

GREATER BENDIGO'S

↑ FOOD SYSTEM ↓ STRATEGY



ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO



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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 third year of the Strategy's implementation.

A Food System Strategy evaluation and planning workshop was held in May 2023 to bring together many of our stakeholders to reflect on the 2022-23 financial year and plan ahead for collaboration in the 2023-24 financial year.

We heard about the work and achievements of some of our partners, including:

- Jonathan Ridnell, Garden Facilitator, Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden
- Rebecca Fry, Healthy Kids Advisor, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation and her partnership with Peter Krenz Leisure Centre
- Michelle Symes, Gastronomy Project Officer, City of Greater Bendigo
- Rose Vincent, CEO, Neighbourhood Collective Australia

Time was also spent collaborating on six joint projects that will be progressed over the next 12 months:

- Monitoring and promoting food security data to guide organisations work and seeking funding opportunities to conduct an Active Living Census in 2024
- Identifying ways to increase the regular, affordable supply of fresh, local foods to communities where this may be currently lacking
- Supporting young people to become more food secure
- Delivering accessible community food skills workshops and programs and better utilise the knowledge and skill base of community gardens and schools
- Investigating opportunities for Bendigo workplaces to become 'zero food waste' settings
- Supporting better management of fruit fly locally

Working groups have been formed to progress these projects over the next 12 months and beyond.



Contributions beyond Greater Bendigo

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

- Wyndham City Council
- City of Ballarat
- William Angliss Institute students
- Monash University Dietetics students
- Melbourne University students

Requests for project specific presentations have also been received including:

- VicHealth Local Government Partnership Forums
 - Local Food-EPI research project
 - Working with sporting clubs to improve food environments
- Sport & Recreation Victoria
 - Working with sporting clubs to improve food environments
- Nourish Network Local Government Interest Group
 - Local Government support for Food Hubs

Bendigo Foodshare hosted representatives from all the VicHealth funded Food Hubs from across the state in Bendigo in May 2023, showcasing the great work they have achieved since January 2023.



Advocacy

The City have featured in a video case study for the Cancer Council Victoria Food Fight campaign. It can be viewed on the Cancer Council Victoria YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/8QNp1b-q1nI>

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:

- Healthy and sustainable cities: tool for assessing local government food policy (Deakin University)
- 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) <https://healthyfoodretail.com>
- Assessing the price and affordability of locally grown fruits and vegetables in the Loddon Campaspe region (Healthy Loddon Campaspe and Deakin University)
- Veg4Me (Deakin University)
- Victorian food resilience planning project (University of Melbourne)

Add your voice to the growing community calling for government action to protect our kids.

www.cancervic.org.au/foodfight



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.

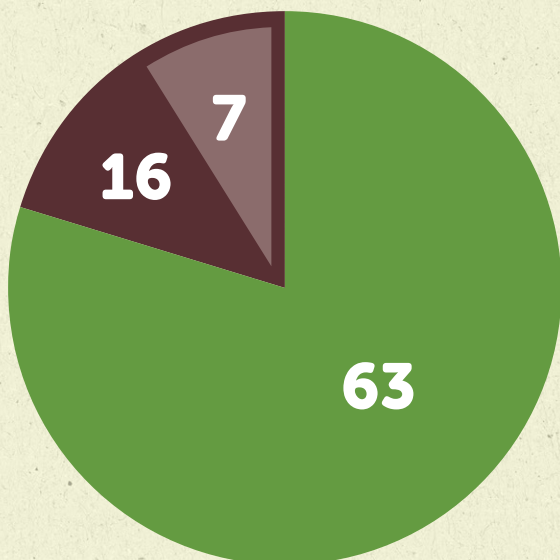
City of Greater Bendigo is a development partner for the Building Better Food Systems for Healthier Communities health promotion module. The City's Food Systems Strategy and its development is referenced throughout the module.

The Building Better Food Systems for Healthier Communities module can be found online at www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/our-work/local-government-partnership



Report summary

Strategy action progression



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

Sports clubs

50

junior sports clubs received vouchers through the Healthy Sports Rewards program with a total of 964 vouchers provided.



4

clubs participated in the Healthy Loddon Campaspe Healthy Sports Clubs Project



16

sporting clubs have registered with Vic Kids Eat Well

Schools and early years

6

Early Learning Centres completed the Healthy Eating and Oral Health Benchmark of the Achievement Program



9

Early Learning Centres were awarded for Smiles4Miles



7

centres (who provide food) had their menus assessed and approved by the Healthy Eating Advisory Service (HEAS)

15

schools have registered with Vic Kids Eat Well



29

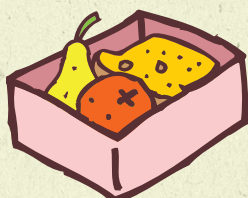
Early Learning Centres currently enrolled in Smiles4Miles

6

centres' Healthy Eating/Active Play/Oral Health policies were approved by Smiles4Miles

13

OSHC have registered with Vic Kids Eat Well



Bendigo Foodshare

746,113kg

of food rescued and redistributed



256

volunteers contributed **27,100** hours of work at a value of **\$1.2M**

4,532

supermarket collections, an average of **87+** every week



5,082

meals made by local businesses, schools and community at a value of **\$1.49M**



13,483kg

of fresh fruit and vegetables donated by Bendigo backyard, community and school gardens plus farm orchards and market gardens (Grow a Row, Pick a Branch project)



85

food relief partner organisations

Food security continues to be an issue in Greater Bendigo. Food relief providers have reported that the number of community members seeking support is still increasing due to the additional cost of living pressures that have continued this year.

Organics

Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bins were provided to an extra **306** households

27,590

single use cups have been avoided since the Green Caffein program started in Greater Bendigo

18m³

of compost generated from Greater Bendigo's organics service has been supplied to schools and community groups



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 2022/23 financial year are outlined below.

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

The City has endorsed the Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines which were developed in response to community input during the engagement period for the Food System Strategy. Further consultation was done throughout Policy drafting to ensure it is clear and easy to understand the rights, responsibilities and requirements of each party involved in setting up and maintaining a community garden.

The Nature Strip Policy and Guidelines were also updated this year to add food growing in raised planters as a permit-approved nature strip modification option. The Policy and Guidelines align with and reference the Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines and vice versa to ensure consistency of information provided to the community.

The Healthy Facilities Policy was also endorsed by Council in August 2022 and implementation commenced in January 2023.

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

- 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 Food in Sport and Food in Schools Communities of Practice have led to continued development and strengthening of partnerships and coordinated efforts of those working in these areas. See 'A Community Working Together' case study for an example of this work

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

No data was collected on this for the 2022/23 financial year. To be collected in 2024-25 financial year.

4 What has impacted on implementation of good practice? What enablers have impacted implementation of good practice? What barriers have impacted implementation of good practice?

Enablers:

- Coordinating efforts with the aid of the Food in Sport and Food in Schools Communities of Practice
- Additional resourcing to assist sporting clubs to implement healthy eating initiatives:
 - Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Healthy Kids Advisor
 - Healthy Loddon Campaspe Healthy Sports Clubs Project
 - Bendigo Community Health Services Vic Kids Eat Well work
- Endorsement and implementation of the Healthy Facilities Policy
- A Food System Workshop was held in May 2023 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
- Lack of up-to-date food insecurity data available
- Increasing cost of living pressures
- Lower numbers of volunteers

5 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 2022/23 financial year. To be collected in 2024/25 financial year.



A Community Working Together

In May 2022, Greater Bendigo's Healthy Kids Advisor, Rebecca, from the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, set up the Food in Sport Community of Practice. The Community of Practice connects the health promotion workforce to coordinate efforts across various healthy eating projects in sport and recreation settings across the region.

Healthy Loddon Campaspe Health Broker, Cara, connected with Rebecca as a member of the Food in Sport Community of Practice. Together, they organised an opportunity for a hands-on cooking session at Peter Krenz Leisure Centre, providing healthy recipe ideas and tips and tricks for improving the White Hills Junior Football Club's food environment. Tamara, the Customer Care Coordinator at Peter Krenz Leisure Centre also

generously walked White Hills Junior Football Club Secretary, Lisa, through the new healthy menu at Peter Krenz Leisure Centre, which has been a big hit with the local community.

White Hills Junior Football Club, White Hills Football Netball Club and White Hills Cricket Club all share the same facility as their home ground. This means sharing the canteen and kitchen. The clubs have made small but meaningful changes to their food and drink environment with the help of Cara and the Vic Kids Eat Well Health Promoter, Siobhan from Bendigo Community Health Services.

Changes have included:

- promoting healthier canteen options on game days,
- offering healthier food and drink options for player awards, and
- adding equipment like air fryers and sandwich presses to assist in healthy food preparation

Siobhan and Rebecca also worked with the White Hills Junior Football Club to show how easy preparing a fresh, healthy, delicious players' dinner can be. Players then had the opportunity to vote on upcoming healthy meal ideas.

It will be exciting to see where this practical, friendly knowledge-sharing will take them next!

Take a look at the video case study that was made on the Healthy Loddon Campaspe YouTube channel – www.youtube.com/watch?v=25U1W4VVpTc



Grow Cook Share Food Hub



The Grow Cook Share Food Hub is an agreed vision with Bendigo Foodshare and the Bendigo Community that further strengthens the City of Greater Bendigo's position as a leader in food sustainability. As Australia's first UNESCO City of Gastronomy and with an established council-led Food System Strategy, the City of Greater Bendigo is committed to placing the whole community at the centre of the solution to making our community more food secure.

The Grow Cook Share Food Hub has been co-designed by the community to ensure an inclusive, accessible and inspiring food system, where diverse groups of people are brought together. We are working with local producers, young people and multicultural communities to grow, cook, share and sell locally grown, healthy, ethically produced and culturally appropriate food and to showcase the region's amazing food culture.

The key to achieving this vision is meeting our community where they are. So, Grow Cook Share Food Hub is a 'hub and spoke' model, living at places where our community can access, feel safe and connect, like at Golden Gums Farm market garden, local Growers' Markets, schools and community houses. In addition, we are working towards a new purpose-built facility and food precinct.

Our plan is ambitious and hard to describe in just a few paragraphs! It involves establishing and developing new and existing relationships and partnerships and together trialling new approaches.

Support and engagement from our community and strong partnerships are important to us – we know we can't do this alone and that our Food Hub must be owned and loved by our community.

Since commencing in January 2023, we've already begun to roll out some great initiatives, including:

- Employing two young people to learn skills and gain valuable experience about our local food system
- Establishing a productive urban farm – Golden Gums Farm – and supporting others to grow and share their produce through Grow a Row, Pick a Branch
- Supporting the establishment of the Old Church Growers' Market
- Expanding our youth programs, such as Cooking for Change, Cafe for a Day, school presentations and youth volunteering

We thank our funders VicHealth, Bendigo UFS and the following partners and supporters: The Neighbourhood Collective Australia, Regional Victorians of Colour, Bendigo Community Farmers Market, Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services (LCMS), Access Australia - Pepper Green Farm, Vintage Kitchen Preserves, City of Greater Bendigo, Bendigo Community Fruit, Golden Gums Farm, Open Food Network, Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) and Bendigo District Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC).

The Healthy Landscapes Project

The Healthy Landscapes Project has now completed its second year and is having positive impacts for local farmers and the planet. The Project aims to support livestock farmers to be resilient in a changing climate, increase biodiversity on farms and build networks in the farming community. This is done by delivering education and support to improve farmers knowledge and capacity to improve:

- soil health
- biodiversity
- water quality
- animal health

Over the two years the program has been running in the City of Greater Bendigo it has delivered:

- 44 properties through the Holistic Grazing Management Short Course,
- 47 properties through the Small Property Intensive Course,

- 85 property visits, which are delivered to participants who are engaged through either one of the short courses. The visit helps to put the learning principles from the course into context for the individuals farms, identifying opportunities and challenges so that they can jump straight in,
- 27 field days and,
- 13 webinars on topical issues impacting the farming sector

The Project is a partnership between:

- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- City of Greater Bendigo,
- Hepburn Shire Council
- A Healthy Coliban Catchment (North Central Catchment Management Authority & Coliban Water)
- Melbourne Water
- Upper Campaspe Landcare Network

The project is currently funded until end of June 2024 with hopes it will continue beyond this.



Support Our Own. Choose Locally Grown

Key issues impacting the food system in the Loddon Campaspe region were gathered during engagement for the Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC) initiative's Regional Food System Framework. One of the issues identified was a need for more support and promotion of locally grown produce.

In response to this feedback, HLC developed the Support Our Own. Choose Locally Grown. region-wide marketing campaign. The campaign aims to increase awareness and consumption of Loddon Campaspe grown fruit and vegetables.

There were three key elements to the campaign:

- Community awareness
 - informing the community about the wide range of fruit and vegetables grown here in our region, as well as where they can get it
- Grower, retailer and Farmers' Market engagement
 - gaining an understanding of their farms and businesses and encouraging them to help promote the message
- Call to action
 - providing information and tangible ways for the community to support locally grown

The campaign focused on three key benefits of locally grown produce; freshness, being good for your health, and support of local growers and retailer.

- Marketing activity included:
 - three TV ads featuring local growers and retailers
 - online advertising targeted towards the target audience
 - social media advertising and promotion including shareable graphics and resources
 - marketing material including posters, shelf wobblers and floor stickers
 - local media activity

A resource hub was also created on the HLC website www.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/chooselocallygrown The hub includes:

- recipes and step-by-step videos using locally grown produce
- 'What's in season to eat and plant' graphics for each month
- a list of all growers and Farmers' Markets and local retailers that stock locally grown fruit and vegetables
- bios on local growers and retailers to highlight the people and processes behind their produce
- and links to other resources such as Grow It Local, Get to Know Your Grower, City of Gastronomy



Partners

- Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.
- Be.Bendigo
- Bendigo Community Farmers' Market
- Bendigo Community Health Services
- Bendigo Foodshare
- Bendigo Health
- Bendigo Manufacturing Group
- 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
- Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services
- Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership
- Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group
- Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden
- Neighbourhood Collective
- North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Old Church on the Hill
- Peppergreen Farm (Wise Employment Ltd)
- 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 2022/2023 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	Bendigo Foodshare	City of Greater Bendigo Bendigo Community Farmers Market Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Food Hub Industry Reference Group	Stage 1 of the Food Hub building in Golden Square due to be completed and operational in 2024. Grow Cook Share Food Hub project underway, working in partnership with community and funded by VicHealth.
1.2 Support implementation of the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines (HCG) in relevant settings, including:			
1.2.1 Coordinate networks/ Communities of Practice across a range of settings (i.e. HCG, Vic Kids Eat Well)	City of Greater Bendigo Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation	Bendigo Community Health Services	Healthy Kids Advisor facilitating Community of Practice for stakeholders working with schools and another for those working with sports clubs.
1.2.2 Facilitate a Healthy Choices Forum including a food and drink Expo	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	Postponed
1.2.3 Review and update the City's Healthy Food and Catering Policy as required	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	For review 2024-2025.
1.2.4 Update and promote the Greater Bendigo Healthy Catering Guide for workplaces	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services	Bendigo Community Health Services invited additional caterers to join the Guide. The Guide is promoted through Achievement Program work.
1.2.5 Support Zouki's catering menu to comply with the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines and once compliant, support its use	Bendigo Health	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	Drinks fridges completed and compliant with Healthy Choices Guidelines. Catering menu is on track to be compliant with Healthy Choices Guidelines in Sep 2023.

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
1.2.6 Investigate opportunities to improve the food environment on campus at La Trobe University Bendigo	La Trobe University Student Association		Food retail changes complete. Re-activation of the on-campus community garden, 'The Patch', is being investigated in partnership with the Education sub-committee from the Gastronomy Advisory Committee.
1.2.7 Implement City of Greater Bendigo's Healthy Facilities Policy which sets expectations for users of Council facilities and future facility design with regards to the Healthy Choices Guidelines i.e. catering, sponsorship, advertising and signage, vending machines, food retail	City of Greater Bendigo	Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Bendigo Community Health Services Healthy Loddon Campaspe	VicHealth Partnership Grant Funding received to support alcohol harm minimisation at selected City facilities. Healthy Kids Advisor commenced working with 4 City owned/operated facilities. Food Systems Officer continuing to provide support to facilities as needed. Healthy Loddon Campaspe supported three clubs using a City facility in White Hills. See case study for further detail.
1.2.8 Explore ways to support the implementation of the Healthy Choices component of the Itinerant Trading Policy	City of Greater Bendigo		To be explored 2023-2024.



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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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	Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation City of Greater Bendigo Healthy Eating Advisory Service Smiles 4 Miles DHSV Coliban Water	<p>Achievement Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93% (40) of all Early Childhood Services (ECS) registered. • 8 new ECS registrations. • 22% (13) of ECS actively working towards changes. • 6 early childhood services were awarded Healthy Eating & Oral Health priority area. • 2 services reviewed their Healthy Eating & Oral Health policies. • 40% (20) of all schools registered. • 4 new school registrations. • 14% (7 out of 20) of schools actively working towards meeting the Victorian nutrition guidelines and reviewed their Healthy Eating & Oral Health policy. • 1 school awarded for Healthy Eating & Oral Health priority area. • 17 workplaces are registered. • 5 new workplace registrations. • 53% (9) workplaces actively working towards implementing changes. • 3 workplaces awarded Healthy Eating & Oral Health priority area. • 5 online 'drop in' sessions delivered with average of 2 settings (ECS, schools and workplaces) attending per session. Topics covered included policy development and menu assessments. <p>Smiles 4 Miles (S4M)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 ECS registered with S4M. • Total reach of 3,573 children. • 9 services were awarded. • 6 healthy eating and oral health policies approved by Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV). • 14 ECS actively supported with Victorian menu planning for long day care. 7 meet the menu planning guidelines for long day care and approved by Healthy Eating Advisory Service and DHSV. <p>VKEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services registered. 65 small bites and 25 big bites were achieved. • 15 schools registered. 67 small bites and 17 big bites were achieved. • 16 sports clubs registered. 48 small bites and 24 big bites were achieved. 1 sports club completed all 7 small bites. • 4 Council owned facilities registered. 3 small bites were achieved. • 3 Sport & Rec facilities registered. 24 small bites and 4 big bites were achieved. • Since the program was launched in 2022, it has reached approximately 8,130 young people across Greater Bendigo. Across the 51 registered settings, a total of 207 small bites and 70 big bites were achieved.

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
1.4 Conduct a healthy food basket audit to update and monitor Greater Bendigo's food affordability data	City of Greater Bendigo	Monash University	To be conducted Feb-April 2024. Healthy Loddon Campaspe commenced research into the price difference of fruit and vegetables from different places of origin (grown in the region, in Victoria, in Australia or internationally). Data is being gathered seasonally, commencing in Autumn 2023. Preliminary results indicate there is generally no significant difference in price based on place of origin and some in season, locally grown fruits and vegetables are cheaper than those grown in other places. Final results will be available once data for all seasons is collected and analysed.
1.5 Monitor and promote food security data to guide organisations work	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare	No additional data collected this financial year.
1.6 Support emergency food relief in the region, by:			
1.6.1 Support food relief agencies and programs including the Food Relief Network	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare	Due to reduced capacity of City staff caused by the impacts of the October floods, these meetings have been unable to progress since October 2022.
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		Not a current priority.
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	Emergency food relief agencies Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill host a free 'Sharing Table' weekly which includes abundant harvests from community members, generous farmers/ producers and produce accessed through Foodshare. Approximately 50-60 people from new and established communities participate in this program.
1.6.4 Identify ways to increase the regular, affordable supply of fresh, local foods to communities where this may be currently lacking	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Bendigo Foodshare is leading the Grow Cook Share Food Hub project, which has partnered with the Old Church on the Hill, Neighbourhood Collective Australia and Regional Victorians of Colour to establish a Growers Market at the Old Church on the Hill; proposed Growers Market at Peppergreen Farm; growing food at Golden Gums Farm.

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
1.6.5 Investigate ways to include healthy options in emergency food relief packages	Bendigo Foodshare Salvation Army Bendigo	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill are inviting people accessing their food relief packages to cooking workshops which feature Peasant Gourmet recipes and food from their community garden, market and home kitchen gardens.
1.6.6 Support young people to become more food secure	Bendigo Foodshare	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services Schools: BFLOW, Kalianna, Bendigo Senior Secondary College City of Greater Bendigo Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Bendigo Foodshare sees this as ongoing and led through Grow Cook Share Food Hub. Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill were part funded by VicHealth to run 'Kids on the Hill', supporting 40 upper primary children (including children from multicultural backgrounds) to participate in weekly kitchen/garden activities over the past year.
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	Project and evaluation are complete. Strategic Criteria have been developed to guide selection of priority locations to install drinking water fountains.
1.7.2 Continue to map drinking water fountains in Greater Bendigo and make publicly available	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water	Project is complete and map will be updated as needed.
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	Submissions made to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Federal Enquiry into Food Security CSIRO Transforming Australian Food Systems: Discussion Paper Victorian State Infrastructure Plan consultation The City continues to work with others in the sector to advocate to state gov on the 10 leverage points outlined in 'Towards a Healthy, Regenerative and Equitable Food System in Victoria A Consensus Statement by cross-sector organisations to catalyse a transition towards a healthy, regenerative and equitable food system in Victoria'.

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
1.9 Seek funding opportunities to conduct future Active Living Census (ALC) to collect and maintain local healthy eating and food security data	Healthy Loddon Campaspe		The project plan for the 2024 ALC is currently being expanded and a project proposal will be taken to the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership and Loddon Campaspe Council CEO's for their consideration. Alternate funding sources continue to be explored.
1.10 Support multicultural groups to become more food secure by:			
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 Bendigo Foodshare – Grow Cook Share Food Hub	<p>The Old Church on the Hill Growers Market commenced in February 2023. This market is a partnership between The Old Church on the Hill, Neighbourhood Collective Australia, Regional Victorians of Colour and Bendigo Foodshare's Grow Cook Share Food Hub project. The market runs weekly in spring, summer and autumn, and monthly in winter.</p> <p>The Old Church on the Hill are running cooking classes and workshops which feature Peasant Gourmet recipes and food from their community garden, Growers Market and home kitchen gardens.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill were part funded by VicHealth to run 'Kids on the Hill', supporting 40 upper primary children (including children from multicultural backgrounds) to participate in weekly kitchen/garden activities over the past year.</p> <p>Grow Cook Share Food Hub programs, Café for a Day and Cooking for Change, support cooks from the multicultural community to share their traditional food and recipes with the community.</p> <p>The Old Church on the Hill, Neighbourhood Collective Australia and Regional Victorians of Colour are assisting multicultural women to come together to cook in the community kitchen and grow traditional food in the community garden.</p>
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	City of Greater Bendigo Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services Bendigo Foodshare Regional Victorians of Colour	<p>Regional Victorians of Colour help connect emerging communities with Neighbourhood Houses and Community Gardens.</p> <p>Regional Victorians of Colour, Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill support weekly cooking workshops for up to 12 women from refugee backgrounds.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill support multicultural women to cook cultural meals for the wider community.</p> <p>Bendigo Community Health Services delivered 10 chronic disease, lifestyle and healthy eating sessions to refugee community groups.</p>

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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		Ongoing.
1.10.4 Provide culturally appropriate foods for different multicultural community groups seeking food assistance	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	Bendigo Foodshare Old Church on the Hill Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill Regional Victorians of Colour	The Old Church on the Hill Growers Market commenced in February 2023. This market is a partnership between The Old Church on the Hill, Neighbourhood Collective Australia, Regional Victorians of Colour and Bendigo Foodshare's Grow Cook Share Food Hub project. The market runs weekly in spring, summer and autumn, and monthly in winter. Old Church on the Hill and Neighbourhood Collective Australia host a sharing table and community meals.
1.11 Become a signatory to The Australian Food Network's Urban and Regional Food Declaration	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster		To occur in the 2023-24 financial year.



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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
<p>2.1 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investigation into food traceability through a QR code sharing product and region stories • A 'buy local eat local' campaign that promotes farm gates, local growers and producers 	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Food Fossickers Bendigo Community Farmers Market Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster bHive Gastronomy Reference Group	Healthy Loddon Campaspe have rolled out the 'Support our own. Choose locally grown.' campaign. The campaign includes a TV ad campaign and collateral in independent supermarkets and small fruit and vegetable vendors. There have been some retailers request for use of the Gastronomy logo. The City continue to encourage businesses to apply to use the logo and are currently exploring feasibility of producing a sticker that could be provided to interested businesses.
2.2 Support the protection of agricultural and horticultural land across the municipality by:			
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		A first draft of all models has been completed and reviewed by the Project Control Group.
2.2.2 Develop local planning controls to protect horticultural/ agricultural land across the whole municipality	City of Greater Bendigo		Rural Areas Strategy due to commence with a Councillor workshop planned in August 2023.
2.3 Support food businesses to be able to grow, prepare and sell healthy food by:			
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		Complete.
2.3.2 Update and promote information about the types of foods that can be sold without application fees	City of Greater Bendigo		Complete.

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
2.3.3 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		Complete.

2.4 Enable an increase in healthy offerings available at the Bendigo Showgrounds Sunday Market by:

2.4.1 Investigate opportunities to increase the amount of fresh produce available at the Bendigo Showgrounds	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		No update provided.
2.4.2 Develop facilities to enable a wider range of produce to be available for the Bendigo Showgrounds market	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		No update provided.

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		<p>Events held at multiple venues across Greater Bendigo highlighting diversity and quality of local food & beverage offering.</p> <p>Media and communications promotion of local food suppliers as part of "Buy Local for Unique and Quality Produce" for Christmas and Easter.</p>
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		<p>Work being done to develop hospitality and tourism roadmap. Initial driver was urgency for Commonwealth Games 2026, but was seen as a project with significant legacy impact for ongoing economic development.</p> <p>Cancellation of Commonwealth Games opportunity, but State Government commitment to Regional Tourism and Hospitality promotion confirms need to continue this project.</p> <p>Promotion through Be.Bendigo Business Excellence Awards – Excellence and Innovation. Food businesses winning awards included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastronomy Award - Brougham Arms Hotel • Manufacturing Award - JL King & Co • Small and Succeeding Award - Bendigo Brittle <p>Feature in newsletters and media/comms. Collaborations on workforce development issues.</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
2.6 Support farmers to learn and use regenerative farming practices and plan for climate change	North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA)	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence) Loddon Plains Landcare Network City of Greater Bendigo	There are several projects underway to support farmers to learn and use regenerative farming practices and plan for climate change including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Landscapes program • NCCMA Regenerative Agriculture groups • NCCMA Sustainable Agriculture Project Action Group Another initiative, the City of Greater Bendigo's Sustainable Farming Grant program will begin implementation in the 2023-24 financial year.
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	Food Fossickers Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Gastronomy Reference Group	Website, Gastronomy Guide and Producer Guide continuing to be updated.
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	The City's Economic Development Team have developed and distributed a flyer to business outlining how the City can provide support to businesses. The team also share any opportunities in Business Matters.
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		A cross directorate working group has been formed and has commenced investigating the availability of commercial kitchens that could be used on a casual basis by startup and scale up businesses that have outgrown their home kitchens. Assessment of the suitability of kitchens in City facilities for this purpose is underway.
2.10 Support organisations to prioritise local food procurement through healthy food and catering policies	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services	No support was provided to external organisations this financial year due to lack of demand. The City and Bendigo Community Health Services will continue to provide support to external organisations as the need arises. Bendigo Community Health Services provided garden and compost bundles to 3 workplaces to grow their own food.

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
2.11 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 Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA)	Climate Ready Young Growers workshop held in September 2022.
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)	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Heathcote Community House Loddon Plains Landcare Network	Agriculture Officer at the City of Greater Bendigo; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participating in regular presentations to primary schools on career paths in agriculture through Passions and Pathways, • presenting to Secondary Schools through careers fairs, • participating in the Young Voices on the Land forum at the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show. Farmer Time and Prime Zone are free resources that are given to the local schools through collaborating with the Goldfields Local Learning and Employment Network. Ag CareerStart is a program designed for school leavers to take a 'supported gap year' on a farm. Information about scholarships for agricultural studies shared with schools.
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		The Rural Regeneration Grant Program has been developed and Guidelines established. Aims to support rural landholders to implement the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the health and biodiversity of soil and waterways • Encourage regenerative agriculture • Create climate resilient landscapes This grant is expected to be released for applications in September 2023.
2.14 Conduct a study into the effects of climate change on the existing food production in the area	City of Greater Bendigo North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA)		Currently in its second year, and will be completed in 2024. Models have been created of key commodities, and the PhD student is currently going out to visit farmers to 'test' the models to make sure they align with their experiences.

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	Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Loddon Campaspe Resource Smart Schools Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group Bendigo Community Health Services	Bendigo Community Health Services implemented an incentive promotion, where schools and early childhood services who registered with the Achievement Program were provided with a garden and compost bundle. Five new registrations were completed. This incentive aims to enable settings to build their own garden and compost, aligning with the climate change and health – reducing waste.
3.2 Support new and existing community gardens in the Greater Bendigo municipality by:			
3.2.1 Supporting the community gardens network to share resources, knowledge, ideas etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Foodshare Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Salvation Army Bendigo Community gardens	Support has been established and is now 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	Community gardens Salvation Army Bendigo	Complete and updated as needed.
3.2.3 Finalise the Community Gardens Policy/Guidelines for City of Greater Bendigo and update as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Complete. Highlights the challenges of soil contamination (from mining in particular) and pathways to minimise impact (eg. soil testing, using raised garden beds etc.).

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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		This information has been incorporated into the Community Gardens Policy and Guidelines and Nature Strip Policy and Guidelines.
3.2.5 Build a therapeutic horticulture community garden to enhance the wellbeing and health of community members	Peppergreen Farm		Not a current priority.
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		Complete. Policy and Guidelines developed and released to the public. Promotion and engagement through media – City website, radio interviews.
3.4 Promote relevant campaigns locally that support healthy food systems (i.e. campaigns from Parent's Voice, Sustain, VicHealth, Nutrition Australia, etc.)	City of Greater Bendigo Healthy Loddon Campaspe	Food System Strategy stakeholders	Healthy Loddon Campaspe's 'Support our own. Choose locally grown.' campaign launched in May 2023. www.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/chooselocallygrown The City continues to support Cancer Council Victoria's Food Fight Campaign calling for junk food advertising to be removed from public transport. The City featured in a case study for the campaign. https://youtu.be/8QNP1b-q1nI
3.5 Continue to update and promote the City's Home Grown Booklet as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Home Grown Booklet updated June 2023. www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/About/Document-Library/city-greater-bendigo-home-grown-2023-pdf

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
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 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Education sub-committee from the Gastronomy Advisory Committee are looking at creating a six seasons calendar/education resource.</p> <p>Healthy Landscapes program has partnered with Dja Dja Wurrung to deliver events aimed at farmers, to understand more about forest farming, and identifying and reporting cultural heritage on farms. These aim to be an ongoing part of the Healthy Landscapes program into future iterations of the course.</p>
3.7 Conduct the Bendigo Sustainability Awards and Sustainable Living Festival	Bendigo Sustainability Group		Sustainable Living Festival held March 2023.
3.8 Enable communities to be able to grow and cook healthy and sustainable food/meals for themselves by:			
3.8.1 Deliver accessible community food growing workshops and programs specific to our local climate	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	<p>Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill were part funded by VicHealth to run 'Kids on the Hill', supporting 40 upper primary children (including children from multicultural backgrounds) to participate in weekly kitchen/garden activities over the past year.</p> <p>The Old Church on the Hill partnered with Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) to deliver Gardening for local conditions education.</p> <p>The Old Church on the Hill Community Pantry holds cooking preservation workshops with garden produce and offers farmgate community tours for pantry members.</p>
3.8.2 Coordinate an annual calendar of workshops	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	This action has been deferred until the 2023-24 financial year.

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
3.8.3 Investigate healthy cooking classes for community, with garden to plate approach, using produce grown onsite	Peppergreen Farm	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill Regional Victorians of Colour	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill were part funded by VicHealth to run 'Kids on the Hill', supporting 40 upper primary children (including children from multicultural backgrounds) to participate in weekly kitchen/garden activities over the past year. The Old Church on the Hill partnered with Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) to deliver gardening for local conditions education. The Old Church on the Hill Community Pantry holds cooking preservation workshops with garden produce and offers farmgate community tours for pantry members.
3.8.4 Support diverse cultures to share their food growing and cooking knowledge and expertise such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create videos with community to share recipes with home grown produce (healthy, seasonal, no mileage food) 	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Salvation Army Bendigo Old Church on the Hill	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill are hosting cooking workshops for the wider community by facilitated by cooks from multicultural communities. Regional Victorians of Colour support multicultural women to share their cooking and food growing knowledge at The Old Church on the Hill Growers Market. Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services Food Safari Cookbook launched in March 2023 during Harmony Week. Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services have created more recipe videos that star local multicultural community members who are passionate about sharing culture through food. https://lcms.org.au/arts-events/friday-food-safari/
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	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill host a weekly program with Bendigo Retirement residents and Bendigo South East year 9 students. The residents and students come together weekly with a baking club that serves the wider community for morning tea through the Old Church on the Hill Friday Living Room program. The Old Church on the Hill, Neighbourhood Collective Australia and Regional Victorians of Colour are assisting older and younger multicultural women to come together to cook in the community kitchen and grow traditional food in the community garden.
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	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill host various community programs that are inclusive of older adults. See 3.8.5 for more detail. Healthy Loddon Campaspe hosted a cooking demonstration and nutrition education session for 14 participants during Seniors Week. This focused on eating well for brain health.

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
3.9 Continue to implement the INFANT Program with first time parents	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services Bendigo Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 sessions were delivered during the funded period, reaching 426 attendees. • Since participating in INFANT 25% of parents reported a reduction in sedentary time and an increase in outdoor play time. • 50% of parents reported increased purchasing of fruit and vegetables and reduced purchasing of sweet and savoury snacks. • 75% reported increase in the amount of time spent eating as a family. <p>City of Greater Bendigo have created an 'on demand' INFANT session linked to the City's website. This format allows families to view the information provided at a time convenient to them and their families. The 'on demand' format went live in March 2023, and 28 clients viewed the INFANT information through this option.</p>
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 	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Bendigo Foodshare	Bendigo Foodshare Salvation Army Bendigo Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill are currently seeking funding to upgrade their domestic stove and ovens to commercial standard in the Old Church on the Hill community kitchen. This kitchen hosts various cooking clubs and community cooking workshops on a regular basis.

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
3.11 Facilitate partnerships between:			
3.11.1 Community gardens, local producers and growers, schools and emergency food relief agencies	Bendigo Foodshare	City of Greater Bendigo Salvation Army Bendigo	Regional Victorians of Colour are supporting multicultural communities to connect with Neighbourhood Houses in community gardens and through their Moving Feasts program.
3.11.2 Community gardens and neighbourhood houses to share resources and knowledge	Neighbourhood Collective Australia	Old Church on the Hill Neighbourhood Houses Community gardens	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill and the Long Gully Community Garden host joint events such as seedling and seed swaps.
3.11.3 Community gardens, neighbourhood houses and schools that increase families' access to seasonal, affordable, nutritious food	Neighbourhood Collective Australia	Old Church on the Hill Neighbourhood Houses Community gardens Primary Schools Regional Victorians of Colour	Neighbourhood Collective Australia and The Old Church on the Hill have a strong connection with Quarry Hill Primary School.
3.12 Scale up 'multicultural preparing for work' program	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services		No update provided.
3.13 Support and advocate for better management of fruit fly locally	Bendigo Community Fruit	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster City of Greater Bendigo	Community workshops are planned for the 2023-24 financial year.

Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
4.1 Continue to promote and expand the City's Organics collection to schools and food businesses	City of Greater Bendigo		Formalising the commercial organic service and implementing an engagement program to get new businesses onboard and maintain existing businesses. Continue to offer the service and compost to schools.
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		Review staffed facilities to ensure there is access to an organics service. Internal City of Greater Bendigo food waste workshops.
4.3 Support community to reduce food waste through educational opportunities, including:			
4.3.1 Support the implementation of food waste educational opportunities for community members and professionals (i.e. composting workshops)	City of Greater Bendigo	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Funding provided to Bendigo Foodshare for the Cooking for Change program through the Circular City Grant program. The Old Church on the Hill partnered with Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) to deliver gardening for local conditions education. Modelling to community, meal planning for Village Lunch using the Sharing Table, Community Garden and backyard abundance. Community garden chickens modelling reusing food waste from the community kitchen and added to compost for The Old Church on the Hill gardens.
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	Bendigo Foodshare Be.Bendigo	The City has been working with local businesses to assist them to reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill.
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		42 compost bins provided free to residents outside of the organics collection area. The worm farm and compost bin program will no longer be running, we will instead be providing the organics service to the remaining 5,500 households in November 2023.

Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Action	Lead Team	Support	Update
4.5 Investigate how an increase in Biomix compost made from City of Greater Bendigo's Organics Waste can be re-distributed back into the Greater Bendigo Community	City of Greater Bendigo		Free compost provided to community groups and schools. Free compost giveaway day for community in February 2023.
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		Planning underway for a workshop series utilising community gardens and local facilitators.
4.7 Develop Guidelines for external facilitated events regarding food and waste (healthy, local content, minimising food waste, nude food)	City of Greater Bendigo		Event guide for single-use plastic elimination promoted to event organisers. Event organisers reminded during event planning process. Project commenced to add healthy eating information to event guidelines.
4.8 Promote and encourage water trailers and drinking fountains over single use plastic bottles at community and Council supported events	City of Greater Bendigo	Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Reference Group Coliban Water	Included in the event guide for single-use plastic elimination. Event organisers reminded during event planning process.
4.9 Support excess food to be donated to emergency food relief agencies and cooking clubs	Bendigo Foodshare	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance	Bendigo Foodshare continues to collect and distribute food to food relief and community organisations.
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	No update provided.
4.11 Investigate the need and interest in progressing Bendigo Foodshare's Food Donations app and research if other platforms are available	Bendigo Foodshare		Not a current priority.



Appendix 2

Action plan for 2023/2024 financial year

Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Action Plan 2023-2024

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	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, including:			
1.2.1 Coordinate networks/ Communities of Practice across a range of settings (i.e. HCG, Vic Kids Eat Well)	City of Greater Bendigo Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation	Bendigo Community Health Services Regional Victorians of Colour Bendigo Foodshare Victoria University Healthy Loddon Campaspe Sports Focus Department of Education	Ongoing
1.2.2 Facilitate a Healthy Choices Forum including a food and drink Expo	City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Eating Advisory Service	2023-2024
1.2.3 Review and update the City's Healthy Food and Catering Policy as required	City of Greater Bendigo	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	Ongoing
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	City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee – Education Sub-group	LaTrobe University Student Association	2023-2025
1.2.7 Implement City of Greater Bendigo's Healthy Facilities Policy which sets expectations for users of Council facilities and future facility design with regards to the Healthy Choices Guidelines i.e. catering, sponsorship, advertising and signage, vending machines, food retail	City of Greater Bendigo	Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Bendigo Community Health Services Healthy Loddon Campaspe	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

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
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	Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation City of Greater Bendigo Healthy Eating Advisory Service Smiles 4 Miles DHSV Coliban Water	Ongoing
1.4 Conduct a healthy food basket audit to update and monitor Greater Bendigo's food affordability data	City of Greater Bendigo	Monash University	2024, 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, by:			
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			Not a current priority
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	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	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill Bendigo Foodshare	Ongoing
1.6.5 Investigate ways to include healthy options in emergency food relief packages	Bendigo Foodshare Salvation Army Bendigo	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Ongoing
1.6.6 Support young people to become more food secure	Bendigo Foodshare	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services Schools: BFLOW, Kalianna, Bendigo Senior Secondary College City of Greater Bendigo Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Ongoing

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
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	Complete
1.7.2 Continue to map drinking water fountains in Greater Bendigo and make publicly available	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water	Complete
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



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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
1.9 Seek funding opportunities to conduct future Active Living Census (ALC) to collect and maintain local healthy eating and food security data	Healthy Loddon Campaspe		2023-2024
1.10 Support multicultural groups to become more food secure by:			
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 Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit Neighbourhood Collective Victoria University Bendigo Foodshare – Grow Cook Share Food Hub	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	City of Greater Bendigo Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services Bendigo Foodshare Regional Victorians of Colour Neighbourhood Collective Australia	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	Neighbourhood Collective Australia Plate it Up	2023-2024
1.10.4 Provide culturally appropriate foods for different multicultural community groups seeking food assistance	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services The Old Church on the Hill	Bendigo Foodshare Neighbourhood Collective Australia Regional Victorians of Colour	Ongoing
1.11 Become a signatory to The Australian Food Network's Urban and Regional Food Declaration	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill Bendigo Foodshare		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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investigation into food traceability through a QR code sharing product and region stories • A 'buy local eat local' campaign that promotes farm gates, local growers and producers 	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Food Fossickers Bendigo Community Farmers Market Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Gastronomy Reference Group Neighbourhood Houses Neighbourhood Collective Australia Old Church on the Hill Bendigo Foodshare – Grow Cook Share Food Hub	Ongoing
2.2 Support the protection of agricultural and horticultural land across the municipality by:			
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		2020-2024
2.3 Support food businesses to be able to grow, prepare and sell healthy food by:			
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		Complete
2.3.2 Update and promote information about the types of foods that can be sold without application fees	City of Greater Bendigo		Complete
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		Complete

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
2.4 Enable an increase in healthy offerings available at the Bendigo Showgrounds Sunday Market by:			
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 market	Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.		Ongoing
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 (NCCMA)	Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence) Loddon Plains Landcare Network City of Greater Bendigo	Ongoing
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	Food Fossickers Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Gastronomy Reference Group	Now business as usual
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 Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill Regional Victorians of Colour	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		2023-2025

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
2.10 Support organisations to prioritise local food procurement through healthy food and catering policies	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services Be.Bendigo	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 Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) City of Greater Bendigo Bendigo Foodshare – Grow Cook Share Food Hub	Complete
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)	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Heathcote Community House Loddon Plains Landcare Network	Ongoing
2.13 Investigate ways to support farmers in the use of sustainable farming practices i.e. grants or education programs. If feasible, implement accordingly			
2.13.1 Investigating 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		Complete
2.13.2 Delivering grant to farmers to implement sustainable farming practices, in partnership with education programs existing in the region that support regenerative practices	City of Greater Bendigo		2023-2024
2.14 Conduct a study into the effects of climate change on the existing food production in the area	City of Greater Bendigo North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA)		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	Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation City of Greater Bendigo	Healthy Loddon Campaspe Resource Smart Schools Bendigo Community Health Services Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Bendigo Foodshare – Grow Cook Share Food Hub; Grow a Row	Ongoing
3.2 Support new and existing community gardens in the Greater Bendigo municipality by:			
3.2.1 Supporting the community gardens network to share resources, knowledge, ideas etc.	City of Greater Bendigo	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	Community gardens Salvation Army Bendigo	Now business as usual
3.2.3 Finalise the Community Gardens Policy/Guidelines for City of Greater Bendigo and update as required	City of Greater Bendigo		Complete
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		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		Complete
3.4 Promote relevant campaigns locally that support healthy food systems (i.e. campaigns from Parent's Voice, Sustain, VicHealth, Nutrition Australia, etc.)	City of Greater Bendigo Healthy Loddon Campaspe	Food System Strategy stakeholders	Ongoing

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
3.5 Continue to update and promote the City's Home Grown Booklet as required	City of Greater Bendigo		2025, 2027, 2029
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 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	2022-2025
3.7 Conduct the Bendigo Sustainability Awards and Sustainable Living Festival	Bendigo Sustainability Group		Ongoing
3.8 Enable communities to be able to grow and cook healthy and sustainable food/meals for themselves by:			
3.8.1 Deliver accessible community food growing workshops and programs specific to our local climate	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Neighbourhood Collective Australia Bendigo Foodshare – Grow Cook Share Food Hub The Old Church on the Hill	Ongoing
3.8.2 Coordinate an annual calendar of workshops	City of Greater Bendigo	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	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Regional Victorians of Colour Bendigo Foodshare – Grow Cook Share Food Hub	2022-2023
3.8.4 Support diverse cultures to share their food growing and cooking knowledge and expertise such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create videos with community to share recipes with home grown produce (healthy, seasonal, no mileage food) 	Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Salvation Army Bendigo Old Church on the Hill Regional Victorians of Colour Bendigo Foodshare – Grow Cook Share Food Hub	Ongoing

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

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
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	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	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	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Ongoing
3.9 Continue to implement the INFANT Program with first time parents	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Community Health Services Bendigo Health	Ongoing
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 	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Bendigo Foodshare	Bendigo Foodshare Salvation Army Bendigo Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill	Ongoing
3.11 Facilitate partnerships between:			
3.11.1 Community gardens, local producers and growers, schools and emergency food relief agencies	Bendigo Foodshare	City of Greater Bendigo Salvation Army Bendigo	Ongoing
3.11.2 Community gardens and neighbourhood houses to share resources and knowledge	Neighbourhood Collective Australia	Old Church on the Hill Neighbourhood Houses Community gardens	Ongoing
3.11.3 Community gardens, neighbourhood houses and schools that increase families' access to seasonal, affordable, nutritious food	Neighbourhood Collective Australia	Old Church on the Hill Neighbourhood Houses Community gardens Primary Schools Regional Victorians of Colour	Ongoing
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	City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Greater Bendigo Community House Cluster	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 local workplaces to become 'zero food waste' organisations	City of Greater Bendigo		2023-2025
4.3 Support community to reduce food waste through educational opportunities, including:			
4.3.1 Support the implementation of food waste educational opportunities for community members and professionals (i.e. composting workshops)	City of Greater Bendigo	Neighbourhood Collective Australia The Old Church on the Hill Long Gully Community Garden Community Garden Network Bendigo Foodshare: Grow Cook Share Food Hub	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	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		Complete
4.5 Investigate how an increase in Biomix compost made from City of Greater Bendigo'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	Long Gully Community Garden Bendigo Foodshare: Grow Cook Share Food Hub	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		2022-2025
4.8 Promote and encourage water trailers and drinking fountains over single use plastic bottles at community and Council supported events	City of Greater Bendigo	Coliban Water	Ongoing

Objective 4: Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Action	Lead Team	Support	Timeline
4.9 Support excess food to be donated to emergency food relief agencies and cooking clubs	Bendigo Foodshare	City of Greater Bendigo	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



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