

# Peri-urban land in Glasgow

The potential for food growing  
and farming



# Peri-urban land in Glasgow: the potential for food growing and farming

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Agroecological market gardens<sup>1</sup> at the edge of cities can play an important role in a green economic recovery integrating targets on economic development, climate change, education, and health.

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<sup>1</sup> Agroecological farming - at the heart of this project - takes an integrated approach to producing food where ecological and social principles underpin regenerative systems that work with natural cycles, develop fair livelihoods and equitable land access, and value farmers' knowledge. The Food and Agriculture Organisation describes 10 elements of agroecology - <http://www.fao.org/3/I9037EN/i9037en.pdf>.

# 1. Introduction

This briefing gives an overview of the existing context of peri-urban growing<sup>2</sup> in Glasgow and the surrounding area, provides inspiring case studies from around the world and closer to home, identifies data gaps, and suggests some potential ideas for further discussion. The 'Action Plan' to develop peri-urban agroecological farming emerged from a meeting with farmers, researchers, campaigners, council representatives and officers on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 informed by a pre-event briefing. The meeting focused on the Glasgow City Food Plan (GFPP 2021) with action planning groups to develop ways to move forward key actions. The attendees selected the following actions from the plan that support urban and peri-urban agriculture:

- "17. Significantly increase Glasgow's food growing capacity: scaling up allotments and community growing, as well as the development of larger scale urban farming in the city.
- 27. Increase the proportion of locally sourced and low-carbon produced food used in public sector catering
- 38. Increase land available for growing
- 55. Increase market-scale food production that uses sustainable/organic practices in and around Glasgow"

The 'Recommendations' section of this briefing collates key points from the September 2021 workshop discussions to create a collaborative series of actions to push forward peri-urban farming goals in the Glasgow City Food Plan. The event particularly highlighted blockages in a lack of access to information on land ownership, and procurement opportunities to develop viable business models connecting the health, educational and economic benefits of agroecological farming with public services. Supportive policy and investment in these areas to promote agroecological farming in the peri-urban can support benefits such as community wealth building and attractive green jobs in the regional economy, and 'carbon sinks' at the edge of the city using nature-friendly food growing.

The information in this briefing has been gathered by Shared Assets and Sustain with the support of Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN) from a range of relevant documents on food policy and practice across a local to international scale (see references). The briefing sets out a strong business case for enabling 'fringe farming' to expand in the area, to become a mainstay of a sustainable, just, localised food economy, providing good jobs, education and training, better access to nature, and high quality, affordable food for all, contributing to greater resilience of the city region.

With a new generation of farmers and growers looking for suitable sites to meet increased demand (Wheeler, 2020) for healthy, ecological and culturally-appropriate foods, one of the key challenges to developing localised food systems is finding and accessing land to support equitable opportunities in the sector. Such land exists around cities, but is often hard to find information about, is underutilised as paddocks for grazing animals, or merely seen as 'waiting' for housing development, and could instead be secured for agroecological farming.

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<sup>2</sup> We use the terms 'fringe farming' and 'peri-urban growing/farming' interchangeably - they simply mean farming around the edge of cities

This briefing and action plan builds on previous initiatives in Glasgow and has space to evolve, with the questions below listed for further food for thought and to spark imagination and discussion about ways to move things forward:

- What if a network of agroecological farms, supported in the wake of COP-26, contributed to the fight against climate change by sequestering carbon in soils and reducing the greenhouse emissions associated with food production, transport and consumption in the city?
- What if land Glasgow City Council is looking to dispose of was automatically prioritised for community-led agroecological farming?
- What if instead of derelict land most communities in Glasgow lived within 500 metres of a growing space they could access for cultivation?
- What if fringe farming could build on community growing's work to simultaneously tackle food poverty, unemployment and biodiversity loss?
- What if the historical legacy of horticulture in the Clyde Valley could be revived?
- What if fringe farming could support racial justice and increase opportunities for Black people and People of Colour in the food, farming and environment sectors?
- What if a network of agroecological food hubs and community markets could be developed to bring together food producers, processors and distributors, create jobs, and support a vibrant local economy?

