City of Dallas

Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan (CUAP)

City Council Briefing
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Presentation Overview

- Background/History
- Project Scope & Timeline
- Public Engagement
- Project Findings
- Plan Recommendations
- Next Steps

Micro-farms
(backyard)

Community Gardens
(church/school/community)

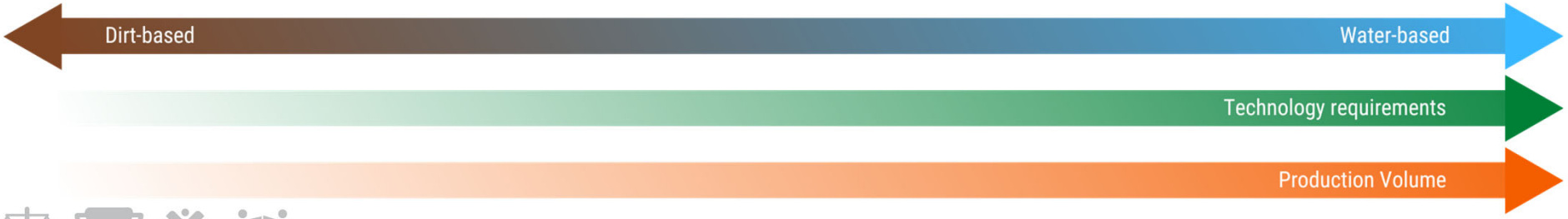
"Guerilla" Farming
(food as landscape)

Community-Supported Ag.

Biophilia
(roofs/building face)

Controlled-Environment Ag.
(aquaponics, aeroponics, hydroponics)

Vertical Ag.
(Commercial scale)



Background / History

- Initiated Community Garden planning with EPA "Local Foods, Local Places" grant in 2016
- Food Access identified as a critical sector within the Resilient Dallas Plan in 2018
- Urban Agriculture Manager identified in 2019
- "Healthy Local Foods" identified as critical to local climate planning in 2020
- Contract with Agritecture, LLC approved in 2021 to develop a comprehensive food and urban agriculture plan
- Briefed Environmental Commission, 08/10/22,11/09/22; Environmental and Sustainability Committee, 09/06/22,12/05/22
- Racial Equity Plan approved in 2022, including action targets related to supporting local urban agriculture in priority equity areas and increasing local food production

CECAP & Racial Equity Plan Target Alignment

CECAP: Food Access

***Acres of Urban Gardens**
Increase of 20% by 2030
Increase of 50% by 2040
Increase of 75% by 2050
[producing food for community distribution, local markets, or restaurants]

**CUAP sets more aggressive targets for urban ag acreage.*

Racial Equity Plan: Food Access

Big Audacious Goal Action Target 2.14: Support the local urban agriculture ecosystem in communities overburdened by environmental pollution.

