

Draft

Planning Santa Fe's Food Future

Querencia---
A story of food, farming and friends

A publication of the Santa Fe Food Policy Council
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*The New Mexico landscape is one of many contrasts:
deserts, mountains, meadows, orchards, and gardens;
dry as the bones in the cemetery, our final resting place.
Part of what defines our querencia,
which gives us this sense of place, is our food,
contrary to those who say that there can be no sense of place
in today's global experiment.
And our food cannot be separated from how we work the
land and how we water our crops.*

*Again we learn from folklore:
paravos, paranos, y para los animalitos de Dios;
for you, for us, and for God's animals (and plants).
Water is a don divino, a divine right,
not a commodity to be sold to the highest bidder.
This dry landscape,
with a beauty only we might understand and find sustenance in,
is what defines our querencia.*

*- Estevan Arellano
New Mexican Historian, Farmer, and Writer*

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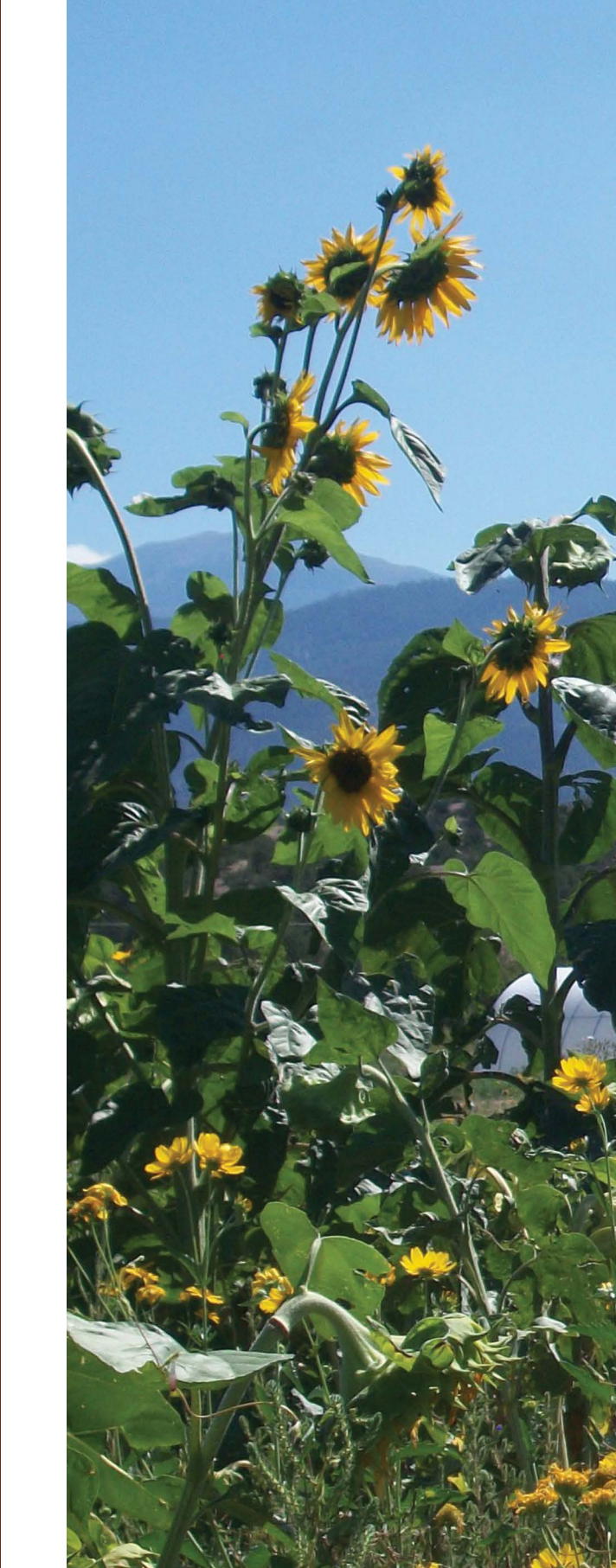
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**Working Together to Plan
Santa Fe's Food Future**



This plan represents the first step of our collective journey to building a local, healthy, and prosperous food system for Santa Fe County. Over the upcoming year, this document will serve as a tool to reach out to all corners of our county to gain input, understanding, and build relationships around how to design a local food system that works for us. Our process will culminate in the development of a final strategic food plan for the city and county of Santa Fe— a detailed roadmap for action and accountability. Within this process there is an opportunity for every person, organization and agency to help transform our local food system; with collective effort and innovative collaboration we can accomplish more as a community than we ever could alone. We will see this plan evolve from a call to action to a success story; its impacts felt in our daily lives. Together we will celebrate progress, overcome boundaries, strengthen partnerships, identify common shared goals and commit to action.

Research for this plan followed a methodology which drew upon data from a variety of local sources and called for additional research at the community level to help put this information into context and to capture innovative solutions. We used data presented in a variety of resources available to our community: *the Santa Fe Food Policy Council's Community Food Assessment, Santa Fe County 2013: A Community Health Profile , The City of Santa Fe's Sustainable Santa Fe Plan*, as well as number of other local and state-wide research publications. After utilizing the expertise of our council to analyze and translate this pre-existing data we saw a gap, and understood that this gap in information and first-hand experience would best be filled by taking this process out into community and seeking to get folks involved. In this spirit we embarked upon a county-wide interview process; conducting over 60 interviews with stakeholders working in positions which relate to food access, health, education and production.

