

ROME'S FOOD POLICY: striving for a sustainable, holistic & inclusive regional food system

Thematic Networking Event
16-17 October 2025



MORNING

09:30 AM - 11:00 AM

OPENING SESSION: Welcome and context setting

Moderators: Jacinthe Séguin (IURC) and Claudio Bordi (Risorse per Roma)

Lutz Koeppen, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission.
Opening remarks and introduction to EU policies related to food security

Riccardo Varone, Vice-President of ANCI Lazio (National Association of Italian Municipalities – Latium Regional Committee)

Giammarco Palmieri, President of the City of Rome's Environment Committees

Fabio Ciconte, President of the Rome Food Council

Sabrina Alfonsi, Councillor delegate from the Mayor for Agriculture, Environment and Waste Management of the City of Rome

Brief Questions & Answers

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

COFFEE BREAK**EXPLORING THE WORK OF THE FOOD COUNCIL**

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM

SESSION A – Working Groups on Local production and agroecology and Distribution and local markets

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM

SESSION B – Working Groups on Combating food poverty and Combating food waste and losses

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM

SESSION C – Building bridges between local action and global networks

12:45 PM - 13:00 PM

MORNING SESSION WRAP-UP

Jacinthe Séguin (IURC) and Claudio Bordi (Risorse per Roma)

OBJECTIVES

1

Explore how the Rome regional government arrived at the development of a comprehensive Food Policy Framework, learn how multi-level governance for implementation works, and how it integrates the role of stakeholders and innovation.

2

Share experiences, innovations and generate ideas about actionable solutions and problem-solving strategies to address challenges faced by local governments.

3

Expand networks and create direct interactions with other cities & stakeholders to hear how they implement, innovate, overcome challenges and collaborate with various groups.

Opening Session

Lutz Koeppen, European Commission

Riccardo Varone, ANCI Lazio

Giammarco Palmieri, City of Rome Environment Committee

Fabio Cicone, Rome Food Council

Sabrina Alfonso, City of Rome

IURC North America Thematic Networking event

ROME'S FOOD POLICY: Striving for a sustainable, holistic and inclusive regional food system

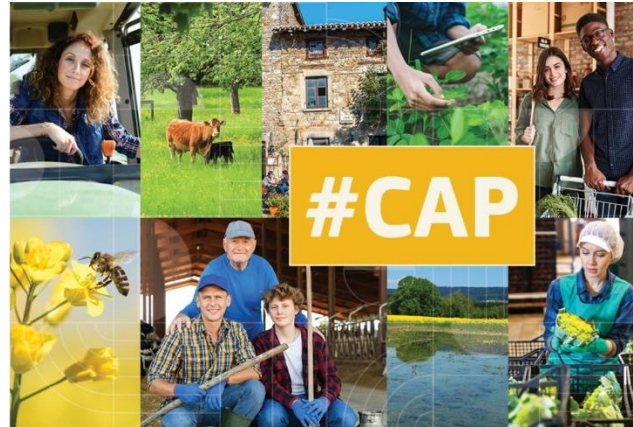
The EU's perspective

Lutz KÖPPEN – 16-17 October 2025

Rome - Sustainable urban food systems



Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)



2023 is the year when the EU's **Farm to Fork Strategy** aims to confirm policy proposals for establishing an **EU legislative framework covering sustainable food systems**. The **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** plays many instrumental roles in supporting Member States' transition to sustainable food systems. **Networking CAP** know-how in such fields offers useful added value opportunities to help determine how the CAP can be better used for its core purpose of safeguarding EU food supplies.

Food sustainability affects us all and the success of the flagship Farm to Fork initiative for **sustainable food systems** is influenced by a host of EU policy perspectives supporting agricultural production, environmental protection, and the population's general well-being. Policy approaches to the pending sustainable food system initiative are therefore being developed by a cross-section of multi-discipline expertise taking account of food systems in the 27 EU countries. Results are to lay down general policy principles and objectives, together with the requirements and responsibilities of all actors in the EU food system.

A **public consultation** provided policy makers with evidence-led insights on key points for the new EU sustainable food system initiative. This included recognition that EU food systems must become more sustainable and that greater action is needed at all levels of governance. There was strong support for a harmonised, EU-wide approach and results could rely on increased awareness through knowledge sharing to help accelerate the transition towards more sustainable food systems.

Cooperation in the area of sustainable food systems has been the subject of an earlier **Policy Insight** article, in which we drew attention to the potential of networking CAP actors using CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs) to reinforce food system resilience. CSP stakeholders continue to network with this purpose in mind and

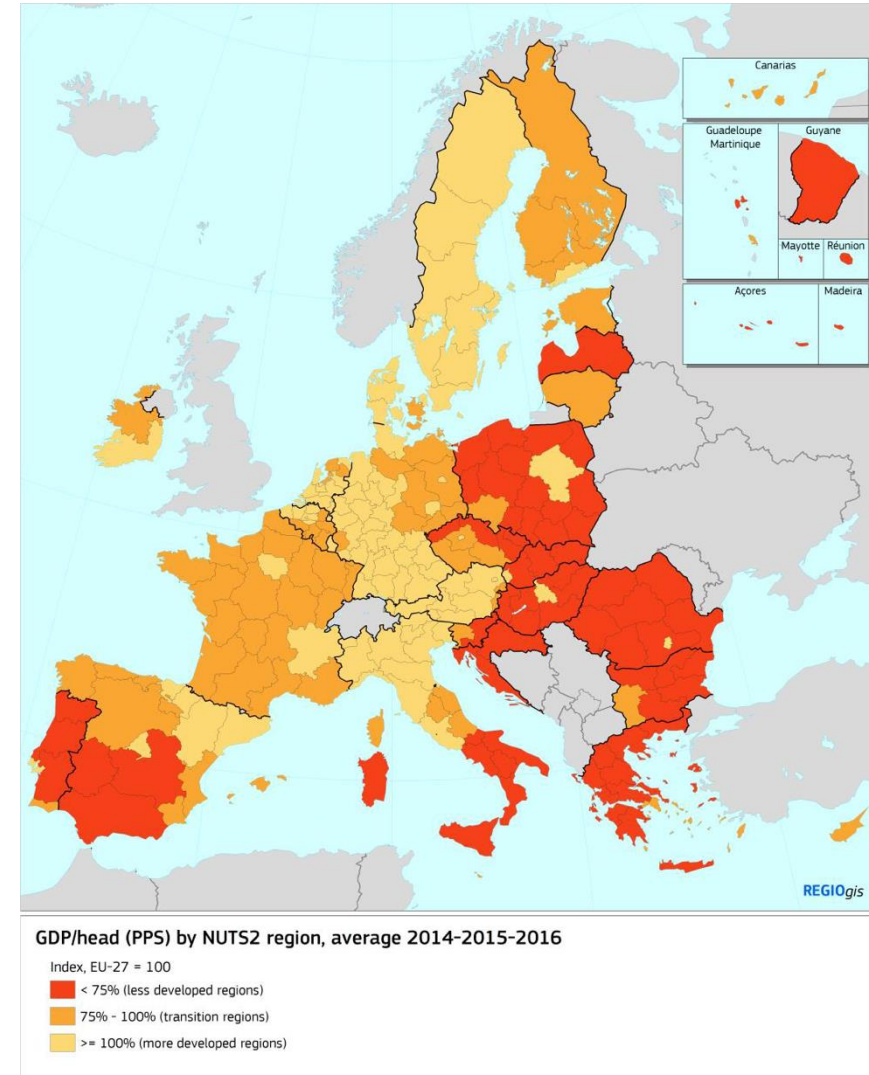
reflections from these processes help progress practical options for achieving policy objectives. The **EU CAP Network** is an increasingly active channel in this domain, helping Member States to advance with food system sustainability using the **EUR 307 billion of public expenditure that CSPs can mobilise**.

Networking EU food expertise

Member States' capacity for absorbing such sums within successful sustainable food systems is being built by a multitude of EU CAP networking activities. These regularly harvest and share best practices and expertise and pursue new approaches through **innovation focus groups**, **evaluation support**, and **thematic groups**. Sustainable food systems feature prominently across the EU CAP Network activities, namely its thematic work on related topics such as **Sustainability Agreements** within value chains to secure new commercial competitiveness and **strengthening the position of farmers in the organic food supply chain**.



Sustainable food systems and Cohesion policy



EU initiatives



Urban Agenda for the EU – Food Partnership & MUFPF

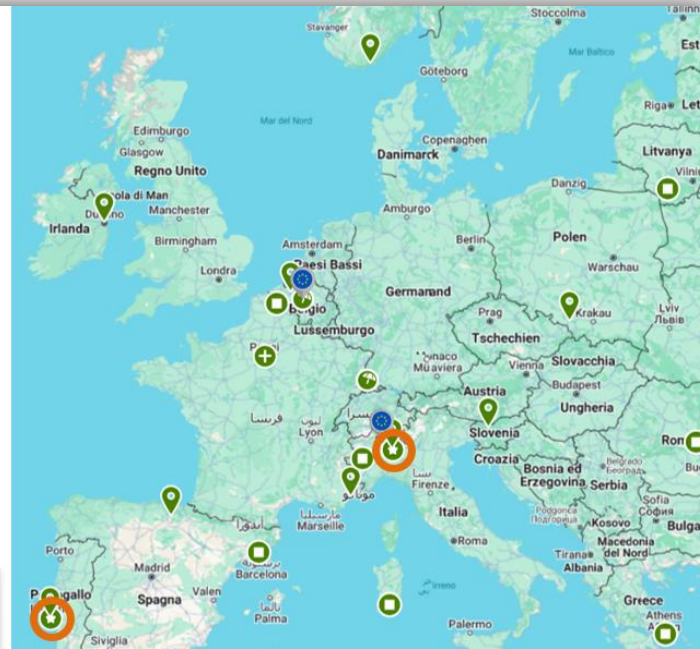
26 Members

Coordinators: City of Milan, (IT),
Lisbon Metropolitan Area (PT)
Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES), Mouans-Sartoux
(FR), Ghent (BE), Zory (PL), Kranj (SL),
Vantaa (FI), Dublin (IR), Kristiansand
(NO)

Ministry of Agriculture of Malta (MT),
French National Council for Food
Resilience (CNRA) (FR)

Eurocities, ICLEI

Ellinogermaniki Agogi (EL), University
of Barcelona (ES), AESOP Sustainable
Food Planning (IT), Brasov Metropolitan
Agency (RO), Metropolitan Area of Lille
(FR), Metropolitan area of Cagliari (IT)



For the latest updates and information,
please visit the [Food Thematic Partnership webpage](#)



Overview of the Actions

Action	Better Regulation	Better Funding	Better Knowledge
1. ADVOCACY - Advocating for an EU framework for local food policies			
2. REGULATION - Showcasing the role of regional and national actors in supporting local food policies			
3. R&D - Build bridges and synergies between local authorities and relevant regional strategies			
4. FOOD POLICY - Urban Food Policy Training			
5. LAND USE - Public Land for Local Food Policies			
6. INDICATORS - Selecting indicators for urban food systems			
7. PROCUREMENT - Promoting sustainable Public Food Procurement			



IURC Asia/Australasia & Latin America/Caribbean

IURC 25-27 EU and LAC Regions



IURC LAC Meetings on Agrifood Innovation and Industrial Modernization

Download Now Circular Economy Best Practice

Food waste reduction: Local actions & education



food Waste Reduction: Local Actions & Education

Food waste remains one of the most



Bangkok launches first food policy in cooperation with Milan and the European Union

IURC
INTERNATIONAL URBAN AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Funded by the European Union

Cluster 4: Circular Economy
City of Milan | MUFPP
The power of cities and urban food policy
Monday, 15 October
09:00 – 10:00 CET / Brussels time

www.iurc.eu info@iurc.eu



MUFPP & IURC Asia Pacific food policy training



Asia Pacific MUFPP IURC food Policy Training_Report

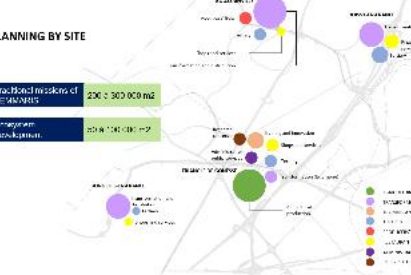


Bangkok draws food policy inspiration from Milan

PLANNING BY SITE

Traditional markets of 250-300 000 m²

Commercial districts of 250-300 000 m²



food Tech in the EU and Japan Webinar by EU-Japan Region-to-Region Innovation Cooperation

Cities Agenda for the EU



Picture generated by M365 Copilot

Thank you

Lutz KÖPPEN – REGIO. 03 – lutz.koeppen@ec.europa.eu



Session A

Production, Markets & Agroecology

Coimbra, Portugal

Nanaimo, Canada

Coimbra Region, Portugal (Pop. 438 000)

Context

- Coimbra Region places food strategy at the core of its priorities, advocating for sustainable food production systems as essential to ensuring future generations have access to safe food and healthy diets.
- The region's diverse landscape, climate, and cultural heritage—from coastal to inland areas, urban to rural—have shaped a rich gastronomic tradition rooted in local products, preservation methods, and food processing techniques.
- However, this territorial mosaic presents several challenges, including persistent urban-rural disparities in access to quality food, low consumption of local products, limited capacity of producers to meet growing demand, and environmental degradation linked to current food systems.
- Additionally, the region faces weak integration of circular economy principles in food production and low levels of professionalism and training in small-scale food circuits.

Policies and/or Plans in Place

- Coimbra Region Food Strategy 2022-2030
- Integrated Territorial Development Strategy 2021-27

Stakeholders

- Intermunicipal Strategic Council for the Development of the Coimbra Region (LEADER groups, SME's association, Regional Governmental Entities, among others)

Coimbra Region Food Strategy 2022-2030

- **Under the Action Planning Network Food Corridors financed by the URBACT III programme**, this policy instrument vision is to transform the Coimbra Region in a fully connected regional hub for sustainable food production, consumption, research and innovation and comprising the following actions: Coimbra Circular Region, Raising Awareness on Food Consumption, Framework Agreements for School Canteens with Sustainability Criteria, Regional Products Pop-up Shop, etc.
- The **Food Strategy** is managed and coordinated by Intermunicipal Executive Secretariat, and supervised by the Intermunicipal Council, which is composed by the Mayors of the 19 Municipalities that comprise the Region.
- The Strategy that was developed is a concise document defining actions to be implemented, covering the planned timings, implementation responsibilities, costings, funding sources, monitoring indicators, and risk assessment of the actions.



Nanaimo, Canada (Pop.110,500)

Context

The City of Nanaimo has been actively engaged in **food security and urban agriculture** initiatives since the early 2010s. These efforts have been driven by a combination of factors including poverty alleviation, agricultural land protection, climate resilience, waste reduction, and community health. The city aims to address food insecurity, loss of farmland, and the need for local food infrastructure and education.

Benefits for the city include **strengthened local food systems, improved public health** outcomes, **increased community resilience**, and **enhanced environmental sustainability**. Nanaimo's initiatives improve governance, promote sustainable diets, enhance social equity, support local food production, and reduce food waste.

Policies

The City Plan – **Nanaimo Reimagined, adopted in 2022, outlines strategic directions for food security under Policy Area C3.4**. This policy supports just, sustainable food systems local food production, access to healthy food, and the integration of food systems into community planning.

Additional measures include Urban Agriculture Guidelines, support for backyard chickens, edible landscaping, and composting programs. The city also supports the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and partners with organizations to operate food hubs and gleaning programs.





Stakeholders and Partnerships

Local stakeholders include Nanaimo Foodshare Society, Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank, Vancouver Island University, and the Nanaimo Community Gardens Society. Government partners include the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Island Health, and the Regional District of Nanaimo. International collaboration includes participation in the IURC-NA program, supporting knowledge exchange and innovation in urban food systems.

Leading Initiative: Beban Learning Garden & Farmers Markets

The Beban Learning Garden, operated by the Nanaimo Community Gardens Society, is a cooperative urban agriculture site located in Beban Park. It features a large greenhouse, 18 convertible planter boxes, fruit trees, berry bushes, a pollinator garden, and community gathering spaces. The garden hosts weekly work parties and educational workshops, and produces heirloom vegetable starters using organic methods. These are sold, donated to schools and community programs, or harvested by members.

Nanaimo's farmers markets play a vital role in food security. The Island Roots Market Co-op operates year-round at Beban Park, offering fresh produce, seafood, meats, baked goods, and more. It supports over 38 vendors and fosters community engagement. In 2023, it generated \$1.5 million in economic impact, \$1.01 million in direct sales, and welcomed 22,900 visitors. The seasonal Cedar Farmers Market added \$3.6 million in impact and 58,900 visits.



Session B

**Food Poverty, Access,
Food Waste
& Public Procurement**

Atlanta, United States

Umea, Sweden

Atlanta, GA, United States (Pop. ~520,000)



Context

- In 2014, City of Atlanta passed the “Urban Agriculture Ordinance” that identified urban agriculture as a permissible activity and use on residential, commercial, and industrial zones land.
- Urban Agriculture and Food Systems work formally began in 2015 when the City hired the 1st municipal Urban Agriculture Director in the USA. This position has always been in the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience.
- Beginning in 2007, several community gardens managed by community orgs, usually non-profits, in City of Atlanta Parks (approx. twenty (20) today).
- A collection growers, practitioners and on-the-ground food leaders, local & state non-profit leaders, members of academia, national, state, & local government leaders came together to do local studies that informed legislation and local policy that recognised urban agriculture as an official area of work, a movement.
- Some of the identified priorities were: (1) **agricultural production and land protection**; (2) **public education and social engagement**, and (3) **food access**.

Benefits

- Community collaboration, health & wellbeing. Atlanta’s local food system cycle offers opportunities for civic participation, youth engagement, education, awareness, community development, job creation, workforce development, and business economic development
- Climate Resilience Mitigation and Adaptation solutions. our work combats flooding, drought, heat, greenhouse gas emissions
- Increased ecological biodiversity. climate adapted food crops, native plants, and pollinator plantings create & attract diverse flora & fauna for enhanced sustainability

Specific measures, programs, or by-laws in place or in development that are supporting the city's efforts and vision

- Parks & Recreation Department Activate ATL 10-yr plan. "food/gardens/agriculture" is identified as a "Goal, Action, or Task" 30+ times
- Department of City Planning Plan A: Comprehensive Development Plan. 15 Food Systems Policies and Actions are highlighted
- MOSR Climate Resilience Action Plan. over 200 community identified recommendations for climate resilient agriculture/food systems actions

Stakeholders

- Community & neighborhood farmers and gardeners, neighborhood food stores, composters and food waste diversion organizations, controlled environment agriculture, community-led advisory & steering committees, non-profits, social enterprises, colleges and universities, city residents, visitors, and businesses
- Government. City of Atlanta (interdepartmental), Fulton County, and US. Department of Agriculture
- Local, Regional, and National stage. Georgia Composting Council, Georgia Organics, SSDN (Southeast Sustainability Directors Network), US Conference of Mayor's Food Policy Advisors Group, USDN Urban Agriculture Directors Network, Earth Fund Greening American Cities Network

2007: Community Gardens in Parks

2014: Urban Agriculture Ordinance

2015: Atlanta hires 1st Urban Agriculture Director in USA

2017: Bee City Resolution and Action Items

2018: Grows-A-Lot Program launch

2019: Urban Food Forest at Browns Mill as city park

2021: AgLanta Grown Program launch

2021 - 2025: ARPA Funding

2021: Farm Stand Ordinance

2023 - 2026: Atlanta Community Compost Grant program launches

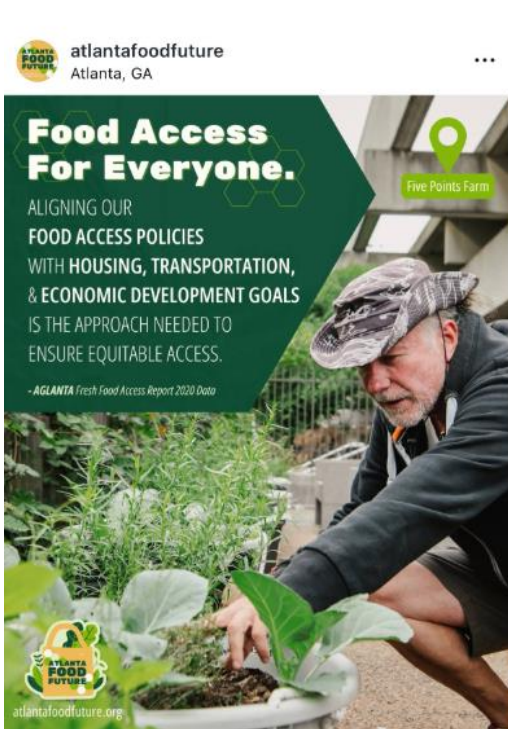
2022 - Present: Food Systems Planning

Leading initiatives

Thoughtful Partnerships for Transparent Community Engagement & Outreach

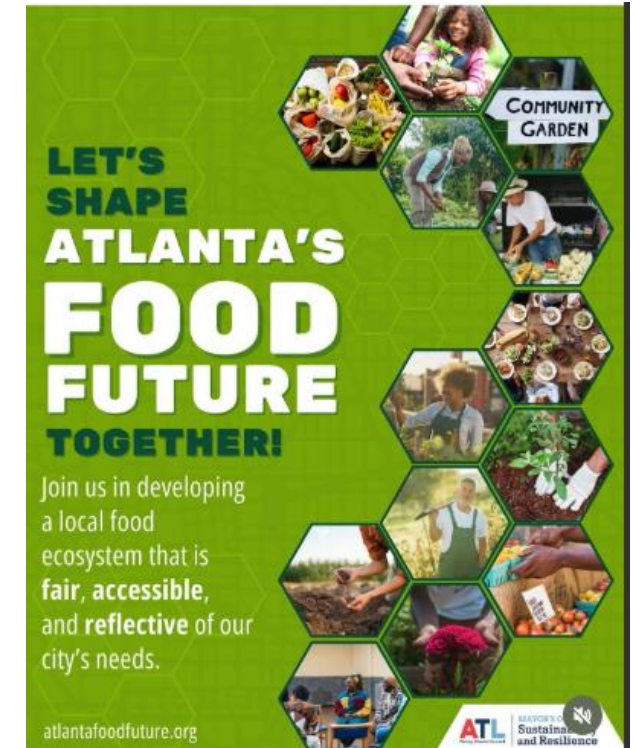
✓ Atlanta Food Future and Food Systems Steering Committee

✓ **Atlanta Food Future** and **UAFS Steering Committee** were highly collaborative projects. the project scope, design and strategy were co-developed between MOSR UAFS Team members + two (2) unique partnering consultant organisations. the consultants managed the day-to-day activities, and the UAFS Team provided support. this visible shifting of power helped create welcoming, authentic community engagement environments where participants felt they could be fully transparent & critical while they visioned the future they desired, and the currently existing realities/challenges. having a shared project plan kept everyone accountable and informed of the status of the respective project work.



✓ **Food Systems Steering Committee:** 7-month timeline, thirteen (13) Steering Committee members, external research on three (3) additional cities and their successful committee models and frameworks. Final Report complete, City UAFS Team reviewing recommendations, and creating next step plans for establishing the future food systems council.

✓ **Atlanta Food Future :** 10-month timeline, multiple Community Listening Sessions that engage a variety of populations, [City Wide Food Ecosystem Survey](#) to engage hundreds of people, Story Telling highlights from the project including photographs and highlight videos, engaging [Instagram](#) and [website](#) pages with several hundred followers. Final Report being completed, City UAFS Team will review recommendations, and create next step plans for future food systems planning & implementation.



Umeå, Sweden

Population 134 000

Goal: 50 % organic, 50% local food i public canteens

A political topic since 2015

Aim to strengthen resilience

And support local producers

Challenges:

- The geography; mostly woods
- Ageing farmers and generational changes
- Budget and inflation

School lunches:

- Hot meal free of charge!
- 1,2 Euro per portion
- Vegetarian option every day
- 500 000 meals per month
- 110 kitchens run by the municipality

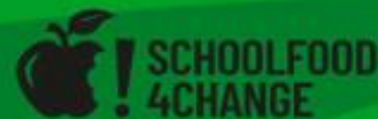


The School food 4 change project

Collaboration for a sustainable approach to food



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101018763.



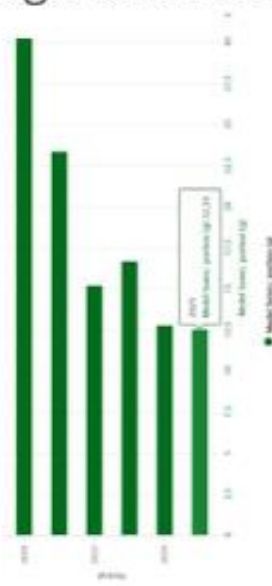
UMEÅ KOMMUN

The project aims to create a long-term transition to healthy and sustainable eating habits among children and young people by working broadly with schools and school meals. Collaboration between schools, kitchens, procurers and supporting functions is the key to success. All contribute to the overall aim through different approaches.

“What’s the point of serving healthy sustainable meals if no one wants to eat it?”
- School chef, Umeå



Nudging,
curiosity



Reduce food
waste



Knowledge about
food origin



Direct purchase of
local food



School gardens



Recipes to parents

Session C

Building Bridges between Local and Global Actions

Toronto, Canada

Albuquerque, United States

Toronto, Canada (Pop. 3,025,647)

Context

- ❑ Toronto is one of the most diverse cities in the world, with over 50% of the population born outside of Canada
- ❑ 1 in 4 households in Toronto experiences food insecurity
- ❑ Food and urban agriculture policy and initiatives are spread across divisions including Social Development, Parks and Recreation, Environment, Climate and Forestry, Toronto Public Health, Solid Waste Management, City Planning, and Economic Development and Culture
- ❑ Poverty alleviation and high rates of food insecurity
- ❑ Growing public interest in production, consumption and sale of locally grown food
- ❑ Inclusive economic development which occurs when economic opportunities and outcomes improve across Toronto's diverse population and neighbourhoods in parallel to overall growth of the city and regional economy
- ❑ Public demands to update Toronto's Food Charter
- ❑ Improved food access leads to improved health and nutrition
- ❑ Growing recognition of the health, economic, and social benefits from urban agriculture

Policies and Plans

- ✓ Toronto Food Policy Council launched in 1991/ Agricultural Program launched in 2013
- ✓ Poverty Reduction Strategy, incl. Food Access as one of six pillars
- ✓ Community Engagement and Entrepreneurial Development (CEED) Gardens
- ✓ Updating Toronto's Food Charter
- ✓ Developing a Universal School Food Program
- ✓ Community Garden Program
- ✓ Green Roof By-law
- ✓ International Commitments (eg Milan Food Policy Pact, CoolFood Pledge, C40 Cities)

Stakeholders

- Non-profit community organizations / Local residents
- Public Corporations (eg to use land in corridors with overhead power lines)
- Provincial and National Governments
- International actors

Case Study: Community Engagement and Economic Development (CEED) Gardens

Two CEED Garden sites in East Toronto operate in power line corridors: Flemo Farm operated by FoodShare Toronto, and Malvern Urban Farm operated by the Malvern Family Resource Centre

- Both sites are located in neighborhoods with elevated rates of food insecurity
- Both sites recruit farmers from the community and provide them with land and tools to grow food which they can then sell at low-cost weekly markets in their communities

Goals include:

- to create a welcoming, enjoyable, nature-focused space;
- to engage the community in growing of food;
- to increase access to affordable, healthy produce; and,
- to provide an entrepreneurial development opportunity for prospective farmers.

Key Milan Food Policy Pact Areas: Social & economic equity, food production, food supply and distribution, sustainable diets and nutrition

Approach:

- Between 2014 and 2021, a series of activities took place to assess, plan and develop the sites, incl. community consultations, soil assessment, securing necessary agreements, setting up infrastructure, and purchasing equipment
- Estimates for the assessment and start-up costs for initiative range between \$500,000-\$1,000,000 (not including operating costs).
- The costs were paid for through a combination of foundation grants, City funding, and in-kind support for project start-up and operations.

Results and Impact:

- ✓ Each season, 38,000 lbs of food are grown and distributed to local residents through markets and food banks;
- ✓ Approximately 30 community farmers are engaged in the program each season;
- ✓ 200-600 people attend weekly markets to buy affordable organic local produce;
- ✓ *The CEED gardens have successfully transformed unused outdoor space into community-driven initiatives that build skills, generate income, celebrate cultural diversity, improve food security, and contribute to a local, sustainable food system.*
- ✓ *Support for community-driven farming programs that provide employment, generate income, and reduce social isolation*



Albuquerque, U.S.; Population 560,000



Leadership: Climate Mayor Tim Keller has supported food and urban agriculture since taking office in 2018. Through governance and equity-based programming, based on strong food and urban agriculture history and network; *agua es vida* culture.

- 2019 Albuquerque Food and Agriculture Action Plan
- 2021 Albuquerque Climate Action Plan
- 2024 Sustainability Resolution
- 2025 Executive Order on Local Food

Policy/Programs: Food as a Resource; Scaling Urban Agriculture



Ann Simon

Sustainability Officer and Deputy Director
City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office
asimon@cabq.gov

Food as a Resource

Goal: Address the 112,000 tons of food waste/year by teaching the value of food, including/especially preventing food waste

- Built robust website www.cabq.gov/foodwaste, and social media.
- Over the last 3 years, reached over 2,000 community members of all ages and demographics across more than 30 events.
- Developed two pilot projects and two community compost sites.
- Integrated food loss and waste into conversations with stakeholders in urban agriculture and composting networks across Albuquerque.
- Integrating circular economy into the food system.
- Convening food summit.

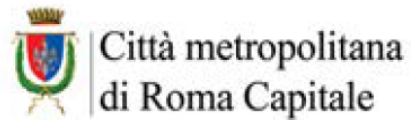
Scaling Urban Agriculture

Goal: Support new and existing community gardens and promote and connect urban agriculture networks.

- Local Agriculture Coordinator collaborates with urban ag networks.
- Awarded funds to 9 community gardens through a grant program.
- Provided technical support, compost, and mulch (1,190 cubic yards, 909 cubic meters) to over 21 school and community gardens.
- Working across departments to activate vacant lots and alleyways for urban agriculture.



Thank you!



ROME'S FOOD POLICY: striving for a sustainable, holistic & inclusive regional food system

Thematic Networking Event
16 -17 October 2025



AGENDA

AFTERNOON

13:00 PM - 13:10 PM	TRANSFER: promenade to La Cabana restaurant
13:10 PM - 14:30 PM	LUNCH AT RISTORANTE LA CABANA Via del Mancino 7 and 9, Rome (300 mt from Palazzo Valentini)
14:30 PM - 14:40 PM	TRANSFER: promenade to Palazzo Valentini, Sala Di Liegro
14:40 PM - 16:30 PM	SESSION D – International perspectives on urban food systems and role of cities • <i>Moderator:</i> Andrea Vignoli, ANCI Lazio international office director and Jacinthe Séguin (IURC) Panel presentations: • Riccardo Varone & Luca Masi, ANCI Lazio regional strategy on food DE.CO. • Antonio Ragonesi, ANCI Italia, responsible for International relations • Pierluigi Sanna, Vice-Mayor of Metropolitan Area of Rome IURC Cities: • Edwin Marty, Food Policy Manager, Office of Climate Action and Resilience, City of Austin, USA • Anna Moreso Ventura, Metropolitan Policy Analysis Specialist in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB), Spain Moderated roundtable with IURC participants short presentations
16:30 PM - 16:45 PM	TRANSFER: promenade to Mercati Traianeï
16:45 PM - 19:00 PM	GUIDED CITY VISIT: Mercati Traianeï (Trajan's Markets) EN language guided tour titled "Panem et Circenses", focused on the food habitudes of Romans during Traian's Empire and the Rome Republic

Session D

International Perspectives on Urban Food Systems and the Role of Cities

Austin, United States

AMBarcelona, Spain



The Austin Travis County Food Plan

2025



Agenda

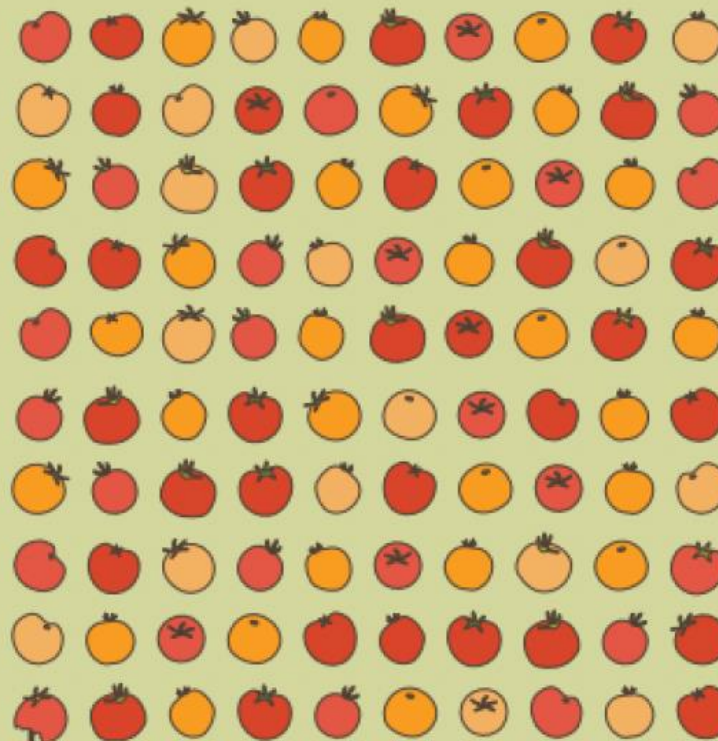
1. Background on Food Planning in Austin, Texas
2. How We Created the Austin Travis County Food Plan
3. What's in the Plan, and what's coming next
4. Questions and Answers



Background



Some Food for Thought



Approximately **0.06%** of food consumed in Travis County is locally produced

1.24 million pounds of food is wasted every day in Austin

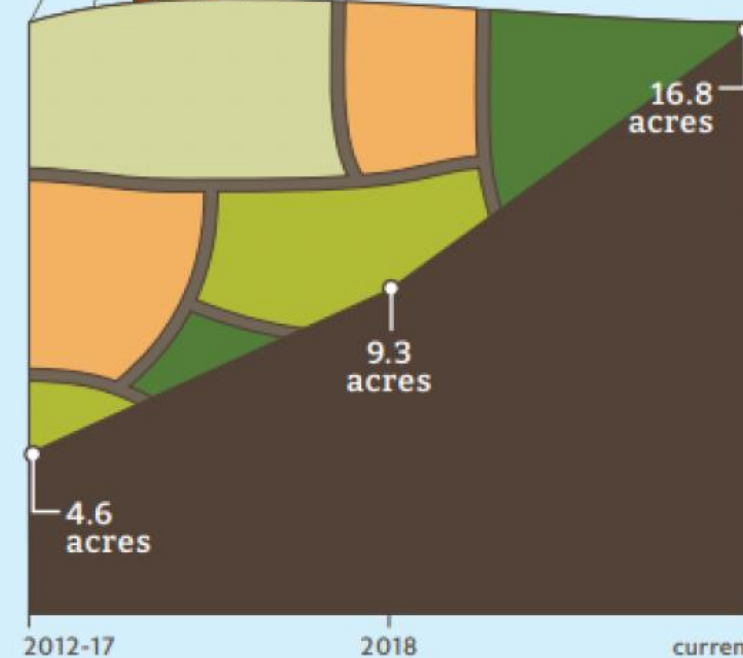
Food is responsible for **21% of all greenhouse gas emissions** created by everyone in our community



14.4% of people in Travis County experience **food insecurity**



16.8 acres of farmland are lost every day in Travis County



Some of Our Food System Challenges



Disasters and severe weather events:
Winter Storms Uri and Mara



Rapid community growth and planning for land use



Supply chain disruptions:
COVID-19 pandemic



The climate impacts of the food system



How We Co-Created the Food Plan



Origins

- In June 2021, Austin City Council directed the City Manager to initiate a planning process.
- In December 2022, Travis County Commissioners Court approved formal Travis County participation in the plan.

Why a Food Plan?

- **Sets clear goals and strategies** to move toward a more equitable, sustainable, resilient food system.
- **Builds on existing plans and initiatives** from the County, City, and community to tackle key food system issues.
- **Centers equity** and the lived expertise of those most impacted by the current food system.

Co-Creation Through Stewardship: Who Wrote the Plan and Guided the Process?

Project Team Summary



Community Engagement Data Summary

1,399

Participants were involved in the Community Advisory Committee, Community Food Ambassadors, Issue Area Group workshops and other formal food plan meetings

2,226

Additional participants are estimated to have been involved in tabling events and presentations

Demographics

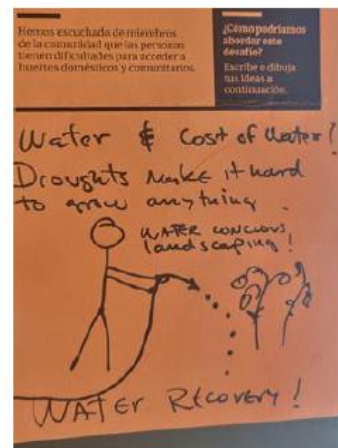
46% identified as having been directly impacted by the food system, e.g. having current or past experience of hunger, using public benefits, or struggling to meet basic needs

19% were engaged from Travis County areas outside City of Austin boundaries

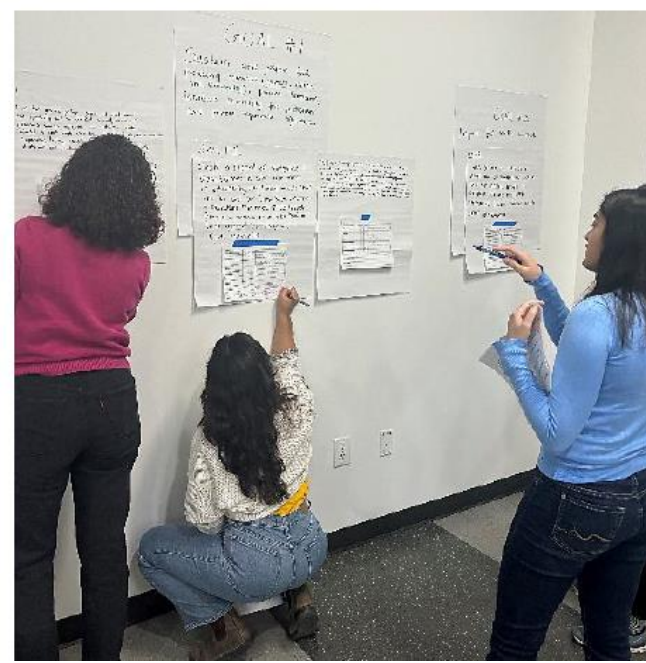
13% engaged in a language other than English



**CO-CREATION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
LISTENING SESSIONS, WORLD CAFÉS**



CO-CREATION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: TABLING ACTIVITIES & MEETING-IN-A-BOX



**CO-CREATION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
ISSUE AREA GROUP WORKSHOPS**

Some of the organizations represented in the planning process





Major Themes

Two themes emerged across all community feedback:

1

Access to food and affordability

59% of all comments
(1,647 total comments)

2

Local food production and agriculture

52% of all comments
(1,452 total comments)

Adoption



October 29th, 2024

Resolution in Support of the Plan at
Travis County Commissioners Court



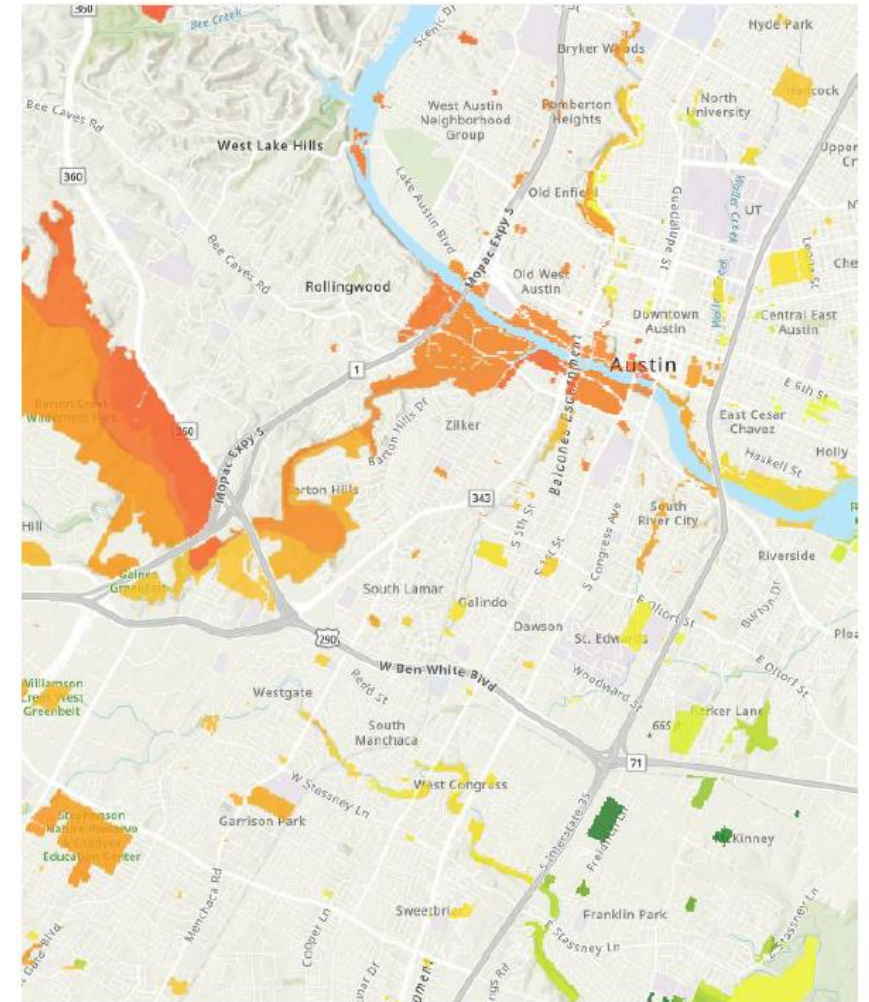
October 10th, 2024

Council Action to Adopt the Plan

Implementation of the Food Plan

- Goal One

- Urban Agriculture Initiative
 - Asset Maps
 - Urban Farmer Engagement
 - Survey
 - Focus Groups
 - UA Programs
 - Agriculturally Focused Neighborhoods
 - Agricultural Exemptions
 - Incentives
- Community Agriculture on City Parks
 - Develop John Trevino Park



Questions?



Thank you!

Visit our [website to learn more!](#)

Questions? Email sustainability@austintexas.gov

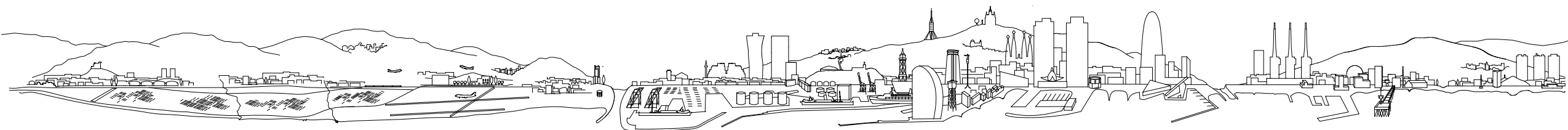


www.AustinTexas.gov/Climate

Sharing international perspectives on urban food systems and role of cities

Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)

IURC-NA event
Rome, 16 October 2025



Barcelona Metropolitan Area



A grayscale map of Europe with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area highlighted in red. The map shows the outlines of major European landmasses, including the British Isles, Scandinavia, and the Mediterranean region. The red dot is located on the northeastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula, specifically in the region of Catalonia, Spain. The text 'Barcelona Metropolitan Area' is placed to the right of the red dot.

Barcelona
Metropolitan Area

Metropolitan territory

Law 31/2010 (Catalan Parliament)

Creation of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB)

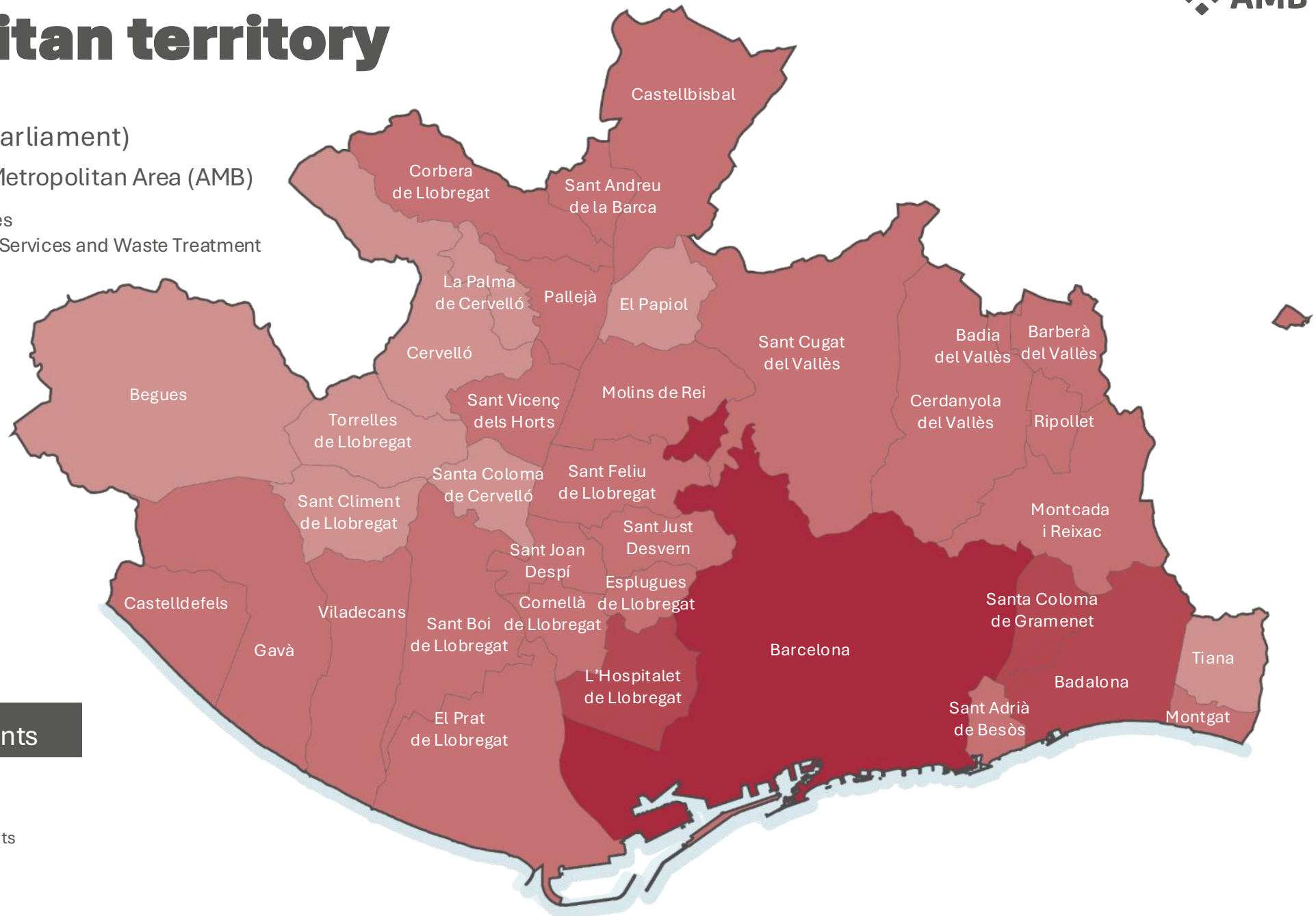
- Commonwealth of Municipalities
- Metropolitan Inst. for Hydraulic Services and Waste Treatment
- Metropolitan Transport Entity

36 municipalities

636 km²

3.35 million inhabitants

- More than 1,000,000 inhabitants
- From 100,000 to 1,000,000 inhabitants
- From 10,000 to 100,000 inhabitants
- Less than 10,000 inhabitants

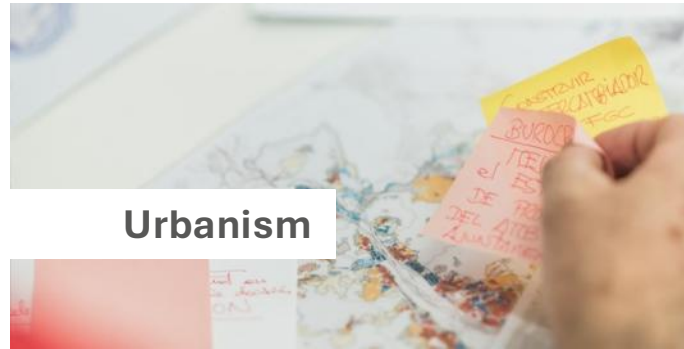


Competences

Manages metropolitan-wide services:
acts as a local government but at a supra-municipal scale – filling a critical governance gap



Territory



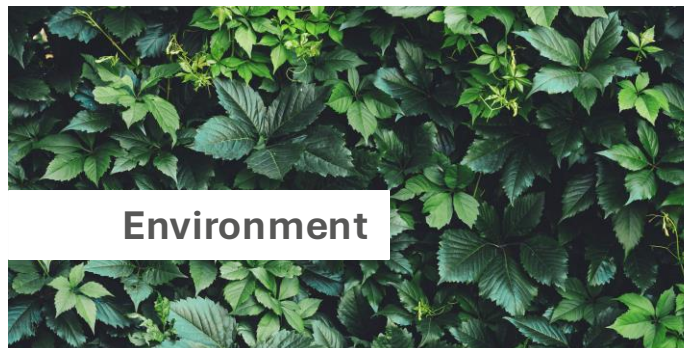
Urbanism



Housing



Mobility and transport



Environment



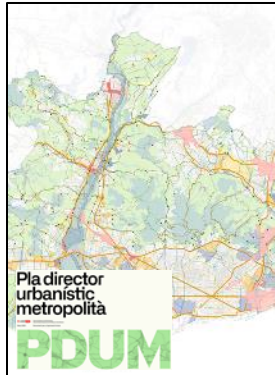
**Social and economic
development**

Innovation and digitalisation

Strategic planning

International action

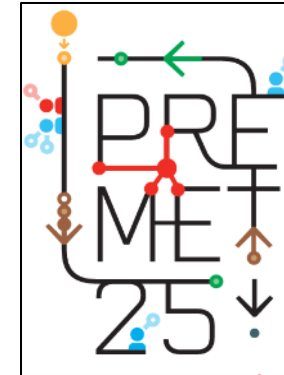
Examples of integrated strategies



Metropolitan Urban Master Plan (PDUM)



Climate and Energy Plan 2030



Metropolitan Programme for Municipal Resource and Waste Prevention and Management



Strategic Plan for the Integrated Water Cycle of the AMB



Metropolitan Urban Mobility Plan 2025-30 (PMMU)



Metropolitan Food Policy Action Plan (PAAS)



Environmental criteria for AMB and IMPISOL projects and works



Resilience Strategy (draft)

Why does the AMB have a food policy?

The relevance of food in urban management

TERRITORIAL PLANNING

The AMB is home to **42%** of the Catalan population but covers just **2%** of the territory (6% being agricultural land)

Through urban planning, the AMB works to preserve the metropolitan agricultural area and fertile land.

Data source: AMB



ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

The food system contributes significantly to GDP and employment.

Sectors involved: agriculture, agrifood industry, distribution, hotel and catering, tourism.

GLOBAL NATURE OF FOOD SYSTEM

- Interconnection of the global food system
- Nodal infrastructures and logistics areas: Mercabarna, port, airport
- Guaranteed supply and export of our agrifood sector
- The food self-sufficiency rate in Catalonia for 2024 was estimated at: **49%**.

Data source: Catalonia Food Strategy (EAC) 2025-2028, Catalan Government.

FOOD INFLATION

Basic household food and drink budgets have increased significantly:

up by more than **88%** since 2016.

Data source: Metropolitan reference wage, AMB



Why does the AMB have a food policy?

The relevance of food in urban management

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES: Climate change, biodiversity loss, degradation of fertile soil

The global food system generates between **21 %** and **37 %** of greenhouse gases.

The food system is one of the causes but is also directly affected by its consequences (e.g. drought, pests, floods).

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION MODEL

Sustainable farming models (including integrated and organic agricultural farming) account for **17.3 %** of Catalan agricultural land.

In the livestock sector, **5.7 %** of farms are organic.

Data source: Catalonia Food Strategy (EAC) 2025-2028, Catalan Government.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The presence of agricultural farming areas strengthens ecosystem services (such as water cycle, temperatures, biodiversity, forest management and heritage).

SOCIAL COHESION

Food poverty affects the most vulnerable sectors of society. **6,2%** of the Catalan population cannot afford to eat meat or fish at least once every 2 days (in 2019, the rate was 4 %).

Data source: Survey on Living Conditions (ECV), 2024

FOOD LOSSES AND WASTE

In Catalonia, **40%** of the food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted every year.

On average, a Catalan household wastes **64** kilos of food every year.

Data source: Catalan Government (DARPA)

HEALTH

In Catalonia, **52%** of the adult population (aged 18-74) are overweight or obese.

Data source: Catalonia Food Strategy (EAC) 2025-2028, Catalan Government.



HERITATGE

Gastronomy, cultural heritage, landscape, traditional varieties and indigenous breeds, festive practices and recreation, closely linked to the food system, provide value in terms of heritage and culture.

Policy framework and key targets for sustainable food



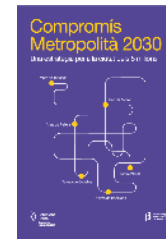
Oct. 2015
Milan Urban Food
Policy Pact

July 2021
AMB adhesion

Oct. 2020
AMB adhesion



Feb. 2021
Metropolitan Food Policy
Action Plan
2020-2023 [AMB]



Des. 2023
Compromís Metropolità
2030 [PEMB]



July 2024
Metropolitan Action
Plan 2024-2027

April 2025
Metropolitan Food Policy
Action Plan
2025-2027 [AMB]



2021
Barcelona, World Capital
of Sustainable Food



**Pla Estratègic de l'Alimentació
de Catalunya 2021-2026**
L'acció de l'alimentació sostenible



Des. 2020
Catalan Food Strategy
Plan 2021-2026
[Catalan Government]



2023
Establishment of the
Joint Office for
Sustainable Food
[Catalan Government,
BCN city council,
PEMB]

2025
Catalunya, World Region
of Gastronomy



Jan. 2025
Catalan Food
Strategy Plan 2025-
2028
[Catalan
Government]



Jan. 2025
National Food Strategy
[Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food]

In progress
Catalan Food Law

Strategic plan for
the prevention of
food waste in
Catalonia
[DARPA]

Scope and main features

A planning tool to identify, coordinate and reinforce planned AMB strategic actions with a clear impact on the metropolitan food system.



[AMB website](#)

- Drafted and monitored by the Area for Water Cycle and Analysis of Metropolitan Policies with the participation of all AMB areas.
- Main planned AMB actions impacting on the metropolitan food system.
- Dynamic process, open to the inclusion of new initiatives and opportunities.
- The funding for implementing the planned actions (more than €7 million) comes from various sources:
 - Regular AMB area budgets.
 - Specific funding for strategic projects.
 - Collaborations with other government authorities and public and private organisations.

Objectives



OBJECTIVES

- 1 Consolidating cross-cutting and multilevel governance in public food policy
- 2 Promoting knowledge, awareness and training for sustainable food
- 3 Integrating sustainable food into spatial and urban planning
- 4 Ensuring access to healthy and equitable food for all citizens
- 5 Promoting activities that strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the food system



The Plan structures these 5 objectives into

5 strategic pillars & 28 lines of action

that reflect the diversity and cross-cutting nature of food policy in the metropolitan area.

5 strategic pillars

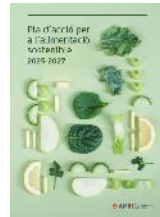


Pillar 1

Consolidating cross-cutting and multilevel governance in public food policy

1.1

Draw up the **new Sustainable Food Action Plan 2025-2027** and redefine the cross-cutting task force for its **implementation and monitoring**



1.2

Follow and promote commitments related to the **Barcelona Metropolitan Region Food Charter**



1.3

Participate in governance of the **Milan Pact** and contribute to involving metropolitan municipalities



1.4

Maintain **links and collaborate** with the various government authorities that promote, shape and provide leadership for food policies



1.5

Monitor **AMB subsidies and grants** to municipalities and organisations to develop food system-related policies and activities

2022-23 subsidies for the promotion of sustainable food-related economic activities

- €350,000
- Recovery and improvement of agricultural production and associated heritage; support and promotion of local production.

Metrop. Plan to Support Municipal Social Policies 2024-2027

- €30 million
- Social vulnerability & emergency support, innovation, unique projects

1.6

Promote **participation in European projects and city networks** in actions related to the governance of food policies



1.7

Develop and implement the **FoodCLIC project**



- Coordinate and drive different actions in Sant Cosme (El Prat de Llobregat) and Fondo (Santa Coloma de Gramenet): neighbourhood kitchen, consumer group, community learning space, connection with local producers, agro-ecological community, solidarity restaurant (La Ciba).
- Organise discussion forums.

5 strategic pillars



Pillar 2

Promoting knowledge, awareness and training for sustainable food

2.1

Promote and set up the **Barcelona Metropolitan Food System Observatory**

2.2

Conduct **studies to characterise** various aspects of the food system

- Healthy and sustainable food environments
- Characterisation of the agricultural area using the multi-criteria tool
- Analysis of key aspects for the planning and management of the Baix Llobregat agricultural area
- Analysis and proposals for renaturing and restoring degraded areas
- Analysis of new instruments for the protection and management of open spaces

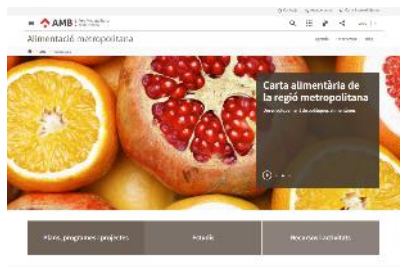
2.3

Ensure promotion and publicity for **innovative experiences** in the metropolitan food system associated with **European projects or other initiatives**

· New ways to recover municipal waste	Life Infusion	TOP SEC
· Innovative solutions for the water cycle	i-ReWater	
· Preservation, improvement and planning of metropolitan green infrastructure	Commit2 Green	Nutrisoil
· Innovative solutions for sustainable mobility	Urbane	
	AgroForAdapt	

2.4

Update and mantain the **AMB website food policy section**



2.5

Provide support and publicity for **sustainable food initiatives** in the metropolitan territory



2.6

Define and develop resources and activities to **raise awareness and train** citizens and the educational community about the food system



2.7

Train and sensitise AMB staff about food system-related issues

- Water cycle
- Waste management
- Food use
- Healthy and sustainable food



5 strategic pillars

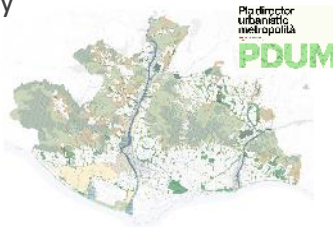
Pillar 3

Integrating sustainable food into spatial and urban planning



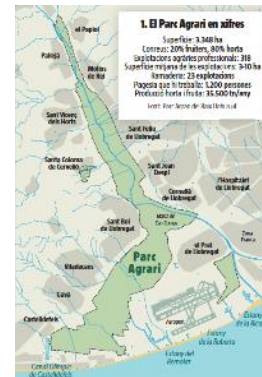
3.1

Ensure, through **urban planning**, the preservation of **fertile land**, the improvement of the **ecosystem services** provided by the agricultural area and **proper relations with the city**



3.2

Ensure the **integration of urban, agricultural and environmental planning** in the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park



3.3

Enhance metropolitan open spaces through actions resulting from urban planning and green infrastructure and ecological restoration strategies

- Improving river spaces
- Recovering degraded areas
- Integrating infrastructure into the metropolitan landscape
- Improving connectivity
- Application of nature-based solutions to cities

Action Programme in Natural and Urban Landscapes (PSG 2025-27)

- €27 million
- Call for applications pending

3.4

Identify and monitor **water cycle infrastructures** with an impact on the food system

- Reclaimed water Distribution network
- Update to the Alternative Water Resources Usage Master Plan
- Improved treatment at the St. Feliu water reclamation plant (WF)
- Increasing peak capacity at the El Prat WRP
- New Besòs WRP and Besòs-Llobregat connection branch [agreement between the AMB and the Catalan Water Agency (ACA)]



3.5

Identify and monitor **waste management infrastructures** with an impact on the food system

- Expansion of packaging sorting plants (Gavà and Montcada i Reixac)
- New plants: treatment of plant waste and biowaste
- Expansion of composting plant treatment capacity (Sant Cugat)
- Obtaining an eco-label for compost



5 strategic pillars

Pillar 4

Ensuring access to healthy and equitable food for all citizens



4.1

Continue to promote and monitor **the Metropolitan Social Board food guarantee actions**

- Space for dialogue in regular working sessions
- Sharing experiences, knowledge and municipal projects
- Dialogue with the Directorate General for Social Services (Catalan Government): Implementation of the Spanish Ministry's Basic Programme (e-wallet cards)



4.2

Reforçar els projectes relacionats amb l'alimentació en el marc del **Pla metropolità de suport a les polítiques socials municipals**

Programme

for the promotion of community well-being and social cohesion

2024: Corbera, Sant Joan Despí i Viladecans

Programme

for the strategic development of talent and employability, economic stimulation and territorial innovation

2025-2027: date for applications closed (30 June 2025)

4.3

Influence aspects of **public procurement**

- Integration of the new regulatory framework on public food procurement with the AMB

4.4

Boost specific actions to **promote healthy and sustainable diets**



GAUTTECA
Calcula l'impacte ambiental de la teua recepta
introdueix els plats de la recepta, el nombre de persones i el mes en què s'aprovisiona i
continuarà, seleccionant els aliments que millorin.



5 strategic pillars



Pillar 5

Promoting activities that strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the food system

5.1

Promote and support **sustainable agricultural activity** in the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park and in the Collserola and Marina Range agro-forestry areas



5.2

Promote and support **community garden and production projects in parks and metropolitan environments**



5.3

Promote and support projects related to **short distribution and commercialisation channels**



5.4

Promote and support **food waste and loss-related** projects

· Municipal Action Plan for Food Loss and Waste Prevention (Espigoladors Foundation)



· Collaboration with the Foodback project, Centre d'Aprofitament Alimentari (Mercabarna)



5.5

Promote and support the **greening of the urban goods distribution fleet** in the metropolitan area



Pla metropolità de mobilitat urbana 2025-2030



Monitoring



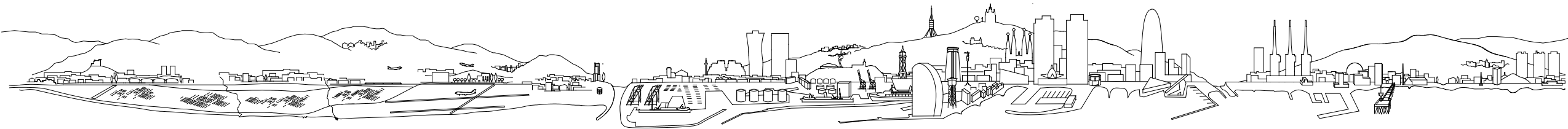
- **Technical Monitoring Committee:** body responsible for monitoring the Plan.
- The members are **10 experts** from different AMB areas.
- It will meet on a **regular** basis and **monitor, drive and ensure the implementation** of actions.
- It will be able to propose the **inclusion of new projects and actions** impacting on the metropolitan food system to the area directorates.
- It will issue **annual monitoring reports** on the implementation of the Plan and a **final report at the end** of the Plan period.



Gràcies!

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Anna Moreso amoreso@amb.cat

www.amb.cat



AMB



Àrea Metropolitana
de Barcelona

Session D

International Perspectives on Urban Food Systems and the Role of Cities

Group 1
land use, community gardens, urban agriculture
and organic waste management

Pittsburgh
St. John's
Sofia

Pittsburgh, United States (Pop. 308 000)



Context

- Pennsylvania and Southwest PA are agricultural strongholds, but development and consolidation of farming threaten local, small-scale farms. Pittsburgh has many urban growers, but small lot areas limit the quantity of food that can be grown within city limits, and farmers face barriers to long-term land access.
- Pittsburgh has numerous farmers markets, but financial viability is a challenge, especially since the pandemic. High prices limit these markets' ability to increase access for low-income residents.
- Many neighborhoods do not have a grocery store, and many residents depend on public transit, mobile markets, or catching a ride to access food. Food insecurity is increasing from an already alarming rate, especially in Pittsburgh's BIPOC communities, but retail efforts in food apartheid communities have struggled to succeed.

Policy and Plans in Place

- The Adopt-A-Lot program offers temporary land access agreements on city-owned vacant lots for use as food, rain, or flower gardens.
- The City tracks the use of the Adopt-A-Lot program for urban agriculture, has outlined Healthy Food Priority Areas, and is working on a Comprehensive Plan.

Stakeholders

- Pittsburgh has a robust nonprofit community that monitors indicators. Examples include the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, Grow PGH, and multiple foundations.
- Local Universities
- Various level of government agencies are involved in work around food policy including Allegheny County Conservation District, US Dept. of Health and Human Services US Dept. of Agriculture.

Food Access : Vacant Lots Food Production & Equitable Food System

Greenways Expansion Planning

The City is seeking input on the potential expansion of city greenways to reflect how the community envisions these new green spaces should be utilized including orchard and community gardens.

The Food Justice Fund

The purpose of the Food Justice Fund (FJF) is to increase public investment in a just, equitable, and sustainable food system that supports Pittsburgh neighborhoods, our local economy, and the environment. The FJF was established by City Council in July 2023 in response to community advocates with the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council organizing to build food sovereignty and end food apartheid in their neighborhoods.

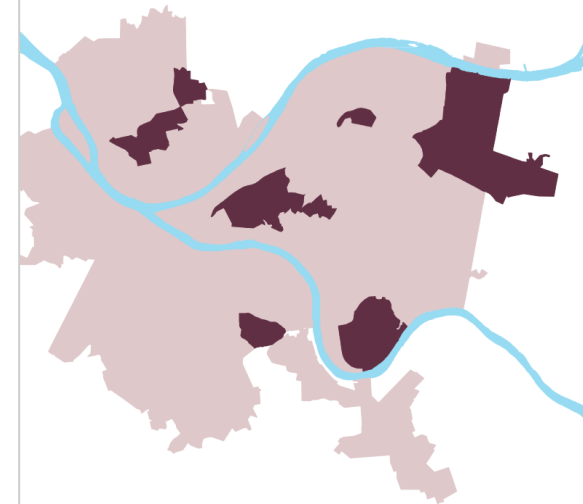
The FJF aims to support grassroot creative efforts by increasing opportunities to grow, learn about, and eat healthy, affordable, and culturally-relevant foods. Funding selections will prioritize projects serving City of Pittsburgh communities of higher need, with strong connections to the communities they serve.

2024 round :\$1.1Millions to 4 programs

2025 round :The FJF will distribute a total of \$1.5 million in grants of up to \$75,000 each for projects serving city residents that increase food security and/or strengthen the food system



Together, we can build a resilient food system
to ensure that every resident is food secure,
both now and into the future.



FOOD JUSTICE FUND

GRASSROOTS GRANTS PROGRAM
VIRTUAL INFO SESSION #3
THURSDAY, APRIL 3
3 PM

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON APRIL 14TH FOR THE
FOOD JUSTICE FUND GRASSROOTS GRANTS PROGRAM



St. John's, Canada (Pop. 110,000)

Context

- ❑ St. John's has approached food poverty and food-waste reduction through a mix of policy alignment, community partnerships, service supports, and waste-diversion measures.
- ❑ The City identifies food issues both as a social equity concern (healthy, accessible food for residents) and a resilience/climate issue (reducing food waste, strengthening local food systems).
- ❑ By combining the Healthy City Strategy's social wellbeing lens with the Resilient St. John's climate and transition pathways, the municipality creates space for interventions that simultaneously reduce food insecurity, cut emissions, and capture economic opportunity from diverted food (compost, anaerobic digestion, social enterprises).

Approach & Policy

The Resilient St. John's Climate Plan, adopted by Council in 2022, embeds food security as a resilience objective — recommending actions to improve local food availability, protect agricultural and natural assets, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from wasted food. The plan also advances examining food-waste flows to find “food-waste-to-value” innovations (e.g., local diversion, composting, reuse pathways) ([link](#)).

The Healthy City Strategy explicitly prioritizes equitable access to services and community wellbeing — creating a policy platform for food security actions, cross-sector collaboration, and an advisory committee to guide implementation ([link](#)).

St. John's Initiatives & Challenges

Initiatives

- **Community partnerships and space for anti-poverty work:** The City provided municipal support and space partnerships (e.g., leasing partnerships at 77 Charter Ave) to local non-profits focused on food and poverty reduction (Food First NL, Stella's Circle), enabling hub-style service delivery and program coordination.
- **Local food access & community gardens:** Planning documents and the municipal plan encourage provisions for community gardens and neighbourhood food access points—measures that increase local produce availability and strengthen social inclusion. This includes a community garden at the [New H.G.R Mews Community Centre](#), as well as the re-envisioning of a Conservatory into a community garden.
- **Waste diversion & organics:** The City's waste and sustainability programming has prioritized organics diversion (backyard composting supports, curbside/collection options, and municipal guidance), plus ongoing exploration of neighbourhood-level community composting on city-owned land as part of a circular resource approach.
- **Innovation in circular economy:** [The Project Zero Circular Economy Incubator](#), developed in partnership by econext and St. John's, provides a six-month free accelerator program for early-stage ventures in Newfoundland & Labrador, helping them develop circular-economy solutions (e.g. waste diversion, resource reuse), through workshops, mentorship, and business plan support.

- O'Brien Farm serves as an **agricultural incubator** through its *New Found Farmers* program, giving new-entrant farmers access to land, mentorship, equipment and supports to help them grow local food and start up farming enterprises.

Challenges & Opportunities

- As an island, scaling edible-food recovery is an under developed opportunity, versus composting so more surplus food reaches people in need before diversion to organics.
- Scale and geography presents challenges for collection of organics (to compost or waste-to-energy) to support waste diversion.
- Building local food-waste-to-value infrastructure (community compost hubs, small-scale processors) identified as a growth and resilience opportunity in the Climate Plan. No underground natural gas infrastructure limits financially viable options.
- The City relies on partnerships with community organizations, provincial health actors, and local social enterprises to deliver front-line food supports and to pilot innovative reuse/diversion programs.
- Recent growth of aeroponic/vertica-growth startups may bring innovative opportunities to help address food supply chain vulnerabilities.

Sofia, Bulgaria (Pop. 1.3 mln)

Reducing food waste and losses

- Population of 1.3 million citizens.
- 40% of Bulgaria's GDP generated in the city.
- 24 districts with diverse built environment & socio-economic profiles.

One of the main waste generators in Sofia is the business, including commercial establishments, food service venues, hospitals, and veterinary clinics. Engaging these entities to understand their legal and environmental responsibilities is a crucial challenge for the municipality in achieving sustainable and circular economy development.

We are in the process of building a **bulky waste treatment facility and renovation waste**, which will include a repair shop. In between, the municipality is considering initiatives to address bulky waste generated by households, which often consists of objects and materials suitable for repair and/or reuse.

Leading Initiatives in Sofia

For the sustainable management of biodegradable waste in low-density areas, we have successfully implemented the **'Compost at Home'** program. Through this initiative, we have distributed over 20,000 composters to households, enabling them to convert food and garden waste into compost directly at the source. This approach eliminates additional municipal costs associated with biodegradable waste treatment.

In the central areas of the city, characterized by a high concentration of restaurants, cafes, and small grocery stores, **we developed a food waste collection system.** This system involves providing specialized containers that are serviced on a schedule. The collected food waste is then transported to our **Municipal Plant for Biological Treatment**, where it undergoes anaerobic digestion to produce **biogas**. This biogas is subsequently converted into electricity, covering the operational needs of the plant and the rest is sold to generate revenue for the municipality.



Session D

International Perspectives on Urban Food Systems and the Role of Cities

Group 2

School initiatives, food waste reduction,
community engagement, education and composting

San Francisco

Bergamo

Braga

Granada

GZM

San Francisco, United States (Pop. 827,000)



Context

- Food related policies and programs have been operational in San Francisco since the early 2000s
- Drivers included:
 - Waste reduction and resource recovery management i.e., Zero Waste
 - Greenhouse gas emissions reduction
 - Food donations
 - Food sovereignty

Benefits

- Striving towards Zero Waste and Climate Goals
- Positive Environmental and Health Impacts

Policies and/or Plans

- Senate Bill 1383 – Short Lived Climate Pollutants Law
- Mandatory Edible Food Recovery Law
- Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance
- San Francisco Climate Action Plan

Stakeholders

- City Departments
- Businesses
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Community based organizations
- Schools
- Service Providers

Edible Food Recovery Program

Governance

- State: Senate Bill 1383 – Short Lived Climate Pollutants Law – adopted in 2020
- Local: Mandatory Edible Food Recovery Law adopted in 2024
- SF Climate Action Plan & Zero Waste Targets updated in 2019 and currently being revised

Approach

- **Outreach and Education** to food generators and food recovery organizations
- Supported the edible food recovery infrastructure for over 20 years
- Awarded grant funding from the State since 2019 to date, approx. \$2.8M
- Grant funding has provided education and technical assistance helping fund partnerships between generators and food recovery organizations (coordination, transportation, and distribution)

Results

In 2024, donated 6,635,633 pounds of food compared to 2023 when 4,263,188 pounds of food was donated.



Sustainable Food Procurement

Sustainable Diets and Nutrition

- Local Directive: 2009 “Healthy and Sustainable Food for San Francisco
- Local: Food Purchases at SF Hospitals and Jails adopts the Good Food Purchasing Standards and sets baseline targets. The policy has been updated as of September 2025.
- SF Climate Action Plan & Zero Waste Targets updated in 2019 and currently being revised
- The Good Food Purchasing Program

Approach

- Incorporated Good Food Purchasing Standards into San Francisco 2021 Climate Action Plan setting baseline goal of 20% carbon and water footprint reductions in food purchasing.
- Hospitals also incorporated the following actions:
 - Review and revision of menus;
 - Implementation of Meatless Mondays;
 - Eliminate use of disposable water bottles; and
 - Optimize material recovery systems.

Results

- Currently, the two hospitals have reduced their carbon and water footprints by 13% and 15%
 - Meal preparation has reduced from about 780 meals per day to 400 meals per day
 - Participation in the San Francisco Edible Food Recovery Program

Bergamo, Italy (Pop. 122,000)

Context

2015: The Agriculture Council (2019: Food Policy Council)

- Issues:
 - ✓ healthy, nutritious and sustainable food for all citizens;
 - ✓ food education;
 - ✓ fighting food waste and redistributing food surpluses throughout the supply chain;
 - ✓ creating partnerships for the development of local agri-food production.
- Benefits: awareness on the complexity of the local food system and its current functioning; support to local agriculture and producers; long-term impacts on health and environment.

Policies/Plans in Place

- “**Bergamo food policy Manifesto**” (2023) identifies the guidelines for the city food policy.
- The new **Land Use Plan** (2025): Creation of a "green belt" surrounding the City, with 800.000 square meters of agricultural areas.

Stakeholders

- Local partners (Chamber of Commerce, University, Centro Studi Valle Imagna, Bio-district, Food-District, Slow Food, Municipal Botanical Garden, cooks and chefs, catering institutes, municipalities)
- Production chain and operators in the food and wine sector (Coldiretti, Confagricoltura, local produce cooperatives, consortia, farms, dairies and restaurants)

Leading Initiative: 'THE GOOD CANTEEN' – European Food Trails Project

Green Menu: new school menus with vegetable proposals (whole cereals, legumes, vegetables) and reduction of animal proteins and educational activities aimed at students, teachers and parents.

- Increasing of local food products in the school canteens;
- Raising awareness of climate change issues and importance of the ecological food footprint;
- Spreads knowledge of food production, with particular reference to the path of food (how it is produced, where it comes from, seasonality) and the importance of plant and agronomic biodiversity.
- From 2024 Gastronomies, bars and restaurants in Bergamo join the Green Menu, guaranteeing at least one totally vegetable dish for each course. One of the criteria to obtain the Green Menu logo is promoting local products.
- Main actors: local producers, schools, school canteens provider (since 2024: gastronomies, bars and restaurants).
- Beneficiaries: students + teachers (since 2024: citizens + tourists).



SUPPLIER NAME	PRODUCTION SITE	DISTANCE FROM BERGAMO	FOOD CATEGORY
Azienda Agricola Ridibio	Calvenzano (BG)	29.8 km	Courgettes
Biplano Coop. Sociale	Urgnano (BG)	10.6 km	Cabbage
Aretè Coop. Sociale	Torre Boldone (BG)	4.9 km	Pumpkin
Azienda Agricola Avicenna	Fontanella (BG)	40.3 km	Salad
Coop Soc. Ca' al del Mans	Serina (BG)	30.3 km	Type depending on seasonality
Molino Nicoli SpA	Costa di Mezzate (BG)	15.3 km	Cauliflower
Caseificio Villa	Erbusco (BS)	33.4 km	Fennel
Forno Abati	Alzano L. (BG)	8.8 km	Leak
Marvit Srl	Bedizzole (BS)	71.7 km	Carrots
Soc. Agricola Melavi	Ponte Valtellina (SO)	124 km	Cornflour
			Mozzarella chunks
			Ricotta
			Crescenza soft cheese
			Bread
			Whole grain bread
			Breadcrumbs
			Fresh eggs
			Apples

5500 MEALS PER DAY

50 SCHOOL CLASSES

> 1000 STUDENTS INVOLVED

Braga, Portugal, Pop. ~ 203 519 (INE 2024)



Context

Start of initiatives: Urban food policies and agriculture-related efforts began to intensify in **2016** with the creation of the **Gabinete de Apoio ao Agricultor** and further developed through the **Quinta Pedagógica de Braga**.

Key drivers:	Key challenges:	Benefits for the city:
○ Food waste reduction ○ Promotion of healthy and sustainable diets ○ Valorization of local and seasonal products ○ Environmental education ○ Urban and social agriculture	○ Raising food literacy ○ Promoting sustainable consumption ○ Combating rural desertification	○ Increased citizen engagement with food systems ○ Healthier lifestyles ○ Environmental sustainability ○ Reinforcement of local identity and traditions

Policies and/or Plans in Place

- **Carta para a Alimentação Saudável e Sustentável (2ª edição – 2024)**
Focused on local food, healthy eating, and food waste prevention, created with community engagement and shared across schools and institutions.
- **Rede de Hortas Urbanas**
Over 4,700 participants across school, community, and social gardens.
- **Local Markets & Short Food Chains**
Municipal support for the **Feira de Produtos Biológicos**, **Mercado Municipal**, and the **PROVE** basket delivery network.

Stakeholders

Local Partners:

- Quinta Pedagógica de Braga
- ATAHCA (Associação de Desenvolvimento das Terras Altas do Homem, Cávado e Ave)
- Schools, Juntas de Freguesia, local farmers

Regional/National Support: Funded by **PDR 2020, DGADR**

Leading Initiative

Carta para Alimentação Saudável e Sustentável (2ª edição – 2024)

Topic: Food Waste Prevention and Healthy, Local Diets

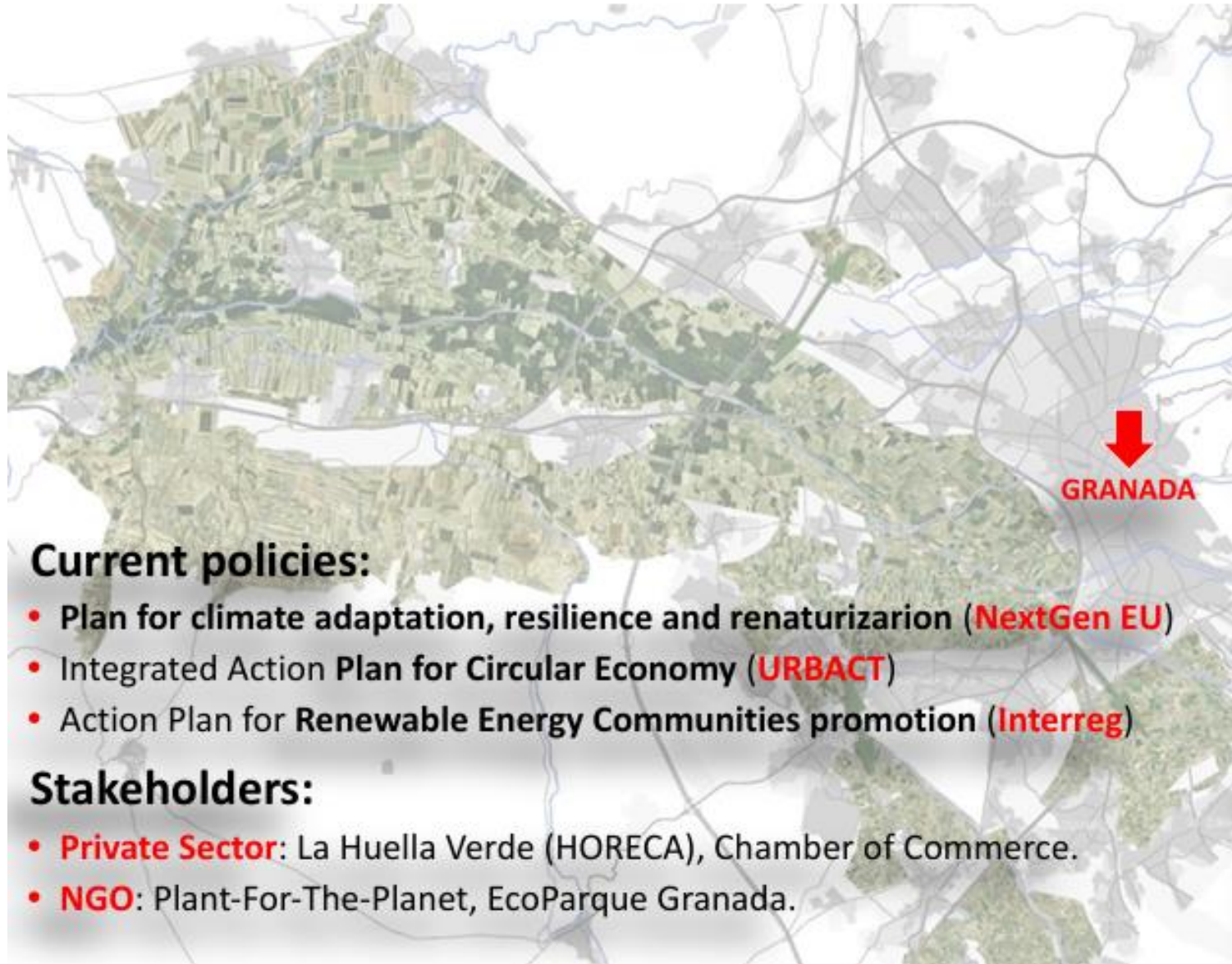
Approach

- Built on the success of the 1st edition, this updated document:
 - Promotes **local, seasonal, and sustainable foods**
 - Includes **educational content**, recipes, and strategies to reduce food waste
 - Features recipes by **Chef Fábio Bernardino** using local produce
 - Integrates into schools, municipal events, and family education

Results & Statistics

- Distributed to **200+ schools and institutions**
- Engaged **over 6,000 students** through activities in 2024
- Integrated into **Semana Europeia da Prevenção de Resíduos**
- Reached local media and European sustainability networks
- 500 printed copies + **QR code for digital access**
- Food waste chapter included **recipes from "Cávado com Sabor" project**

Granada (Spain) - 232.717 inhabitants



Context:

- **METROPOLITAN AREA:** 550.000 inhabitants and 41 towns.
- **LA VEGA:** fertile grounds of Genil river. Metropolitan common productive area.
- **URBAN SPRAWL** risks in 1980s.
- **PROTECTION** enforced by La Vega Special Plan and Territorial Masterplan POTAUG (1997-2000).
- **37% of Granada** city territory is protected and historically productive (tobacco, vegetables, ship sails...).
- **SHORT FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS** began 2010s (University and civil society).
- **URBAN FARMING:** Municipality support in public spaces.

Current policies:

- Plan for climate adaptation, resilience and renaturization (**NextGen EU**)
- Integrated Action Plan for Circular Economy (**URBACT**)
- Action Plan for Renewable Energy Communities promotion (**Interreg**)

Stakeholders:

- **Private Sector:** La Huella Verde (HORECA), Chamber of Commerce.
- **NGO:** Plant-For-The-Planet, EcoParque Granada.

Objectives:

- **REGREENING**
- **IMPROVE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**
- **CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT**

Granada Leisure Gardens Network

- **Lead Institution:** Granada City Council - Citizens Participation and Social Policies Departments
- **Launch:** Ongoing program with regulatory framework established 2017
- **Target Group:** Citizens over 55 years old, pensioners and retirees
- **Model:** Free concession of municipal leisure gardens for active aging
- **Legal Framework:** Municipal Ordinance (BOP nº 191 - Oct 6, 2017)
- **Objective:** Provide contact with nature and healthy food production for elderly
- **Multi-site:** Parque de las Alquerías, Quinta Alegre Palace, School for Autism center
- **Response:** Applications doubled in recent years, showing strong community interest
- **Education:** School visits organized to gardens for children's learning
- **Key Achievement:** Municipal-led initiative successfully addresses social inclusion and food access for vulnerable populations while establishing replicable governance model recognized by regional and academic institutions.



Granada Regreening Strategy:

Connecting Vega with Urban Neighborhoods

Community Engagement & Results

- **Strategic Innovation:** Integrated approach linking climate resilience (flood management), food production capacity (urban gardens in green ring), air quality improvement, and community building through participatory planting across all neighborhoods.
- **Partnership Model:** Municipality + UGR + NGOs
- **Community Ownership** promotion at district level

Initiatives overview

1. Granada Respira Project (€5M - EU Biodiversity Foundation)

- 100.000 m² urban transformation: Flood-Control Park + Urban Forest + North Green Corridor
- Bird habitat creation + Climate-adapted species selection + New and innovative public spaces

2. Anillo Verde (Green Ring): 800 hectares perimeter forest belt (50-year plan)

- Function: CO₂ sink, acoustic barrier, air quality improvement, new urban gardens
- Transforms city edge into green sound barrier and connects through ecological corridors

3. PREU (Programa de Renaturalización de Espacios Urbanos): Urban Renaturation Program

- Neighborhood-by-neighborhood popular planting (~600 trees + 350 participants per year)
- Training: Pre-planting education by La Huella Verde + Plant-for-the-Planet Foundation



Other Citizen Initiatives

Grassroots community initiatives

"Donde Comen Los Monstruos" School Canteen

- **Founded:** 2014, Realejo neighborhood
- **Led by:** Parents from José Hurtado School
- **Model:** Self-managed community canteen (40 capacity)
Daily fresh meals from local, organic products + Educational farm visits & food sovereignty training
- **Local sourcing:** Valle de Lecrín, Vega, Guadix
- **Funding:** €110/month per diner, self-financed

Hortigas Agroecological Cooperative

- **Founded:** 2004 in Dúrcal (20+ years)
- **Members:** 100+ across multiple Consumer Groups
- **Governance:** Horizontal, assembly-based
- **Model:** Traditional techniques + Agroecological innovation + High biodiversity: wide crop variety
- **Funding:** Self-financed, NO institutional subsidies
Part of Spanish CSA network (75+ cooperatives)
- **Knowledge hub:** International exchanges

GZM Metropolis, Poland (Pop 2,1 mln)



Context

- GZM is an association of 41 municipalities in the southern region of Poland (Silesia)
- Combating food poverty/ Reducing food waste and losses
- Procurement for collective and school catering / Restaurants and Canteens
- The Metropolis's task is to support cities and municipalities in adapting to climate change.
- One of the problems identified is food waste. Municipalities can have a significant impact on reducing food waste in educational institutions.

APPROACH

We have initiated a dialogue with cities to diagnose the problem and find common solutions.

This will enable municipalities to:

- ✓ improve the quality of food in schools and kindergartens,
 - ✓ reduce food waste,
 - ✓ obtain economic benefits,
 - ✓ reduce the negative impact on climate change.
-
- We started talking about food policy with municipalities this year as Metropolia. It seems that the main motivation for cities to stop food waste is to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste in the municipal waste stream.
 - The national Waste Act requires municipalities to reduce landfill waste and achieve specific ambitious recycling targets. We cooperate by sharing best practices with other cities in Poland (f.e. Kraków, Wrocław) that have already introduced food policies, as well as with the GRUNT Food Strategy Institute from Warszawa.


Friday 17th October
OBJECTIVE

To explore food system initiatives & innovations and meet local leaders

09:00 AM - 09:30 AM

TRANSFER: private shuttle from hotel to Cooperativa Garibaldi

09:30 AM - 12:00 PM

FIELD VISIT: Agricultural social integrated cooperative Giuseppe Garibaldi

Objective: Understand how an agriculture operation delivers social benefits beyond food production. The "Garibaldi" cooperative, which is a farm and not a therapeutic center, is an habilitation company, promotes an individualized habilitation plan based on the use of cognitive-behavioral techniques and directly inscribed in paths that are appropriate to be defined as "professionalizing."

- Introductory presentation by Andrea Messori (Proxima, regional resource centre for autism)
- Facilities to visit: productive area, photovoltaic green house, agritourism (hosting facilities), community garden, mobile delivery device (apecar), bees corner, trattoria (restaurant)

12:00 PM - 13:30 PM

LUNCH at the Cooperative Garibaldi's Trattoria Articolo 14

14:00 PM - 15:30 PM

DISCOVERY PROMENADE THROUGH ORTO COMMUNITY GARDEN

Objective: Understand the development and organisation of one Urban Community Garden, created thanks to the recovery of an agricultural area in the outskirts of Rome that had been illegally used as a landfill and that has been regenerated and redeveloped through the European project ENPI SidigMed.

15:30 PM - 16:30 PM

IURC GROUP MEETING AND EVENT WRAP-UP

Objective: Roundtable exchange, moderated by Jacinthe Séguin What stood out for participants from the meetings and field visits

- What are some transferable lessons from some of the initiatives and engagement observed in Rome-Lazio
- Sharing experiences/solutions about what has worked in other jurisdictions & what are key knowledge sources
- Answer survey, next steps and closure

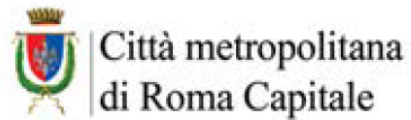
16:45 PM - 17:45 PM

FOOD & NETWORKING: Communitarian OrtoAperitif organized by ANCI LAZIO

18:00 PM - 18:30 PM

TRANSFER: private shuttle from Community Garden Orto to Hotel

Thank you!





Food Partnership



26 Members

Coordinators: City of Milan, (IT),
Lisbon Metropolitan Area (PT)

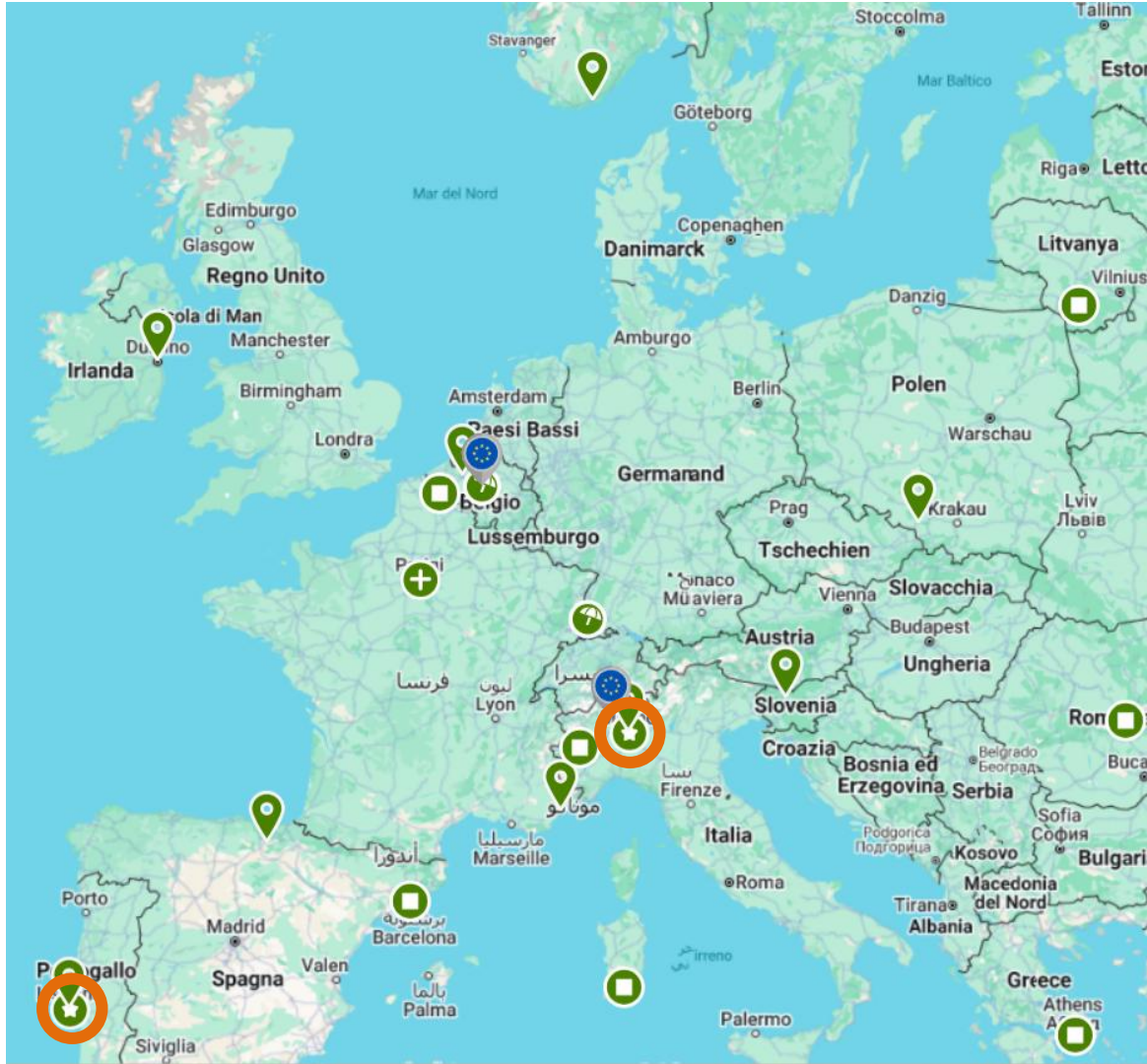
Vitoria-Gasteiz (ES), Mouans-Sartoux
(FR), Ghent (BE), Zory (PL), Kranj (SL),
Vantaa (FI), Dublin (IR), Kristiansand
(NO)

Ministry of Agriculture of Malta (MT),
French National Council for Food
Resilience (CNRA) (FR)

Eurocities, ICLEI

Ellinogermaniki Agogi (EL), University
of Barcelona (ES), AESOP Sustainable
Food Planning (IT), Brasov Metropolitan
Agency (RO), Metropolitan Area of Lille
(FR), Metropolitan area of Cagliari (IT)

DG REGIO, DG SANTE, DG RTD, DG
AGRI, DG MARE, JRC



The Thematic Partnership on Food



"Our main objective is to foster coordination and collaboration among partners and food-related initiatives, leveraging their combined efforts to drive transformative changes in food systems and position cities as catalysts for this change"



Orientation Paper August 2024



Draft Action Plan April 2025



Final Action Plan September 2025



Preparatory
Phase

Call and
Selection Phase

PARTNERSHIP
OFFICIAL LAUNCH

January 2024

DEVELOPMENT of the ACTION PLAN

Phase 1: Orientation

Initial brainstorming on topics and challenges/problems using EAA as a starting point

Phase 2:
Stocktaking

Phase 3: Selecting Actions
and Drafting the Action Plan

Phase 4:
Feedback

IMPLEMENTATION of the ACTION PLAN

ACTION 1
ACTION 2
ACTION 3
ACTION 4

MONITORING &
EVALUATION

Constellation of Integrated actions

The Food Action Plan comprises **seven complementary actions** aimed at driving food systems transformation through a systemic approach, with a strong focus on cities as key leaders in this process.

Action Plan Poster



Overview of the Actions



Action	Better Regulation	Better Funding	Better Knowledge
1. ADVOCACY - Advocating for an EU framework for local food policies			
2. REGULATION - Showcasing the role of regional and national actors in supporting local food policies			
3. R&D - Build bridges and synergies between local authorities and relevant regional strategies			
4. FOOD POLICY - Urban Food Policy Training			
5. LAND USE - Public Land for Local Food Policies			
6. INDICATORS - Selecting indicators for urban food systems			
7. PROCUREMENT - Promoting sustainable Public Food Procurement			



1. ADVOCACY



Advocating for an EU framework for local food policies

Advocating for an EU framework for local food policies, by formulating policy recommendations based on the Partnership's work across the different actions and collecting views and feedback from EU cities

Lack of EU commitment to an integrated Food Policy that ensures cross-sectoral and multi-level policy coherence from the EU down to the local level



Policy statement



Policy paper with recommendations

**100%
Better Regulation**

2. REGULATION



Showcasing the role of regional and national actors in supporting local food policies

A synthesis of inspiring models highlighting how regional and national frameworks (can) operate for collaborative governance, capacity building, and networking of local food policies

Limited understanding of the role of intermediate levels, such as regional or national actors, networks, and policy framework in contributing to the food system change agenda



Updated report

Comparative Analysis of Existing Urban Food Policies

60%

Better Knowledge



Guidelines and recommendations

40%

Better Regulation

3. R&D



Building bridges between local authorities and relevant regional strategies

Assessing the role of local authorities in relevant regional programs with a food system connection, and their potential involvement in shaping future strategies to build resilient food systems

Although place-based approaches stress the importance of coordinated multi-level governance, in practice local governments have a very low profile in S3 and other relevant regional programs



Case studies selection & training materials

40%
Better Knowledge



Recommendations for regional/local authorities

40%
Better Regulation

20%
Better Funding

4. FOOD POLICY



Urban Food Policy Training



Creating online and in-person training on how to set up, implement and monitor local food strategies.

Raise awareness of food policies to inspire cities across the EU to actively develop local food strategies



Training modules and materials

60%
Better Knowledge



Handbook and recommendations

30%
Better Funding

10%
Better Regulation

5. PUBLIC LAND



Public land for local food policies

Creating an Interest Group on Public Land and use of such land for food sovereignty, health of soils and agriculture

Lack of good practices sharing;
Disappearing farms and farmers;
Low knowledge on the opportunities offered by public agricultural land



Webinars



Inspiring practices repository

60%
Better Knowledge

30%
Better Funding

10%
Better Regulation



Selecting indicators for urban food systems

Identifying few common indicators to monitor urban food systems that can be widely used to track progress and compare conditions and trends across EU cities

Lack of a standard framework to assess urban food systems and their sustainability dimensions



Selection of indicators

80%

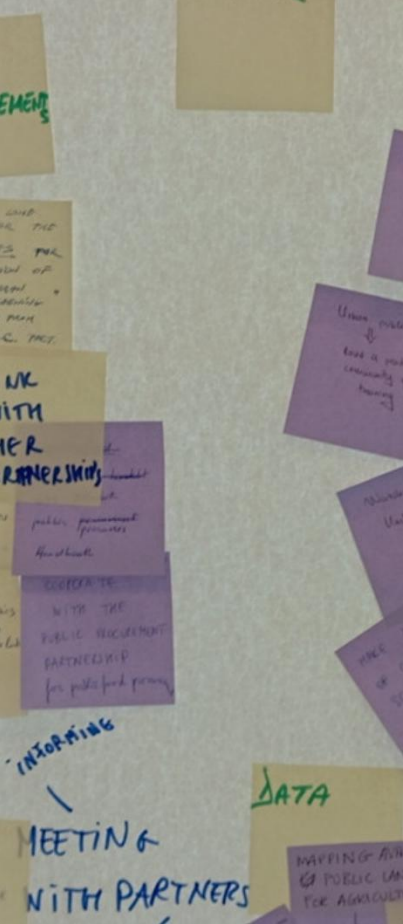
Better Knowledge



Position paper with recommendations

20%

Better Funding



7. PROCUREMENT



Promoting Sustainable Food Procurement

Drafting a position paper that includes key data, strong arguments, best practices, and recommendations from cities perspective

Public food procurement is still an undervalued policy lever for food systems transformation that needs to be harnessed through better legislation



Training materials



Position paper

70%
Better Regulation

15%
Better Knowledge

15%
Better Funding

Upcoming initiatives



In-person training on indicators for urban food systems – 19 November, Barcelona

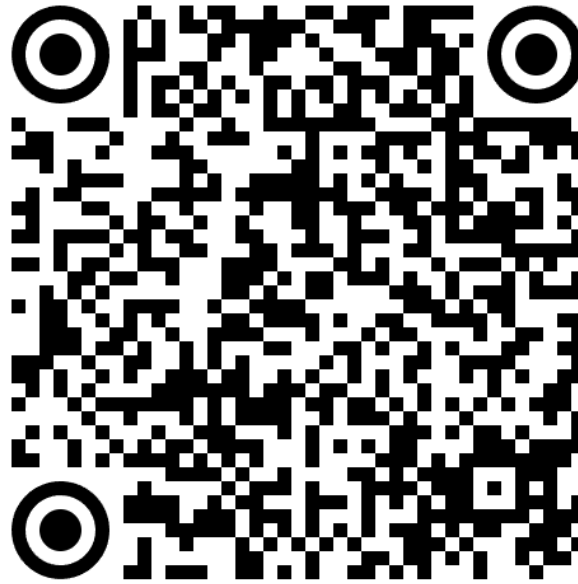


Policy statement advocating for a role for cities in EU food systems, publication ahead of the EU Food dialogue & Agrifood days (December 2025)





For the latest updates and information,
please visit the [Food Thematic Partnership webpage](#)





Thank you!

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