment Region has been approved. This project will take three years.
2.29 Explore ways to support the implementation of the Healthy Choices component of the Itinerant Trading Policy	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	NEW ACTION Healthy Greater Bendigo - Promoting the policy through networks and seeking/advocating for support to implement the policy.
2.30 Climate Ready Young Growers	PepperGreen Farm	Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	NEW ACTION Five workshops for 15 – 25yo members of the community to have hands-on learning opportunities around climate change adaptation and practical skills to build food security.





Objective 3: Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
3.1 Support schools and early learning centres to implement the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program or equivalent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation City of Greater Bendigo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Heart of Victoria Resource Smart Schools Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group Bendigo Community Health Services Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>School Kitchen Garden project undertaken by Healthy Heart of Victoria with support from the City of Greater Bendigo in Long Gully and Kangaroo Flat. 7 primary schools and 2 early learning centres were involved. Options to continue/broaden this work are being investigated.</p> <p>City of Greater Bendigo, Healthy Greater Bendigo and Kalianna School Sowing the Seeds to Success: Breaking down the barriers to the veggie garden event held in March 2021 included keynote speakers from Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and Bendigo Foodshare. A Q&A session also provided information about getting started and inspiration for expanding. The Community Garden Networked was also launched.</p> <p>Continuing to promote kitchen garden programs and resources through Healthy Greater Bendigo and Healthy Heart of Victoria newsletters.</p>

