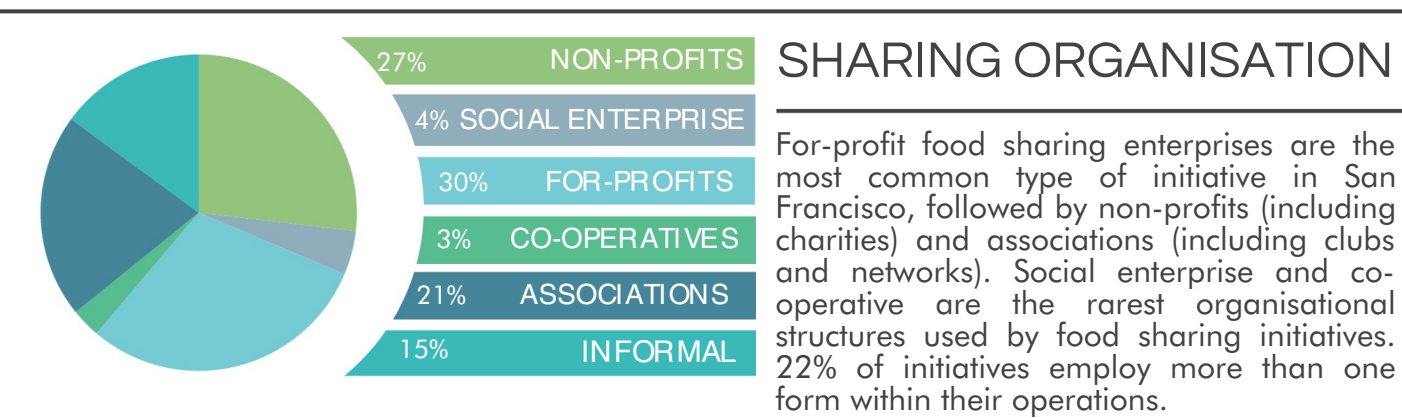
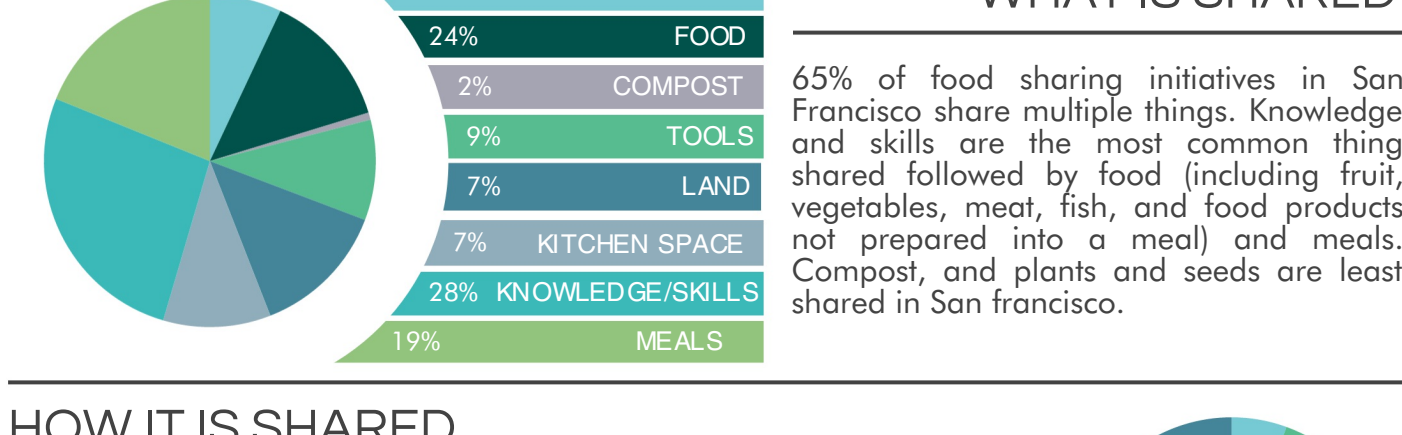



SAN FRANCISCO



San Francisco is ranked 18th in the SHARECITY100 Database of global food sharing, with 57 initiatives currently active in the city.



GEOGRAPHY & POLITICS



The city of San Francisco is located on the west coast of the United States on the north end of the San Francisco Peninsula. It is one of most populous urban areas on the west coast, with a city population of 810,000 and a metropolitan population of over 4 million (1). With a density of almost 7000 people km2 it is the second most densely populated major city in the United States after Los Angeles, though only the 14th most populous overall (2). The city is laid out in a grid over some 40 hills, reaching heights of nearly 1,000 feet, surrounded on three sides by water.


