



Urban Food Justice

Concluding Report

Chiara Tornaghi

chiara.tornaghi@gmail.com



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

A project funded by the Economic and Social Research council (ESRC) and the University of Leeds



A *social* platform on urban agriculture in the Leeds City Region



Supporting the development of





Source: Tornaghi 2013

1. The launch

existing
continuous
productive
urban
landscapes
:
havana, cuba



We started small...



A vision for urban agriculture in Leeds



A vision for urban agriculture in Leeds

Policy – vision 30% by 2025; action plans; food growing to be incorporated into designed spaces; innovative planning; revision of allotments act; top down, city region; planning provision for living on smallholdings

Land access/ Alternative spaces – More spaces in inner city area; office workers allotment; map to identify what spaces are available; diversion of land management resources to the new agenda; Polytunnels/ greenhouses next to power stations and crematoriums; window boxes, street planters, meanwhile spaces; car parks; flat roofs hospitals gardens

Food hub – a hub with an holistic approach, in charge of coordination, networking, education, forums, central purchasing, procurement, markets; at city region level;

Mobilise resources - showing research, good practice and existing knowledge and resources within the network,

[cont.ed]

Showcase – Inspirational initiatives, i.e. Eco-schools, rooftop gardens, commercial projects; using parks as showcase for type of growing;

Soil – plant flowers in contaminated soils;

Facilities – council led facilities for community composting, deposit grassy leaves, communal huts/sheds in community gardens for storage, meeting, selling, make a hot drink

Outlets – roadside stalls; involve local business to exchange veg waste; supermarkets to sell local produce; weekly farmers markets, collective marketing of food; vans mobile shops

Alternative crops – Leeds vineyards, mushrooms, honey, wood growing, crops which meet the needs of different cultures;

Education/Schools – on growing and cooking skills, seasonality, disseminating routes to achieving goals, food growing in every school, more widely into the curriculum; school kitchen

Community and outreach – grow in the community, but in places next to home/offices ; involve older and younger people, people on benefits; grow on the doorsteps: promote use of home gardens, distribute starters kits

2. Land access



New demands for urban land: summary

Increasing community demands for food/seeds sovereignty, participation in place making, building resilient cities and communities

Local authorities and in particular planning and parks services have a key role in ensuring social and environmental justice through the promotion of urban agriculture

Temporary leases and community gardens are good as an initial tool to inspire food growing and provide training and community engagement, but pose limits to long term engagement, investments and funding opportunities

Community allotment provision should still be a preferential choice, although horticultural training should be mandatory and socio-economic background of plot holders considered for future allocations.

Land asset transfer to local communities is also a viable way to reinstate control to local communities, provided that this happens within a progressive planning framework with a set of pre-requisite, redistributive criteria and in the form of commons.

On the long term, the local development framework can include planning notes recommending food growing facilities in all new development sites.

Land bank

List of Parks with dedicated gardeners where community groups can set up community gardens

Armley Park	East End Park	Kirk Lane Park	Tarnfield Park, Yeadon
Barleyhill Park	Farnley Hall Park	Lewisham Park	The Hollies
Bramley Park	Fearnville (King George VI) Playing Fields	Manston Park	Tyersal Park
Burley Park	Glebelands Rec, Ninelands Lane	Meanwood Park	Western Flatts Cliff Park
Calverley Park (Victoria Park)	Gotts Park	New Farnley Park	Wharfemeadows Park, Otley
Chapel Allerton Park	Halton Dene - Primrose Valley	New Wortley Recreation Ground	Woodhouse Moor Park
Churwell Park	Harehills Park	Potternewton Park	Woodlesford Park
Cross Flatts Park	Holbeck Moor	Pudsey Park	
Dartmouth Park	Horsforth Hall Park	Scatcherd Park	
Drighlington Park	Hunslet Moor	Springhead Park	

And more land is available....just have a look at www.urbal.tv

3. Urban metabolism, soil quality and soil rehabilitation





Detroit has 47 square miles of vacant land – 30,000 acres (previously developed for residential, retail or production functions)

A city fit for growing?

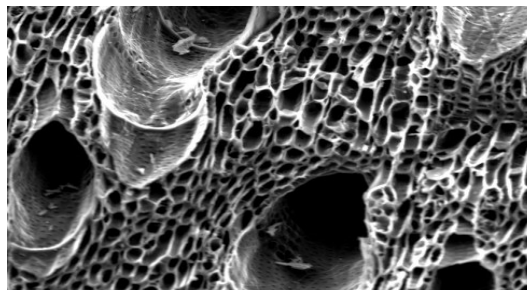
Urban metabolism: changing functions



Soil quality support network

17 participants (mainly from allotments, community groups) expressed an interest in taking part in a soil quality network which include:

- Soil and crop testing for contaminants
- Information and production of biochar
- More info on bio-remediation



4. Edible landscapes: food for free



Food for free: a city of foragers?

Where would you like to see food growing?

- Corporate sponsorship (of roundabouts)
- Change to planning
- Temporary car parks
- Existing ornamental beds
- Communal grounds/verges etc
- New developments to include food growing spaces
- On roofs
- Undeveloped lots

Would you harvest/eat it?

- Community ownership: society needs to learn to share
- Responsible/sustainable level of foraging
- Tweet and tell – when it's ready, what to do with it, when it's gone
- Food safety – growing and contamination – need to know what is safe

Would you make it happen? What would you do?

- Guerrilla gardening
- Temporary space and meanwhile use lease
- Local authority to design a brand new plan

What if it becomes very popular(a city of foragers)? Ecological intensification or “tragedy of the commons”?

- Improved health – mental, physical
- Less reliance on supermarkets, health services
- Greater resilience – food security, peak oil, against poor harvests/climate change.
- Preserving food heritage
- Greater awareness of growing food and foraging
- Disputes over taking – fair share
- Need to maintain wild untouched spaces

How would it change the local economy? Food, waste, prices, quantities, is there a way to link them?

- Limited impact due to fear of liability
- Improved work life balance and shared jobs
- Could have negative impact overseas
- Affect job profile of city
- Change consumer choices
- Grow green economy (jobs)

5. Gardening health and wellbeing



Planning a convivial community-led event

Presented the draft of a new guide for events booking with Leeds Parks and Countryside services

<p>Appendix 4</p> <p>Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside Community and Charity Event Guide</p> <p>A guide to organising community events in Leeds's parks and green spaces</p> <p>Bookings and Licensing section Tel : 0113 3967400 Email : eventsinparks@leeds.gov.uk</p>	<p>Contents</p> <table><tr><th>Section</th><th>Page</th></tr><tr><td>Introduction</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>How to book a site for an event</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td> • The events application process</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td> • Essential requirements to hold an event</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>How to organise and deliver a community event</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td> • Plan</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td> • Promote</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td> • Deliver</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td> • Evaluate</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>Event action plan</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>Further information:</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td> • Useful documents</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td> • Useful contacts</td><td>22</td></tr></table>	Section	Page	Introduction	3	How to book a site for an event	3	• The events application process	3	• Essential requirements to hold an event	5	How to organise and deliver a community event	7	• Plan	7	• Promote	16	• Deliver	18	• Evaluate	20	Event action plan	20	Further information:	22	• Useful documents	22	• Useful contacts	22
Section	Page																												
Introduction	3																												
How to book a site for an event	3																												
• The events application process	3																												
• Essential requirements to hold an event	5																												
How to organise and deliver a community event	7																												
• Plan	7																												
• Promote	16																												
• Deliver	18																												
• Evaluate	20																												
Event action plan	20																												
Further information:	22																												
• Useful documents	22																												
• Useful contacts	22																												

A calendar of gardening opportunities

Monday	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Inkwell Arts	TCV Hollybush	Inkwell Arts	TCV Hollybush	REAP (3 rd Sat of the month)	Hyde park food growing project 2 nd and 4 th Sunday of the month from 11am
	Armley museum/Hyde Park source 10.30-2pm	Bardon Grange 2-7pm	Armley museum 10.30-2pm	New Shoots @Bracken Edge Primary 2-3pm	Marlborough Greenroof Project	Marlborough Greenroof Project
	New Shoots @Bracken Edge Primary 9.00-10.00am	Feel good factor 10.30-12.30			All Hallows' Community garden	All Hallows' Community garden

Green Action co-op; Edible cities; Edible schools project; Kirkstall Community garden; Pulse-Pudsey Queens Park;

6. Agroecology Research and Leeds Biochar Initiative

In December 2012: Formed a Agroecology and Metabolism research group

In July 2013: applied for a large grant (450k) to ESRC for a Leeds-based research on agroecology, metabolism and food commons

“Agroecology is defined as the application of ecological principles to the study, design and management of agroecosystems that are both productive and natural resource conserving, culturally sensitive, socially just and economically viable”

(Altieri & Toledo 2011; Gliessman 2012)

The team: researchers and confirmed partners

Chiara Tornaghi

Les Firbank

Andy Ross

A part time research assistant

Chris Warburton-Brown, from
Permaculture association UK

Tom Bliss (Turnstone TV)

Niels Corfield (Edible Cities)

Simon Holland (Barefoot Lightening)

Peter Tatham (Hyde Park Source)

RHS

Church Lane Allotment Association

West North-West Homes Leeds (Now
LCC Housing)

Leeds City Council (Parks and
Countryside Services)

Leeds City Council (Urban Design and
Forward Planning and Implementation)

Leeds City Council (Public Health

The project: 4 main pillars

Background research:

- Beliefs, behaviours, motivation
- Ecological practices (growing, composting, etc.)
- Use of public space (recreational value, type of land management)
- Forest gardens: uses, design and success

Policy Design

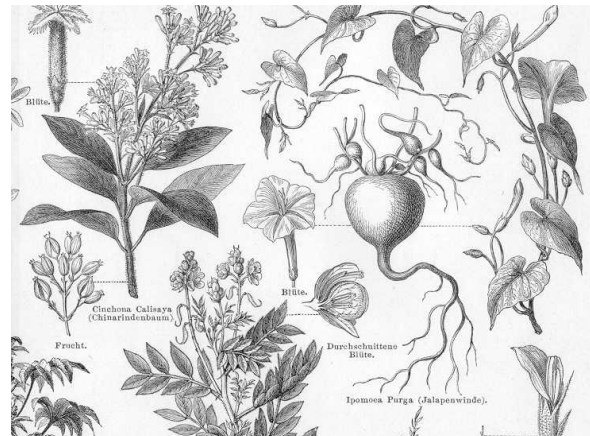
- GIS map of public space, classified per type of (potential) food productivity
- Policy brief for integration of food growing in public space
- Understanding of ecosystem services of food production in public space
- Modelling figures to scale up food production at city level

Education - Training, Mentoring, Seminars, Soil metabolism re-skilling

Policy implementation – Engagement strategy, Test neighbourhood, three pilot gardens

In June (Platform workshop 6) participatory event to:

- Design outreach and media strategy for the project
- Assess educational needs
- Identify individuals interested in skills sharing and delivering training
- Start up a participatory data collection on Biochar



7. The economic viability of urban agriculture and a Leeds Food Hub

Urban agriculture in the UK is currently:

- Mostly a grassroots phenomenon: gardens' and allotments growing, schools growing, public space growing, community gardens
- Rely on volunteers, grants, subsidies.
- Still very little impact on the food we eat

A urban agricultural project can be defined “**economically viable**” when:

- it can remunerate (fairly?) the time (all or part of it?) that people spend working on the project;
- It can maintain the infrastructure necessary for running the project (rent, machinery, etc.)

Economic viability constrained by:

- 1) Projects that used to be well funded, now hit by austerity cuts, lack of time or capacities to raise funding or to develop a market/business
- 2) Too little demand for local, seasonal, organic food, (CSA)
- 3) High costs of maintenance of infrastructure (Farm:Shop)
- 4) Consumers used to artificially low food prices – not remunerative of the work of small (organic) producers



Need a systemic approach

When is this a problem?

1. When there is a personal aspiration to bring gardening beyond a hobby, recognise the importance of food production for the community and the environment, and remunerate the time dedicated to this work.
2. Stability of a projects that deliver services (fluctuation of volunteers or market limit productivity, create waste, discontinuity in services, endanger the long term life of projects
3. When the projects want to become viable and reliable alternatives /sources of local food

Food Hubs and Sustainable food systems

Different types of food hubs (i.e. veggy box schemes, CSAs, community shops, food coops)

Generally food hubs are intermediary, pooling together producers, distributors, sellers and consumers, that *add value* to the exchange of goods and promote the local supply chain (Sustain and University of Glamorgan).

Aimed at developing alternative (more healthy, sustainable and ethical) food systems

Leeds Food Hub

Discussions on the need of a Leeds food hub to coordinate production and distribution started long time ago

Idea presented in December 2012 (Workshop 2) by Caroline and Pete

Workshop: concrete ideas for a food hub, and a group of approx 10 interested people

Follow up meeting in August

Currently exploring and negotiating available land in Crossgreen

8. Sustainable food planning and Leeds food strategy

Why do we need food strategies and sustainable food planning?

70-80% population in urban areas

Cities take for granted that food will arrivedespite growing vulnerability of global agriculture and food supply systems

Food prices increase..... rising vulnerability of access to food among urban populations

Increased food poverty: 350,000 people used food banks in the last year in UK; 75,000 children in food poverty only in London; asylum seekers in chronic food poverty

Increased food-related disease (obesity, diabetes)

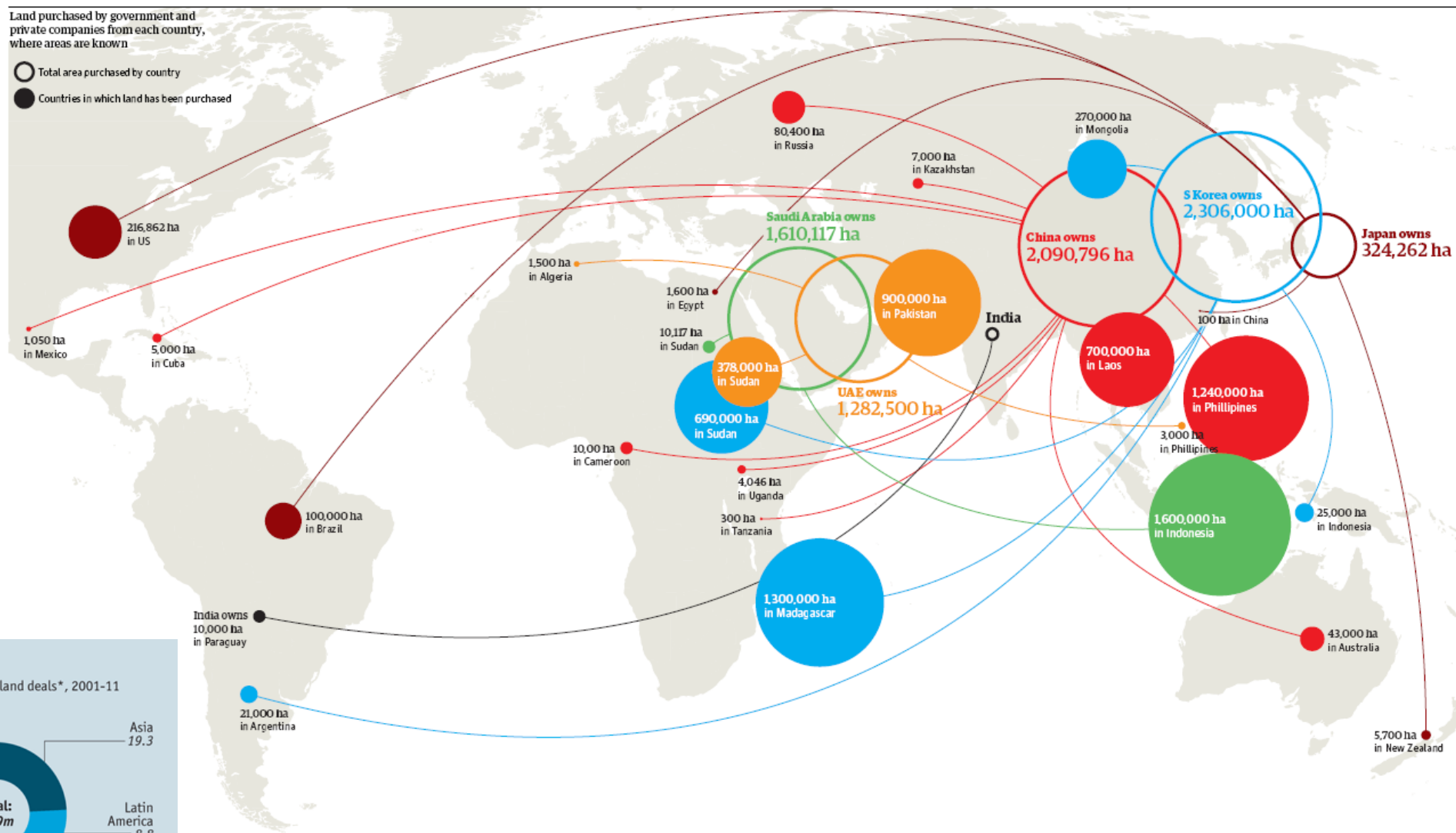
Times of crisis open opportunities. It's time to achieve urban food justice. If not now, when?

Land grabs

World land grab

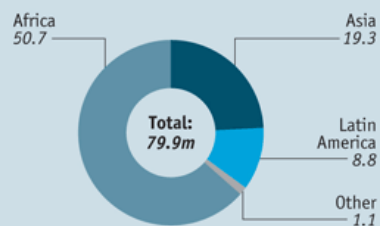
Land purchased by government and private companies from each country, where areas are known

- Total area purchased by country
- Countries in which land has been purchased



Go Africa

Total area of reported land deals*, 2001-11
Hectares, m



Source: Oxfam, CIRAD, CDE at University of Bern, International Land Coalition

* Preliminary estimate

Sources: Oxfam and Grain

What is an urban food strategy?

A *process* on how a city envisions change in the food system and how it tries to achieve it

Holistic view of the food system:

horizontal dimensions of food: health, environment, economy, cultural aspects, education...

Vertical dimensions: food growing, processing, storage, transport, retail, buying, waste...

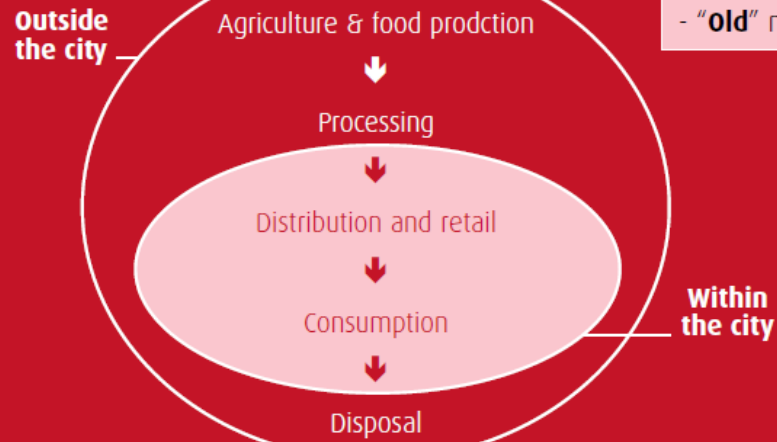
Developed by a mix of actors: politicians, policy makers, business, civil society. Bottom up or top down initiated

Written down steps: food charters, action plans or detailed food strategies



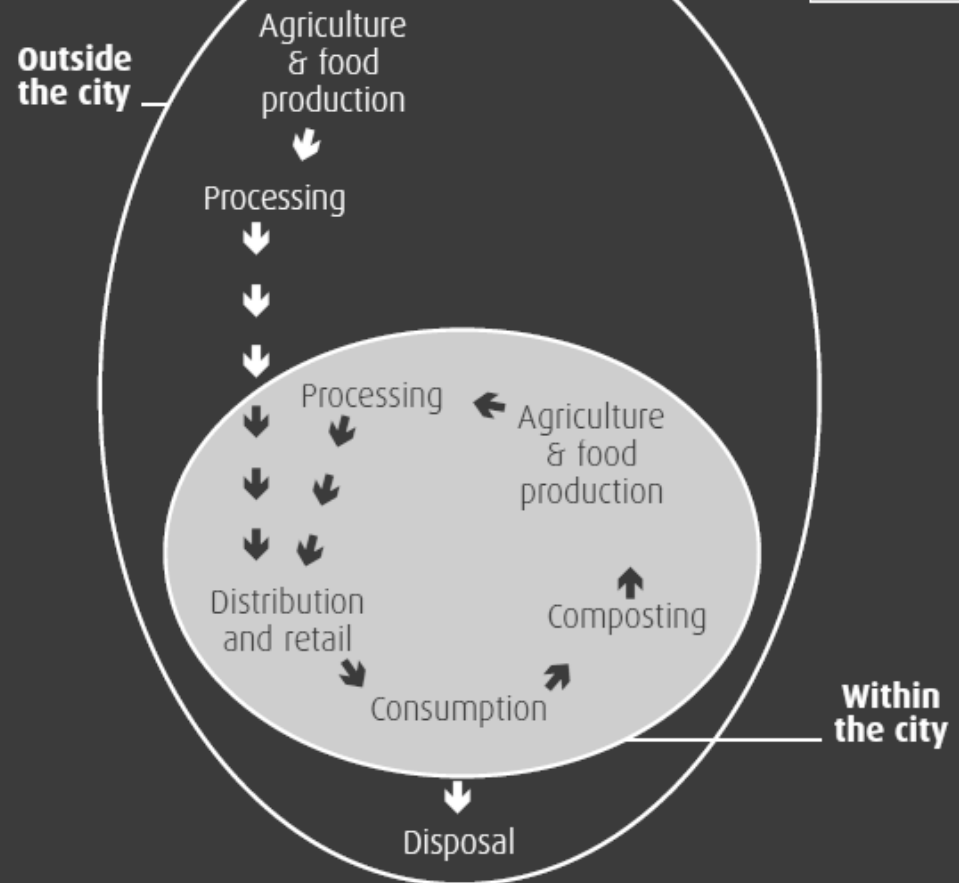
Old

Figure 1
Urban food system
- "old" model



New →

Figure 2
Urban food system
- "New" model



Targeted areas for action

Thematic fields:

Health and wellbeing (access healthy food, increase healthy diets...)

Environment and eco-footprints (access land for food growing, reduce waste, reduce greenhouse gas related to food consumption, transport and production;)

Thriving local economy, regeneration and community development (produce locally, strengthen local economy, sustain food hubs...)

Social and cultural aspects (promote local food culture, promote social cohesion through food growing...)

Food security and social justice (fairness in the whole food chain, fight food poverty, global fairtrade ...)

Learning/empowerment (bring food sovereignty, re-skill individuals in food growing and food cooking...)

How to develop a strategy

- **Map stakeholders**, clarify and understand their motivation
- Plan **participatory processes** and facilitation (restricted vs wider discussions), ensure inclusions and “ownership” of the strategy
- **Develop a governance structure** to increase resilience against political engagement and fluctuation of community engagement → great role of Food Policy Councils
- **Assess the current food system**
 - Existing food policies
 - Current food system (horizontal and vertical dimensions)
- Develop an **action plan**

Structure grid

VISION

A healthy, sustainable and fair food system for Brighton & Hove

Delivery of OUTCOMES contributes to realisation of the VISION

Outcomes

Reduce the number of people with diet related ill health	Reduce the number of people living in food poverty	Strengthen communities by engaging people in communal activities around food	Make the city economically resilient and develop skills in a vibrant and sustainable food economy	Reduce the amount of food-related waste and make waste a resource	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to the food system	Respect biodiversity and the limits of our natural resources	Ensure that food is at the heart of planning and policy work
--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--

Achieving the AIMS contributes to delivery of the OUTCOMES

Aims

AIM 1

People in Brighton & Hove eat a healthier and more sustainable diet

AIM 2

All residents have better access to nutritious, affordable, sustainable food

AIM 3

The city has a vibrant, sustainable food economy of thriving local businesses, local products and employment opportunities

AIM 4

Public organisations have healthy, ethical and environmentally responsible food procurement policies and practices

AIM 5

More food consumed in the city is grown, produced and processed locally using methods that protect biodiversity and respect environmental limits

AIM 6

Waste generated by the food system is reduced, redistributed, reused and recycled

AIM 7

Local and sustainable food is promoted and celebrated by residents and visitors

AIM 8

High-quality information, support and training on sustainable food and nutrition issues is readily available, and there are networking opportunities to encourage links between sectors

AIM 9

Local policy and planning decisions take into account food issues, and the city is engaged with national campaigns

[from Brighton & Hove Food Strategy 2012]

Example of detailed Action plan

AIM 6 Waste generated by the food system is reduced, redistributed, reused and recycled

6.1 Minimise the amount of avoidable food waste by educating, raising awareness and building networks.	
Deliver a community-based education and skills programme linked to the national initiative 'love food: hate waste' (secure funding to continue the existing scheme by May 2012).	BHCC Cityclean, BHFP
Support and promote schemes that make use of excess produce including Harvest's Scrumping Project (unwanted fruit picked and juiced) and harvest-share scheme for allotment holders.	Permaculture Trust, Allotment Federation
Extend the use of FareShare across food-processing organisations and supermarkets in the city (secure on-going funding for FareShare).	FareShare, food processing organisations, supermarkets
Supermarkets promote food waste reduction habits to shoppers.	Supermarkets
Hotels, restaurants, cafes and workplace canteens develop, implement and improve their food waste minimisation programmes.	Local cafes, restaurants and hotels
Work with schools and universities on food waste reduction programmes.	BHCC Environmental Education
Produce information and guidance on leftover food at events linked to food safety messages.	BHFP, BHCC Food Safety Team

[from Brighton & Hove Food Strategy 2012]

Food Strategy Developments

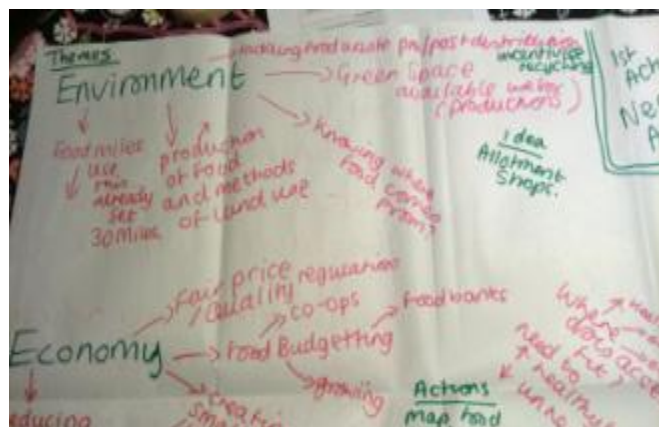
1st workshop

1. Increase environmental sustainability and food eco-footprints
2. Support local economic development through the promotion of local food production
3. Promote food education

Food Strategy Developments 2nd workshop

Outcomes of Leeds food strategy workshops 1 and 2

Principles - What we want	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sustainability - Food in Leeds will be sustainably produced and sourced within 50 miles of Leeds (could put a %) and waste will be minimised and recycled 2 Health and education - Healthy (and sustainable) eating will be encouraged by having and using a consistent message (food messages right for stage of life) to improve health 3 Economic resilience - Growing proportion of food will be produced in Leeds ("local food") 4 Justice - Decommodification of food to enable good quality food at right prices 5 Ownership of the public 	
Aims	Actions
<p>Increase environmental sustainability and local food growing</p> <p>Because it is crucial to reduce food footprints and carbon emissions and increase resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate access to land. Identify council-owned suitable land for commercial (or community) food growing and make it available • Facilitate community composting to support community food growers' needs of compost and organic fertilisers • Encourage food foraging and food swaps (stalls at farmers markets) • Local food surplus collection (by charities) and distribution • Influence Neighbourhood Design Statements and make sure they drive actions
<p>Support local economic development through the promotion of local food consumption and production</p> <p>Because it creates job and promote food security (and because short supply chains produce less waste and are more environmentally sustainable)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess capacity for growing already and link/support through the Leeds Food Hub (look for outlets for existing growers) • Encourage new food businesses alongside food growing • Use "waste" heat to factor in to help growing spaces i.e. polytunnels by crematorium • Street food, pop up shops • Encourage Asda and Morrison to develop a local food policy, and to source food locally • Change procurement policies (supply to schools and hospitals)
<p>Promote food education and public awareness around food quality and food growing</p> <p>Because it is integral to all the aims and because it is the foundation for health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote healthy eating consistently (limit take-away) • Liaise with former ALMOs to deliver estate growing/cooking classes • Promote food growing, seasonality and cooking in all Leeds schools as ordinary part of the curriculum • Training new farmers, links to local agricultural colleges and farm start project • Offer cheap compost bins to Leeds residents • Promote local food celebrations (via Education Leeds, Schools Network, Red Hall)
<p>Research needed: 1) Where is food produced and sold. 2) What is consumed. 3) What could be produced locally. 4) What campaigns/education are successfully driving behavioural (consumption) change</p>	



Conclusion