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
3.2 Investigate the need and interest in establishing and supporting a community gardens network that may share resources, knowledge, ideas etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Foodshare • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Community gardens 	Community garden network launched March 2021. Community Garden Network Facebook group established. Bendigo Foodshare working with local schools and community gardens through Grow a Row campaign.
3.3 Update the City's 2008 Nature Strip Policy to include the City's position on nature strip edible planting and incorporate Greening Greater Bendigo principles	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Review underway.
3.4 Develop and maintain an 'information hub' that provides a platform for sharing resources to support existing and new community gardens including policies, guidelines, relevant resources, grant opportunities and promote opportunities for people to participate	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gardens • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Webpage established on City of Greater Bendigo website, March 2021. To be updated as needed. Community Garden Network Facebook group also established.
3.5 Support the establishment of new community gardens where there is a demonstrated need and interest	City of Greater Bendigo	Community gardens	Providing support as needed – have had contact with 5 groups over past 12months.
3.6 Review the Community Gardens Policy for City of Greater Bendigo and update as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Review underway.
3.7 Develop a 'risk map' to determine areas affected by soil contamination to support and manage risk of urban agriculture and backyard food growing	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Project scope has been adjusted to now act as a 'road map' to minimising contamination risk in backyard agriculture. Information has been produced and is about to be published on the City of Greater Bendigo's webpage in the Environmental Health section.
3.8 Develop community campaigns about the benefits of a healthy diet, affordability of healthy food, where to go for resources etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food System Strategy External Reference Group • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Promoted others' community campaigns through Healthy Greater Bendigo newsletter. Scoping further opportunities to undertake a local campaign.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
3.9 Continue to update the City's Home Grown Booklet as required	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Last update 2019. Continuing to distribute to community and at events such as Sowing the seeds to Success: Breaking down the barriers to the veggie garden and the Sustainable Living Festival as well as on the City of Greater Bendigo's website and through newsletters.
3.10 Partner with Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung and relevant stakeholders to develop knowledge and understanding of sustainable land-use practices, language and the cultural life of the region through Indigenous food plants Develop a calendar, using Indigenous language, detailing the six seasons of food and fibre plants, weather and animals that guided Traditional Owners in their reading of the landscape	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dja Dja Wurrung Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Stage One of this project underway. Project support officer/consultant appointed to facilitate knowledge-gathering workshop with Dja Dja Wurrung elders and community to discuss how the project can progress through co-design, events, education. Document is being prepared which lays out key concepts, ways to work together, next steps and resourcing to support Djaara's work.
3.11 Expand the Bendigo Sustainability Awards and Sustainable Living Festival that may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> incorporate a sustainable food festival showcase (i.e. develop vignettes) on the nominees from the Sustainability Awards categories related to the food system 	Bendigo Sustainability Group	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Sustainable Living Festival held March 27, 2021.
3.12 Support and expand food system sustainability events and expand to other townships	Bendigo Sustainability Group	Healthy Greater Bendigo	No update.
3.13 Investigate feasibility of working with partners to implement a healthy food initiative with older adults such as implementing the Maggie Beer Program in aged care facilities	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Social Support building in Kangaroo Flat had its garden upgraded and is being used by social support clients. Planters are full of wonderful smelling herbs, vegetables and sensory plants encouraging clients to physically move around the outdoor space to maintain the gardens and pick the flowers and vegetables.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
3.14 Investigate feasibility of implementing the INFANT Program with first time parents through the Maternal and Child Health service	Bendigo Community Health Services	City of Greater Bendigo	City of Greater Bendigo Maternal and Child Health, Bendigo Community Health Services and Bendigo Health collaborating to look at INFANT Program (supported by Healthy Greater Bendigo).
3.15 Seek funding to support community kitchens and cooking clubs to be implemented across the region. Develop and disseminate a 'manual' on how to set up local cooking clubs	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Foodshare • Salvation Army Bendigo • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>Bendigo Foodshare is assisting 3 schools and one community house to develop their Cooking Clubs.</p> <p>Received funding to create Grow, Cook, Share videos, shifting the program online due to COVID restrictions. The Manual and associated resources were added to the Bendigo Foodshare website, Manual was also adapted into online videos. All Grow Cook Share resources will be added to the Bendigo Regional Food Alliance website in 2021-2022.</p>
3.16 Facilitate partnerships between community gardens, local producers and growers, schools and emergency food relief agencies	Bendigo Foodshare	Healthy Greater Bendigo	<p>City of Greater Bendigo, Healthy Greater Bendigo and Kalianna School Sowing the Seeds to Success: Breaking down the barriers to the veggie garden event held in March 2021 included keynote speakers from Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program and Bendigo Foodshare. The event aimed to get more food growing in more places, build relationships between key stakeholders and promoted donating produce back to Foodshare.</p> <p>Bendigo Foodshare YouFoods project connecting schools to improve food security amongst disengaged youth.</p> <p>Grow a Row project connecting with local schools and community gardens to grow and share more food.</p> <p>Growing food on local market garden for food relief.</p>
3.17 Deliver accessible community food growing workshops and programs specific to our local climate	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Composting workshop due in July 2021.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
3.18 Investigate interest and feasibility in a 'tool sharing' program	Bendigo Sustainability Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 	No update.
3.19 Seek volunteer and financial support to maintain the Bendigo Regional Food Alliance's Food Information Portal	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Funding opportunities explored. Working towards building membership base in 2021-2022 financial year.
3.20 Advocate and apply for food systems funding (for labour to develop/ implement key projects i.e. funding to implement next phase of Grow, Cook, Share project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Bendigo Foodshare 	Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	<p>Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing funding secured to assist with Bendigo Foodshare operations, to support the building of a larger warehouse and to purchase more food for multicultural groups and for all food relief agencies.</p> <p>Grow a Row, Pick a Branch project extended to include local farm production supported by volunteers. Cooking groups established for youth in Castlemaine, Bendigo and Eaglehawk.</p> <p>Bendigo Regional Food Alliance looking to increase membership base to enable project planning and funding applications.</p>
3.21 Support diverse cultures to share their food growing and cooking knowledge and expertise	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Salvation Army Bendigo Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>Cookery shows based on traditional dishes using mainly local produce: 5 videos.</p> <p>179 cooked meals provided to isolated individuals and individuals in crisis.</p>
3.22 Support older adults (and other communities) to share their food growing and cooking knowledge with cross generational groups in a setting that may include a variety of food growing and cooking opportunities, such as a community garden/hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 	Healthy Greater Bendigo	<p>Bendigo Regional Food Alliance - Generally, older adults are mentors in Grow, Cook, Share – hence their kitchen garden skills were shared in this program with participants. Knowledge was also shared through the continuation of the Edible Oasis program.</p> <p>Neighbourhood House Cluster - Knowledge and skills shared through community gardens as well as through the Grow, Cook, Share program.</p>