This gave us the opportunity to understand how both city and county governments view their roles in changing the local food system and align our efforts to create a more vibrant and healthy future for the city and county. Another goal was to investigate and analyze some of the successes and challenges individuals have encountered while conducting their work. We captured visionary statements about how to improve our local food system relative to folks' daily routines, including how they take care of their families, make food choices, and interact with friends and neighbors to celebrate food.

A Collaborative Approach for Creating Change

Starting more than 30 years ago, academic experts and food activists began to see that the food system was touching more and more parts of our lives. Environmental issues, public health, issues of social and economic justice, and other concerns were all tied up with this mammoth system, one with huge economic importance.

Food experts and activists realized that a vast food system generated many policies, and for the most part, the average citizen didn't have much of a role in shaping them. One way to address this lack of participation was by creating food policy councils, to bring together all stakeholders in a community and give them a say in constructing a system that reflected their values.

Today's food policy councils come in different sizes and sometimes address different issues. But at heart they reflect the idea of food democracy. Achieving the goal of food security means bringing the bulk of society to work together to ensure there's enough affordable, easily accessible, and nutritious food for everyone.

Our local contribution to the growing national food policy council movement is the Santa Fe City and County Advisory Council on Food Policy. Established in 2008 by a joint City/County resolution, the Council's creation acknowledges a shared commitment to and concern for improving the local food production system and the importance of a vibrant and accessible "food future" for Santa Fe.

The Council is devoted to recommending laws, rules, and regulations that create and maintain a reliable and sustainable food system that nourishes everyone in the community.

The Council is comprised of thirteen volunteer appointed members, representing a variety of view points and sectors relating to the local food system. These include farming and restaurants, city and county departments involved with health, sustainability, land use, food assistance programs, tribal agencies, and food-related non-profit agencies.



How the Food System Enters our Homes and Hearts

As Americans, we enjoy some of the least expensive, safest, and most abundant food in the world. The food on our plates is the result of a world-wide production, processing, and distribution supply chain.

This complex global food system has been improving for hundreds of years as scientists and farmers have worked to find ways to increase efficiency of food production and distribution to feed the growing population. This system nourishes the majority of our community and provides food security by increasing access to low cost and diverse foods that can be enjoyed year round. However, gaps in this system have altered peoples' relationships with food--food has been removed from the farm.

According to the USDA, our food travels an average of 1500 miles from farm to plate. Most children associate their food with supermarkets and have never visited a farm. They simply do not understand the effort it takes to produce the food they eat each day.

The 2007 USDA Agricultural census states that, in 1930, 21% of the labor force were farmers, and the average farm acreage was around 150 acres. By 1990, only 2.6% of the labor force were farmers and the average farm was 461 acres, marking the peak in large scale agricultural production. Fewer farmers were operating larger farms. This specialization contributed to fewer people having the knowledge, resources, time and skills needed to grow their own food.

Since 2002, nearly 300,000 new farms have been started nationwide. This new generation is about half the size of previous generations' farms and grosses about half the income. In general, they also have younger operators. They have contributed to an increased availability of locally produced foods in supermarkets and institutions, food assistance programs, and farmers markets. Additionally, they have improved food security, freshness, and educational opportunities by bringing production closer to consumption.

Our challenge is to write the next chapter in Santa Fe's food history: one which honors local food traditions and integrates local food production practices with the innovations of a modern food system.

Strengthening the Food System for the Santa Fe Region

New Mexico has a rich agricultural heritage; the land we call home has been in production for thousands of years, supporting diverse populations throughout history. Farming has been a way of life for countless generations of New Mexicans. It represents a deep connection to the land and a respect for its bounty. It is a unique part of our culture which remains intact amidst advancing technology of this age.

Today, the potential for our regional food system is unprecedented. New Mexicans, like many Americans, get most food from supermarkets which are served by vast and complex networks of transportation and storage. Veins of food travel throughout the country and world to reach homes here in Santa Fe County, with external producers and processors currently providing up to 98% of the food we access. Yet, another system exists within the national food network. Local markets in New Mexico and all over the country are increasingly providing a diversity of products which change with the seasons and celebrate wondrous varieties of regional seed stock. These local markets range from supermarkets that highlight local food to schools and other institutions buying more from local growers to farmers' markets, where the growers sell directly to the people.

The desire for bananas in winter and tastes from local soil necessitate a balanced partnership of local and global food supplies. We have an opportunity to blend the best of these systems and to create a resilient network of food. This work is essential as we strive to provide a range of culturally appropriate, affordable, and nutritious options for all Santa Fe City and County residents. It is important to be informed about how we can strengthen our food system for three major reasons:








1. Anyone who eats has a stake in the food system. Every dollar spent has a great impact. When we buy food for our family we are essentially voting by helping to make decisions about the cost of different types of food, which companies and businesses we want to see thrive, even what is on the shelves of the grocery store next time we go to shop.
2. Informed residents can help shape government policies that control food production and the availability of food products. These policy decisions include what foods will be supported through subsidies, what taxes and regulations farmers will be required to comply with, and what foods are available at what cost and where.

3. While many of us may take our food for granted, there are at least 21,270 individuals (14.9 %) living in Santa Fe County who do not know where their next meal comes from. This is equal to two times the total population of Espanola, New Mexico.

Within the City, nearly 10% of low income families live a mile or more from the nearest grocery store. These individuals not only have difficulty accessing healthy foods, but increasingly find themselves faced with only unhealthy food choices as nearly one-third of the restaurants in the county are fast food. Such limited access also contributes to a growing rate of obesity. With almost 30,000 county residents experiencing the effects of obesity, the current generation of youth is poised to be the first generation with a lower life expectancy than that of their parents. Limited access to fresh, affordable foods is a challenge for many of us. Thus, strengthening the food system in the Santa Fe region should be considered a major goal of our community.

For many, our relationship with food is changing. Our increased dependency on convenient and low cost food options means we rely more and more on heavily processed foods. Schools, senior centers, hospitals, and even restaurants are forced to view price as the deciding factor when choosing what ends up on the menu. These factors limit our ability to make independent food choices, to retain our cultural food traditions and to live healthy, active lifestyles.

While this is our current reality, let us work together to create an alternative. Let us imagine a world in which:

-  food is valued at its true cost, while remaining available & affordable for all
-  farmers and ranchers can make a living stewarding our rich agricultural traditions
-  our respect for the land is upheld by all who inhabit it
-  healthy foods color the plates of our children, elders and families
-  food choices are determined not by price, but by what is good for our bodies and supports our traditions
-  regulations are common sense and polices support our vision
-  food is simple, celebrated, and of course, local

“We have made the food system that we have... we have made it the way it is and we can make it a different way.”

- Ricardo Salvador, Union of Concerned Scientists

Food in Santa Fe

Many small to medium size farms produce, package and distribute their vegetables and fruits within Santa Fe County.



Programs exist which teach children about growing, and preparing, and eating healthy food.



Opportunities for buying food in Santa Fe County range from supermarkets to farmers markets



There are services in Santa Fe County which support peoples' ability to prepare nutritional meals for themselves and/or their families.



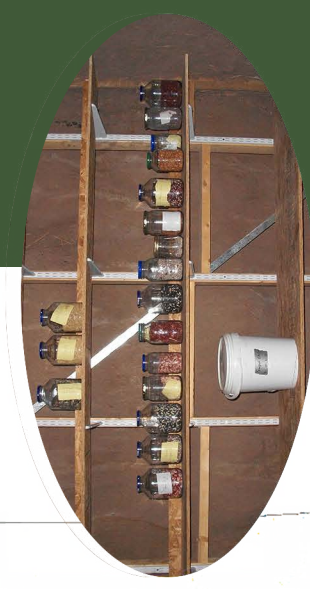
The southern part of Santa Fe County raises livestock, grows hay, alfalfa, corn, and other commodity crops which are used at local, regional, and national levels.

City & County



Refrigerated storage for local food is an important part of safe food transport.

- Population Centers
- Farming & Ranching Potential
- Local Food Routes
- Regional Food Routes



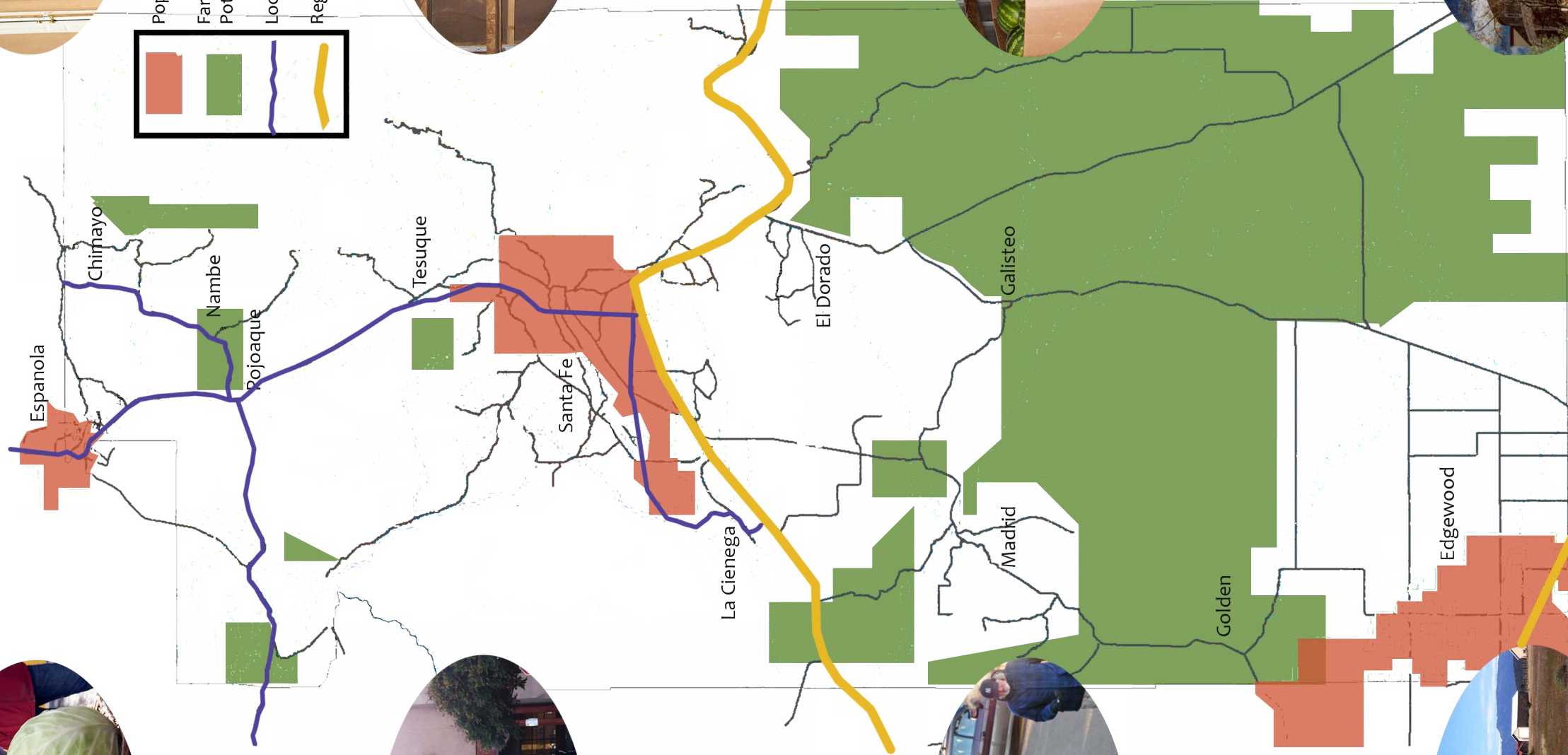
Seed saving is extremely important to ensure future supply of local, traditional foods.



There are programs that transport locally grown food to schools, restaurants and other institutions in Santa Fe County.



Policies created at city, county, and state levels shape the way food is grown and moved throughout Santa Fe County.






Work is being done right now in Santa Fe County to ensure that balanced meals are available in cafeterias.




GETTING FOOD

Our vision for connecting the diverse communities throughout the Santa Fe region to healthy and affordable foods is rooted in building knowledge of available assistance programs and resources, as well as ensuring these foods are readily available in local stores, farmers markets, senior centers, hospitals, and schools.


Goal 1: Improve our elders' ability to access fresh nutritious food when they attend community meals at local senior centers and when they shop for affordable foods to meet their daily needs.

-  Encourage City and County operated senior centers to prioritize purchasing local foods for their meal service programs.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services Division, City of Santa Fe Community Services, Area Agency on Aging
-  Coordinate with area public transportation providers to improve seniors' physical access to stores offering diverse and affordable food options that meet their dietary needs and cultural preferences.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe Trails, North Central Regional Transit
-  Increase seniors' awareness of various food assistance programs that meet their unique needs.
Potential Partners: New Mexico Income Support Division (ISD) Santa Fe County Office, non-profits, City and County Senior Centers administration and staff

Goal 2: Increase public awareness of the numerous food assistance programs currently available in the community to improve individual and family access to nutritious food.

-  Educate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to make the most of their benefits—from tips for shopping on a budget to home gardening using seeds and starts available for purchase with monthly assistance benefits.
Potential Partners: New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, Local Organic Meals on a Budget, Homegrown NM
-  Promote innovative programs aimed at increasing access to local food, such as the Southside Farmers Market and Santa Fe Farmers Market Double Days.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, various non-profits
-  Set up programs which organize labor to collect leftover crops from local farms to expand the availability of fresh food at area food banks.
Potential Partners: The Food Depot, Santa Fe County Corrections Department, area farms, various non-profits





-  Develop a list-serve for urban food harvesting opportunities to connect individuals to existing food production sites, allowing them to collect crops that would otherwise go to waste.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe, various non-profits, community members

Goal 3: Empower members of the community with the tools and knowledge needed for ensuring a reliable supply of good foods that support a healthy and active lifestyle.

-  Emphasize the relationship of self-reliance as a cornerstone of sustainability, particularly as we work to implement the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan.
Potential Partners: Sustainable Santa Fe Commission, City of Santa Fe Environmental Services, Santa Fe City Council, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners
-  Inspire our community to integrate emergency preparedness into our daily lives through various lifestyle shifts, from smart shopping techniques for storing food reserves to revitalizing our food preservation traditions.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Emergency Management, City of Santa Fe Emergency Management, various non-profits
-  Ensure physical access through alignment of public transportation routes with food outlets offering a wide range of whole and fresh foods.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe Trails, North Central Regional Transit District

Goal 4: Support Farm to School programs which connect our children with educational opportunities around food and farming, lessons which are reinforced by serving students local foods in school cafeterias.

-  Continue to support Farm to School educational activities currently taking place within our schools, such as on-site school gardens, food system and farming curriculum, fruit and vegetable tastings, culinary programs, field trips to local farms and venues, farmers in the classroom, and food system entrepreneurship programs.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe School District, Santa Fe Farm to School Coordinator, various school district administration and staff across Santa Fe County, area farmers, and various non-profits
-  Work with School Food Service Directors and District Procurement offices to increase the availability of local foods in schools by setting up sustainable systems to purchase foods from local farmers, such as standing purchase orders and developing local bid processes.
Potential Partners: Various school district Procurement Offices, School Food Service Directors, Farm to Table, Cooking with Kids

“No one in Santa Fe should go hungry”
 - Carmichael Dominguez , Santa Fe City Council, District 3

LEARNING ABOUT FOOD

Our vision for increasing the demand for local foods is based on equipping residents with the knowledge, skills, and passion to make healthy choices for themselves, their families, and the community.

Goal 1: Integrate and institutionalize wellness polices across Santa Fe County which serve our school communities, city and county employees, and private sector employees.

- 🌶️ Ensure that schools are implementing wellness policies which align with federal requirements, set achievable goals and are culturally appropriate for the students and staff they serve.
Potential Partners: Various School District's administration, nurses, and staff
- 🌶️ Support wellness polices for City of Santa Fe employees and their families, which offer innovative and accessible solutions to maintaining good nutrition and active lifestyles.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Wellness Coordinator, Santa Fe City Council
- 🌶️ Support wellness programs for Santa Fe County employees, which support and educate individuals to adopt healthy lifestyle habits.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Human Resources, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners
- 🌶️ Support private sector wellness initiatives to establish incentive programs and policies that contribute to the well-being of employees and their families.
Potential Partners: Whole Foods Market, La Montanita Co-op, various businesses

Goal 2: Promote the development of healthy built environments which support access healthy foods, create safe neighborhoods, and increase opportunities for physical activity.

- 🌶️ Work with City and County Land Use to develop Complete Streets Resolutions aimed at making our neighborhoods more attractive, accessible, and safe. Complete Streets is a national program that attempts to make streets safe and functional for all drivers, pedestrians, and bicycles.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe City Council, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners, City of Santa Fe Land Use, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, various neighborhood associations

Goal 5: Engage community members around opportunities to celebrate local foods and support our regional food economy.

- 🌶️ Grow the demand for local food by organizing an outreach campaign aimed at educating and inspiring residents to buy local.
Potential Partners: Various non-profits, community members, area farmers, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute,
- 🌶️ Develop a locally based approach to address concerns of consumers and producers about the potential impacts of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) food consumption and production in the region.
Potential Partners: Joint City-County GMO Task Force, Homegrown NM, Santa Fe County NMSU Cooperative Extension, various non-profits and initiatives
- 🌶️ Implement innovative strategies that support local economic development efforts such as mobile grocery stores and food carts to bring locally produced food into underserved areas of the county.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development, Santa Fe County Economic Development, North Central New Mexico Economic Development District, MoGro Mobile Grocery
- 🌶️ Build and operate a Community Commercial Kitchen to capitalize on the economic potential of local value-added products and traditional foods.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development, Santa Fe County Economic Development, Santa Fe SCORE, Southside Merchants Association various non-profits, community members
- 🌶️ Develop City and County Start-Up Resource Guides which help new entrepreneurs meet the requirements for starting food retail or agricultural businesses.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development, Santa Fe County Economic Development, Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce, Santa Fe Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



- Establish “healthy food zones” near schools and public institutions which limit the marketing and availability of unhealthy foods and promote the availability of nutritious food.

Potential Partners: Santa Fe City Council, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners, City of Santa Fe Land Use, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use

- Increase opportunities for school-based events which emphasize fun physical activities for youth such as walking school buses (a form of student transport for schoolchildren who are chaperoned by two adults and who walk to school, in much the same way a school bus would drive them to school), the Bike Rodeo, and Girls on the Run

Potential Partners: various school districts’ administration and staff, La Familia REACH working group, various non-profit organizations

Goal 3: Coordinate existing food assistance programs to ensure all county residents are informed about and able to access resources.

- Work with agencies and organizations that provide services to seniors to increase access to information and enrollment services in such places as senior centers, health care centers, and assistance program offices.

Potential Partners: New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Services, various non-profits

- Fill current gaps in food assistance programs to ensure that they are meeting specialized needs and are available during the times and days many folks can most conveniently utilize their services, such as evenings and weekends.

Potential Partners: New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, various non-profits, food pantries, and shelters

- Collaborate with area tribal governments, agencies, and organizations to ensure their communities have equal access to information and enrollment services for a variety of different assistance programs available to residents of Santa Fe County.

Potential Partners: Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (ENIPC) Commodity Foods Distribution Program, New Mexico ISD Santa Fe County Office, various non-profits

Goal 4: Connect our diverse communities across Santa Fe County with nutrition education programs designed to meet folks’ unique needs around achieving good nutrition in their daily lives.



- Align Farm to School curriculum with required district and testing standards to ensure that lessons are beneficial to students’ learning processes and are reinforced across subjects.

Potential Partners: Santa Fe School District, Santa Fe Farm to School Coordinator, various school district administration, and staff across Santa Fe County

- Collaborate with area non-profits and agencies to conduct educational trainings that will help “myth bust” food safety requirements for using fruits and vegetables grown in our community, senior center, and school gardens in our local institutions.

Potential Partners: New Mexico Environment Department, National Farm to School Network, Farm to Table, NMSU Cooperative Extension

- Develop education classes for parents and children that connect Farm to School activities with at-home practices to help youth create lasting lifestyle shifts for themselves and their families.

Potential Partners: National Farm to School Network, various school administration and staff, various non-profits

- Encourage area non-profits to develop nutrition education and cooking programs tailored to the needs of tribal communities such as shopping on a budget, meeting special dietary needs, and learning creative ways to utilize commodity foods.

Potential Partners: Indian Health Services, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (ENIPC) Commodity Foods Distribution Program, Tewa Women United, Cooking with Kids, Local Organic Meals on a Budget and other non-profits

- Work with local non-profits to develop culinary programs aimed at seniors that promote increased knowledge about cooking techniques, diversity of dishes and nutrition information.

Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Services, City and County Senior Center staff, Cooking with Kids, Local Organic Meals on a Budget and other non-profits

- Work with area governmental departments, agencies, and organizations to develop prevention and management programs for diet related conditions to help transition folks’ diets to meet medical needs in a way that is achievable and culturally appropriate.

Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Services and Wellness Coordinator, Christus St. Vincent Regional Medical Center, La Familia Medical Center and other medical clinics, Kitchen Angels and other non-profits

“We should learn to value food as we value ourselves”

- Lynn Walters , Cooking with Kids, Executive Director

GROWING FOOD

Our vision for food production in Santa Fe City and County is to ensure the viability of farming and ranching as a way of life, and as a local economic generator that promotes stewardship of the land and resources. It is also a vision that plans for a future of food security through the integration of sustainable agricultural practices into the built environment.

Goal 1: Increase the impact and efficiency of area community gardens by supporting local non-profits and governmental departments to amend community garden policies.

- 🌶️ Enforce existing water conservation policies for community gardens to ensure that residents are water conscious and utilize appropriate growing methods. This will help produce greater yields and minimize negative environmental impacts.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Community Garden Council, Homegrown NM, Santa Fe Watershed Association

- 🌶️ Support greater development of community gardens designed to minimize resource consumption, create educational opportunities, and diversify what is grown.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Community Garden Council, Homegrown NM, Santa Fe County Open Space, Santa Fe Community College, Institute of American Indian Arts

Goal 2: Collaborate with the City and County to develop on-site gardens in senior centers to increase the availability of fresh and local foods for seniors.

- 🌶️ Develop sustainability plans for senior center gardens to ensure they have operational plans, are economically self-sufficient, and are well integrated into the community. This will help ensure the investment is meeting project goals and the gardens have the support they need to succeed.

Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Services, City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Santa Fe County Open Space, Homegrown NM, various non-profits

- 🌶️ Connect garden coordinators to resources, technical support, and educational opportunities available within Santa Fe County.

Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Community Services, City of Santa Fe Community Services, Santa Fe Community College, Institute of American Indian Arts, Homegrown NM, various non-profits



Goal 3: Collaborate with area schools to increase the number of school gardens aimed at helping youth learn about food and farming and establish healthy lifestyles.

- 🌶️ Develop sustainability plans for school gardens to ensure they are supported by the school community, integrated into classrooms, cafeterias, and summer programs, and are effectively utilizing available resources.

Potential Partners: National Farm to School Network, various school district's administration and staff, various non-profits

- 🌶️ Work with school administration and local governments to develop joint use agreements establishing community gardens on school grounds. This will increase opportunities for multi-generational and multi-cultural learning and help the gardens become long term resources serving the entire community.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Community Services, Santa Fe County Community Services, various school districts' administration and staff, various non-profits

Goal 4: Implement water conservation strategies that help Santa Fe City and County residents minimize water use through educational programs, incentives, and policies.

- 🌶️ Support educational programs that highlight learning opportunities about our watershed, related policies, and water conservation tips.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, City of Santa Fe Environmental Services Department, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, New Mexico Acequia Association, various non-profits

- 🌶️ Collaborate to develop strategies to offset in-home water usage by utilizing gray water and rainwater for tasks that do not require potable water.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, City of Santa Fe Environmental Services Department, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, non-profits

- 🌶️ Develop incentive programs that offer solutions to help industry partners and residents save water, and receive benefits for setting up systems that have long term conservation impacts.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe City Council, Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners, City of Santa Fe Water Division, Santa Fe County Water Policy Advisory Committee, City of Santa Fe Environmental Services Department

“The West was built on working landscapes, which are currently vulnerable to loss”
– Coleen Baker, Santa Fe County, Open Space Trails Program Manager

Goal 5: Increase the viability of local farm and ranch activity by working with the City and County to ensure land use plans are supportive of agricultural use.

- 🌶️ Work with Santa Fe County to incorporate land use allowances for agricultural activity into the Sustainable Land Development Code.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use Department, Santa Fe County Board of County Commissioners, Water and Soil Conservation Districts, local farmers, non-profits
- 🌶️ Develop a Residential Agriculture Home Occupation Permit to protect neighborhood and farm interests within the city by setting policies for uses, traffic, infrastructure, employees and visitors.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Land Use and Zoning Department, Santa Fe City Council, neighborhood associations, non-profits, farmers, and community members
- 🌶️ Work with the City of Santa Fe to develop zoning and land use polices which support home-based agricultural activities such as raising chickens, small livestock, and honey bees.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Land Use and Zoning Department, Santa Fe City Council, neighborhood associations, non-profits, farmers, and community members
- 🌶️ Encourage public and private land owners within the city to revitalize vacant and underutilized property by allowing lands to be used for green space and gardening opportunities.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Land Use and Zoning Department, Santa Fe City Council, and community members
- 🌶️ Develop innovative land use strategies that promote density in urban areas and reserve outlying lands for increased food production.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Land Use and Zoning Department, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use Department
- 🌶️ Support land conservation strategies such as agricultural easements which provide tax incentives to land owners to protect their lands from development for all future generations.
Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Land Use Department, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, Santa Fe Land Conservation, New Mexico Land Conservation, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute

Goal 6: Develop production incentives to support small farmers and maximize food production in our regional foodshed.



- 🌶️ Collaborate with area agencies and organizations to help small and medium scale farms meet market-based and Federal food safety requirements.
Potential partners: Santa Fe County NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Farm to Table
- 🌶️ Promote and expand outreach and incentives for extended season farming techniques, supporting farmers to increase their harvest window and generate more income.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe County NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute
- 🌶️ Establish Specialty Crop programs which support local farm and food based businesses by creating subsidies for fruits and vegetables.
Potential partners: City of Santa Fe Economic Development, Santa Fe County Economic Development, NMDA.
- 🌶️ Design marketing programs for farmers who employ agricultural practices such as soil building and native plant re-vegetation, which benefit the long term health of the surrounding landscape.
Potential partners: Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, New Mexico Farmers Marketing Association, NMDA.

Goal 7: Use resource and land management strategies to retain the health of the environment and the fertility of land available for farming activities.

- 🌶️ Encourage City planning initiatives such as urban forestry, green belts, and edible infrastructure to create continuous green space which can provide habitat for animals, food, shade, and places to play.
Potential partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, City of Santa Fe Roadway and Trails Department, Southwest Area Planning Initiative
- 🌶️ Support the development of community elected “GMO Free Zones” which create buffer zones to protect farmland, crops, and seeds from the unknown impacts of genetically engineered organisms.
Potential Partners: Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, Santa Fe County NMSU Cooperative Extension Services, area Tribal Governments, various non-profits
- 🌶️ Promote educational opportunities in community gardens and public space which highlight native plants and traditional uses.
Potential partners: Homegrown New Mexico, Tesuque Agriculture Department, City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails Division, Southwest Area Planning Initiative

“Self-reliance is a cornerstone of sustainability”

– Martin Vigil, Santa Fe County, Emergency Management Director

- 🌱 Collaborate with area agencies and organizations to develop “Farmer to Farmer” outreach programs focused on innovative farming and ranching practices which build soil health over time.

Potential partners: Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, Quivira Coalition, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Santa Fe County NMSU Cooperative Extension

- 🌱 Continue to encourage farms and ranches to use land management practices that slow erosion, protect waterways, and create habitat for beneficial insects on their properties.

Potential partners: Santa Fe Watershed Association, New Mexico Acequia Association, Quivira Coalition, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Santa Fe County NMSU Cooperative Extension

Goal 8: Partner with area developer and construction industry groups to integrate sustainability and agriculture into future development patterns across Santa Fe County.

- 🌱 Establish City and County approval processes which require new developments to incorporate design opportunities for food production in their master plans.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Department of Housing and Community Development, Santa Fe County Building and Development Services, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, area developers

- 🌱 Work with area partners to promote the planning, design and management of edible landscapes in new and existing developments.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Housing and Community Development Department, City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, area developers and property managers

- 🌱 Work with developers of planned communities to encourage covenants which support creative home-based agricultural activities.

Potential Partners: City of Santa Fe Department of Housing and Community Development, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use, Homegrown NM

- 🌱 Incorporate native and other low-water edible plants as an option to fulfill the City’s xeric landscaping requirements.

Potential partners: City of Santa Fe Parks Division, Sangre de Cristo Water Division, Santa Fe Watershed Association



The Santa Fe Food Policy Council would like to thank the Santa Fe City Council and Board of County Commissioners. Above all, we would like to thank the community of Santa Fe for inspiring the vision for our local food system highlighted in this plan. Ours is a vision rooted in respect for our diverse history and deep connection to the land. It is one which celebrates our passion for local foods, honors our farming community, and embraces innovation as a path to ensuring food security for future generations.

SANTA FE CITY AND COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FOOD POLICY CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

Susan J. Perry, Chair, Wellness Coordinator, City of Santa Fe
Tony McCarty, Vice- Chair, Executive Director, Kitchen Angels
Pamela Roy, Executive Director, Farm to Table
Katherine Mortimer, Sustainability Director, City of Santa Fe
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CONTRIBUTING STAKEHOLDERS

Santa Fe County Community Services, Santa Fe County Emergency Management, Santa Fe County Growth Management and Land Use Co, Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails, City of Santa Fe Economic Development, City of Santa Fe Emergency Management, City Councilor Carmichael Dominguez, City of Santa Fe Environmental Services: Sustainable Santa Fe, City of Santa Fe Parks Division: Chamber of Parks Advisory Commission, City of Santa Fe Wellness Department, Farm to Table New Mexico, Cooking with Kids, Kitchen Angels, Adelante, The Food Depot, Food for Santa Fe, Bienvenidos Outreach, The Community Farm, The Street Food Institute, Santa Fe Farmers Market Institute, La Montanita Co-op and Cooperative Distribution Center, Santa Fe Community Co-op, Homegrown NM, GAIA Gardens, Santa Fe Watershed Alliance, La Familia Medical Clinic, Santa Fe Public Schools, Institute for American Indian Arts, Santa Fe Community College, Area Agency on Aging, Eight Northern Pueblos Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (ENIPC), New Mexico Income Services Division, New Mexico Department of Health

At a glance: our recommendations

GETTING FOOD

Our vision for connecting the diverse communities in and around Santa Fe to healthy, affordable foods is rooted in building knowledge of available assistance programs and resources, as well as ensuring these foods are readily available in our local stores, farm markets, senior centers, hospitals, and schools.

Goal 1: Improve our elders’ ability to access fresh nutritious food when they attend community meals at local senior centers and when they shop for affordable foods to meet their daily needs.

- Prioritize local procurement for senior service programs
- Improve public transportation accessibility for seniors
- Food assistance program education

Goal 2: Increase public awareness of the numerous food assistance programs currently available in the community to improve individual and family access to nutritious food.

- SNAP Education
- Promote Santa Fe Farmers Market “Double Days” and Southside Market
- Coordinate gleaning programs for locally grown products
- Develop Urban Harvesting tool for community use

Goal 3: Empower members of the community with the tools and knowledge needed for ensuring a reliable supply of good foods that support a healthy and active lifestyle.

- Promote self-reliance as a cornerstone of sustainability
- Integrate emergency preparedness into folks’ daily lives
- Align public transportation routes with food outlets

Goal 4: Support Farm to School programs which connect our children with educational opportunities around food and farming, lessons which are reinforced by serving students local foods in school cafeterias.

- Support Farm to School activities in local schools
- Establish procurement systems that increase the availability of local foods in schools

Goal 5: Engage community members around opportunities to celebrate local foods and support our regional food economy.

- Organize campaigns to “buy locally”
- Develop a consumer and producer GMO education campaign
- Implement mobile grocery and food service carts to increase food access
- Develop a plan to build and operate a community kitchen
- Develop city and county food and agriculture business resource guides

LEARNING ABOUT FOOD

Our vision for increasing the demand for local foods is rooted in equipping residents of Santa Fe County with the knowledge, skills, and passion to make healthy choices for themselves, their families, and our community.

Goal 1: Integrate and institutionalize wellness polices across Santa Fe County which serve our school communities, city and county employees, and private sector employees.

- Implement wellness policies in school communities
- Support City of Santa Fe wellness policies
- Support Santa Fe County Wellness programs
- Support private sector wellness initiatives for employees

Goal 2: Promote the development of healthy built environments which support access healthy foods, create safe neighborhoods, and increase opportunities for physical activity.

- Establish Healthy Food Zones near public institutions
- Create a “Complete Street” program
- Increase school-based events which focus on physical activity

Goal 3: Coordinate existing food assistance programs to ensure all county residents are informed about and able to access resources.

- Increase information and enrollment services for food assistance programs
- Coordinate food assistance programs to fill in service gaps
- Ensure tribal communities have equal access to various assistance programs

Goal 4: Connect our diverse communities across Santa Fe County with nutrition education programs designed to meet folks’ unique needs around achieving good nutrition in their daily lives.

- Align Farm to School curriculum with district standards
- Conduct educational food safety trainings
- Develop Farm to School educational classes for families
- Develop nutrition education and cooking classes tailored to the needs of tribal communities
- Develop culinary education programs for seniors
- Develop prevention and management programs for diet related conditions

GROWING FOOD

Our vision for food production in Santa Fe County is rooted in ensuring the viability of farming and ranching as a ways of life and local economic generators, stewardship for our land and resources, and planning for a future of food security by integrating agriculture into our built environments.

Goal 1: Increase the impact and efficiency of area community gardens by supporting local non- profits and governmental departments to amend community garden polices.

- Enforce community garden water polices
- Increase the number of community gardens in the City and County

Goal 2: Collaborate with the City and County to develop on-site gardens in senior centers to increase the availability of fresh and local foods for seniors.

- Develop sustainability plans for senior center gardens
- Connect garden coordinators to available resources

Goal 3: Collaborate with area schools to increase the number of school gardens aimed at helping youth learn about food and farming and establish healthy lifestyles.

- Develop sustainability plans for school gardens
- Develop joint use agreements to allow community supported gardens on school property

Goal 4: Implement water conservation strategies that help Santa Fe City and County residents minimize water use through educational programs, incentives, and policies.

- Support water education programs
- Develop strategies for the use of grey water systems
- Develop water conservation incentive programs

Goal 5: Increase the viability of local farm and ranch activity by working with the City and County to ensure land use plans are supportive of agricultural use.

- Incorporate land use allowances for agricultural activity into the Sustainable Land Development Code
- Develop a Residential Agriculture Home Occupation Permit
- Develop zoning and land use polices which support home-based agricultural activities
- Revitalize vacant and underutilized lands by using them for green space and gardening opportunities
- Implement land use strategies which promote density in urban areas and reserve outlying lands for food production
- Support land conservation strategies such as Agricultural Easements

Goal 6: Develop production incentives to support small farmers and maximize food production in our regional foodshed.

- Help small and medium scale farms meet market-based and Federal food safety requirements
- Collaborate to promote and expand incentives for season extension techniques
- Establish specialty crop programs to subsidize fruits and vegetables
- Design marketing programs for farmers who use sustainable agricultural practices

Goal 7: Use resource and land management strategies to retain the health of the environment and the fertility of land available for farming activities.

- Encourage City planning initiatives such as urban forestry, green belts, and edible infrastructure
- Support the development of community elected “GMO Free Zones”
- Promote education in parks and gardens that highlight native plants and traditional uses
- Develop “farmer to farmer” outreach programs to promote sustainable farming and ranching practices
- Encourage farmers and ranchers to utilize sustainable land management practices

Goal 8: Partner with area developer and construction industry groups to integrate sustainability and agriculture into future development patterns across Santa Fe County.

- Establish City and County approval processes which require new developments to incorporate design opportunities for food production in their master plans
- Promote the planning, design and management of edible landscapes in new and existing developments
- Encourage planned community covenants which support creative home-based agricultural activities
- Incorporate native and other low-water edible plants as an option to fulfill the City’s xeric landscaping requirements

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