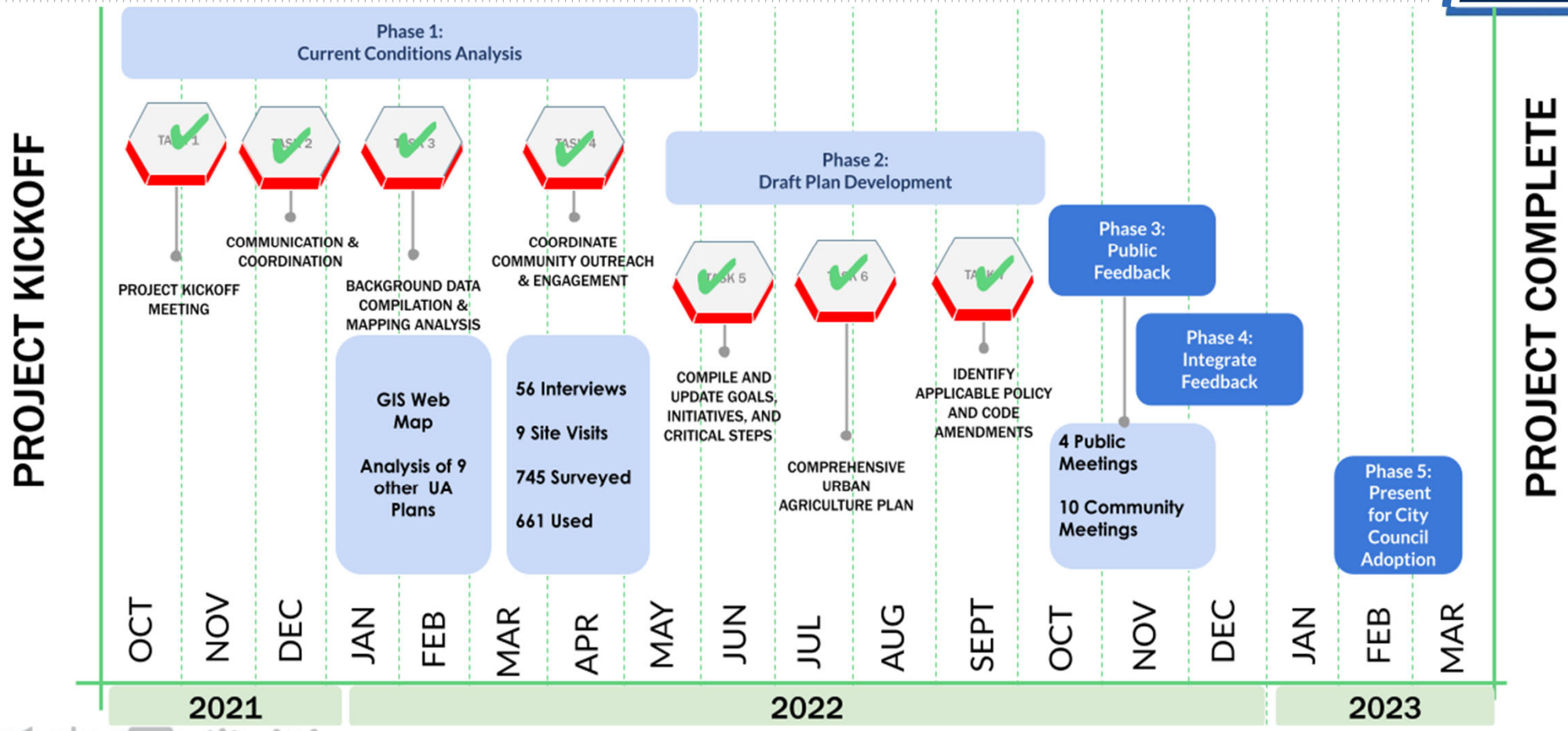
Progress Measure: Increase acreage of neighborhood growing sites (e.g. commercial, community, and resident gardens) serving equity priority areas [with high minority populations] from 7 acres to 17 acres by December 2027.

Purpose: CECAP Goals

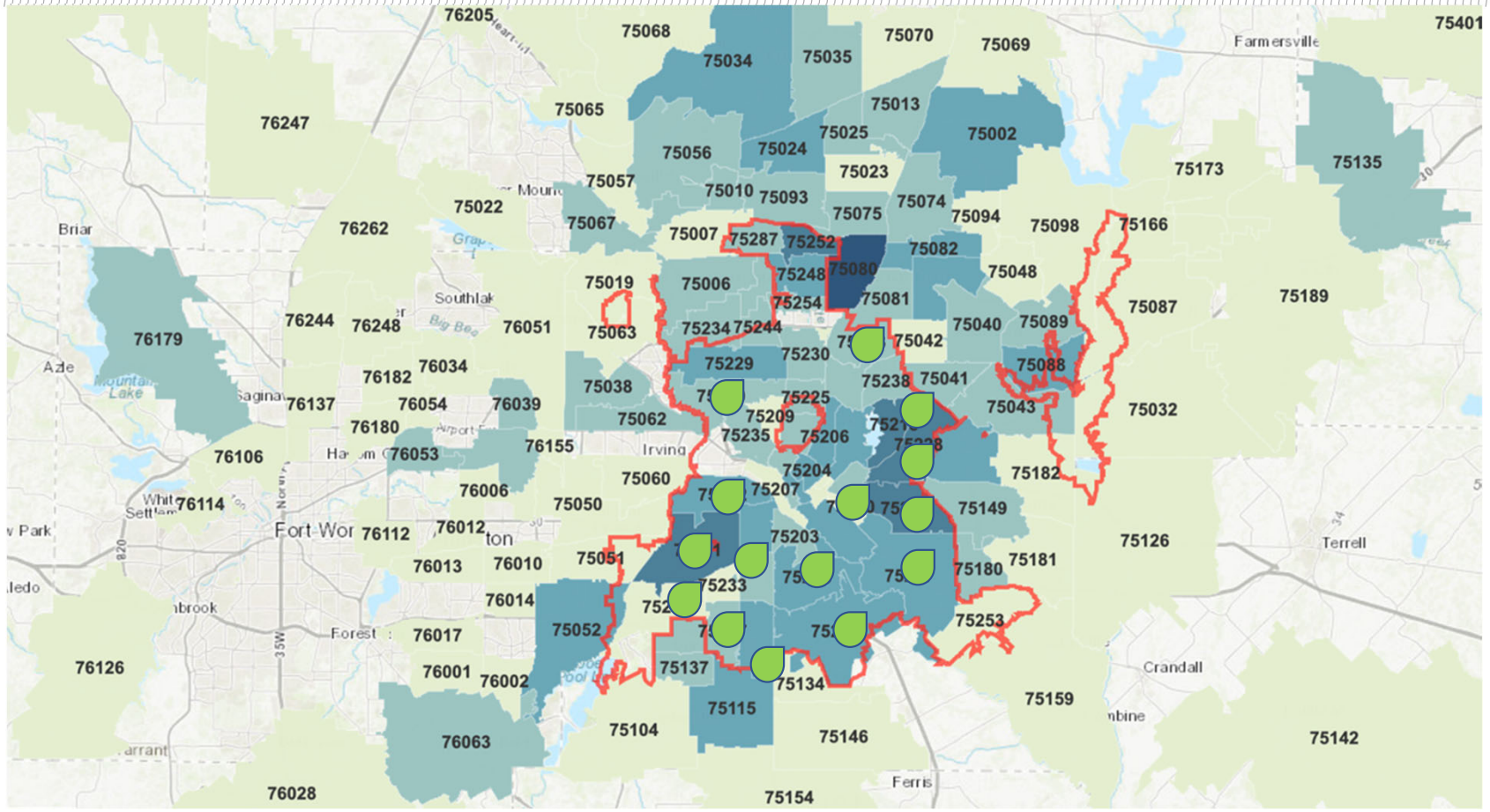
All Dallas communities have access to healthy, local food:

- Build capacity & partnerships
- Improve access in food deserts through effective partnerships
- Reduce distance from farm-to-table
- Prepare the food system to be more resilient to extreme weather events
- Prevent food waste through donations, recovery, diversion, and composting

Project Scope & Timeline



Outreach & Engagement



Equity Impact Zip Codes

Legend

Dallas City Boundary

Survey Percent Response by Zip Code

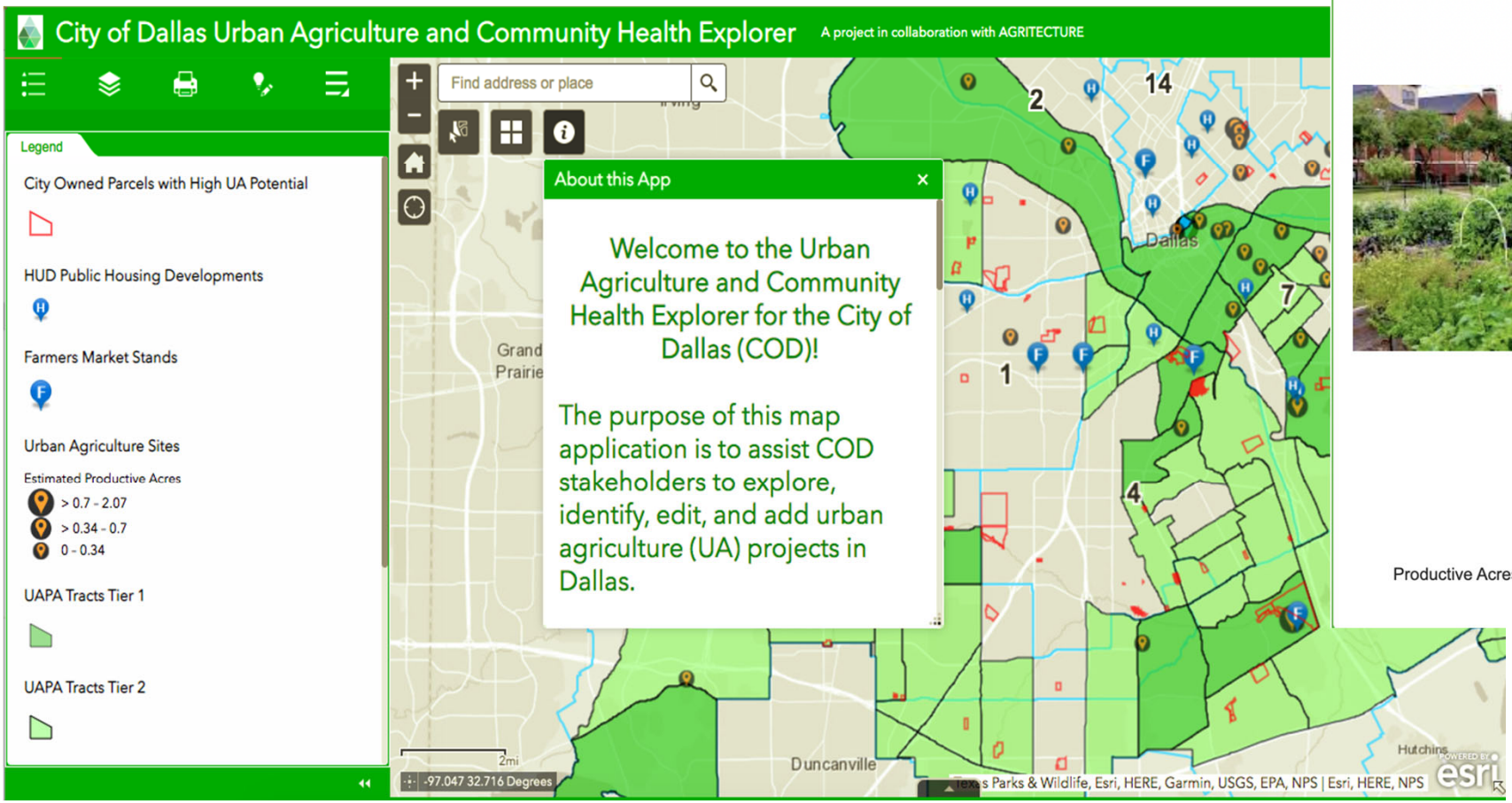
Percent of Responses out of 661

- > 0.054 - 0.11
- > 0.0166 - 0.054
- > 0.009 - 0.0166
- > 0.003 - 0.009
- 0.0015 - 0.003

Feedback – Community Concerns

- The siloed or competitive nature of stakeholders
- Lack of transparency around costs and allocation of related City resources
- Unclear City Ordinances providing roadblocks to starting UA projects
- The need to make the plan actionable and assign responsibility for continuity and follow through
- Limitations re: plan efficacy if action items are not supported with interrelated factors (*i.e.*, job development, education, utility use, infrastructure)
- Some distrust from marginalized communities as they have been left out of previous development plans, especially in southern Dallas (*i.e.*, below I-30)

Data Compilation & Tools



Program Benchmarking

Identified best practices city

RECOMMENDATION 1.

Reduce regulatory barriers.

1. **Update the Dallas Development Code** to reduce regulatory barriers in the urban agriculture landscape.

2. **Identify and establish incentives for developers to include urban agriculture** within new developments, especially those done by community development corporations. Evaluate synergies with other city initiatives to increase functional green and permeable surfaces within new and existing developments.

RECOMMENDATION 2.

Support land access.

1) **Visualize the COD UA landscape** in geographic context, framed by equity

2) **Establish a process for making high-potential City-owned vacant lots available** for UA projects

3) **Match-making model** for connecting aspiring farmers and private landowners

1) **UA Resource Page:** Create clear, accessible documents that educate the City of Dallas residents about relevant regulations and resources for starting and operating both commercial and community UA

2) **UA Education:** Develop a cohesive UA education strategy and implement it in relevant community programs

3) **UA Workforce Development:** Increase internship and traineeship opportunities in urban agriculture in Dallas

RECOMMENDATION 4.

Facilitate collaboration and partnerships among UA stakeholders.

1) **Formalize and maintain an Urban Agriculture Advisory Council** that represents a range of UA stakeholders in the City of Dallas

2) **Showcase and organize UA events** focused on knowledge sharing, resource support, and partnerships for UA stakeholders

Urban Ag Advisory Council Stakeholders

FoodSource DFW	Hardies
Dallas CEC (Chef's Association)	University of Texas Arlington
Baylor, Scott& White/NTFB	Texas Restaurant Association - North Texas Region/Greater Dallas
Dallas Church Food Security Network/Baylor Scott & White @ Juanita Craft	The Harvest Project
Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions	Turn Compost
Dallas County	USDA - NRCS
North Texas Food Policy Alliance	USEPA
Grow North Texas	For Oak Cliff
Kroger	Southern Methodist University
Parkland Health & Hospital Systems	Richardson ISD
Restorative Farms	Dallas ISD
Sysco North Texas	Oak Cliff Veggie Project
TAMU-Agrilife Extension	Dallas College
	Texas Worm Ranch

RECOMMENDATION 5.

Build market opportunities.

1) **Reduce barriers to operating farmers markets**

2) **Seek funding for nutrition assistance programs** to increase purchasing power of low-income consumers

3) **Initiate or partner with a "Buy Local" campaign** with consumer-facing, business-facing, and internal COD agency-facing elements

4) **Facilitate connections** between Dallas area producers and interested wholesale buyers such as restaurants, retailers, and institutions

Budget Considerations

Primary Cost: Staff support (2-3 positions)

Current Budget: $200k (CECAP)

- Soil testing & screening
- Facilitating collaboration and partnerships among UA stakeholders
  - DIGS, GWU Field Days, etc.
- Holding educational events
- Matching grant funds

RECOMMENDATIONS	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3				YEAR 4				YEAR 5			
1. Reduce regulatory barriers	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1 Update the Dallas Development Code to reduce the regulatory barriers in the urban agriculture landscape.																				
2 Identify and establish incentives for developers to include urban agriculture within new developments.																				
2. Support land access	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1 Visualize the COD UA landscape in geographic context, framed with equity.																				
2 Establish a process for making high-potential City-owned vacant lots available for UA projects.																				
3 Match-making model for connecting aspiring farmers and private landowners.																				
3. Provide UA education, resources, and support to Dallas residents	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1 UA Resource Page: Create clear, accessible documents that educate City of Dallas residents about relevant regulations and resources for starting and operating both commercial and community UA.																				
2 UA Education: Develop a cohesive UA education strategy and partner with education organizations to establish or strengthen UA education networks in Dallas Communities.																				
3 UA Workforce Development: Increase UA internship and traineeship opportunities in Dallas.																				
4. Facilitate collaboration & partnerships among UA stakeholders	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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2 Showcase and organize UA events focused on knowledge sharing, resource support and partnerships for UA stakeholders.																				
5. Build market opportunities	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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2 Seek funding for nutrition assistance programs to increase purchasing power of low-income consumers.																				
3 Initiate or partner with a "Buy Local" campaign with consumer-facing, business-facing, and internal COD Agency-facing elements.																				
4 Facilitate connections between Dallas area producers and interested wholesale buyers such as restaurants, retailers, and institutions.																				

Plan Implementation Timeline

Short-Mid Term Implementation

- Reducing regulatory barriers
- GIS Tool: Urban Agriculture Community Health Explorer Map
- Providing education, resources, support
  - Dallas InnerCity Growers' Summit
  - UA resource page

Goal: Increase UA acreage and the local supply

Long Term Implementation

- Match-making model
- Building market opportunities
  - The "Buy Local" campaign
- Facilitate connections between Dallas area producers
  - Wholesale buyers & institutions

Goal: Increase local commercial food sourcing

Next Steps

- Council consideration on the February 22nd agenda
- CUAP available at: dallasclimateaction.com/foodaccess