

NYC Food Policy
Plan + UN SDG
Achievement

2024

Food Forward NYC and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Food Forward NYC is the City's first ever 10-year food policy plan, laying out a comprehensive policy framework to reach a more equitable, sustainable, and healthy food system by 2031.

Food Forward NYC underscores equity and choice, striving for a food system that ensures universal access to desired food anywhere. This necessitates robust support for both food workers and businesses. Strengthening the sustainability and resilience of our food system requires reevaluating our food infrastructure and forging stronger regional connections.

The Food Forward NYC: 2-Year Progress Report highlights the tremendous progress that the City has made since Food Forward NYC was released in February 2021. With continuous support from Mayor Eric Adams and collaborations among City agencies, community-based organizations, academics, philanthropic entities, and private sector organizations, remarkable progress has been achieved. Notably, the City has acknowledged the connection between the food system and our climate by implementing plant-powered initiatives for the first time,

This document aligns Food Forward with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 integrated and interrelated goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that humanity enjoys peace and prosperity by 2030.

Over the past decade, a range of nations, regions, and cities across various economic strata have advanced public food procurement initiatives designed to use government purchasing power and regular demand for food as a policy instrument to promote sustainable development

New York City acknowledges the significance of institutional food procurement and purchasing power, encompassing school meal programs and the procurement of food for public hospitals, prisons, universities, and other social programs, as a crucial starting point to initiate more sustainable food systems and promote healthier diets.

PRIORITY SDGS

Among the 17 SDGs and 169 targets, SDG 2, 11, and 17 emerge as primary priorities aligning with Food Forward NYC's overarching aims. This food initiative revolves around five key goals: ensuring diverse access to healthy, affordable, and culturally suitable food for all New Yorkers; leveraging New York City's food economy to generate economic opportunities and quality jobs; establishing resilient, efficient, and modern supply chains to sustain the city; promoting sustainable production, distribution, and disposal of food; and bolstering systems to implement the 10-year food policy plan. Beyond the three priority goals, SDG 12 explicitly pertains to the city's public food procurement by advocating for sustainable procurement practices aligned with national policies—also a critical link to Food Forward NYC's objectives.

02

Zero Hunger

This goal directly addresses the core focus of ensuring everyone has access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food. Food Forward NYC aims to create a more equitable and accessible food system, intertwined with this goal.

11

Sustainable Cities and Communities

Food Forward NYC contributes to urban sustainability by improving food access and advocating for sustainable food production and distribution. Enhancing food systems aligns with building a more resilient and sustainable city environment as envisioned in SDG 11.

17

Partnerships for the Goals

Collaborative Initiatives outlined in SDG 17 are core to Food Forward NYC. We work across sectors, engaging various entities like government, community groups, businesses, academia, and philanthropy. This emphasis aligns with the spirit of SDG 17, promoting partnerships for sustainable development goals.



SDG 2 PROGRESS

The Mayor's Office of Food Policy uses a multifaceted approach, including food access programs, support for vulnerable populations, educational initiatives, and policy advocacy, to address these SDG 2 target indicators. While directly tackling food access and insecurity, the office also indirectly influences sustainable food production to improve the city's overall food landscape.

Key Indicators	Projects	Data as of 2023
Indicator 2.1.1 - Prevalence of undernourishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get the Good Stuff• Home-Delivered Meals• Food Retail and Expansion to Support Health (FRESH)• NYC Food Standards• Lifestyle Medicine• School Food:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Summer Meals◦ Chefs in the School◦ Food Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over \$842,000 worth of fruits, vegetables and beans redeemed with Get the Good Stuff• 94% NYC Food Standards compliance• NYC Public Schools served 136.5 million breakfast and lunch meals during the academic year• 60 schools were each awarded \$11,000 in grant money to support the expansion of nutrition education
Indicator 2.2.1 - Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SNAP and WIC support• Health Bucks• Groceries to Go• Community Food Connection (CFC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 854,000 Health bucks, worth over \$1.7 million, were distributed as a SNAP incentive• \$4.9 million in grants were distributed to improve access to all benefits enrollment• 2,228 Groceries to Go participants
Indicator 2.3.1 - Volume of food production per capita	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good Food Purchasing<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• M/WBE Noncompetitive Small Purchase Method enables City agencies to award contracts up to \$1.6 million directly to M/WBEs



SDG 11 PROGRESS

Food Forward NYC significantly aligns with SDG 11 by actively engaging in urban sustainability, fostering community development, and promoting sustainable urbanization. The city's emphasis on cultivating modern, efficient, and resilient supply chains catering to New York City's food needs, alongside our commitment to leveraging the food economy for economic growth and job creation, plays a pivotal role in advancing the overarching objectives of SDG 11.

Key Indicators

Projects

Data as of 2023

Indicator 11.a.1- Urban policies or development plans that respond to population dynamics; ensure balanced territorial development; and increase local fiscal space

- [Supply Gap Tracking \(emergency food need\)](#)
- [FRESH markets](#)
- [PlaNYC Watershed Initiatives](#)
 - Watershed as a Foodshed

- From 2021 to 2022, the supply gap decreased in 114 neighborhoods
- Over 1 million New Yorkers live within a half mile of a FRESH market
- 230,000 acres in forest management plans

Indicator 11.4.1- Preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding, type of heritage, and level of government

- [PlaNYC Watershed Initiatives](#)
- [School Meals](#)
 - [Halal and Kosher meal options](#)
 - [Chefs in the Schools](#)

- \$150M to preserve farms and forests from development through Watershed Agricultural Council
- 60 Wellness in the School (WITS) chefs provide training on preparing culturally relevant, plant-based, scratch cooked meals for the next two years
- Tailored product inventory based on client input and preferences

Indicator 11.b.1 - Adoption and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies

- [Good Food Purchasing](#)
- COVID-19 Action
 - Increase public investment in emergency food

- Over \$1M on COVID-19 food reserves and increasing the Community Food Connection program



SDG 17 PROGRESS

NYC Food Forward aligns with SDG 17 as the city actively engages in global initiatives like the Cool Food Pledge, Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration, showcasing our dedication to sustainable food policies and climate action. Locally, NYC fosters operational public-private partnerships, collaborating with local entities to implement initiatives that promote sustainable food practices.

Key Indicators

Projects

Data as of 2023

Indicator 17.16.1 - Number of operational public-private partnerships

- [Cool Food Pledge](#)
- [Plant Powered Carbon Challenge](#)

- NYC was the first U.S. city to join the Cool Food Pledge
- Launched the NYC Plant-Powered Carbon Challenge to reduce private sector food emissions by 25% by 2030

Indicator 17.14.1- Mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

- [Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance](#)
- [C40 Cities](#)
- [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#)
- [Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration](#)
- [Voluntary Local Review](#)
- [Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate](#)

- In 2022, NYC won the Milan Pact Award for our Good Food Purchasing Framework
- In 2023, NYC presented at the C40 Food Network Webinar about our work on food in hospitals
- In 2018, New York City became the first city in the world to directly report to the United Nations on local progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals

Indicator 17.17.1- Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

- NYS Food as Medicine Coalition
- Regional Food Working Group
- NYC Benefits Coordinating Committee

- First entity to present at NYS Food as Medicine Coalition
- In 2019, conducted household consumption-based emissions inventory in partnership with EcoDataLab, C40, and American Express to understand NYC food emissions

NON-PRIORITY GOALS

A note on SDG 12

Target 12.1

Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries. Develop, adopt, or implement policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production.

Target 12.7

Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

Each year, NYC agencies spend over \$300M buying food and meals to serve millions of New Yorkers – in schools, hospitals, detention facilities, older adult centers, shelters, and more. NYC's Good Food Purchasing (GFP) program supports NYC agencies in aligning their food spending with six core values: local economies, environmental sustainability, nutrition, animal welfare, a valued workforce, and transparency.

Beyond the three priority goals, SDG 12 explicitly addresses the city's public food procurement, advocating for sustainable procurement practices aligned with national policies—a crucial link to Food Forward NYC's objectives.

Our Good Food Purchasing (GFP) program aligns with the overarching goal of sustainable consumption and production by championing environmentally sustainable practices in food procurement. Prioritizing nutrition in food purchasing underscores a commitment to promoting healthy and sustainable food choices. The program also incorporates consideration for animal welfare, aligning with the broader goal of responsible and ethical consumption. Additionally, it places a strong emphasis on transparency, aligning with SDG's objective of promoting information and awareness for sustainable practices.

These efforts resonate with the broader context of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, urging countries to take action. The framework emphasizes that developed countries should lead in these initiatives, recognizing the developmental capabilities of developing countries. In this context, NYC takes the lead in implementing policy instruments for sustainable consumption and production through the GFP program's approach.