

The background is a dark teal color with various stylized food and farm-related illustrations in bright colors. At the top left is a large orange banana. To its right is a red strawberry with green leaves. Further right is a yellow corn cob. On the left side, there are red tomatoes. On the right side, there is a green pea pod with leaves. At the bottom left is a carrot with green stalks. At the bottom center is a slice of watermelon. At the bottom right is a red onion. In the background, there are faint, light green silhouettes of farm vehicles like tractors and trucks, and circular arrows indicating a cycle.

GREATER BENDIGO'S FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGY

ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO



Contents



Our vision, guiding principles and objectives Page 4

Introduction Page 5

Contributions beyond Greater Bendigo Page 6

Food System Consensus Statement Page 6

VicHealth Local Government Partnership Page 7

Research projects Page 7

Report summary Page 8-9

Key Evaluation Questions Page 10

Action highlights Page 11-14

Objective 1: Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks Page 11

Objective 2: Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally Page 12

Objective 3: Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture Page 13

Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill Page 14

Partners Page 15

Appendix 1 – Action updates for 2021/2022 financial year Page 16-36

Appendix 2 – Action plan for 2022/2023 financial year Page 37-47

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 future 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.



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 second year of the Strategy's implementation.

The first part of the year saw further interruption from lockdowns and restrictions. Then as we entered 'COVID normal' we saw new challenges arise with staff shortages, global events and natural disasters disrupting our food supply chains and increasing the cost of fresh food in supermarkets. In contrast, prices of local fresh food direct from farm gates and farmers markets remained stable.

Food security continues to be an issue in Greater Bendigo. Food relief providers have reported that the number of community members seeking support has not dropped with the transition to 'COVID normal' and is still increasing due to the additional cost of living pressures that have surfaced over the past year.

Action on food security and healthy eating continues to be a priority with the City of Greater Bendigo (the City) endorsing the following plans and strategies in late 2021, all of which include reference to food security and healthy eating.

Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025

- Outcome 2 - Healthy, liveable spaces and places
 - Goal 1 - Strengthened community health and wellbeing
 - Goal 2 - A healthy, equitable and sustainable food system

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (Healthy Greater Bendigo) 2021-2025

- Outcome 1: Health and wellbeing 'The Greater Bendigo community has good physical and mental health' - Healthy eating, food insecurity and sustainable food systems

Climate Change and Environment Strategy (2021-2026)

- GOAL N: Council is a leader in sustainable food procurement, practices, and policy
- GOAL O: Sustainable food production systems are viable, resource efficient and regenerate natural ecosystems
- GOAL P: Communities are aware of the resources required to produce food and know how they can influence the food system
- GOAL Q: Enable Traditional Owners to grow and harvest indigenous food and fibre plants



Contributions beyond Greater Bendigo

The Food System Officer, who is responsible for the Strategy oversight and implementation, presented on the Strategy to groups, including:

- William Angliss Institute students
- Monash University Dietetics students
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation
- Food System Consensus Statement launch event

The Consensus Statement highlights ten key leverage points for action to facilitate this transition:

Leverage Point 1: Right to Food Law

Leverage Point 2: Food Systems Governance

Leverage Point 3: Food Systems Monitoring

Leverage Point 4: Agroecological Food Production

Leverage Point 5: Local Food Infrastructure

Leverage Point 6: Public Sector Food Procurement and Retail

Leverage Point 7: School Food Systems

Leverage Point 8: Community Food Systems Strategies

Leverage Point 9: Community Food Systems Planning

Leverage Point 10: Food Relief Models

Food System Consensus Statement

'Towards a Healthy, Regenerative, and Equitable Food System in Victoria: A Consensus Statement' (Consensus Statement) has been developed by the Victorian Food Systems and Food Security Working Group of which the City is a member. The Consensus Statement articulates a shared vision to guide the necessary transition of Victoria's food system to a food system that delivers healthy, regenerative and equitable outcomes for our communities.

In line with evidence and global best practice, the Consensus Statement adopts a rights-based food systems approach. This ensures that the path of transition is fair and inclusive and that decision-making processes are underpinned by human rights principles.

The Consensus Statement and accompanying resources can be found online at www.vicfoodsystem.org.au



VicHealth Local Government Partnership

VicHealth is partnering with Victorian councils to set kids up for their best possible future by creating communities where children and young people grow up active, socially connected and healthy. The partnership amplifies their voices, ideas and experiences to create a healthier future.

VicHealth works with fast-track councils in a strategic and equitable way through evidence-based health promotion modules and communities of practice. By partnering with councils in this way stronger and long-lasting outcomes for more Victorians will be seen.

City of Greater Bendigo is a development partner for the Building Better Food Systems for Healthier Communities health promotion module. The City's Food Systems Strategy and it's development is referenced throughout the module.

The Building Better Food Systems for Healthier Communities module can be found online at www.vichealth.vic.gov.au

Research projects



The City has participated, and continues to receive requests to further participate, in research in relation to the work occurring as a result of the Strategy, including:

- Healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems: Growing the role of local government?

University of Sydney, University of Wollongong and the William Angliss Institute

Reports are available for Victoria and New South Wales and for Greater Bendigo

- 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
- The VARIETY Project: increasing vegetable intake in young adults living in regional communities

Deakin University

- Promoting CHANGE (Community Health And Nutrition, and Government Engagement): a Randomised Controlled Trial to accelerate healthy food retail in local government settings

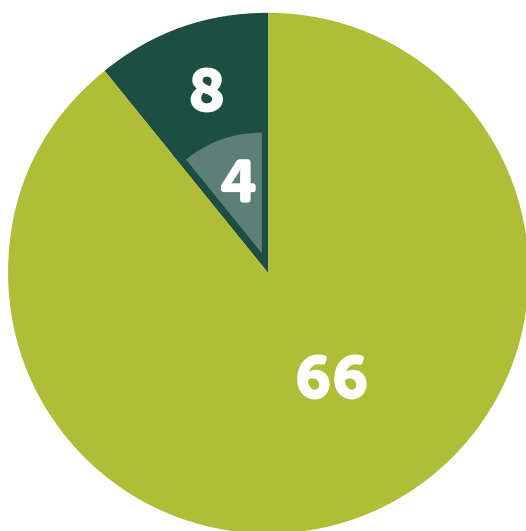
Deakin University

- RE-FRESH – COACH (Co-creation and evaluation of food environments to Advance Community Health) project

Centre of Research Excellence Food Retail Environments for Health

Report summary

Strategy action progression



- Actions in progress this year
- Actions completed
- Actions completed this year

Sports clubs



Organics



Bendigo Foodshare



Schools and early years



Key evaluation questions

Five key evaluation questions have been established and will help track progress over time. Some of these questions will be tracked yearly and others at certain intervals throughout implementation of the Strategy. These questions and progress for the 2021/2022 financial year are outlined below.

How has community engagement impacted on policy? Where has this occurred in the system?

