



Vitoria-Gasteiz Agriculture/Food Strategy

MUNICIPAL ACTION PLAN 2017-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

December 2017



Ayuntamiento
de Vitoria-Gasteiz
Vitoria-Gasteizko
Udala

**VITORIA
GASTEIZ**
green capital

1. WHY THE ACTION PLAN?

Following the European Green Capital Award in 2012 to Vitoria-Gasteiz and led by an active set of groups aware of the growing interest among the population for a healthy diet, the City Council decided to promote a Sustainable Agriculture/Food Strategy for Vitoria-Gasteiz, with the ultimate goal of connecting local high-quality food producers with consumers of these products in the city.

The municipality's excellent land conditions (an extensive agricultural belt surrounding the urban frame and high-quality agrological soils), provided the perfect conditions for the development of this Strategy, aiming to promote short cycles of sustainable production, marketing and consumption preferably within the municipality or nearby areas at the regional level.

Moreover, the Urban Food Policy Pact signed in Milan on 15 October 2015 by a hundred European cities, which Vitoria-Gasteiz joined in, proved that the path undertaken was the correct one. This fact served to boost the work begun in 2012 and this has resulted in a commitment to execute the current 2017-2025 Agriculture/Food Strategy Municipal Action Plan for Vitoria-Gasteiz.

With this Action Plan, the City Council intends to target various actions related to sustainable production and high-quality food, in order to enhance a comprehensive view of the different processes involved in these issues. In addition, this strategy could be driving force to involve and collaborate with the different stakeholder (local crop and livestock farmers, consumer associations, businesses, amongst others) that focus on alternative forms of production and consumption.

Therefore, the aim is to implement an Action Plan that, that could enhance the municipal driven force and competencies on this particular topic and gradually promote the necessary strong relations among all stakeholders for the joint development of the Sustainable Agriculture/Food Strategy of Vitoria-Gasteiz.

2. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE UP TO NOW?

In 2012 a group made up of the city's associations carried out a process of reflection on how to improve the agriculture/food system in Vitoria-Gasteiz, believing that was one of the city's unresolved challenges on the road to a sustainable future. This work carried out by these associations led to the drafting of the manifesto entitled "**Vitoria-Gasteiz for a sustainable agriculture/food system**" in 2014. In this document, starting from an analysis of the initial situation, a series of strategic lines of action were proposed to enable the progressive transformation of the current agriculture/food model into a system that is more sustainable and compatible with the characteristics and traditions of the territory.

In March of that year, the Vitoria-Gasteiz Municipal Council unanimously agreed to adopt a Municipal Agriculture/Food Plan in collaboration with organizations and with citizens and associations interested in the matter, thereby promoting the process of definition of the Agriculture/Food Strategy of Vitoria-Gasteiz.

In 2015, the Environmental Studies Centre was responsible for moving forward on developing the Strategy, prepared a preliminary analysis of the agriculture/food system conditions in the municipality to constitute the material basis for discussion and for developing a participatory diagnosis and a series of future scenarios consistent with the desired vision. This document

was discussed during the participatory process held in 2016 and agreed with the consensus of participants as a tool for building a new food model.

As a result of this process of participation and reflection, the document “**Bases for building a sustainable agriculture/food system for Vitoria-Gasteiz**” was drafted (which includes 21 prioritized objectives and a series of measures assigned to each of them), which the City Council has used to draw up this “**2017-2025 Agriculture/Food Strategy Municipal Action Plan for Vitoria-Gasteiz**”, to advance in those aspects identified as more relevant and in others that may also be of interest, within the scope of its competencies.

3. WORKING METHODOLOGY

The following methodological framework has been followed to draw up the Action Plan:

- **Phase 1. ANALYSIS: Evaluation of the available information and identification of relevant new references.**

In this phase, we have proceeded to a comprehensive analysis of the available documentation and consult leading organizations and agents at international level.

- **Phase 2. CREATION: Preliminary Proposal of Actions to be carried out within the framework of the Action Plan.**

In this phase, interdepartmental work meetings have been held and the preliminary framework of the Plan has been developed taking into account the strategic framework documents of “Diagnosis” (2015) and “Bases” (2016).

- **Phase 3. FEEDBACK: Corroboration and validation of the Action Plan.**

In this phase, interdepartmental work meetings have been held and a contrast and opinion session has been held with the citizens and the groups of interest.

- **Phase 4. SOCIALIZATION: Final proposal of actions and drafting of the final report of the 2017-2025 Agriculture/Food Strategy Municipal Action Plan for Vitoria-Gasteiz.**

After validating the proposal, the final Action Plan document has been drawn up which comprises the contributions received throughout the process.

4. RESULTS

The Action Plan has been articulated based on four thematic strategic lines and a strategic line that is transversal to the previous ones. Each of these lines includes a series of actions related to sustainable production and quality food, which are framed within municipal competence.

In order to guarantee the complete implementation of the Strategic Lines and actions included, aspects related to the periodic monitoring and review of the Plan have also been defined, which make it possible to assess the degree of progress, detect difficulties and correct deviations, helping to achieve the objectives pursued.

The table below shows the complete list of the actions of the Plan, together with its objectives, for each of the Strategic Lines.

Strategic Lines		Actions	Objectives	Estimated Budget *
	1. ADAPTATING URBAN PLANNING REGULATIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE/FOOD PRACTICES IN THE VITORIA-GASTEIZ MUNICIPALITY	1.1 Incorporation of the 2017-2025 Agriculture/Food Strategy Municipal Action Plan for Vitoria-Gasteiz guidelines in the new Land-use Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure coordination between the proposals arising from the municipal Agriculture/Food Strategy and land management regulations in this area. 	Internal resources
		2.1 Municipal land bank:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update of the City Council's land. Define the identified plots: current physical state, property and exploitation arrangements, expectations for medium-term use... Set up a Land Bank capable of housing organic farming activities to promote the production of healthy and locally sourced foods, in turn creating green employment. 	18.000 €
	2. DEVELOPING DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS WITHIN THE AGRICULTURE/FOOD CHAIN	2.2 Cerro de las Neveras demonstration project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote an agriculture/farming initiative in an environment of significant ecological and conservation value. Identify the methodology for developing initiatives between the public and private sectors. 	225.000 € (phase I)
		2.3 Basaldea project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create, in the medium term, jobs and businesses involved in the production and distribution of organic farming products in Alava. Design sales and distribution channels for organic products and create synergies between the different agents of the value chain. Define a working methodology for the process that facilitates replication. 	89.000 €
		2.4 Abetxuko Agroecological Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recover and strengthen agricultural activity in a peri-urban area of Vitoria-Gasteiz. Bring the Green Belt to the neighborhood and village Abetxuko. Strengthen the relationship between production and consumption of food in the context of the Agri-Food Strategy of Vitoria-Gasteiz. Create a space for social gathering and awareness about the local rural environment. 	1,5 M€ (Remodeling of the Ancora building)
		2.5 Use of the Otazu forest for silvopasture of pigs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the effects of grazing on the growth of trees, the biodiversity of the vascular flora of oak groves and on the constituents of the soil. Assess the resources of the Iberian Atlantic forests. Analysis of the carbon cycle in the system. Determine the influence of nutrition in extensive grazing on the production and quality of different pig breeds. Evaluate the suitability of various parameters as indicators of the functioning of the silvopastoral ecosystem. 	Internal resources
		2.6 Study of traditional agricultural varieties in the municipality of Vitoria-Gasteiz.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about traditional varieties, as well as their use and management in the municipality. Carry out an inventory of traditional varieties (names and uses). Compile agroecological knowledge and traditional ways of management. Long-term storage and conservation in appropriate conditions of the prospected genetic material. Dissemination of information collected throughout the investigation. 	26.100 € (phase I)
		2.7 Environmental regeneration in the surroundings of Lermenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Project that combines the territory's agricultural activity, conservation of the rural identity and economic progress. Strengthen the role of the Lermenda area as a connecting ecological corridor between the Vitoria hills and the river Zadorra. 	80.000 € (phase I)
		2.8 Boosting the supply of local organic farming products to the Plaza de Abastos market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an integrated logistics support and distribution centre. Promote coordinated work among the agents of the value chain. 	Internal resources
		2.9 Creating a handling and primary processing centre for organic farming products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate primary processing operations for new businesses that produce organic products. Evaluate the feasibility of building a primary processing centre. 	Internal resources
		2.10 Community Composting Program in the municipality's rural environment, through the new Urban Waste Cleaning and Collection Agreement in the rural communities of Vitoria-Gasteiz.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the local management of waste and the closure of the organic matter cycle. 	142.000 €/year + 60.000 € (system improvement study)
		2.11 Improving the selective collection of organic matter for the production of high-quality compost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote more efficient collection models. Increase the rates of selective collection of organic matter. Decrease the percentage of foreign matter in collected waste to improve the quality of the compost. 	60.000 €
		2.12 Programme for reducing food surpluses among major producers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce waste generation. Rationalise consumption. Alleviate food poverty and social exclusion. 	45.000 €
2.13 Cooperation and education programmes for the promotion of food sovereignty and fair trade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate issues related to food sovereignty and fair trade in the different topics addressed through the municipal programmes of cooperation and education for development. 	Internal resources		

Strategic Lines		Actions	Objectives	Estimated Budget *
	3. PROMOTING THE DEMAND FOR ORGANIC AND LOCALLY SOURCED PRODUCTS THROUGH PUBLIC PROCUREMENT	3.1 Implementation of the "Directive on socially responsible and sustainable procurement by the Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council" for municipal procurement and contracts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define specific criteria directly related to the procurement of sustainable services/products. Ensure the gradual incorporation of these criteria in public procurement processes. Set up an interdepartmental workflow that encourages its implementation. 	Internal resources
		3.2 Adherence to the Basque Government's Green Purchasing Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council's commitments with the guidelines already defined at the regional level of the Basque Country. Reconciling the efforts of the City Council with the programs of the Basque Government, seeking positive synergies in a scenario of inter-institutional collaboration. 	Internal resources
		3.3 Organic and proximity food in the canteens of municipal nursery schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a healthy diet for children who use the canteen service. Promotion of local and organic food among families who use the canteen service. Keep the onsite kitchens in the nursery schools. 	126.500€
	4. RAISING AWARENESS AMONG THE PUBLIC ON THE BENEFITS OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION	4.1 Inclusion of educational and awareness actions in the Environmental Education Programmes, that contribute to a cultural change in ways of producing, buying, consuming and in managing waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the incorporation of the value of sustainable food production and consumption in municipal programmes. Introduce clear and relevant messages in the design of programmed environmental education initiatives, according to the profile of the recipients. Support citizens in the transition towards sustainable daily practices in the purchase and consumption of food. 	110.000 €
		4.2 Educational and awareness actions that contribute to a cultural change towards healthier eating habits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote healthy food consumption habits through municipal programmes. Promote healthy practices among citizens and families in the purchase and consumption of food. Highlight the importance of quality in food products. Inform the public about the monitoring and control measures carried out to ensure the quality of food. 	81.000 € (year 2017)
		4.3 Meeting Point on sustainable agriculture/food in the Municipality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide visibility to the initiatives being carried out in the area of sustainable agriculture/food in the municipality. Promote the existing coordination between City Council departments and social agents. Generate a food culture in the agriculture/food value chain. 	15.000 €
	5. TRANSVERSAL ACTIONS THAT AFFECT SEVERAL OF THE PREVIOUS STRATEGIC LINES	5.1 Identification of Agriculture/Food good practices and promotion of a healthy and sustainable diet in local and/or regional spheres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research, analyse and evaluate, for their potential implementation, successful benchmark cases of sustainable agriculture and livestock promotion, and of inclusion of organic and locally sourced food in the public diet. 	Internal resources
		5.2 Coordination between the 2017-2025 Agriculture/Food Strategy Municipal Action Plan for Vitoria-Gasteiz and the different municipal environmental plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that any future municipal environmental plans take into account the guidelines approved in this 2017-2025 Agriculture/Food Strategy Municipal Action Plan for Vitoria-Gasteiz. 	Internal resources
		5.3 Carrying out an agrological and soil quality study of the Vitoria-Gasteiz municipality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a detailed study of the soil of the municipality which describes the characteristics of the soil and of its environment, taking into account edaphological and environmental variables. 	70.000€
		5.4 Monitoring Plan for the Municipal Action Plan (2017-2025).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and implement a methodology for monitoring the degree of progress of the objectives and actions that make up the 2017-2025 Municipal Action Plan. 	Internal resources

* Estimated budget of variable form for each of the items. In some cases, the action will be developed with municipal personnel (indicated as internal resources); in other cases, it is the total amount of the project; and other, it is budgeted by phases or years.