



Food Partnerships & the Climate Emergency: Thinking Global, Acting Local

WORKSHOP PLAN: 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES

Tackling climate with food; how to leverage your locality.

Intro: We will explore how cities and towns can leverage food systems to shift towards more regenerative local food systems and cultures. In doing so we will explore a series of questions as a group; drawing on case studies and established tools for inspiration.

10.30 (15 minutes)

Introduce session and facilitators.

Introduce the workshop and the underlying theme: the need to take a systems approach to food and climate change. Discuss different food systems maps including linear diagrams, circular mapping and the sustainable food city (Lancaster) model. Within this intro, give a 5 minute context for this session. This could include covering the following:

Climate change is a complex topic, with its causes and effects being completely interlinked with a range of social and environmental justice issues. These will be explored in this session around the topic of food, but to set the scene:

We currently work and live within an economic system that does not acknowledge its place within ecological systems. It therefore does not internalise external costs of products such as food; resulting in the pillaging of natural resources and landscape degradation and unsustainable practices that both contribute to and make us vulnerable to climate change. This environmental degradation has social consequences: hardship (famine, poor health and wellbeing, conflict etc), resulting in the migration of humans and other species; leading to further conflicts and further landscape degradation, displacement and poverty etc. This is a degenerative cycle and is relevant to our current industrial food system which Feedback argues is the cause of the biggest human impact on the planet.

It is argued in many arenas that our current food system (although we have much to be thankful for) is broken. Corporate monopolies, land grabs, human rights abuses, poverty along the supply chain, declining biodiversity, insect apocalypse, modern slavery, deforestation, soil degradation, factory farms, water pollution, obesity

epidemic are all the symptoms. In regards to climate change food is responsible for around 30% of our green house gas emissions.

[The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has calculated that, globally, agriculture generates 30% of total man-made emissions of greenhouse gases, including half of methane emissions and more than half of the emissions of nitrous oxide.

In the EU, over 30% of the greenhouse gases from consumer purchases come from the food and drink sector. Latest conservative estimates from the [Food Climate Research Network](#) in the UK suggest that almost one-fifth of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions are associated with our food and drink.]

As such a systems problem needs a systems solution- with the complexity of the issue being explored to identify key leverage points for shifting change to more resilient and regenerative food cultures and a zero carbon society.

When it comes to discussing the climate emergency and strategies for transitioning to zero carbon societies, food is very often left out of the discussion. This absence is perhaps reflected in their being no central person/ department responsible for all aspects of food in government. And yet food is completely connected to a number of key agendas: health and wellbeing, landscape management and restoration, urban planning, distribution networks and transport, resilient local and global economies, community cohesion and resilience, poverty, mitigating and adapting to climate change...) Cross-department approaches is therefore key to tackling the issue of both food and climate change.

[Project Drawdown](#) – a piece of research that presents 100 solutions that we have today to help drawdown atmospheric carbon to levels we need. Of the top 20 (most impactful) solutions to address climate change, eight relate directly to food: reduce food waste, shift to plant-rich diets, implement silvopasture, regenerative agriculture, tropical staple trees, conservation agriculture, tree inter-cropping and managed grazing. It is therefore essential that food is incorporated into Lancaster's (and other cities) climate strategies.

Thankfully a network of stakeholders are establishing themselves across the country to bring this holistic overview and plug gaps; developing and trialling strategies for creating resilient, sustainable and fair food systems that also support the transition to lower carbon economies. The sustainable food cities network is one example of a great platform from which local authorities can collaborate with local partnerships to ensure that food is not missed from zero carbon strategies, and is in fact addressed in a holistic and forward thinking way.

If you leave with anything from this session, let it be three key actions:

- Utilise local expertise and resources: seek out local sustainable food partnerships and other key stakeholders and create a platform for them to feed into a working group that develops and implements holistic climate strategies.
- Map out, with your working group (in your locality), your **unique** local food system and identify how this both contributes to and is vulnerable to climate

change.

- Identify your leverage points (minimum effort for maximum output), for shifting change in your locality to more regenerative food cultures that support us in transitioning to a zero carbon society.

We will use this session to practically explore how you might go about doing the 2nd and 3rd point.

Forming groups: stand up sit down activity- used to form groups.

- *Policy*
- *Local authority worker*
- *Community food worker*
- *Research*
- *Business*

10.45 (30 minutes)

Break out groups discuss food systems maps (one per table) and the following questions. (Need one facilitator per break out group to facilitate discussion, offer prompts and ensure stick to time):

Choose one map. Print two copies of system map for each table.

1. How is this system contributing to climate change? (5 minutes popcorning)
2. Where is this food system at risk from climate change? (5 minutes popcorning)
3. What needs to change in the food system generally in order to reduce climate impact? What tools and approaches can be used? (Broad and open discussion 10 minutes)
4. What are your leverage points in your locality for realising the above? (10 minutes go round - think about the reality in your locality.)

[This question is about the practical approaches that can be taken and implemented in participant's own localities. Think about permaculture principle 'minimum effort for maximum output' when exploring this.]

Ask someone if willing to feedback to the rest of the group.

Ask someone to write notes on question sheet,

11.15 (20 minutes)

Feedback from groups. Facilitator to bring in other examples, useful tools and case studies.

- Approaches to creating space for discussing climate strategies (CITIZENS ASSEMBLY, CLIMATE CHANGE LIASON GROUP, COMMUNITY FORUMS AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS.
- Reference networks/schemes such as: Sustainable Food Cities, Food Matters, Zero Carbon Britain Report, Permaculture Network and knowledge base, Peoples' Food Policy, Sustains policy work, Sustainable procurement practices e.g. Soil Association Food for Life catering mark, agroecological approaches, Landworkers' Alliance, Feedback initiatives, food club model, gleaning networks, Preston model, climate friendly farming, FarmStart, YES)

11.35 (10 minutes) Closing comments.

Return to initial aims, and ask if there are outstanding questions/ comments or concerns.

Share the resource by email – using contact list.

11.45 End

Prompts for table facilitators

1. How is this system contributing to climate change?

1. What might we expect them to identify:
 - i. Farming (local and global) – direct emissions affected by methods (fertilizer, cows, tractors), indirect (land use change, land degradation)
 - ii. Supply chain – processing, distribution, storage, waste, long supply chains...
 - iii. Consumption – waste, changing diets (more meat), expectation of year round out of season supply, cooking methods, electricity supply and distribution

2. Where is this food system at risk from climate change?

1. What might we expect them to identify:
 1. Extreme weather (floods and drought) and more unpredictable seasons (harder to plan for) > yield declines, increased food prices> increased food poverty.
 2. Increased pest and disease- potential for yield declines or increased pesticide use.
 3. Changes in local climate- cant grow what used to.
 4. Potential land degradation if dont design and plan for climate change
 5. Water shortages
 6. Sea level rise
 7. Urban heat island?
 8. Biodiversity loss
 9. Social unrest

3. What tools and approaches can be used to shift the above?

2. Think about production models - agroecological farming methods; increased diversity builds resilience, holistic land management framework, permaculture design framework, farmer-retailer networks to build solidarity and support; building in time to reflect and respond to season changes and changes in local climate.
3. Think about supply – farming and supply chains, local-global. E.g. Shorten supply chains, direct consumer/ supplier connections (Kindling multi stakeholder coop model), food zones (more locally produced), surplus re-distributed and processed to add value and reduce waste.
4. Think about demand – access, dietary choices, availability, knowledge & skills
5. Think about adaptation and mitigation strategies – are there synergies or conflicts?
6. Slide on GHG emissions can be used a prompt

4. What are your leverage points? (reflecting on your own locality).

1. Ask participants about their experience of adapting their local food system-what approaches have been used and have been successful?.
2. Use question 4 prompt diagram to explore additional approaches.
3. What are the leverage points for participants in their locality?

- Relative contribution of production, supply and waste to emissions
- Typical patterns of food supply to UK cities-highlighting relevance of globalised emissions
- Resilience of different agricultural approaches to climate change

SCREEN: Systems map, Aims for workshop, questions.