San Francisco is a consolidated city-county which has a mayor-council system of government defined by the Charter of the City and County of California. The mayor is elected to a four-year term as are the city council members, and acts as the chief executive who then appoints the city administrator and controller. The mayor has the responsibility to enforce all city laws including planning, waste management, and health and safety, administer and coordinate city departments and intergovernmental activities, set forth policies and agendas, and prepare and submit the city budget at the end of each fiscal year. The foremost source of state law is the Constitution of California, which in turn is subordinate to the Constitution of the United States.

ECONOMY & SOCIETY

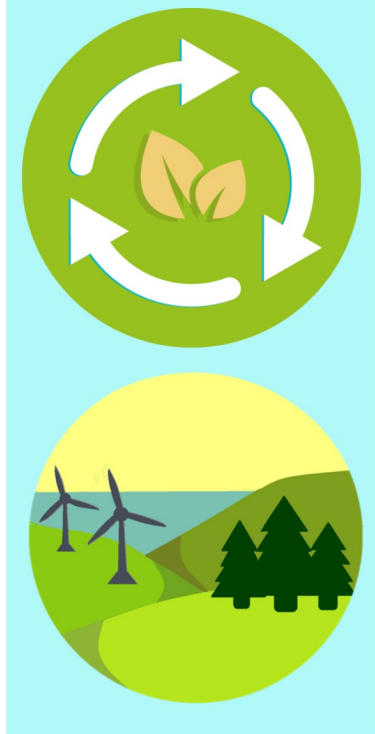
San Francisco has a diversified service economy, with professional services, science, and technology making up the largest employment sectors followed by leisure and hospitality (3). The city's natural resources and cultural attractions have made tourism one of the city's leading industries, and it has acted as the banking and financial centre for the west coast of the United States since the early 20th century. More recently it has become an international hub for technology and web-based services, particularly following the 'dot com' boom in the 1990s. Though the city is ranked only 23rd in the 2016 Global City Index it was ranked 1st for outlook, driven largely by its strength in innovation and private investment (4).

San Francisco has the highest quality of living in the United States (28th in the world) with high wages and salaries due to high levels of education and a concentration of jobs in well-paid areas (5). However the cost of living in San Francisco is 57.7% above the national average and deprived areas of the city are becoming increasingly gentrified (6). The city has the second highest rate of homelessness in the United States and according to the United States census 28% of San Francisco residents are at risk of being food insecure (7). In October 2014 the mayor announced an increase in minimum wage, making the city among the first jurisdictions in the USA to enact a minimum wage higher than Federal or State minimum wage (8).

San Francisco has a history of being a hotspot for alternative cultural movements and a centre for liberal activism. Known for its ethnic and cultural diversity, it has one of the country's highest concentrations of new immigrants and roughly half of the city's population have an ethnicity other than white (9).



FOOD, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



San Francisco has long had an active environmental community and in 2011 it was ranked the Greenest City in North America, scoring highly in categories such as air, energy, buildings, transport, waste and water (10). In 2009 it became the first local municipal ordinance in the U.S. to require recycling and composting for residents, commercial properties, food establishments and events, and was one of earliest cities in the United States to provide curb-side recycling program (11). As a result 77% of the city's waste is recycled. The city has pioneered a number of policies such as a ban on disposable plastic bags, and single-use plastic water bottles (12). Introduced in 2007 the Food Service Waste Reduction Ordinance requires food vendors and restaurants in San Francisco to use compostable or recyclable to-go containers (13), and 2017 will see all polystyrene food packaging prohibited (e.g. coffee cups, packing peanuts) (14).

In 2009 the mayor of San Francisco announced the first-ever comprehensive food policy for San Francisco to promote healthy and sustainable food. Taking a holistic approach it approaches the food system from production through distribution and consumption to recycling and is organised around themes of Nutrition, Urban Agriculture, Regional Food, Hunger and Food Security, Food Business and Fisheries.

The San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department maintains over 1000 community gardens or allotment plots (15). The city has a well-established system of public transport including light rail, subway, bus networks and an underwater connection to East bay, giving the city the fourth highest public transport use in the United States (16). The city was also an early adopter of car sharing and was ranked the second most walkable city in the US (17).

TECHNOLOGY

San Francisco is a global leader and headquarters for technology and information companies. Technology jobs accounted for just 1 percent of San Francisco's economy in 1990, growing to 4 percent in 2010 and an estimated 8 percent by the end of 2013 (18). It holds a unique position as one of the epicentres for the emerging online sharing economy, being the birthplace of many of the large sharing economy players and peer-to-peer platforms such as Airbnb, Lyft, Uber, and TaskRabbit. Following years of fostering thousands of internet and tech start-ups it can be seen as a model city for sharing economic policy, innovation and creative grassroots sharing projects. In 2012 San Francisco's Mayor Ed Lee announced the formation of The Sharing Economy Working Group, and the city is also home to Shareable, a non-profit which advocates for the sharing economy as well as providing education around the need for new policies to support sharing, mutual aid, and co-production in cities.