### **UK-wide Fringe Farming**

This Glasgow initiative is part of the Fringe Farming project which is a collaboration with partners across the UK (Sustain, Shared Assets, Landworkers' Alliance Bristol Food Producers, Glasgow Community Food Network, and ShefFood) to understand the barriers to, and identify opportunities for agroecological farming at the edge of urban areas. The project is working with local stakeholders in four Sustainable Food Places (Bristol, London, Sheffield and Glasgow) to identify land and develop local actions, and national policy recommendations to enable agroecological farming, as part of a green economic recovery, and to help address the impacts of the COVID pandemic, Brexit, and the climate and ecological emergencies.

## 2. Recommendations: Key Actions

A collaborative 'Action Plan' for developing peri-urban agroecology is proposed between Glasgow City Council (GCC), funding bodies, private landowners, public sector partners, and Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN), with different parties taking on greater responsibility in particular areas as highlighted below:

### GCC-led Actions

1. Creation of an open access map of land spaces in Glasgow with relevant ownership and associated suitability for food growing (this to include public and private land, and re-establishing food growing areas in local parks).
2. Land available being prioritised for food growing rather than lawns or feed crops.
3. Clarification, simplification and transparency of decision-making processes within the council, especially with regards to procurement processes, and decisions on making land available.
4. More support for food growing, both financial and human resource within the council, and this to have a long-term approach to support new growing spaces until they are able to become independent.
5. Support grower and procurer events to build relationships towards service contracts integrating locally-grown food into the public sector– with a view to support a pilot procurement project with a school and GCFN.

### GCFN-led Actions

1. Explore opportunities for a pilot for local food in schools with Glasgow City Council (GCC) Head of Education and GCC Director of Finance.
2. Instigate a food growing partnership with Glasgow Health Board.
3. Creation of a list of potential funders including larger local companies, football clubs etc.
4. To follow up interest and demand to develop market garden-scale enterprises that produce culturally-appropriate foods integral to the city's diverse diasporic food cultures.
5. Development of a flagship growing project in Glasgow.
6. Increased education and knowledge sharing on diverse growing approaches including a mentoring programme.
7. Develop template business plans that work at scale and show commercial viability, sustainability, and that recognise full value of growing including social value, health savings, carbon sequestering etc.

All the timescales noted were immediate, which whilst may be unfeasible in some cases, if Glasgow City Council are to meet the outcomes of the Glasgow City Food Plan in time, land for growing must be made an immediate priority.

### 3. Key findings

- There are several pre-existing growing and farming enterprises in Glasgow, which could be, and indeed are actively looking to, expand in the urban fringe area
- Large amounts of vacant and derelict land exist within the city of Glasgow that could potentially be used by the community for agroecological growing
- Comprehensive land ownership and usage data is difficult to access, there is no city-wide land use vision, nor is food growing integrated into planning processes
- Eight out of ten of Scotland's most deprived 'food deserts'<sup>3</sup> are in Glasgow, with recent research showing 11% of people in the city had experienced food insecurity at least once in the last year
- Applications for allotments soared across the city during COVID-19 with several sites closing their waiting lists and several reporting waiting lists of 10 years or more. There are at least 1000 people on waiting lists across the city.
- Small-scale agroecological farming could provide attractive jobs, particularly for young people affected by COVID-related unemployment, from a more diverse range of backgrounds than the mainstream farming sector, but further skills development may be required
- Demand for veg boxes increased rapidly at the start of COVID-19, with sales doubling nationally in six weeks (Wheeler, 2020: 6), and previous research has shown greater demand for local food in Scotland as a whole. Expansion of dynamic public procurement processes could help provide markets for more small-scale food producers over the longer term (such as through feeding into with Best Start or Rose Voucher schemes) and support community wealth building

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<sup>3</sup> 'Food deserts' is a term used to describe 'areas empty of good-quality, affordable fresh food', however, 'food apartheid' is a term preferred by some activists as it doesn't present these areas as 'naturally' occurring, but as a function of systemic injustice. See more: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/may/15/food-apartheid-food-deserts-racism-inequalityamerica-karen-washington-interview>



## 4. The current picture

### GLASGOW'S FOOD SYSTEM

Glasgow's food system is complex, interconnected and reaches well beyond Glasgow's boundaries. It involves all the processes needed to feed a population, including growing or producing food, distribution, and getting rid of waste. It is influenced by the economy, society and political factors and it affects our health and our environment.