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
3.23 Scale up 'multicultural preparing for work' program	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services		<p>2020 Semester 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting work in Australia - Engineering: 14 Starting work in Manufacturing - DonKr: 8 <p>2021 Semester 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting work in Manufacturing - Sisterworks: 7 Starting work in Hospitality: 7 Starting work in Australia - DonKr: 14, Spotless: 15 <p>Total: 65</p>
3.24 Coordinate an annual calendar of workshops to support food growing and cooking that may include preserving and seed saving	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Greater Bendigo Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance looking to increase membership base to enable project planning and funding applications.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
3.25 Actively engage with state and national advocacy platforms and campaigns e.g. Parent's Voice, Sustain and VicHealth to build local engagement and momentum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo continuing to engage with VicHealth, Sustain, Obesity Policy Coalition, and others. Relevant campaigns and work (such as Sustain's work) shared via Facebook.
3.26 Support and advocate for better management of fruit fly locally	Bendigo Community Fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster 	<p>796 members in the Bendigo Region Fruit Fly Facebook group, mostly from the Greater Bendigo Region. There were an increased number of success stories shared this summer but also an increase in new areas of infestation. The group is active in sharing management advice with the trending advice being to remove all the fruit or to net it.</p> <p>Bendigo FoodShare has developed a Queensland Fruit Fly management plan to stop spread of the pest via incoming donations. This has been in place and implemented since February 2021.</p> <p>Pruning refresher course and practice day with 11 attendees all now skilled in pruning fruit trees to reachable height to manage fruit fly. Pest and disease management workshop and a pruning workshop both with 10 in attendance. 6 gardens and a community garden that will all have trees pruned to be manageable. Around 15 Queensland Fruit Fly specific traps were given to households to monitor their garden and confirm Queensland Fruit Fly. Harvested and donated over 100kg of local Queensland Fruit Fly free produce to Bendigo FoodShare.</p> <p>2 news items were filmed for local news stations regarding Queensland Fruit Fly management.</p> <p>Information about Queensland Fruit Fly also added to City of Greater Bendigo gardening webpage and promoted at Sowing the seeds event in March 2021.</p>

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
3.27 Continue to build water efficient wicking beds for community and key settings such as aged care facilities	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	<p>Wicking beds have been built for the following schools through Healthy Heart Victoria and City of Greater Bendigo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kalianna School Bendigo • St Monicas PS Kangaroo Flat • Lightning Reef ELC, North Bendigo <p>Looking for more projects in the community.</p> <p>Promoted wicking beds to schools and other stakeholders through Healthy Greater Bendigo newsletter.</p>
3.28 Build a therapeutic horticulture community garden to enhance the wellbeing and health of community members	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	<p>Working through the planning process and possibilities of funding for a Horticulture Therapy Garden at Peppergreen Farm.</p> <p>PepperGreen Farm is also open to the public and enhances community wellbeing.</p> <p>Provided advice to Peppergreen Farm about Council's planning processes and where to find support.</p>
3.29 Facilitate healthy cooking classes for community, with garden to plate approach, using produce grown onsite	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	<p>Health Heart of Victoria school training sessions proposed for 2021, on hold due to COVID restrictions.</p> <p>Included in school excursion programs and Paddock to Plate classes through Access Australia, RTO division.</p>
3.30 Seek funding opportunities to extend 'Grow a Row, Pick a Branch' campaign to support community gardens and engagement with young people	Bendigo Foodshare		<p>Bendigo Foodshare YouFoods project funded. Strong engagement with youth, schools and community gardens.</p> <p>Grow a Row campaign coordinator supported through business sponsorship.</p>



Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
4.1 Investigate feasibility of expanding City of Greater Bendigo's household Organics Collection to reach more townships within the municipality	City of Greater Bendigo		An anticipated increase of approximately 550- 600 tonnes per year of organics is diverted from the landfill. This is based on an additional 1720 tenements receiving the service.
4.2 Continue to promote and expand the City's Organics collection to schools and food businesses	City of Greater Bendigo		Currently expanding the organics service under free commercial organics trial. Adding nearly 10 food businesses each month. Currently signed up 81 businesses across Bendigo including food business, schools, florists, and hospitals.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
4.3 Develop and implement a new Waste Resource Management Strategy for beyond the period of 2014-2019	City of Greater Bendigo		No longer applicable. Incorporated into the Zero Waste component of the Environment Strategy.
4.4 Investigate opportunities for Our Future Workplace to become a 'zero food waste' building (pilot with temporary site/s and transition into 'Our Future Workplace')	City of Greater Bendigo		Supplying Indoor Office bins, with 47Lt Kitchen Caddy (for food waste) to ensure we have a consistent approach Council wide regarding the correct colouring of bins and sorting of food waste. Updating the indoor educational posters to be utilised across the council offices to divert food waste from landfill. Provide free education sessions to council staff on methods to reduce their food waste. Targets in the next Environment Strategy commit the organisation to zero organics to landfill by 2025 at the latest and all facilities to have organics bin access by end 2022.
4.5 Support the implementation of food waste educational opportunities for community members and professionals (i.e. composting workshops)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Greater Bendigo Loddon Mallee Waste Resource Recovery Group 		Composting workshops and free compost days to be scheduled for the 2021/2022 financial year.
4.6 Continue to offer worm farms and compost bin subsidies for residents in rural townships outside of the Organics boundary	City of Greater Bendigo		Greater Bendigo residents who live outside the designated organics collection zone are eligible to receive up to 70% off a compost bin and aerator or bokashi bin with free delivery from the City of Greater Bendigo.
4.7 Work with food retailers, food service providers and the community to reduce food waste (i.e. community campaign)	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare	Exploring opportunities on an ongoing basis to work with Food Retailers across Bendigo and link them with FOGO bin commercial rollout. Working with Bendigo Foodshare to recirculate rescued food and avoid food waste. Bendigo Foodshare is working with 3 additional supermarkets and Lansell Plaza food to collect food that would otherwise go to waste.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
4.8 Investigate how an increase in Biomix compost made from City of Greater Bendigo's Organics Waste can be redistributed back into the Greater Bendigo Community	City of Greater Bendigo		<p>Organised 2 community compost distribution events in 20/21 financial year in Bendigo.</p> <p>Offer free compost to schools and community groups/gardens (up to 3 cubic meters) who have undertaken City Of Greater Bendigo run waste education sessions. Our Compost program is aimed to reduce contamination, promote the use of the Organics bin and support community groups with their sustainability programs.</p>
4.9 Better utilise the knowledge and skill base of community gardens and schools for example, as demonstration sites for organic waste	City of Greater Bendigo		<p>Free Compost Day- An increase in Biomix compost made from City of Greater Bendigo's Organics Waste to be redistributed back into the Greater Bendigo Community using free compost distribution day (next compost day scheduled for Heathcote and Goornong in July 2021). More than 250 cubic metres provided during 2020/21 over two separate dates.</p> <p>Offering free compost (up to 3 cubic meters) to schools and community groups/gardens who undertake City of Greater Bendigo run waste education sessions. 100+ cubic metres provided during 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>Offering free waste education session for primary and secondary schools throughout Greater Bendigo. More than 80 sessions provided from September 2020 through to June 2021. Offering free education sessions for community groups throughout Bendigo. 8 sessions provided in the six months to June 2021.</p> <p>Greater Bendigo residents who live outside the designated organics collection zone are eligible to receive up to 70% off a compost bin & aerator or bokashi bin with free delivery from the City.</p>
4.10 Contribute to and leverage off LaTrobe University's 'Internet of Things' unit and research	City of Greater Bendigo	La Trobe University	Not yet started.

Action	Lead team	Support	Update
4.11 Develop Guidelines for external facilitated events regarding food and waste (healthy, local content, minimising food waste, nude food)	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Partly covered by single-use plastics elimination policy re: external facilitated events at City facilities. Discussions held with Events Team re: standardising provision of FOGO bin at all events at City facilities as part of standard "bin package provision".
4.12 Promote and encourage water trailers and drinking fountains over single use plastic bottles at community and Council supported events	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group Coliban Water 	<p>City of Greater Bendigo single-use plastic elimination policy in effect from August 20 under which water trailers and drinking fountains are promoted over single-use plastic bottles at council run events.</p> <p>Coliban Water continues to obtain requests for upcoming events on an ongoing basis and have upgraded the bottle refill stations with touch-free sensor capability to be able to continue to support community events. On average (pre-COVID) over 110 events supported per annum across the Coliban Water region.</p>
4.13 Support excess food to be donated to emergency food relief agencies and cooking clubs	Bendigo Foodshare	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	823,183 kgs of food sourced and distributed, which equates to 1.646million meals (.5kg = 1 meal), 114 supermarket collections, \$6.21 million - food value, 489,651kg of local food sourced through supermarket rescues, food businesses, farms, and community, over 12,500 meals made through cafes for covid project - by local businesses and social enterprises for food relief.
4.14 Develop a food waste reduction policy for the major events held at the Bendigo Showgrounds	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.	City of Greater Bendigo	Although events have been significantly affected by COVID lockdowns and restrictions, requests for event organisers to request recyclable containers, cutlery, straws, etc. In 2022, this will become a requirement for market stalls and events and will hopefully be returning with all events compliant by 2023.
4.15 Support the utilisation of Bendigo Foodshare's Food Donations app	Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Foodshare Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Not progressed yet due to need to prioritize Bendigo Foodshare work.



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