The City drafted the Healthy Facilities Policy and undertook community engagement for this policy. Community were asked to provide feedback so the City can better understand what support facility users will need to help them in implementing the policy. Feedback provided by community members is being used to develop a range of support resources and case studies. The need for one-to-one support was also identified as a need by some groups, particularly sporting clubs. As a result, this type of support will be available to assist these groups to implement the policy.

What new connections exist as a result of the implementation of the strategy? What have they resulted in?

- Bendigo Foodshare has created links with the employment sector to assist young people to find employment through the Café for a Day pilot project
- The Food System Strategy Action Planning Workshop held in May helped to develop new and strengthen existing partnerships through networking, sharing and recommitment to action
- The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Healthy Kids Advisor has established Food in Sport and Food in Schools Communities of Practice to develop partnerships and coordinate efforts of those working in these areas

How has the Food System Strategy influenced the community's perception of their role in the food system? Has this led to change in practice?

No data was collected on this for the 2021/2022 financial year.

What enablers and barriers have impacted the implementation of good practice?

Enablers:

- Additional human resourcing - Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Healthy Kids Advisor and Healthy Loddon Campaspe Healthy Communities Officer - Healthy Sports Clubs Project
- Development of Food in Sport and Food in Schools Communities of Practice to coordinate efforts of those working in these areas
- Vic Kids Eat Well initiative providing a consistent approach for places that children, young people and their families spend time including schools, out of school hours care and sport and recreation settings
- Funding from Healthy Loddon Campaspe for the Healthy Sports Clubs Project to assist sports clubs to increase healthy food and drink options in their canteens and club meals. Case studies and resources created as part of this project will be used to assist with implementation of the Healthy Facilities Policy
- A Food System Workshop was held in May 2022 to bring together all those working in or interested in contributing to local food system change. This workshop provided an opportunity to celebrate progress, review and update the action plan, network and form new partnerships

Barriers:

- Inadequate funding to action multiple projects
- Reduced workforce resourcing following the conclusion of the Healthy Greater Bendigo initiative at the end of December 2021

As a result of the Food System Strategy, what value does the community place on food? How has this changed?

No data was collected on this for the 2021/2022 financial year.



Action highlights

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.

Two projects have been undertaken this year to help healthy food and drink options be more accessible in our communities. This includes the Healthy Facilities Policy and the Healthy Sports Club Pilot Project highlighted below.

Healthy Sports Club Pilot Project

Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC) and the City have been supporting local sports clubs to create healthy and sustainable food and drink environments.

The project commenced in February this year. Six sports clubs within the areas of Kangaroo Flat, Long Gully and Heathcote participated.

HLC supported clubs by working with them to identify barriers to healthy eating. Clubs were given a range of resources and support to make it easier to offer and promote healthier options. This helped clubs to trial simple and achievable changes to support healthy eating.

All six clubs trialled a range of changes tailored to their needs. This included encouraging healthy eating and drinking pre, during and post-games through club canteens and club dinners. Changes included:

- Switching up the layout of canteens to prioritise and promote healthier options
- Modifying recipes
- Adding healthier options to their menus, like fresh sandwiches and toasties, soup, fruit salad and sugar-free drink options

To help promote and celebrate the success of the project, a series of short case study videos are being created. The videos will focus on the project's impact on supporting healthy eating in the community and showcase the healthy changes each club has made.

The video's will be launched and promoted alongside the Healthy Eating Hints and Tips Booklet and Recipe Book developed as part of the project. These resources will support other clubs in the region to make simple changes to improve their food environments and support implementation of the City's Healthy Facilities Policy.

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

There has been lots of work happening to strengthen and support our local food economy over the past year.

Local businesses have been featured in the GB Magazine and Out and About Magazine. They have also been nominated for and won business awards such as Bendigo Business Excellence Awards as highlighted below.

The Gastronomy Guide located on the Bendigo Creative City of Gastronomy website www.bendigogastronomy.com.au was also launched this year. The Guide outlines a range of trails for tourists and locals to enjoy, highlighting farm gates, local growers and producers.

An Agricultural Land Capability Assessment was completed by Deakin University and will be used to inform the Managed Growth Strategy and provides a better understanding of agricultural land in the region. The Healthy Landscapes – Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities program provided support for local producers to transition to more sustainable practices, more information on this below.

Healthy Landscapes Program

The Healthy Landscapes – Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities program supports rural land owners across Hepburn Shire Council, City of Greater Bendigo, and Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

The program aims to enhance the capacity of rural land owners to implement sustainable land management practices to improve soil health, reduce exposure to climate risks and enhance biodiversity. The program included webinars, field days, discussion groups, regular newsletters, short courses and an individual on-farm advisory service.

The Healthy Landscapes is responding to a real need in these communities for practical land management advice and a desire to improve practices. Interest from landholders was overwhelming, evidenced though the oversubscribed grass identification workshops, holistic grazing management course and requests for property visits.

This program is also supported by Melbourne Water, Upper Campaspe Landcare, North Central Catchment Management Authority and Coliban Water.

“I have changed everything and have enjoyed and appreciated the new understanding this course has given me. The results are real and immediate.”

- Healthy Landscapes Program participant



Bendigo Business Excellence Awards

The following food businesses acknowledged and honoured at Bendigo Business Excellence Awards:

- Cambrian Hotel (Winner - Hospitality Excellence)
- Nude Food (Finalist - Hospitality Excellence)
- Urban Cellar (Finalist - Hospitality Excellence)
- Greta Donaldson – Bendigo Brittle (Winner - Regional Women's Business Award)
- Muffin Break Lansell Square (Winner - Retail Experience)
- Munari Wines (Winner - Small and Succeeding)

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

With life moving to COVID-normal over the second half of the financial year our community gardens and spaces have been able to re-open and host community members for workshops, working bees and celebrations.

HLC was also able to fund cooking programs that brought community members together across the region to build cooking skills and social connections including the Jamie's Ministry of Food program and Café for a Day.

Café for a Day

Thanks to funding from HLC, Bendigo Foodshare developed and launched Café for a Day – an initiative which connects young people with local chefs to learn the art of cooking, healthy eating and hospitality over the course of a day, through preparing and selling a meal from a café space.

The free initiative, created in partnership with HLC, Hoo-gah café, Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services and Kangaroo Flat Community House, aimed to be fun and inclusive; help to address workforce shortages in hospitality exposed by COVID-19; allow young people to develop food skills and be connected to healthy food; and create an opportunity for participants to engage in community service.

This project also aimed to form the foundations of a social enterprise that plates up positive change for young people.

Fifteen young people took part in the pilot across five sessions, with four local chefs at hoo-gah and the Gravel Hill Kitchen, and over 160 customers enjoyed lunch made by participants. Participants could also gain a free food handling certificate from taking part and connect with local employment agencies for employment pathway support.

Participants developed kitchen, cooking and customer service skills which helped to make them 'work ready' and more confident applying for a job, particularly in the hospitality industry. They learnt about healthy eating and food of different cuisines and cultures. There was also high community involvement and interest thanks to the project's strong 'social good' factor.

This project has been funded for a further six sessions across 2022/2023 thanks to VicHealth – and Bendigo Foodshare is excited to expand the model and explore new opportunities for participant and business engagement.

For a full list of progress toward actions see Appendix 1.

Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Food waste is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emission, particularly when it is sent to landfill. Efforts to avoid, reduce and redistribute excess food and food waste have continued to grow over this financial year.

FEAST

The City has supported four schools to access OzHarvests unique FEAST Program (Food Education and Sustainability Training). The program teaches primary school students about reducing food waste and the importance of diversion. The program will be offered again to schools across the municipality for commencement in 2023.

The City's Resource Recovery & Education Project Officer and Food Systems Officer attended cooking session in Quarry Hill Primary School in June. Students made tortilla wraps, butter bean hummus, and Turkish carrot and yogurt dip. Students learnt kitchen skills like mixing, draining, measuring, mashing, working with heat, frying along with some great food waste reduction tips.

"FEAST has truly been such a dynamic amazing program for our students, and we thank the City for the opportunity to take part."

- Quarry Hill Primary School teacher

Kalianna giving back

In 2019, VCAL students at Kalianna School took it upon themselves to devise a program to grow food and donate it back to those who are in need via Bendigo Foodshare. Fast forward to 2022 and, with the support of many community groups, the City and Kalianna School leadership, VCAL students are now impacting the local community in ways they never thought possible.

In 2022 alone, students have cooked over 1,000 meals for Bendigo Foodshare, donated over 1,500 healthy sandwiches and continue to donate fresh produce to Long Gully Neighbourhood House and Bendigo Foodshare. Students at Kalianna engage in multiple programs surrounding healthy eating, sustainability and community engagement. Every week Kalianna receive parcels of food from Bendigo Foodshare which they in turn use to produce fresh healthy meals that are given back to community groups.

The success of this program cannot be measured simply in sheer quantities of meals produced as the lasting impact it has on the students and wider community is immense. It is not the simple cooking of meals that takes place in Kalianna's four walls, but rather a changing of community mindsets and attitudes towards healthy eating and the act of giving.

At the beginning of 2022, Kalianna School leadership also took the leap of doing away with unhealthy options in their school cafeteria, opting for fresh and more nutritious meals. As a school community, they have not looked back and are reaping the benefits for this transformation.

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
- Central Victorians of Colour
- 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 Loddon Campaspe
- Kalianna School
- 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
- Neighbourhood Collective
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Old Church on the Hill
- 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 2021/2022 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 	Bendigo Foodshare is currently funded for a food distribution warehouse with work being completed to confirm the proposed site. Funding timelines are critical to achieve the first funded project of the Greater Bendigo Food Hub.
1.2 Continue to support implementation of the Healthy Choices Guidelines in sport and recreation settings	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	The Healthy Facilities Policy has been drafted and went out on public exhibition for a formal period of six weeks from February 1 to March 11, 2022. Over 50 stakeholders were consulted throughout the engagement process and valuable data was obtained in relation to barriers stakeholders will face in implementing the policy and what support they will need to implement the policy. The policy has now updated and is due to be endorsed in the first quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year. Policy support resources are still being developed and will launch with the Policy on January 1, 2023.
1.3 Investigate feasibility of expanding the Healthy Choices Guidelines to other settings i.e. health services, workplace cafes, universities and hospitals	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Eating Advisory Service Bendigo Health Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>Bendigo Health and Bendigo Community Health Services are now mandated to comply with the 'Healthy Choices – policy directive for health services'.</p> <p>La Trobe University have Healthy Choices compliant vending machines on campus.</p>

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
<p>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.</p>	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Health • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	The new Healthy Kids Advisor employed by the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation is leading Community of Practice sessions to bring together key stakeholders working on supporting schools and sports clubs to create healthier food and drink environments.
<p>1.5 Facilitate a Healthy Choices Forum including a food and drink expo or equivalent per year</p>	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Eating Advisory Service • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Due to the impacts of COVID-19 and to coincide with a launch of the Healthy Facilities Policy the next forum has been delayed and is planned for the 2022/2023 financial year.
<p>1.6 Develop a Healthy Catering Guide for workplaces across the Greater Bendigo municipality</p>	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Community Health Services • Healthy Eating Advisory Service • Healthy Greater Bendigo 	<p>Bendigo's Healthy Catering Guide was developed as a partnership between the City and Bendigo Community Health Services. Eight local caterers have registered interested and five caterers have successfully assessed and developed compliant menus. The guide was launched on December 7, 2021 and was shared on both organisation's websites and social media, gaining 482 website hits and 170 downloads.</p> <p>Bendigo Community Health Services has updated their Health Eating Policy and has embedded Bendigo's Healthy Catering Guide within the policy.</p>
<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</p>	Bendigo Health		Bendigo Health have maintained the relationship with and continued to support Zouki in ensuring they are compliant with the Healthy Choices Guidelines.
<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</p>	Bendigo Student Association		Completed in 2020/2021 financial year.

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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 Smiles4Miles, DHSV Healthy Greater Bendigo Coliban Water 	<p>Achievement Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Early Childhood Services completed the Healthy Eating and Oral Health Benchmark No Schools have completed Health Eating and Oral Health benchmark this year One workplace has completed the Healthy Eating and Oral Health benchmark <p>Smiles4Miles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four Early Learning Centres were awarded in the Smiles4Miles program within the 2021/2022 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 AP) for approval. Ten Healthy Eating/Active Play/Oral Health policies were approved of the 29 Early Learning Centres currently enrolled in Smiles4Miles in 2021/2022 4 centres (who provide food) had their menus assessed and approved by the Healthy Eating Advisory Service (HEAS) 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). For the "clean well" messaging, centres undertake dental screening from local public dentists. They also model correct brushing techniques using interactive tools
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	<p>49 junior sports clubs received vouchers to the City's sport and recreation facilities with a total of 700 vouchers. Clubs were from a wide range of sports including soccer, football, netball, basketball, badminton, BMX, calisthenics, baseball, roller derby and roller skating, hockey, pony club, athletics, cricket and tennis.</p> <p>The City also ran a pilot project working with six sporting clubs to identify barriers to healthy eating and provide resources and support to help make it easier to offer and promote healthier food and drink options. A range of support resources have been created and will be used to assist with implementation of the Healthy Facilities Policy in 2023.</p>

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
1.11 Review and update the City's Healthy Food and Catering Policy as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Next update in 2024. Further updates to occur in 2027 and 2030.
1.12 Develop and implement the City's Healthy Facilities Policy, which sets expectations for users of City 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	The Healthy Facilities Policy has been drafted and went out on public exhibition for a formal period of six weeks from February 1 to March 11, 2022. Over 50 stakeholders were consulted with throughout the engagement process and valuable data was obtained in relation to the barriers stakeholders will face in implementing the policy and what support they will need to be able to implement the policy. The policy has now updated and is due to be endorsed in the first quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year. Policy support resources are still being developed and will launch with the Policy on January 1, 2023.



Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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	First audit complete March 21. Next audit to be completed in 2023/2024 financial year.
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	Not updated this year.
1.15 Support the installation of drinking water fountains in locations of need	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water	Project has progressed with the development of a mandatory criteria assessment flow chart and a first draft of the Strategic Criteria. In discussions with Coliban about a complementary design guide and drinking water fountain specifications.
1.16 Map all drinking water fountains in Greater Bendigo and make publicly available	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coliban Water Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Data has been collected, reviewed and mapping completed on Exponare and Pozi.
1.17 Advocacy to address legislative and policy barriers to healthy eating	Healthy Greater Bendigo	City of Greater Bendigo	<p>The City contributed to the development of 'Towards a Healthy, Regenerative, and Equitable Food System in Victoria: A Consensus Statement' as part of it's involvement with the Victorian Food Systems and Food Security Working Group. This Consensus Statement provides a shared vision to advocate for and guide the necessary transition of Victoria's food system to one that delivers healthy, regenerative and equitable outcomes for our communities.</p> <p>The Consensus Statement highlights ten key leverage points for action to facilitate this transition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Right to Food Law 2. Food Systems Governance 3. Food Systems Monitoring 4. Agroecological Food Production 5. Local Food Infrastructure 6. Public Sector Food Procurement and Retail 7. School Food Systems 8. Community Food Systems Strategies 9. Community Food Systems Planning 10. Food Relief Models

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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	Advocacy work continued through the development of 'Towards a Healthy, Regenerative, and Equitable Food System in Victoria: A Consensus Statement' which provides best practice guidance for healthy and sustainable local food infrastructure.
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	Updates to the brochure are occurring on an ongoing basis. Operationally, the City has established a food relief service lead model to improve the customer experience and cross-organisation communication/referral. This model is also helping with data capture and understanding the scale of food relief need.
1.20 Support food relief agencies and programs such as Bendigo Foodshare, community meals and school breakfast programs	City of Greater Bendigo		Operationally, the City has established a food relief service lead model to improve the customer experience and cross-organisation communication/referral. This model is also helping with data capture and understanding the scale of food relief need. Several 2021/2022 community grants were allocated to food relief agencies. A new approach to community Christmas meal events has been established with a focus on inclusion and connection.
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	Healthy Greater Bendigo has worked with HLC to achieve this action. The Healthy Greater Bendigo initiative concluded at the end of 2021. HLC continues to promote the Active Living Census.
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		HLC 2019 Active Living Census (ALC) impact evaluation survey undertaken to determine use across the region. ALC will be put forward to Department of Health for consideration in 2022/2023 budget submission.
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 	No progress on single platform as yet. Most shared well on social media by individual organisations.
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		No funding found as yet.

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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 	<p>Significant funding received during COVID-19 to purchase and distribute additional food to community agencies. Also, there was a significant reduction in food donations and quality of rescued food.</p> <p>Cafes for Covid:</p> <p>6,000 meals made July-August 2021 by 25 businesses in Bendigo, Pyramid Hill, Kyneton and Castlemaine. In the small towns, three local food relief organisations coordinated, so the meals and money stayed in the local communities</p> <p>11,200 meals made between November 2021 to January 2022 by 27 businesses across Central Victoria, including seven small towns where meals were made by a local business and distributed directly to the local food relief organisation. Towns included Pyramid Hill, Daylesford, Castlemaine, Maryborough, Heathcote, Echuca, Avoca, Wedderburn and Crossenvale. Three new food relief organisations signed up to Bendigo Foodshare as a result of this project - Wedderburn Community House, CHIRP and Heathcote Community House. This work not only financially supported businesses and food relief efforts across Central Victoria during this extended tough time, it also strengthened our relationships and leadership with our food relief agency network.</p>
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 	Weekly Thursday Farmers Market has been running since March 2020 and continued without interruption, supporting a total of more than 80 local farming and food businesses to survive and thrive through the worst of the pandemic and economic conditions.
1.27 Support multicultural groups to be able to access foods locally that they know from their culture	Bendigo Community Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Greater Bendigo Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services 	No update.
1.28 Work with multicultural groups to deliver healthy eating education	Bendigo Community Health Services		No update.
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 		COVID-19 and Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Committee of Management changes have caused interruption to delivery on this action.

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>Eaglehawk Community House and Kangaroo Flat Community House are involved with Foodshare and Foodbank Vic, providing a food pantry and a community meal. They also have a community garden where food is grown and are delivering many other events and workshops in the garden space.</p> <p>Marong Community House also has a community garden that is incorporated into their food relief program.</p> <p>Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre also has a small community pantry and a community garden. Bendigo Neighbourhood Hub have cooking classes.</p> <p>Heathcote Community House is producing meals each week, frozen and supplying local organisations like St Vinnies, our kinder and school. They also have a weekly cooking class, as well as a community garden that supplies extra produce, a place for people to swap excess produce, and seeds.</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>Foodshare received additional funding from the Department of Families Fairness and Housing which allowed healthy fresh food and culturally specific food to be purchased and distributed. Fresh food has also been added to dry food available through Red Cross emergency relief.</p> <p>Salvos have tried to provide more options to people, including gluten free, vegetarian, brown rice and pasta. Their homemade frozen meals are very healthy with low fat ingredients, and healthy homemade soups are also provided. Stock permitting, they provide ample fruit and veg to people. Currently exploring putting in basic healthy recipes in food parcels for people to consider using.</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
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 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. and 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>The City's Gastronomy Project Officer continues to promote Bendigo and the region as a food hub and has created promotional material (banners for Rosalind Park, as well as pull up banners). A range of merchandise including a tote bag, apron and tea towel are also being created to sell at the Bendigo Visitor Information Centre. Local businesses have been featured in the GB Magazine as well as Out and About magazine, to support local.</p> <p>The gastronomy guide located on the Bendigo Creative City of Gastronomy website www.bendigogastronomy.com.au outlines a range of trails for tourists to enjoy, highlights farm gates, local growers and producers.</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	City of Greater Bendigo		The Project has commenced and aims to record the impact of climate change in the Greater Bendigo and North Central Catchment Management Authority regions on their key agricultural outputs in order to decipher if the agricultural commodities will respond well or poorly to climate change impacts, to pre-emptively put protective measures in place.
2.3 Develop local planning controls to protect horticultural and agricultural land across the whole municipality	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Agricultural Land Capability Assessment has been completed by Deakin to inform the Managed Growth Strategy. A scope for a Rural Strategy will also be prepared in the 2022/2023 financial year to guide horticultural and agricultural land.
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		Completed in 2020/2021 financial year.
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	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Advocacy by the City's Safe and Healthy Environments Team to Department of Health about food safety programs and supplements to support small home-based food businesses in dehydration and extended shelf-life food production is underway.
2.6 Investigate opportunities to increase the amount of fresh produce available at markets	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		No update.

