

A networking event to define the future short, medium and long term plan for Glasgow Community food network.

A day to go through the feedback of the last 5 years and encourage discussion on the key objectives and encourage lots of good connections and conversation.

This document collates all the information discussed at the networking event and all the action points which came out of the discussion.

Below are the “Theory of Change” table notes from each round table discussion. Attendees had the opportunity to contribute to the following conversations at the event:

Presentations:

1. Introduction – Abi Mordin

Abi set the scene with a review of the last GCFN event where we looked at what had gone well over the last few years. We also briefly touched on the ongoing evaluation work led by external consultants. She outlined the agenda for the rest of the day: various speakers providing National, City and Local contexts – to keep in mind when working on the shared goals and Theory of Change after lunch.

2. Good Food Nation and Scot Gov food policy – Steph Manders (Nourish)

Steph provided some background to the Good Food Nation Act and the campaign work of the Scottish Food Coalition (of which GCFN is a member). She detailed the proposed timeline for the implementation of the Act, for example National and Regional Food Plans.

3. Glasgow City Food Plan – Jill Muirie (GCC)

Jill described the work that had gone into creating the City Food Plan, the overarching outcomes and the 76 thematic actions. She gave some insight into what work had already taken place to implement the Plan, and other work to come.

4. Climate cafes insight – Jenny MacGilivray

Jenny gave some insights into the Climate Cafes so far – the kind of things that local people were saying needed to happen in their areas, for example building better networks and increasing food growing.

5. Food & Action Project Updates – Eleanor Dillon (GCFN)

Eleanor quickly told us about the upcoming funding application to the Climate Action Fund, asking us to keep in mind the 3 priority areas for the project going forward: 1. increasing urban agriculture 2. building a movement 3. food systems education.

Theory of change – what should GCFN do next?

Group 1

Audience + Involvement

- Council + Civil Servants
- Schools + other education bodies
- Community food organisations + people

Activities & Actions

- Employ ½ /full time gardeners to work across several different projects
- Soil test & VD land
- More food education which is fun & enjoyable
- Food Janitors in schools
- Member outreach and engagement
- Use land in nursing homes
- Transparency of wages in the sector
- Soil tasting across vacant and derelict sites
- More celebrations around food

Goals & Priorities

- 1 Year Goals
 - Increased + visible food production
 - Ending “need from food banks”
 - Normalising community food:

- Growing
- Cooking
- Eating... together
- 3 Year
 - Collectivisation + unionization
- 5 Year
 - Create our own alternative, radical food system:
 - Production
 - Distribution
 - Processing
 - Cooking

Measurable effects

- Numbers of engaged members

Wider benefits

- Resilience for climate action
- Resist living crisis

Group 2

Audience + Involvement

- All ages, not just schools
- Facilitate existing communities
- Message adopted to the audience
- Audience within the sector: community workers and interested people

Activities & Actions

- Training:
 - ✓ Ecological education
 - ✓ Funding support
 - ✓ Setting up social enterprises
 - ✓ Growing food, cooking training for community workers

- Holistic message
- Communication: Help and facilitate communities to join forces to apply for funding
- Café using local produce
- Benefit from the big player on the food industry to channel transformation influencing their decisions
- Promote good conditions and pay for community work

Goals & Priorities

- 1 year goals:
 - Mapping skills gaps in the community sector
 - Promote local sustainable food sourcing transparency
 - Facilitate bigger funds linking community groups
- 3 year:
 - Skills training plan
 - Agroforestry training and route to market training
- 5 year:
 - Skills training

Measurable effects

- Carbon footprint of menus
- X number of people through training
- X number of community chefs
- Communication:
 - People and organisations linked
 - More joined up working
 - More coops

Wider benefits

- Set example to other cities / Glasgow as a beacon

Group 3

Audience + Involvement

- GCFN Links to pantry network about food education – start conversation

- Student placements
- Linking to the pantry network

Activities & Actions

- Better retail ecosystems which allow for 20 minutes cities
- Links to pantry network
- Supply to food share dependence blended supply with local farms
- Economic group of city plan push for community retail and local social enterprise ahead of supermarkets
 - More land
 - Allotments more of them
 - Clearer picture of availability and adapted food map

Goals & Priorities

- 1 year goals:
 - Connect and lead members anti poverty Glasgow + city food plan
 - Call for payment card pilot for food bank users to be implemented as of autumn 2022
 - Include food poverty measures in Glasgow city food plan
 - Develop food map into busline hub
- 3 year:
 - Call for food commission for individual reduced foodbank use in various plans as part of having regard to the right to food
 - Land: large scale urban farm (FCA extension food)
 - Negotiate plots for different projects
 - Food distribution for communities
- 5 year:
 - Statutory right to food enacted
 - Reduce foodbank usage (cash first)

Measurable effects

- City Plan campaign: organisations need more spaces for cooking – facilities gaps
- GCFN page better comms form better statutory bodies communication

- Campaign vs city plan:
- Subsidies food production
- More cooking class initiatives
- Upskilling local people but also more cheaper affordable food
- Demand for land
- Campaign keep it going
- GCFN: people don't have capacity to get involved in education so people need better pay rights

Wider benefits

- Set example to other cities / Glasgow as a beacon

Next Steps

We concluded the meeting with some feedback from all the groups. Outcomes from this meeting will feed into GCFN planning as the elected Directors work to create an action plan for the next 5 years of operations.

We will bring this draft plan back to members before signing it off – and getting on with it!

If you are interested in being more involved with the internal work of Glasgow Community Food Network please get in touch with us via hello@glasgowfood.net