

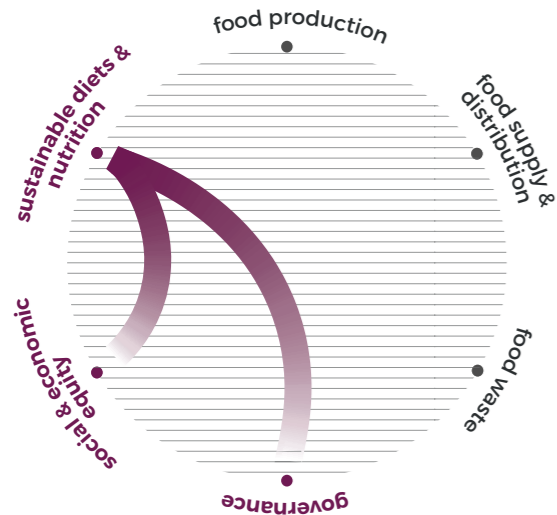


MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

Title of Practice MELBOURNE: THREE TOOLS FOR A SOLID FOOD POLICY

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Category SUSTAINABLE DIETS AND NUTRITION

Main impacts on other MUFPP categories



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Context

Approximately 8 - 10 percent of the adult population within the City of Melbourne experience challenges in accessing enough food for a healthy life. The people who are typically more vulnerable to poor food access or **food insecurity** include: low income households (including single parents, sole person households, students, people who are unemployed), older adults, particularly those who are frail or socially isolated, people with a disability or a mental illness, people with poor access to transport, people with a low proficiency in English, particularly new migrants and refugees, people in housing stress or who are homeless. The challenges faced by these **vulnerable groups** in accessing sufficient food may worsen over time as natural resource constraints and climate stresses affect our food supply, leading to increases in the cost of food along with other essential household costs such as petrol and utility costs. Some people are also experiencing increasing disruptions to their food supplies as a result of emergency situations, such as extreme weather events, with increasing disruption to food supplies. This combination of pressures could lead to rising food prices, with impacts on the city's food security.

Overview of the food practice

The **City of Melbourne Food Policy** aims to improve people's health and well-being by promoting a food system that is secure, healthy, sustainable, thriving and socially inclusive. The policy is made up of five themes which were drawn from background research and community consultation:

1. a strong, food secure community;
2. healthy food choices for all;
3. a sustainable and resilient food system;
4. a thriving local food economy; and
5. a city that celebrates food.

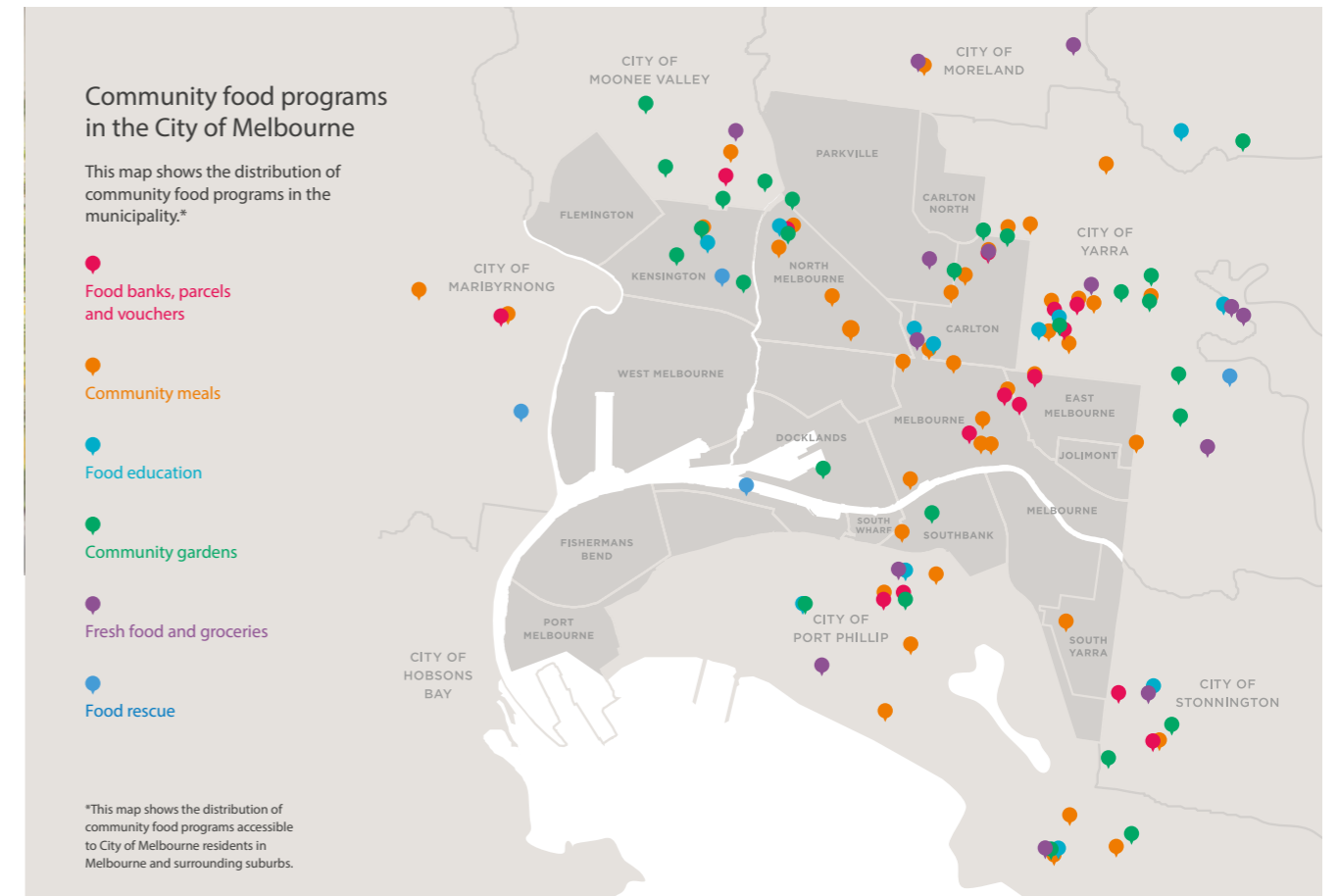
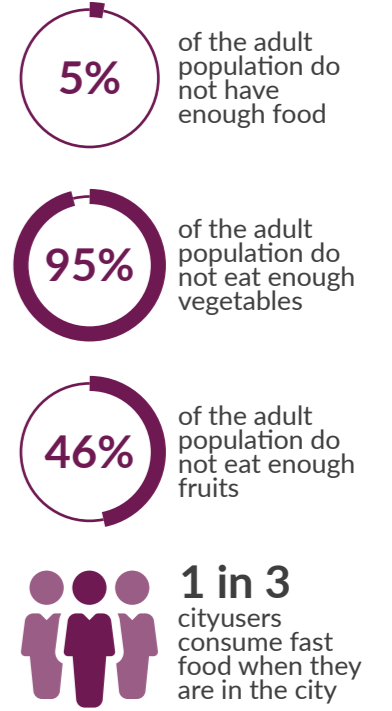
The City of Melbourne identifies its role in building and strengthening partnerships and advocacy, education and community development, regulation, infrastructure management and research.

Starting in August 2011, extensive project planning was undertaken which included the development of a project brief, a communication plan and an activity timeline. The development of the policy involved a **comprehensive process of community engagement** that included a wide range of feedback from key stakeholders. An internal **Food Policy Advisory Group** (FPAG) was formed to provide guidance, strategic advice and feedback throughout the development of the Food Policy. FPAG developed a food policy infographic that showed a snapshot of Melbourne's food story, drawn from existing statistics and community consultation data about **what food means to people** in Melbourne. Finally, the Melbourne City Council adopted the "Food City" guidelines in 2012, which provides an overarching vision and **framework** that guides coordinated action and decision-making to improve the local food system. In 2014 the council published two companion documents to the Melbourne Food Policy that support the community to "access and use food" and recognize the potential for walls and roofs of buildings to act as productive places for urban food production. The **Community Food Guide** provides information about 119 food access programmes and services within and surrounding the City of Melbourne. The **Growing Green Guide** provides context around greening buildings and its benefits, technical guidance, design and planning tools, building and installation resources, maintenance information, and a list of case studies. With an integrated policy framework made of five main objectives, the city has already regulated street garden and community gardening activities.

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Results and lessons learned

The Melbourne policy deliberately addresses the economic, environmental, cultural, and social benefits of urban agriculture and local food systems and recognizes the interconnectedness of urban food systems (from production, processing, distribution, access, consumption, nutrient/waste capturing and recycling). In the monitoring report of 2016, the Food Policy Advisory Group underlined how the City of Melbourne implemented an effective policy approach that has the flexibility to **make connections** between policy areas that are typically addressed separately, but that need to be considered together in order to strengthen the city's food security. These measures are key elements to plan a **resilient food system**.



Source: City of Melbourne

- **City of Melbourne**. 2017. *Community Food Guide*. Melbourne, Victoria. <https://bit.ly/2kLFzYs>
<https://bit.ly/2kQq4yh>
- **City of Melbourne**. 2014. *Growing Green Guide*. Melbourne, Victoria. <https://bit.ly/2LWx1nl>