

RCE North Texas

University of Texas at Arlington

Meghna Tare

Chief Sustainability Officer

**Founder and Director RCE North Texas and
North Texas Food Policy Alliance**



Other Presenters

Nicole Cevallos, UT Arlington MS Student

Karen Bassarab, The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable
Future's Food Policy Networks (FPN)

Brenda Patton, Program Director, Blue Zone Fort Worth

Please add to the [jamboard](#)

Introduction- Name, Title, Organization, SDGs



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





An initiative of the United Nations University

RCEs are networks of individuals and formal, non-formal, and informal organizations and institutions that facilitate ESD in local and regional communities, through **education, training, and public awareness to build a sustainable future**

An RCE can accelerate collective impacts over the region, and provides opportunities to impact the global policies ESD and SDGs

Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



**Regional
Centers of
Expertise
(RCEs) on
Education for
Sustainable
Development
(ESD)**

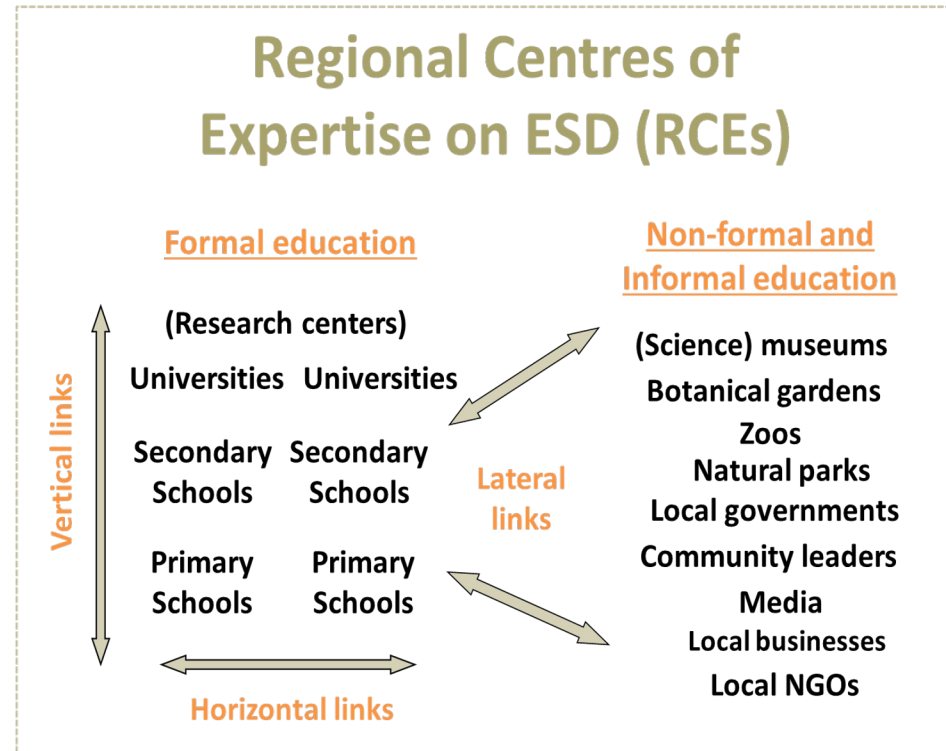
Regional Centers of Expertise for Education on Sustainable Development (ESD)

ESD Program established at UNU-IAS for UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014)

RCEs are networks of individuals and formal, non-formal, and informal organizations and institutions that facilitate ESD in local and regional communities, through education, training, and public awareness to build a sustainable future.

Focus on regional challenges, needs, and resources.

“Think globally, act locally.”



Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development



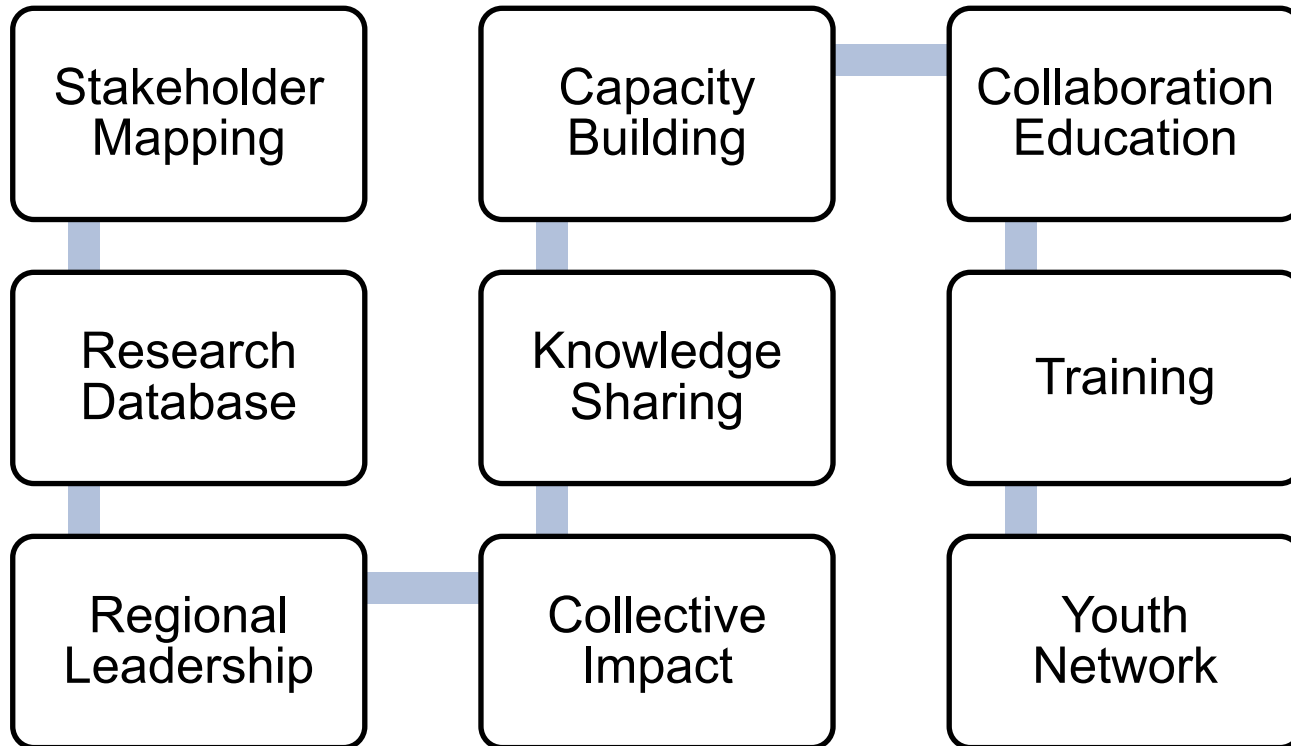
RCEs around the world

www.rcenet.org

Mission: We connect organizations in North Texas to enable healthier communities, shared value and sustainable development through education, collaboration and capacity building.



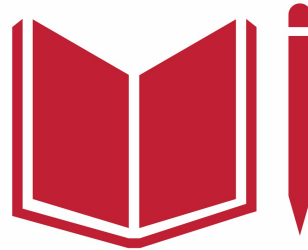
Vision: A healthy, equitable and resilient North Texas.



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



2 ZERO
HUNGER



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



North Texas Food Policy Alliance

- Engagement with Public, Private and Non-profits in the North Texas region
- Unique- 2% of the National FPCs are embedded in Academic Institutions
- Engage in workshop, education, outreach, capacity building, sharing of resources

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



2 ZERO HUNGER

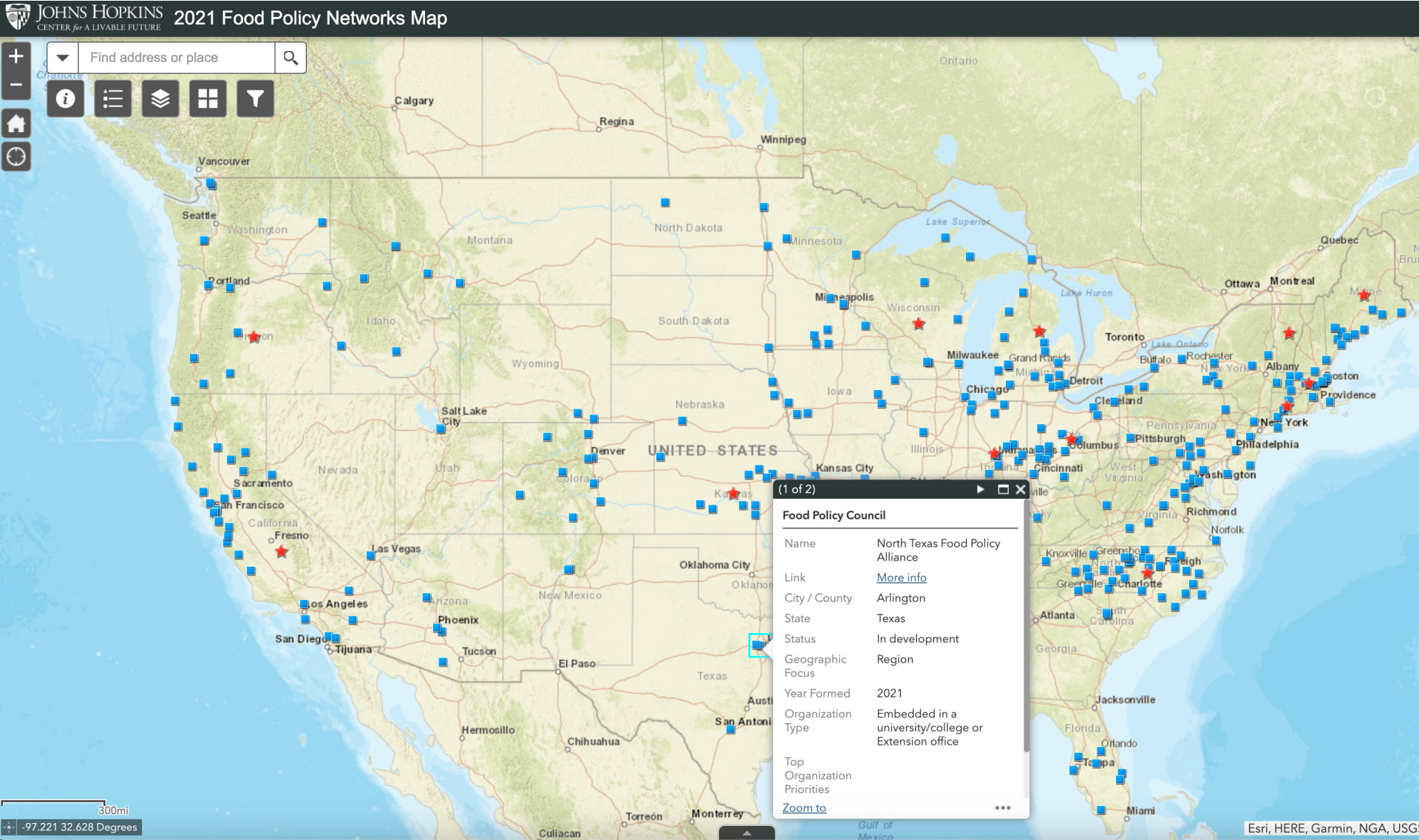


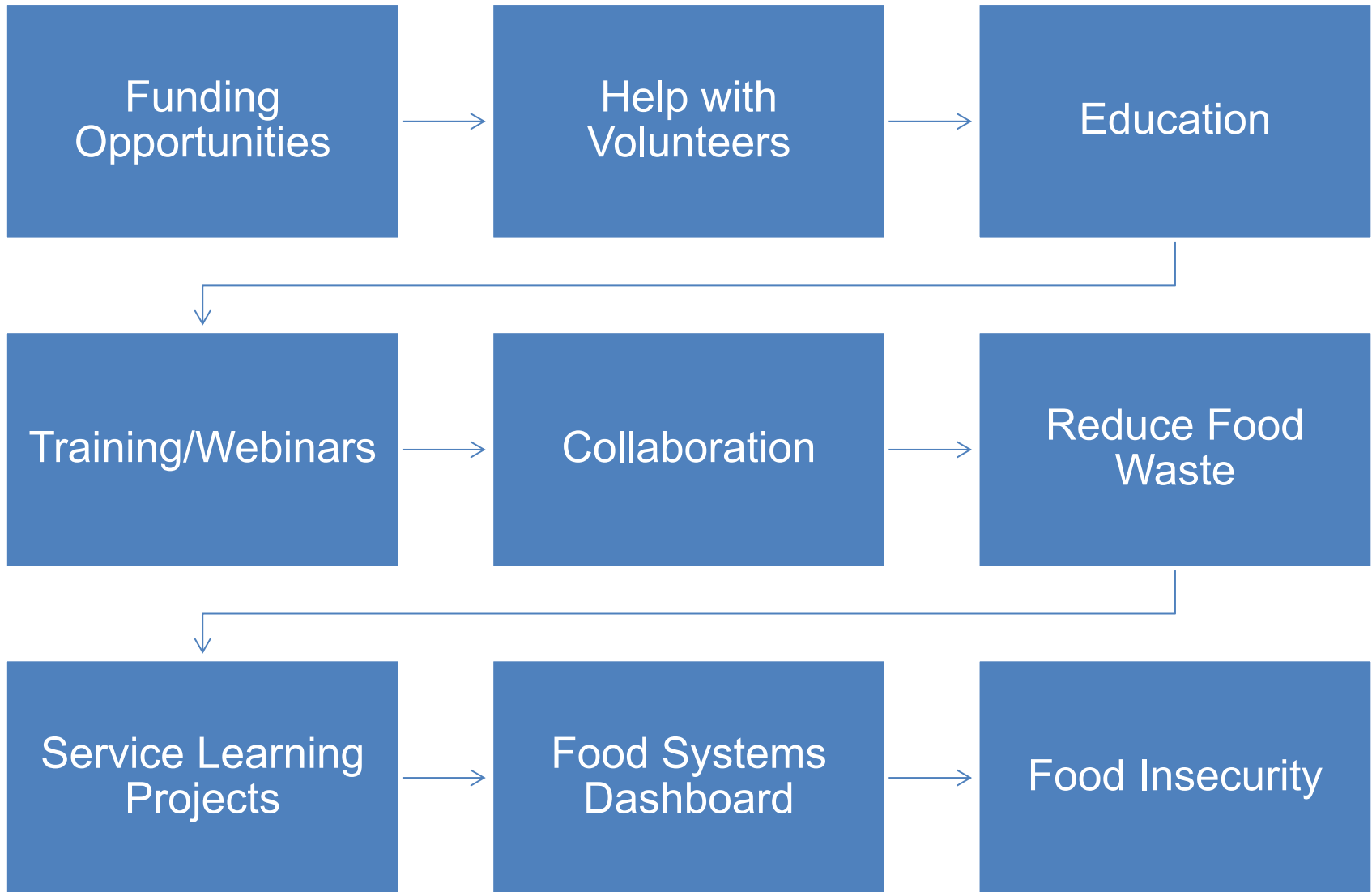
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



4 QUALITY EDUCATION







Steps to Start an Alliance or (RCE)

Build your list of stakeholders

- Food Banks, community gardens, food pantry, local government, non- profits, private sector, academic institution

Strategic Planning Process

- Establish mission, vision, goals, objectives, leadership council
- SWOT Analysis

Strengths

(areas you do well or advantages of your organization)

Opportunities

(external factors that may contribute to your organization and can build up your strengths)

SWOT

Weaknesses

(areas to be improved)

Threats

(potential problems/risks caused by external factors that your organization may face)



NORTH TEXAS
Food Policy Alliance

Our Work

The NTFPA participated in a three-part strategy session where members of the organization mapped out their goals for the Alliance. Our workstreams are aligned around the goals of our planning process and have four distinct focus areas:



Organization Success



Education & Outreach



Access to Resources



Research



Set background Clear frame

Notes

Shared governance model: done

Establishing a partnership agreement to address attendance

First newsletter by March

Website is up and running

Slide deck / other information with knowledge and expertise to share with the entire Texas region

Top left and bottom right are closely related: what are main differences? Deliverables under "create internal structure" are asset map and partner organization, post in-person best practice sharing, asset map

Under "develop communications platform": website, etc. More external.

Rank the following strategies

Create an internal structure for capacity building, sharing of knowledge and expertise to amplify the Alliance's impact in North Texas.

2 **2**

Identify, align, and create funding opportunities to support the Alliance's work

4 **3**

Implement a shared governance model.

1 **1**

Develop a communication platform to ensure clear, efficient, and effective communication amongst Alliance members.

3 **1**

1

2

3 **3**

4 **4**



Draft Goal & Strategies

GOAL 1 (organization success) SDG 17

The North Texas Food Policy Alliance will develop and convene a high-functioning collective of diverse stakeholders to create a cross-sectoral impact in North Texas food systems.

Goal 1 Strategies

1.1 Implement a shared governance model.

1.2 Create an internal structure for capacity building, sharing of knowledge and expertise to amplify the Alliance's impact in North Texas.

1.3 Develop a communication platform to ensure clear, efficient, and effective communication amongst Alliance members.

1.4 Identify, align, and create funding opportunities to support the Alliance's work.

1.5



↶ ↷ 🔍 Set background Clear frame

Rank the following strategies

3 Engaging students/youth to advance the mission and vision of the alliance- through volunteer opportunities and service-learning projects. **3**

3 **3** **3** **3**

Create awareness of the challenges in the current food system and promote dialogue around how a sustainable and Equitable Food System would benefit North Texas.


1 **1**

1 **2** **1** **1**

Serve as a platform to support capacity building and collaboration.

2 **2** **2**

2 **2** **1**



Order makes sense because it follows the order of operations (awareness --> specific programs)

1. Use White Paper from Research Group to create talking points

2. Social Media platform, media contacts established, and boiler plate drafted

3. Shareable graphic(s) for Action steps

3



Draft Goal & Strategies

GOAL 2 (education & awareness) - SDG 4 & 11

The North Texas Food Policy Alliance will broaden, educate, and engage diverse participation of North Texas residence to advocate for more equitable and sustainable food policies.

Goal 2 Strategies

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2.1 | Create awareness of the challenges in the current food system and promote dialogue around how a sustainable and Equitable Food System would benefit North Texas |
| 2.2 | Serve as a platform to support capacity building and collaboration. |



↶ ↷ 🔍 Set background Clear frame

Rank the following strategie

3	1	1	1	2	3
Develop and categorize a baseline of existing resources			Develop relationships with key influencers and funders in the North Texas food system to reduce barriers to implementing food system programs.		
2	1	2	3	2	3
Identify onramps and develop associated resources and training to engage those interested in equitable and sustainable food lifecycle at varying scales. (personal → large)			Purse and obtain funding opportunities to support more sustainable, healthy, and equitable food systems in the region.		
1	3	2	1	2	



Draft Goal & Strategies

GOAL 3 (access to resources) SDG 2, 3, 4, 11

The North Texas Food Policy Alliance will increase and diversify participation in the North Texas food system.

Goal 3 Strategies

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3.1 | Identify onramps and develop associated resources and training to engage those interested in equitable and sustainable food lifecycle at varying scales. (personal → large) |
| 3.2 | Develop relationships with key influencers and funders in the North Texas food system to reduce barriers to implementing food system programs. |
| 3.3 | Purse and obtain funding opportunities to support more sustainable, healthy, and equitable food systems in the region. |
| 3.4 | Develop and categorize a baseline of existing resources. |
| 3.5 | |



Draft Goal & Strategies

GOAL 4 (research) SDG 4

The North Texas Food Policy Alliance will curate research and develop a new multi-institutional research agenda to support more informed and equitable decision-making around food systems and food policy in North Texas.

Goal 4 Strategies

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 4.1 | Develop and categorize a baseline of past research- review existing research and conduct a gap analysis. |
| 4.2 | Identify and prioritize research areas that will address challenges and identify new opportunities in the North Texas food systems. |
| 4.3 | Create pathways to communicate research findings with a broader audience in a way that is consumable and relatable. |
| 4.4 | |
| 4.5 | |

Organization Success

- Brochure
- Website
- Newsletter
- Stakeholder mapping and engagement
- **Cross collaboration with different organizations**

Education and Outreach

- Annual Summit
- Webinars
- Service learning
- K-12 educational opportunities

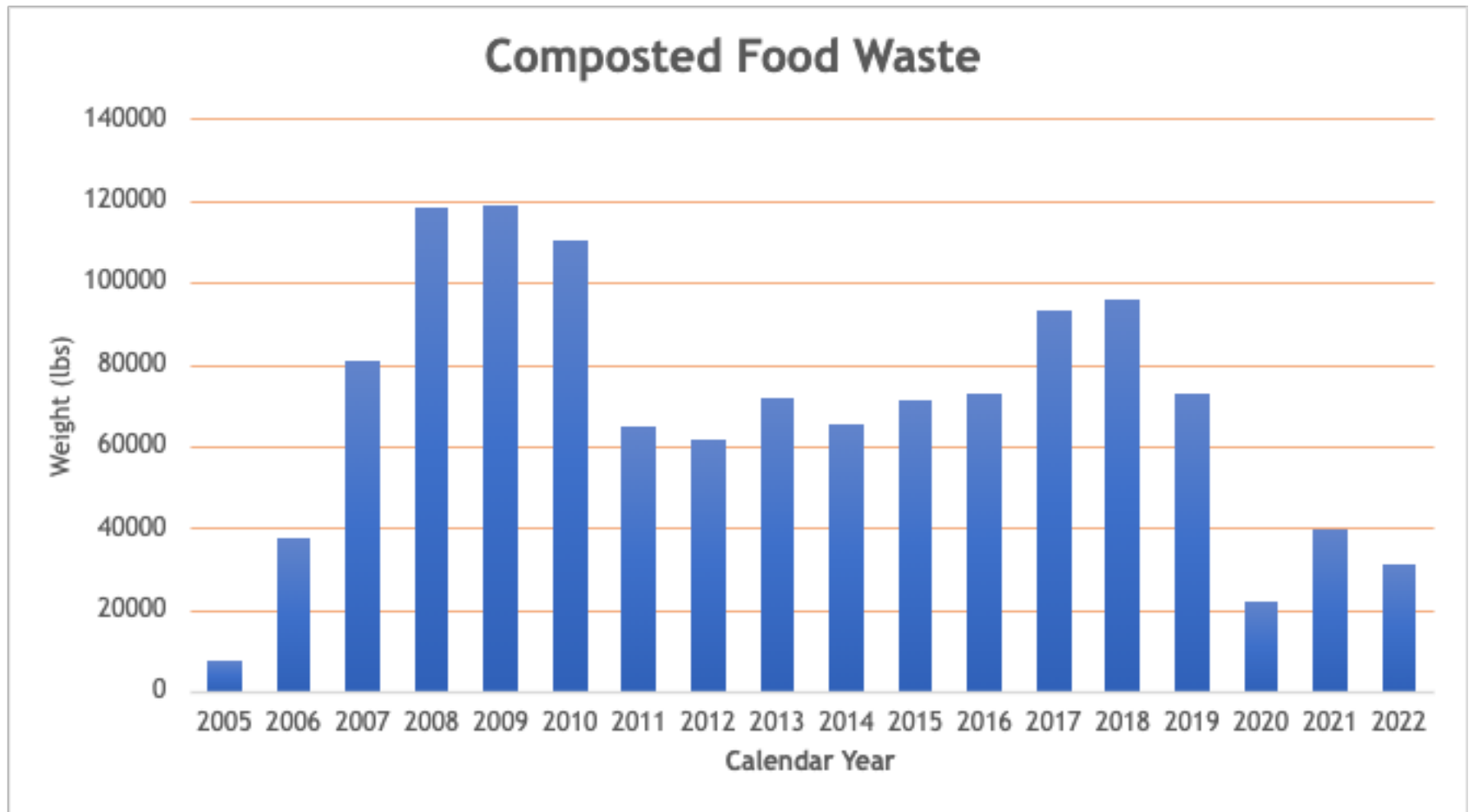
Access to resources

- Grant applications
- LOS for funding
- Meeting spaces
- **Food Policy Network**

Research

- **Designing a regional a dashboard for food systems**
- Database of experts

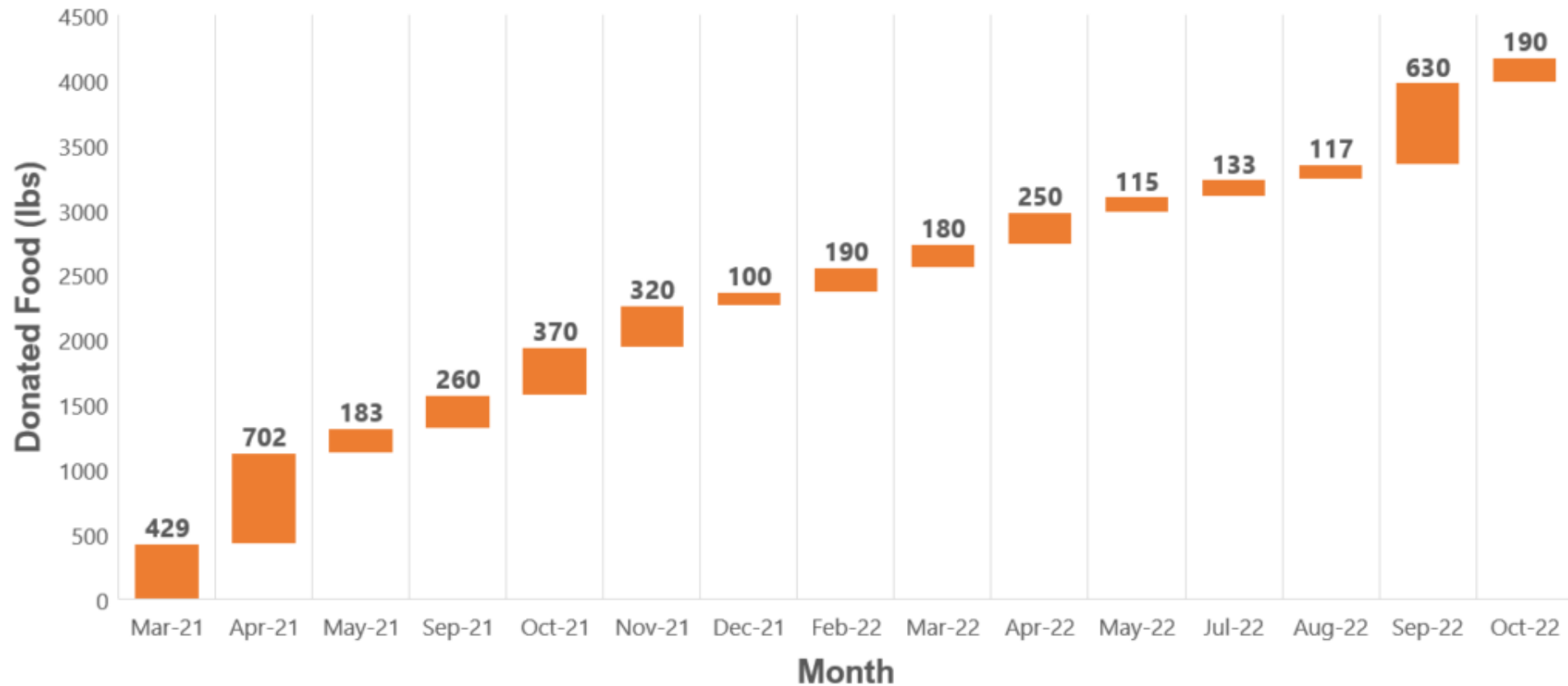
Pre-consumer Food Waste Composting on Campus



Food Recovery Network is a national nonprofit that unites students at colleges and universities to fight food waste and hunger by recovering perishable food that would otherwise go to waste from the campus' dining halls and donating it to those in need.



Food Recovery Network: Donated Food



The Maverick Pantry is committed to creating and maintaining equitable access to food and essential items so that all members of the University Community can thrive academically, personally, and professionally.

Education, support, and advocacy are the pillars that guide our mission in alleviating food insecurity





North Texas Local Food Dialogue on Inclusive Food Systems

A Contributing Dialogue to the Biden Administration's Food Policy Agenda, the UN Food Systems Summit, and national discussions, hosted by University of Texas at Arlington and ICLEI.

WELCOME

TO TEXAS LOCAL FOOD DIALOGUE THE ON INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEMS

PETER DEFRANCESCHI
HEAD OF ICLEI BRUSSELS OFFICE

ALISON BLAY-PALMER
UNESCO

DR. TEIK LIM
UTA INTERIM PRESIDENT

UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT

CONSTRUCTIVE

SOLUTIONS-
BASED

COLLABORATIVE

NOT JUST AN
EVENT... a
JOURNEY

ONWARD
TOWARD SDGS!

DEBATE
CHALLENGES

CONNECTING PEOPLE
WITH THEIR FOOD

EVERYBODY
MUST BE AT
THE TABLE...
& HEARD

COVID
LESSON

INFORMAL
MARKETS

ONLINE
MARKETS

SHARED
VISION &
BUY IN!

SUPPORT
SMALL-SCALE

STATEMENT OF ACTION

SCHOOL
NUTRITION

LOCAL &
NATIONAL
CONVERSATIONS

THE IMPORTANCE
OF URBAN FOOD
SYSTEMS

LOCAL & INDIGENOUS
FOOD

* CULTURE
* HEALTH
* CLIMATE
CHANGE

FOOD
WASTE

SUSTAINABLE
Economic
SOCIAL
ENVIRONMENTAL

EDUCATION IS A KEY COMPONENT
OF SUSTAINABLE & EQUITABLE
FOOD SYSTEMS IN NORTH TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

TEXAS LOCAL FOOD DIALOGUE
ON INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEMS



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

Illustrated by
KARINA BRANSON
CONVERSKETCH.COM



8th Annual Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration Community Partner Breakfast

8th Annual Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration Community Partner Breakfast & 5th Annual UTA BS Public Health Moving Forward Mini-Conference Tuesday, November 8, 2022 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
HTCC Community Partner Breakfast (Registration required) 9:45 AM – 12:00 PM
Mini-Conference Sessions (Open attendance – No...

[READ MORE](#) >



North Texas Food Policy Alliance 2022 Meeting




North Texas Food Policy Alliance 2022 Meeting

Join the North Texas Food Policy Alliance on March 1 at 9 am for our first in-person group meeting at UT Arlington.

[READ MORE](#) >

SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

Are you interested in elevating your organization's sustainability messaging? Then, join ICLEI USA and the University of Texas Arlington for an interactive workshop to learn how to craft engaging and effective sustainability communications!

 FEB 24TH

 12 PM - 1:30 PM CST

 ONLINE

Sustainability Communications Workshop 02-2022

Are you interested in elevating your organization's sustainability messaging? Then, join ICLEI USA and the University of Texas Arlington for an interactive workshop to learn how to craft engaging and effective sustainability communications!

[READ MORE](#) >





NTFPA Newsletter: Issue III

NTFPA Newsletter: Issue III

In This Issue:

- DIGS Summit 2023
- 4DWN: Where Skateboarding and Social Good Meet
- Recap of Moving Forward Conference
- City of Dallas Hiring Environmental Coordinator II

[READ MORE](#)



NTFPA Newsletter: Issue II

NTFPA Newsletter: Issue II

In This Issue:

- Dallas Urban Ag Survey
- Kroger Provides Generous Support to UT Arlington Pantry
- Citizen Gardener Training
- Dallas Hunger Summit 2022

[READ MORE](#)



NTFPA Newsletter: Issue I

NTFPA Newsletter: Issue I

In This Issue:

- Access to Fresh Food is Urgent
- Regional Program Highlights
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Upcoming Events

[READ MORE](#)



Partner Highlight

From Restorative Farms

Restorative Farms is a nonprofit self-sustainable urban agricultural initiative founded in 2016, that aims to revitalize the local economy and supply Dallas with fresh, locally grown food through a combination of professional job training and local urban farms.

Through their farmer training program, the farm provides opportunities for employment, and options for healthy food by fostering a vibrant and viable community-based urban farm system in one of the nation's largest food deserts: South Dallas. They train people with the skills and knowledge to become professional farmers, while providing them with the shared resources and infrastructure to get them up and running.

In 2017 the farm built a greenhouse hub, The Seedling Farm at the MLK Community Center where approximately 40,000 seedlings are grown per annum. Our seedlings are either sold, providing income to local community members, used in our own agrisystem or donated to community gardens.

In 2019 the farm launched in the midst of the pandemic the "Hatcher Station Training Farm", a one-acre site approximately 2 miles south of Dallas' Fair Park. Here under the supervision and efforts of paid community members, thousands of pounds of various greens, vegetables and herbs are grown in a "swale & berm" in-ground method.

In August of 2020 Restorative Farm deployed "GroZilla", a 16' x 40' hydroponic growing machine at Fair Park where approximately 120 pounds of fresh Asian greens are produced and harvested weekly.

[SUBMIT YOUR STORY](#)

Thank you

mtare@uta.edu

Meghna Tare

Chief Sustainability Officer

Founder and Director RCE North Texas