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
2.7 Develop facilities to enable a wider range of produce to be available for markets	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		No update.
2.8 Assist the local business community to understand and promote Food Matters through Be.Bendigo events and communications	Be.Bendigo		<p>Events held at venues around the region highlight local producers, caterers and restaurants.</p> <p>Bendigo Business Excellence Awards provide opportunities to showcase excellence and innovation in local food-related businesses.</p> <p>Regular newsletters provide opportunities for showcasing member food-related businesses.</p>
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		<p>Networking and other events provide opportunities to showcase local food businesses and facilitate inter-business connections.</p> <p>GROW Bendigo facilitates opportunities to encourage employment of under-represented groups in food-related businesses.</p> <p>Be.Bendigo's "Rob Hunt Leadership Program" provides Leadership development for people in a diverse range of local businesses, including food related.</p> <p>Through COVID-19 and recovery period, Be.Bendigo continues to provide timely advice regarding compliance matters and available funding support/opportunities.</p>
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)	The Healthy Landscapes PRAC Program is a shared program between the City, Hepburn Shire and Macedon Ranges Shire, plus other water authorities and Landcare networks. It aims to support landholders to implement sustainable land practices by providing one on one advice, a short course based on regenerative grazing, and a series of webinars and workshops on topical issues such as fencing and providing movable water sources to allow pasture to regenerate and to regrow.
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 	The Gastronomy Guide located on the Bendigo Creative City of Gastronomy website www.bendigogastronomy.com.au outlines a range of trails for tourists to enjoy, highlights farm gates, local growers and producers. Approx. 100 businesses are registered on the guide. Further work to register more businesses will occur over the next 6 months.
2.12 Explore opportunities to support urban food growing at a commercial scale	City of Greater Bendigo		No progress.

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
2.13 Promote existing resources to support food businesses to grow their business (i.e. available funding support)	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing, the Gastronomy Project Officer continues to support and work with small local businesses. Continuing to promote existing resources and support through the monthly City and Region of 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 will re-commence in the 2022/2023 financial year - was put on hold due to competing priorities.
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 	<p>The City has provided support to two organisations this year, Greater Shepparton City Council and the Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation. Advice was provided via zoom meetings and sharing the City's experiences with developing and implementing our own Healthy Food and Catering Policy and developing a Healthy Catering Panel. We will continue to provide support to external organisations as the opportunity and need arises.</p> <p>Two local workplaces were supported by Bendigo Community Health Services to implement healthy food and catering policies.</p> <p>Additionally, Bendigo Community Health Services submitted their healthy eating policy, which was approved by HEAS, bringing their internal processes in line with the Healthy choices policy directive for public hospitals and health services. Bendigo Community Health Services is in progress of being awarded Healthy Eating Achievement Program benchmark.</p>
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	No progress due to competing priorities.
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		Actions reported on in the Climate Change and Environment annual report.
2.18 Investigate the feasibility of starting a young farmers program	Peppergreen Farm		Unable to progress in the 2021/2022 financial year. Progress to recommence in the 2022/2023 financial year.
2.19 Develop and disseminate information about the types of foods that can be sold without application fees	City of Greater Bendigo		Task is now complete. Information produced and published on City website.

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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 Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence) undertaking projects with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Foodshare – students are growing leafy greens to establish a production system, marketing and quality management skills and providing produce to Bendigo Foodshare. Elmore Organic Compost – weather station and drone technologies, environmental sustainability and soil health and plant nutrition
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>The City's Agribusiness Officer participates in the Goldfields LLEN program, Passions and Pathways as a Young Industry Ambassador. The Passions and Pathways Program connects students to the practical long term value of their education through facilitating engaging, hands-on experience with businesses, entrepreneurial projects and conversations with young people, who show where their skills and interests have taken them. As a Young Industry Ambassador, the Agribusiness Officer showcases the diversity of jobs in the agriculture space, and how she has engaged in a variety of roles in agriculture from High School to her current role at the City, and the importance of life long learning. Students may be in primary or high school.</p>
2.22 Establish a business mentoring program for small food producers and growers	City of Greater Bendigo	Be.Bendigo	<p>Agriculture Victoria regularly delivers Young Farmer bootcamps in the Greater Bendigo region and across Victoria, which focus on financial acumen.</p> <p>The Healthy Landscapes Program acts as a business mentoring program in the space of regenerative and sustainable grazing. The program is a shared program between the City, Hepburn Shire and Macedon Ranges Shire, plus other water authorities and Landcare networks. The aim is to support landholders to implement sustainable land practices by providing one on one advice, a short course based on regenerative grazing, and a series of webinars and workshops on topical issues such as fencing and providing movable water sources to allow pasture to regenerate and regrow.</p>
2.23 Facilitate a food swap at the Bendigo Community Farmers Market	Bendigo Community Farmers Market		No longer feasible.
2.24 Include indigenous food growing at Gravel Hill Community Garden	Salvation Army Bendigo		This has not been implemented. Due to COVID-19 number of volunteers has reduced leaving minimal capacity in the Garden to explore this work.

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) 	No progress.
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	Fact sheet has now been prepared and published on the City's website.
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		It was determined that a sustainable farm rate is not the best mechanism to encourage sustainable farming in Bendigo. Instead other options such as grants will be investigated.
2.28 Conduct a study into the effects of climate change on the existing food production in the area	City of Greater Bendigo		No progress.
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	No progress.
2.30 Climate Ready Young Growers	PepperGreen Farm	Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	Did not proceed, further work on this project to occur in the next financial year.



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"> Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation City of Greater Bendigo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Loddon Campaspe Resource Smart Schools Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group Bendigo Community Health Services Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Healthy Greater Bendigo 	Bendigo Community Health Services is working with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Healthy Kids Advisor to implement the new state-wide initiative Vic Kids Eat Well (VKEW) with schools, Outside School Hours Care and sporting clubs. Bendigo Community Health Services has joined the Community of Practice established by the Healthy Kids Advisor for sporting clubs and schools. Seven schools, eight OSHC and three sporting clubs have registered with VKEW.
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 	Established and complete.
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	The new policy has been presented drafted and will soon be presented to Councillors for endorsement.
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 and updated as needed.
3.5 Support the establishment of new community gardens where there is a demonstrated need and interest	City of Greater Bendigo	Community gardens	This work is ongoing and support is provided on an as needs basis.
3.6 Review the Community Gardens Policy for City of Greater Bendigo and update as required	City of Greater Bendigo		In progress, to be endorsed in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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	Fact sheet has been published on City's website. Links also provided on the City's Community Garden webpage.
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 	Food System Strategy Reference Group promote relevant state and national government campaigns and will continue to explore a local community campaign in the 2022/2023 financial year.
3.9 Continue to update the City's Home Grown Booklet as required	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Greater Bendigo	No update this financial year.
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 	Ongoing work with the Gastronomy Officer and Dja Dja Wurrung in relation to celebrating and promoting the six seasons.
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	No update.
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	Unable to undertake action without additional resourcing/ funding.