The Glasgow City Food Plan can help guide us towards making a food system we are proud of, where everyone is able to eat healthy, tasty, affordable food that supports local business and minimises negative impacts on the environment

Search 'Glasgow City Food Plan' at [www.goodfoodforall.co.uk](http://www.goodfoodforall.co.uk)

#### 4.1 Farming in the Glasgow City Region

- Currently, the city of Glasgow contains three market gardens, about ninety community gardens and growing spaces, along with 32 allotment sites (Ballantyne et al., 2021: 3).
- Glasgow's Food Growing Strategy (Glasgow City Council, n.d.a) notes the potential of a number of community growing options, such as in stalled spaces, backcourts, hospital grounds or housing association land. However, larger spaces are also likely to be needed for integrated allotments, community gardens and orchards, and market gardens of at least one hectare to support field-scale growing which could make a bigger contribution to the food security of the city. Glasgow Community Food Network has a long held aspiration to develop a community farm that can be a hub for producing high quality produce, training, education and enterprise, and is currently progressing discussions with Glasgow City Council's Corporate Assets Team, looking at one or more sites in the city where these ideas can be progressed.
- There is a long history of allotments in Glasgow with sites in most parks. Whole sites (e.g. Glasgow Green, Tollcross) were lost or the number of plots reduced (e.g. Mansewood [Mansewood Allotments, 2021], Queen's Park) during the 1950s. Since then, some (e.g. Tollcross, Mansewood, Queen's Park) have been regenerated and then but not to their former size, whilst others, particularly in Govan and the North East were linked to manufacturing infrastructure and lost to housing developments in the last century. The

remaining sites tend to be in the more affluent areas in the North West and South (Glasgow Allotments Forum, 2021, (Scottish Government / Riaghaltas na h-Alba, 2020a, Wilkinson, 2021).

- There is also a rich history of market gardening in the Clyde Valley just outside Glasgow - many glasshouses in the Valley grew fruit and vegetables from the early 1900s, with 'Clydeside Tomatoes' being particularly sought after for their unique flavour, but cheaper imported products and increased competition eventually led to their demise in the late 20th Century (MacLean, 2017).
- In Scotland as a whole, over 80% of the country's land mass is used for some sort of agriculture (mainly raising livestock, although fruit and vegetable production has recently increased [Scottish Government / Riaghaltas na h-Alba, 2020b]), and agriculture is responsible for around 20% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions (Nourish Scotland and NFU Scotland, 2021). Approximately 1 in 10 jobs in Scotland depend on agriculture (NFU Scotland, n.d.).
- Nourish Scotland argues that the country's land is not being made best use of, as much of the area suitable for growing crops for human consumption produce livestock feed - only 3.3% of Scotland's arable land is used to grow vegetables for example (Nourish Scotland, 2018: 8), and peri-urban areas may have a key role to play in increasing this proportion as some of the best farmland is located around major cities including Glasgow (The James Hutton Institute, n.d.).
- Currently agriculture is the least diverse sector in the UK, with 98.6% of farm managers and owners identifying as white British (Asgarian, 2020). By linking opportunities in agroecology to racial justice, fringe farming could support a much greater range of people to connect to the land, and produce food which is familiar to the wide variety of communities living in Glasgow (Walsh, 2017).



*Greenheart Growers, Glasgow.  
Credit: Glasgow Community Food  
Growers Network*



## 4.2 Land ownership and access

- The concentration of land ownership in Scotland as a whole is widely acknowledged, with 0.008% of the population estimated to own half the country's land (Land Reform Review Group, 2014). The Scottish Land Commission has done considerable research into the impact of this situation and illustrated the negative social and economic consequences of such concentrated ownership patterns for the wider community (Glass, McMorran and Thomson, 2019). Where communities are interested in buying out larger owners, they often face difficulties identifying the landowner in the first place, as well as high land prices, particularly in urban areas (Community Land Scotland, 2018).
- Land ownership and usage data is fragmented and difficult to access across different, public and private owners. Research to determine who owns every piece of land in Scotland is ongoing, but currently the owners of about a quarter of Scotland's land can not be determined by the Scottish Government (Picken and Nicolson, 2019). This is a key barrier to taking a strategic approach to land for fringe farming. A [map](#) was produced by Glasgow City Council as part of its Food Growing Strategy, showing potential community food growing sites, and the Council has also created a [map](#) to help explain land ownership in the city more generally, but both of these are limited in terms of key information needed to understand what land suitable for peri-urban agriculture might be available. Further dedicated council staff capacity is needed to investigate this and make this information publicly accessible and understandable.
- The 'Roots to Market' report by the Glasgow Community Food Network (2018), highlighted that access to land was amongst the main obstacles for current and aspiring growers in and around Glasgow - the costs and time associated with finding out land ownership, and problems around available lengths and prices of leases, meant securing an affordable site for food growing over the long term was often difficult. A strategic approach to peri-urban growing and producing food agroecologically for the city is needed, especially as competition between different land uses, such as reforestation and housing, continues.
- In the Glasgow City local authority area, 9% of land in the city qualifies as vacant or derelict - making up 954 hectares across 688 sites. 54.7% of Glaswegians live within 500m of derelict land, a much higher proportion than the Scottish average of 28.4% (Scottish Government / Riaghaltas na h-Alba, 2020c). Some of this derelict and vacant land could be repurposed for agriculture (Ballantyne et al., 2021).
- Getting an allotment in the city is also difficult, with many allotments having waiting lists of several years and demand only increasing since the pandemic (Glasgow Allotments Forum, 2020) - one of the aims of the Food Growing Strategy is for the Council to establish and maintain a list of people requesting a plot and ensure no one is on the waiting list for more than five years, and it is recognised that new allotment sites will need to be developed to facilitate this (Glasgow City Council, n.d.a.:5-6).



*Credit: Glasgow Community Food Network*

#### 4.3 Food and retail

- Currently only about 1-2% of all food sales in Scotland are of local food, due to widespread issues such as supermarkets stocking very little local food, and paying producers low prices that discourage them from supplying local food to begin with. It has been found that supermarkets pay local producers only 20% of the retail price of their produce (Nourish Scotland, 2013: 21).
- There is, however, demand for local food, consumer research showed that about half of consumers in Scotland would like to increase the proportion of locally grown food in their diet, and there was particular unfulfilled demand for local food in urban centres (Nourish Scotland, 2013: 21).
- Community Transport Glasgow and the Glasgow Community Food Network worked together to deliver food to vulnerable community members and key workers in response to COVID-19 (The National Lottery Community Fund, n.d.), and are looking into ways this could become a more sustainable model for fresh, local food access in the future.
- Eight of Scotland's top ten most severe 'food deserts' are located in Glasgow (Corfe, 2018), and food insecurity is recognised as a public health issue in the city (Glasgow Food Policy Partnership and Glasgow Centre for Population Health, 2019).
- 11% of Glaswegians had experienced food insecurity at least once in the previous year and there are currently over 40 foodbank delivery points in Glasgow alone (Ballantyne et al., 2021: 3, 6).

- Studies have shown that 78% of Glaswegians report that they eat fewer than 5 portions of fruit or vegetables a day, and 12% even reported that they eat no portions of fruit or vegetables in a day (Ballantyne et al., 2021: 3). Research has shown that “foods associated with improved adult health [such as fruit and vegetables] also often have low environmental impacts, indicating that the same dietary transitions that would lower incidences of noncommunicable diseases would also help meet environmental sustainability targets” (Clark et al., 2019: 23357). Increasing peri-urban agriculture could therefore support reaching targets around climate change mitigation as well as improving health and wellbeing.
- The Glasgow City Council Open Space Strategy also mentions the mental and physical health benefits of more green spaces (Glasgow City Council and Connecting Nature, 2020). With mental health reported to be the biggest factor in terms of ill health and disability in Glasgow (Glasgow Health and Inequality Commission, n.d.), increasing peri-urban farming could unlock the health benefits of greater access to green space and the provision of more affordable, local, fresh food.

#### **4.4 Employment, training and skills**

- In 2018, 1 in 5 people over the age of 16 had no qualifications, with levels of education varying considerably between neighbourhoods. 3% of Glaswegians aged 16-19 years old were also not in employment, education, or training in 2018/19 (Understanding Glasgow, n.d.).
- Unemployment amongst young people (aged 16-24) across the UK has also increased due to the impact of the COVID pandemic (Powell, Francis-Devine and Foley, 2021). Jobs created through peri-urban farming could offer more opportunities for young people and support the plans for green jobs as part of the Government's aim of a just transition to net zero (Scottish Government / Riaghaltas na h-Alba, 2020d).
- In Glasgow, around 8% of jobs are in the food and drink sector, which contributes £330 million per year to the local economy, however, many jobs in this sector do not pay well (Ballantyne et al., 2021: 7). Research on small farms has suggested that they provide more employment opportunities than larger farms (3.2 FTE per hectare, well above the UK average of 0.028 annual work units per hectare), and more meaningful and desirable work environments (Laughton and Kiss, 2017). By contrast, the pandemic has highlighted the poor working conditions across the industrial food sector with outbreaks in food processing plants / farms (Dutkiewicz, Taylor and Vettese, 2020, Davies, 2020).
- There is considerable interest in agroecological farming across Scotland as a whole - a survey on demand for farmland received 1,286 responses of whom 989 wanted to establish agroecological farm businesses (Scottish Farm Land Trust, 2017: 5)

## 5. Sources of inspiration - case studies from Glasgow and elsewhere

There are already numerous effective food-focused projects and organisations in Glasgow, a few of which are highlighted below, as well as interesting approaches from across the world which are used to show the potential impact of fringe farming, as well as possibly prompt ideas for creative ways to move forwards in Glasgow.

Locavore is a Glasgow-based social enterprise that has been working since 2011 to develop innovative and practical solutions to better food networks and inequality in the city. They have developed a market garden, a veg box programme, a Farmstart to train new growers, and engaged many Glaswegians to think about fairness and sustainability within mainstream food supply chains (Locavore, n.d.b).

Tenement Veg is a small workers' coop located in the Southside of Glasgow. The organisation runs a market garden and centre itself around a core belief that nutritious food should be accessible to all. Tenement Veg identifies several issues that need to be addressed to achieve this vision, such as the problem of food and land sovereignty and the lack of visible growing space within urban areas. They believe that land should be in the hands of the community, encouraging a new economy that benefits the people and the environment. The organisation runs veg bag programmes as well as hosting events at their market garden to raise awareness for these issues and their possible solutions.

The Wash House Garden is a Glasgow based organic market garden and basketry workshop. They grow fresh local produce in their gardens that is then distributed to the community via their veg box delivery service. They also run workshops for locals to come to the farm and learn how to forage, identify edible plants, and how to cook with them, and aim to engage the community by providing nutritious food as well as teaching them the history behind agriculture.



*The Wash House Garden, Glasgow.  
Credit: Rob Logan*



South Western Allotments is a thriving allotment site in Pollok Country Park. They have plotholders from a diverse range of backgrounds and nationalities and host a number of community projects onsite, such as Men's Shed (community space for men to connect, converse and create) and Flourish House (a mental health recovery community). They also run events and competitions to build a sense of community and raise funds for charity (Wilkinson, 2019).

Blackhill's Growing is a community growing project run by St. Paul's Youth Forum in the north-east of Glasgow. As there is little access to fresh fruit and veg locally and few opportunities for people to enjoy nutritious food together, young people in the area decided to set up their own small market garden at St. Paul's, and sell the fresh produce to raise money for youth club activities. The garden now has a flock of laying hens, three beehives, a large orchard, raised beds and three polytunnels. They run a weekly vegetable Barra to sell their own garden produce and fruit and veg from other local suppliers, and hold a free community meal every week made partly from diverted supermarket food waste.

Glasgow Community Food Network was established in 2017 to bring together practitioners and organisations in the private, public and third sectors along with other interested individuals to develop a flourishing food system in Glasgow. They run networking events, conduct research into improvements in Glasgow's food system, with the ultimate aim of creating a city where high quality, fresh, local, organic produce is available and affordable for all and where good food is a celebrated part of Glasgow's culture.

Ruchazie Pantry is part of the Scottish Pantry Network, and offers surplus food saved from landfill at low costs to the surrounding community, as well as employment and training opportunities to support community development and tackle food insecurity. They are currently trying to access land near the pantry to grow food to be sold through the shop as well.

Glasgow Food Policy Partnership (GFPP) is made up of a group of public, private, and voluntary sector organisations who share a vision of Glasgow as a truly sustainable food city. The GFPP currently represents Glasgow in the Sustainable Food Cities Network, which in June 2021 awarded the city a Sustainable Food Places Bronze award. The GFPP recently led the two year project to co-create the Glasgow City Food Plan.

## **Edinburgh, UK**

The Edinburgh Agroecology Coop is aiming to transform Lauriston Farm, a 100-acre (40 ha) farm in North Edinburgh into Edinburgh's first agricultural enterprise and learning centre. Their vision is to significantly scale up food production, provide quality employment, training and volunteer opportunities with a strong focus on biodiversity enhancement and soil restoration, and bring the community together through hosting community activities and events. It has been featured as part of the city's first Food Growing Strategy.

## **Manchester, UK**

The Kindling Trust runs a number of projects aimed at creating a fair, responsible, ecologically restorative food system in Greater Manchester. They manage the Woodbank Community Food Hub, a site for community growing projects, commercial organic veg production (to support a veg box) and new farmer training, the Grow, Cook Eat social prescribing programme, and are currently



trying to buy a farm to showcase a blueprint for the farms of the future and train support the next generation of growers.

### **London, UK**

OrganicLea is a workers' cooperative growing food on the edge of London. They have a veg box scheme, offer practical support to local community groups and schools which want to start growing food, and run a number of different accredited courses and traineeships on horticulture and other land based skills. They have used the Farm Carbon Calculator toolkit to show their activities result in over 11 tonnes of carbon sequestration (OrganicLea, 2020). OrganicLea is also part of the Wolves Lane Consortium, stewarding a 3-acre former council plant nursery site in to become a thriving centre for growing and distributing wholesome food, a space for the local food economy to develop through education, enterprise, and events, and a community hub which makes good food accessible to all and builds a healthier, more sustainable food culture in the area. In 2020, the Consortium received £1.2 million as part of the Greater London Authority's 'Good Growth' regeneration fund to be split between the OrganicLea and Wolves Lane sites to help their vision of a 'market garden city' come to life (Wolves Lane Centre, 2020a).



*Organiclea, Hawkwood Nursery, London. Credit: Shared Assets*

### **Rosario, Argentina**

Rosario's award-winning Urban Agriculture Programme emerged from the financial crisis in 2001, and since then has grown to preserve over 700 hectares (1,730 acres) of agricultural land, produce

25,000 tonnes of fruit and vegetables each year, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for locally produced vegetables by 95%. With support from research institutions and the UN, the municipality began by mapping and then taking over vacant and underutilised land that could be used for farming, set up a Municipal Agricultural Land Bank, and offered tenancies to small-scale agroecological farmers. It also provided technical agricultural assistance and trained farmers in commercial skills such as food safety and quality control, and strengthened routes to market through home delivery schemes, setting up farmers' markets, and processing plants.

Today, over 2,400 families are practising agroecological growing in small plots making up 75 hectares (185 acres) across the city, helping reduce food insecurity and poverty. A number of 'