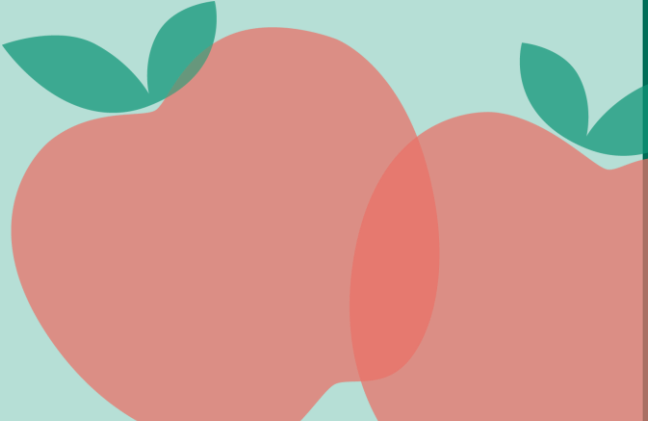




strategic and Operational Plan 2020-2021



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TOGETHER TOWARDS A FAIR FOOD SYSTEM

Acknowledgement

Food Fairness Illawarra acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work. We pay our respect to Past, Present and Emerging Elders. Acknowledging that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the first agriculturalists and continue to inspire us through their ecological land management.

Food Fairness Illawarra would also like to acknowledge all involved individuals for their hard work on behalf of Food Fairness Illawarra and contributions to the development of this Strategic Plan, with special recognition to Belinda Gibbons from UOW Business School for facilitating the strategy sessions and Healthy Cities Illawarra for their continuous governance and coordination.

Food Fairness Illawarra

Food Fairness Illawarra (FFI) is a community coalition that has worked together since 2005 with the vision to make healthy and sustainable food affordable and accessible for all. Guided by representatives Healthy Cities Illawarra, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council, Kiama Municipal Council and the University of Wollongong. FFI has a wider network of over 1000 individuals, community groups, charities and non-government organisations, who recognise the need for collaboration between community, industry, and governments to unlock fairer food solutions.

Our work strongly aligns with and supports the following United Nation's sustainable Development Goals.



Four dimensions of food security

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (World Food Summit, 1996). Based on this definition, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations identifies the following four dimensions of food security:

Availability

Enough nutritious food of sufficient quality needs to be available to people for their consumption. Availability can be affected by production, distribution and exchange.

Access

Individuals and households must be able to acquire sufficient food to be able to eat a healthy, nutritious diet, or have access to sufficient resources needed to grow their own food (e.g. land). Access can be affected by affordability, allocation and preference.

Use and Utilisation

People must have access to a sufficient quantity and diversity of foods to meet their nutritional needs but must also be able to eat and properly metabolise such food. Utilisation can be affected by nutritional value, health status, food safety, preparation and consumption.

Stability

Food may be available and accessible to people who are able to utilise it effectively, but to avoid increases in malnutrition and in order for people to feel secure, this state of affairs needs to be enduring rather than temporary or subject to fluctuations.

Our values and activities

Guided by “four dimensions of food security”, FFI performs the following activities:

- **Connect and Collaborate** – Bring together and support local collaboration between food system stakeholders including local producers, providers, growers, consumers, food aid providers, community groups, businesses, advocates, educators, councils and non-government organisations.
- **Advocate** – Highlight local issues and lobby for policy and planning development that contributes to a fair food system.
- **Empower** – Provide the tools and highlight opportunities to participate in building a fair food system.
- **Educate** – Inform and enable knowledge sharing to drive the fair food conversation across all levels of society.
- **Research** – Contribute to and utilise the evidence base to build a fair food system.
- **Govern** – Maintain a coordinated, well-structured coalition to enable collective action.

Coordination group

Representatives of Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, Wollongong City Council, Kiama Municipal Council, Shellharbour City Council and University of Wollongong, governed by Healthy Cities Illawarra.

Working groups

- **Food Aid & Recovery Working Group** - Representatives of Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, Healthy Cities Illawarra, University of Wollongong, Darcy House, Warrawong Community Kitchen and Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre.
- **Fair Food Week Working Group** - Representatives of Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, Wollongong City Council, Kiama Municipal Council, Shellharbour City Council, University of Wollongong and Healthy Cities Illawarra.
- **Communications Working Group** - Representatives of Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and Healthy Cities Illawarra.
- **Funding & Future Projects Working Group** - Representatives of Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, University of Wollongong and Healthy Cities Illawarra.
- **Research Working Group** - Representatives of University of Wollongong and Healthy Cities Illawarra.

Ways to get involved

- Join our conversation on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)
- Stay in the loop through our monthly [newsletter](#)
- Access our resources at www.foodfairnessillawarra.org.au, including our practical fair food field guide, our extensive fair food directory or our interactive fair food events guide.
- Attend our quarterly Food Fairness community catchups (1st Tuesday of Feb, May, Aug and Nov)
- Attend our annual Connecting over Fair Food Event during Fair Food Week (in October).
- For more ways to get involved email us at berbel@healthycities.org.au

2020-2030 strategy

The Strategy describes how, in partnership with our local councils, local health district, the university, community groups, charities and non-government organisations, and individuals, we can work together towards our vision: Make healthy and sustainable food available and affordable for all. The Strategy utilises the “four dimensions of food security” as a framework with individual longer-term goals. Related objectives are presented across the six key activity areas of FFI, linking up with the four dimensions. The Strategy is supported by an operational plan (next page) and a more detailed action plan, which is available upon request.

The purpose of the Strategy is to highlight our main priorities and aspirations for the future and to identify the objectives and strategies for achieving these goals. While FFI has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the Strategy, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation and will engage other partners in the delivery.

Vision: Make healthy and sustainable food available and affordable for all



Operational Plan

Vision: Make healthy and sustainable food available and affordable for all

	Availability Goal: Grow a vibrant local food culture and economy which supports growers and producers (4-10 years) Strategies:	Access Goal: Enable Illawarra residents to access affordable, culturally appropriate, nutritious, sustainable and local food (4-10 years) Strategies:	Use and Utilisation Goal: Enhance food knowledge and skills within our community to make healthy food choices the norm and accessible to all (4-10 years) Strategies:
Connect & Collaborate	1.1 Host FFI community catch ups that provide networking opportunities, knowledge transfer and resource sharing. 1.1 Host annual regional community building event "Connecting over Fair Food"		
	1.3 Explore for opportunities to establish a Local Food Growers & Producers Working Group	1.3 Continue meeting with the Food Aid and Recovery Working Group.	1.3 Support (local) nutrition program Advisory Groups and Coordinators.
Advocate	2.1 Prepare submissions in relation to local food planning and policy on behalf of FFI (as needed) 2.2 Prepare submissions in relation to national and state food planning and policy on behalf of FFI (where appropriate and capacity allows) 2.3 Liaise with other food-based organisations and alliances to leverage advocacy work (where appropriate and capacity allows) - The Australian Food Network, - - - -		
	2.4 Develop a "Support and buy local" participatory advocacy campaign	2.4 Support increased food rescue and redistribution at local business level	2.4 Promote the refreshed FFI website (incl. Fair Food Field Guide, directories, and events calendar) across the community for collective participation.
Empower	3.1 Utilise newsletter and social media platforms to support the development of skills and knowledge of FFI community members 3.2 Utilise training opportunities and skill sharing to support the development of skills and knowledge of FFI community members		
	3.3 Host a masterclass on how to become a local food advocate	3.3 Provide training opportunities for staff members and volunteers from food aid and rescue organisation	3.4 Support food sustainability and nutrition training opportunities and skill sharing for community educators
Educate	4.1 Transform the FFI website into a web-based guide of local knowledge and practical resources that will foster, promote and grow our thriving local food community. 4.2 Utilise newsletter and social media platforms to educate the broader community 4.3 FFI representation at relevant community forums and events		
	4.4 Update and distribute: 4.4.1 Community Gardens directory 4.4.2 Local Food and Ethical Shopping directory	4.4 Develop and distribute a snapshot of food security in the Illawarra 4.5 Support "Low cost and free meal directory" update and distribution 4.6 Develop Illawarra's guide to food donations	4.4 Update and distribute Educators and Advocates directory 4.1 Develop and distribute Illawarra's guide to sustainable and healthy events
Research	5.1 Keep abreast of the latest local, national, and international fair food-related research 5.2 Utilise newsletter, social media platforms and meetings to share latest local, national, and international fair food-related research outcomes 5.3 Support research and evaluation to inform FFI activities, including: 5.3.1 'Connecting over Fair Food' event's influence on fostering intersectoral connections over healthy, sustainable, and fair food in the Illawarra, in both the shorter and longer term 5.3.2 UOW Global Challenges grant project "developing a cohesive food resilience disaster plan for the local region" 5.3.3 ARC grant project "Healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems: Growing the role of local government" 5.3.4 Impact of a food network coalition on building a resilient food future		

Stability Goal: A coordinated, well-structured coalition to enable collective action (4-10 years)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement FFI Strategic and Operational Plan 2. Record, monitor and evaluate the activities of FFI 3. Host FFI Coordination Team (governance) meetings and FFI community catch-ups 4. Maintain FFI information sharing via monthly newsletters, social media channels and the website 5. Investigate funding, resource enhancement and sustainability opportunities 6. Manage volunteer base to support FFI function 7. Develop impact evaluation frameworks to measure FFI strategic impact
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