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	A partnership was established between Bendigo Community Health Services and the City's Maternal and Child Health Service to implement Infant sessions. Topics cover promoting healthy lifestyle habits; healthy eating, active play and reducing screen time. The program has been incorporated into the City's First Time Parent Group. Approx. 150 parents have participated in sessions since February 2022 and another approx. 80 (3, 6, 9 and 12-month session) committed to until the end of 2023.
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 	COVID-19 and Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Committee of Management changes have caused interruption to being able to deliver and move forward on this action.
3.16 Facilitate partnerships between community gardens, local producers and growers, schools and emergency food relief agencies	Bendigo Foodshare	Healthy Greater Bendigo	<p>Youth projects this year included engagement with 14 kinders and schools, our Cooking for Change! program which saw young people cook over 1,750 meals for food relief, a volunteering program in our warehouse, a pandemic food hamper program with La Trobe University and Bendigo TAFE, and the development of our new project Café for a Day. Over 2,500 young people have been involved in these programs this year.</p> <p>Café for a Day is partnership between Bendigo Foodshare, Kangaroo Flat Community House, HLC, Yo Bendigo, Lansell Square and local chefs to teach young people cooking skills and provide an experience of working in hospitality. 15 young people participated in the program. Further information at www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ktOLJ_3dQ4</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 	The City continues to work with community groups to highlight programs available within the region on community food growing. Those groups include The Old Church on the Hill and Tellurian Fruit Farm, offering courses such as seed saving, permaculture and tree pruning. The City recently held a regenerative Farming Workshop with Colin Seis, that was well attended by our region's local farmers.
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.

Action	Lead Team	Support	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	COVID-19 and Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Committee of Management changes have caused interruption to being able to deliver and move forward on this action.
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	COVID-19 and changes to the Committee of Management of Bendigo Regional Food Alliance have caused interruption to being able to deliver and move forward on this action.
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>Three cooking demonstrations were filmed and put out on social media, sharing authentic recipes, techniques and ingredients. Two of the presenters had grown the food in their own garden. The videos have received 4,064 hits.</p> <p>Bendigo Food Share in partnership with Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services held three sessions of the Café for a Day program. Multicultural cooks assisted with the classes, sharing recipes and cooking knowledge.</p> <p>Networking lunches and catering events put together with a major focus on multi-cuisine courses, supporting new and upcoming food businesses.</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	COVID-19 and Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Committee of Management changes have caused interruption to being able to deliver and move forward on this action.
3.23 Scale up 'multicultural preparing for work' program	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services		<p>Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services in partnership with Sisterworks assisted in getting participants from diverse backgrounds to attend and complete their food handling certificate.</p> <p>Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services in partnership with Don KR held two rounds of the Starting Work in Australia - Food Processing program, a pre employment training with bilingual support. There is a very high rate of employment for those who attend.</p> <p>Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services in partnership with Spotless Cleaning held four rounds of the Starting work in Australia - Cleaning program following the same model as above.</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 	COVID-19 and Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Committee of Management changes have caused interruption to being able to deliver and move forward on this action.

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	COVID-19 and Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Committee of Management changes have caused interruption to being able to deliver and move forward on this action.
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 	Bendigo Community Fruit and Bendigo Region Fruit Fly continue to promote methods to prevent and eradicate fruit fly in the community.
3.27 Continue to build water efficient wicking beds for community and key settings such as aged care facilities	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Due to changes in workshop space PepperGreen Farm are unable to continue this project.
3.28 Build a therapeutic horticulture community garden to enhance the wellbeing and health of community members	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	This garden area and experience is on our list of spaces to create, other jobs are needing to be finished prior to this beginning.
3.29 Facilitate healthy cooking classes for community, with garden to plate approach, using produce grown onsite	Peppergreen Farm	Healthy Greater Bendigo	Work towards this action will commence in the 2022/2023 financial year.
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>Application submitted to VicHealth for funding for youth programs.</p> <p>Grow a Row, Gleaning and Golden Gums harvests yielded significant fresh food volumes. The potato drive has yielded 159kg potatoes so far with great community involvement (28 families, 13 individuals, 14 schools and kinders, 2 businesses and 1 community group) across Central Victoria. 27 participants noted they have never grown potatoes before. Cherries and plums were also picked on a property in Harcourt.</p>
3.31 Prepare urban agriculture guidelines to provide support for community based urban agriculture (i.e. community gardens, verge and nature strip edible planting and other community-based food production) and develop, promote and apply a streamlined and clear pathway through City approvals for community-based urban agriculture initiatives as per the City's Public Space Plan.	City of Greater Bendigo		This action will be incorporated into the Community Gardens Policy (see action 3.6).



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		Completed in 2020/2021 financial year.
4.2 Continue to promote and expand the City's Organics collection to schools and food businesses	City of Greater Bendigo		There are currently 89 schools and Early Learning Centres included in the organics collection. The City continues to liaise with these groups to ensure diversion is maximized and collections remain as efficient and effective as possible. A 'Commercial Organics Action Plan' has also been developed and breaks down the various sectors that generate food and garden waste. This plan will be used to target industries with education and awareness and to encourage participation in the service.
4.3 Develop and implement a new Waste Resource Management Strategy for beyond the period of 2014-2019	City of Greater Bendigo		Completed in 2020/2021 financial year.
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		The main City office sites all currently have organics bins, however a review of all staffed sites is about to commence to ensure that diversion is maximised. The service will be transferred to Galkangu in 2023 when City staff move to this site.

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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 		A community composting session was held in May as part of the AWARE festival at Peppergreen Farm. Approximately 100 residents attended and about 40 bags of compost were distributed to attendees.
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		The Compost Revolution program has been utilised by the City in previous years to provide compost bins and worm farms to residents that are not within the organics collection area boundary. The City is now transitioning to a City run program, web content and an application form has been developed and are currently looking at the options for sourcing compost bins and worm farms made from recycled content. The City is now offering these items to all residents, with an application form available on the City's website.
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	<p>There are currently 85 commercial properties using the City's organics service. Education campaigns continue with the wider community but have been modified to meet COVID-19 requirements.</p> <p>The City has funded four schools to participate in the OzHarvest FEAST program. This program educates staff and students on the importance of reducing food waste and involves both theory and hands-on cooking experiences.</p> <p>Investigations are ongoing to provide internal education and team building experiences with a focus on reducing food waste.</p>
4.8 Investigate how an increase in Biomix compost made from the City's Organics waste can be re-distributed back into the Greater Bendigo community	City of Greater Bendigo		30 cubic metres of compost generated from Greater Bendigo's organics service has been supplied to schools and community groups in the 2021/2022 financial year.
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		The City in partnership with Peppergreen farm hosted a composting workshop in the PepperGreen Farm gardens in May as part of a zero waste event held for the community to learn skills to apply at home to reduce their waste. Approximately 100 residents attended this event.
4.10 Contribute to and leverage off LaTrobe University's 'Internet of Things' unit and research	City of Greater Bendigo	La Trobe University	No progress due to competing priorities as a result this action has been abandoned for the time being.

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	No progress this financial year. Work on this action will be started in the first quarter of the 2022/2023 financial year.
4.12 Promote and encourage water trailers and drinking fountains over single-use plastic bottles at community and City supported events	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group Coliban Water 	Event organisers that are liaising with the City are being encouraged to book the Coliban Water water refill stations.
4.13 Support excess food to be donated to emergency food relief agencies and cooking clubs	Bendigo Foodshare	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Kalianna School has started cooking for Bendigo Foodshare with 'wasted food' from Bendigo Foodshare.
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	No update.
4.15 Support the utilisation of Bendigo Foodshare's Food Donations app	Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group	Bendigo Foodshare Healthy Greater Bendigo	App not yet developed. Funding will need to be sought to progress this action.





Appendix 2

Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan for the 2022-2023 financial year

Shared 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

The Strategy compliments several City of Greater Bendigo strategies, plans and regulatory frameworks including:

- Council Plan 2021-2025 (Mir Wimbul)
- Healthy Greater Bendigo 2021-2025
- Climate Change and Environment Strategy
- Bendigo Creative City and Region of Gastronomy Action Plan
- Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme

Collective Impact

The challenges faced by Greater Bendigo's food system are interlinked and require a whole-of-community response that involves all sectors of the food system to make a positive impact. To organise this collaboration across our community, we are using the framework of collective impact. The framework is based on the knowledge that individual actions and efforts are limited, but when we work collectively towards a common aim we maximise our impact. In this context the framework guides the Food System Strategy as a multi-stakeholder initiative, with actions being led and supported by a range of organisations and community groups, along with City of Greater Bendigo.

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
1.1 Support the establishment of the Greater Bendigo Food Hub	Bendigo Foodshare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Greater Bendigo • Bendigo Community Farmers Market • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Food Hub Industry Reference Group 	Ongoing - 2025
1.2 Support implementation of the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines (HCG) in relevant settings			
1.2.1 Coordinate networks/Community of Practice across a range of settings (i.e. HCG, Vic Kids Eat Well)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Greater Bendigo • Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation • Bendigo Community Health Services 	2022
1.2.2 Facilitate a Healthy Choices Forum including a food and drink Expo	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	2022-2023
1.2.3 Review and update the City's Healthy Food and Catering Policy as required	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Community Health Services • Healthy Eating Advisory Service 	2024, 2027, 2030
1.2.4 Update and promote the Greater Bendigo Healthy Catering Guide for workplaces	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services	2022-2023
1.2.5 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	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	Ongoing
1.2.6 Investigate opportunities to improve the food environment on campus at La Trobe University Bendigo	Bendigo Student Association (La Trobe University)		Ongoing
1.2.7 Implement City of Greater Bendigo's Healthy Facilities Policy which sets expectations for users of City 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation • Bendigo Community Health Services 	2022-2025
1.2.8 Explore ways to support the implementation of the Healthy Choices component of the Itinerant Trading Policy	City of Greater Bendigo		2023-2024
1.3 Support settings such as early learning centres, schools and workplaces through state government frameworks to support healthier food environments such as the Achievement Program, Smiles4Miles and Vic Kids Eat Well (VKEW)	Bendigo Community Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation • City of Greater Bendigo • Healthy Eating Advisory Service • Smiles4Miles DHSV • Coliban Water 	Ongoing

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
1.4 Conduct a healthy food basket audit to update and monitor Greater Bendigo's food affordability data	City of Greater Bendigo	Monash University	2023, 2027
1.5 Monitor and promote food security data to guide organisations work	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare	Ongoing
1.6 Support emergency food relief in the region			
1.6.1 Support food relief agencies and programs including the Food Relief Network	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare	Ongoing
1.6.2 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		Medium - 2025
1.6.3 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 Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill 	Ongoing
1.6.4 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill 	Ongoing
1.6.5 Investigate ways to include healthy options in emergency food relief packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Foodshare Salvation Army Bendigo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill 	Ongoing
1.6.6 Support young people to become more food secure	Bendigo Foodshare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services Schools: BFLOW, Kalliana, Bendigo Senior Secondary College City of Greater Bendigo Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill 	2022-2023
1.7 Increase community access to free drinking water			
1.7.1 Support the installation of drinking water fountains in locations of need	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water	Ongoing
1.7.2 Continue to map drinking water fountains in Greater Bendigo and make publicly available	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water	Ongoing

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
1.8 Advocacy to address legislative and policy barriers to healthy eating e.g. changes to the planning scheme that discourages convenience and takeaway restaurants and encourages fresh food outlets	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Health	Ongoing
1.9 Seek funding opportunities to conduct future Active Living Census to collect and maintain local healthy eating and food security data	Healthy Loddon Campaspe		2022-2023
1.10 Support multicultural groups to become more food secure			
1.10.1 Supporting multicultural groups to be able to access foods that they know from their culture, locally and to deliver healthy eating education	Bendigo Community Health Services	City of Greater Bendigo Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services Bendigo Foodshare Regional Victorians of Colour	Ongoing
1.10.2 Work with multicultural groups, with a focus on refugee communities to deliver healthy eating education and build food literacy	Bendigo Community Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Greater Bendigo • Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services • Bendigo Foodshare • Regional Victorians of Colour 	Ongoing
1.10.3 Support further development of the Gravel Hill Community Garden, creating additional access for more multicultural groups to participate in planting and harvesting their own food	Salvation Army Bendigo		2023-2024
1.10.4 Provide culturally appropriate foods for different multicultural community groups seeking food assistance	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Foodshare • Old Church on the Hill • Neighbourhood Collective Australia • The Old Church on the Hill • Regional Victorians of Colour 	2022-2023
1.11 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 		2023-2024

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	Timeline
2.1 Encourage producers and artisans to include the Bendigo Creative City and Region of Gastronomy logo on packaging to increase consumer awareness and centre the product in the Bendigo region. This may also include an investigation into food traceability through a QR code sharing product and region stories, and a 'buy local eat local' campaign that promotes farm gates, local growers and producers	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 • Gastronomy Reference Group 	2022-2023
2.2 Support the protection of agricultural and horticultural land across the municipality			
2.2.1 Conduct a rural and environmental study that looks at land type, quality and collects environmental data to inform future work	City of Greater Bendigo		2020-2024
2.2.2 Develop local planning controls to protect horticultural/agricultural land across the whole municipality	City of Greater Bendigo		2022-2024
2.3 Support food businesses to be able to grow, prepare and sell healthy food			
2.3.1 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		Ongoing
2.3.2 Update and promote information about the types of foods that can be sold without application fees	City of Greater Bendigo		2022-2023
2.3.3 Update and promote 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		2022-2023
2.4 Enable an increase in healthy offerings available at the Bendigo Showgrounds Sunday Market			
2.4.1 Investigate opportunities to increase the amount of fresh produce available at the Bendigo Showgrounds	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		Ongoing
2.4.2 Develop facilities to enable a wider range of produce to be available for the Bendigo Showgrounds Sunday Market	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		Ongoing

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
2.5 Support businesses with food systems opportunities within the municipality			
2.5.1 Assist the local business community to understand and promote Food Matters through Be.Bendigo events and communications	Be.Bendigo		Ongoing
2.5.2 Improve connection of food businesses to the wider business community through targeting food businesses to attend Be.Bendigo training and events	Be.Bendigo		Ongoing
2.6 Support farmers to learn and use regenerative farming practices and plan for climate change	North Central Catchment Management Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence) • Loddon Plains Landcare Network • City of Greater Bendigo 	Ongoing



Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
2.7 Regularly update the Bendigo Gastronomy website, including the Producer Guide and the Gastronomy Guide to ensure we have a comprehensive and up to date resource that highlights 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 Reference Group 	Ongoing
2.8 Support local food businesses to establish and grow their business through promotion of local opportunities (i.e. through Business Matters)	City of Greater Bendigo	Be.Bendigo	Ongoing
2.9 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		2022-2023
2.10 Support organisations to prioritise local food procurement through healthy food and catering policies	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services	2022 - Ongoing
2.11 Investigate and implement (if feasible) programs for young people such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A young farmers program • Climate Ready Young Growers 	Peppergreen Farm	Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	2022-2024
2.12 Support and encourage agriculture, food and beverage production as a worthy career choice by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the value and value add of primary producers • Support secondary schools and tertiary institutions to deliver quality programs that promote and encourage agriculture, food and beverage producers as career pathways • Identify and promote relevant platforms and pathways for young farmers, food and beverage producers that support initiatives that address barriers to enter into industry 	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Heathcote Community House • Loddon Plains Landcare Network 	2022-2023
2.13 Investigate ways to support farmers in the use of sustainable farming practices i.e. grants or education programs. If feasible, implement accordingly	City of Greater Bendigo		2022-2023
2.14 Conduct a study into the effects of climate change on the existing food production in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Greater Bendigo • North Central Catchment Management Authority 		Medium (2022-2024)

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
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 Loddon Campaspe Resource Smart Schools Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group Bendigo Community Health Services Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation 	Ongoing
3.2 Support new and existing community gardens in the Greater Bendigo municipality			
3.2.1 Supporting the community gardens network to share resources, knowledge, ideas etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendigo Foodshare Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Salvation Army Bendigo Community gardens 	Ongoing
3.2.2 Maintain the 'information hub' webpage 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 Salvation Army Bendigo 	Ongoing
3.2.3 Finalise the Community Gardens Policy/Guidelines for City of Greater Bendigo and update as required	City of Greater Bendigo		2022-2023
3.2.4 Prepare urban agriculture guidelines to provide support for community based urban agriculture (i.e. community gardens, verge and nature strip edible planting and other community-based food production) and develop, promote and apply a streamlined and clear pathway through City approvals for community-based urban agriculture initiatives as per the City's Public Space Plan	City of Greater Bendigo		2022-2023
3.2.5 Build a therapeutic horticulture community garden to enhance the wellbeing and health of community members	Peppergreen Farm		2020-2024
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		2022-2023
3.4 Promote relevant campaigns locally that support healthy food systems (i.e. campaigns from Parent's Voice, Sustain, VicHealth, Nutrition Australia, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Greater Bendigo Healthy Loddon Campaspe 	Food System Strategy stakeholders	Ongoing
3.5 Continue to update and promote the City's Home Grown Booklet as required	City of Greater Bendigo		2022-2023

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
3.6 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	Dja Dja Wurrung	2022-2023
3.7 Conduct the Bendigo Sustainability Awards and Sustainable Living Festival	Bendigo Sustainability Group		2022-2023
3.8 Enable communities to be able to grow and cook healthy and sustainable food/meals for themselves			
3.8.1 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 • Neighbourhood Collective Australia • The Old Church on the Hill 	Ongoing
3.8.2 Coordinate an annual calendar of workshops	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Ongoing
3.8.3 Investigate healthy cooking classes for community, with garden to plate approach, using produce grown onsite	Peppergreen Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Collective Australia • The Old Church on the Hill • Regional Victorians of Colour 	2022-2023
3.8.4 Support diverse cultures to share their food growing and cooking knowledge and expertise, such as creating videos for the community to share recipes with home grown produce (healthy, seasonal, no mileage food)	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster • Salvation Army Bendigo • Old Church on the Hill 	Ongoing
3.8.5 Support 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Collective Australia • The Old Church on the Hill 	Ongoing
3.8.6 Support older adults to grow and cook healthy local food e.g. support cooking demonstrations, increase older adults awareness of local community gardens	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Collective Australia • The Old Church on the Hill 	2022-2023
3.9 Continue to implement the INFANT Program with first time parents	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Community Health Services • Bendigo Health 	Ongoing

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
3.10 Advocate for and seek funding opportunities to continue and scale up new and existing community food initiatives such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community kitchens and cooking clubs • A 'manual' on how to set up local cooking clubs • Maintaining the Bendigo Regional Food Alliance's Food Information Portal • Implement community food initiatives such as Grow Cook Share and Grow a Row, Pick a Branch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Regional Food Alliance • Bendigo Foodshare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Foodshare • Salvation Army Bendigo • Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster • Neighbourhood Collective Australia • The Old Church on the Hill 	Ongoing
3.11 Facilitate partnerships			
3.11.1 Community gardens, local producers and growers, schools and emergency food relief agencies	Bendigo Foodshare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Greater Bendigo • Salvation Army Bendigo 	Ongoing
3.11.2 Community gardens and neighbourhood houses to share resources and knowledge	Neighbourhood Collective Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Church on the Hill • Neighbourhood Houses • Community gardens 	2022-2023
3.11.3 Community gardens, neighbourhood houses and schools that increase families' access to seasonal, affordable, nutritious food	Neighbourhood Collective Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Church on the Hill • Neighbourhood Houses • Community gardens • Primary Schools • Regional Victorians of Colour 	2022-2023
3.12 Scale up 'multicultural preparing for work' program	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services		Ongoing
3.13 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 • City of Greater Bendigo 	Ongoing



Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
4.1 Continue to promote and expand the City's Organics collection to schools and food businesses	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing
4.2 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		2022-2023
4.3 Support community to reduce food waste through educational opportunities			
4.3.1 Support the implementation of food waste educational opportunities for community members and professionals (i.e. composting workshops)	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Collective Australia • The Old Church on the Hill 	Ongoing
4.3.2 Work with food retailers, food service providers and the community to reduce food waste (i.e. community campaign)	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendigo Foodshare • Be.Bendigo 	2022-2024
4.4 Continue to offer worm farms and compost bin subsidies for residents in rural townships outside of the Organics boundary	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing
4.5 Investigate how an increase in Biomix compost made from the City's Organics waste can be re-distributed back into the Greater Bendigo community	City of Greater Bendigo		Ongoing
4.6 Better utilise the knowledge and skill base of community gardens and schools for example, as demonstration sites for organic waste	City of Greater Bendigo		2023-2024
4.7 Develop guidelines for external facilitated events regarding food and waste (healthy, local content, minimising food waste, nude food)	City of Greater Bendigo		2022-2023
4.8 Promote and encourage water trailers and drinking fountains over single-use plastic bottles at community and City supported events	City of Greater Bendigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group • Coliban Water 	Ongoing
4.9 Support excess food to be donated to emergency food relief agencies and cooking clubs	Bendigo Foodshare	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Ongoing
4.10 Develop a food waste reduction policy for the major events held at the Bendigo Showgrounds	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.	City of Greater Bendigo	2022-2023
4.11 Investigate the need and interest in progressing Bendigo Foodshare's Food Donations app and research if other platforms are available	Bendigo Foodshare		2022-2024



City of Greater Bendigo

A: 15 Hopetoun Street, Bendigo

T: 1300 002 642
National Relay Service: 133 677
then quote 1300 002 642

E: requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au

W: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO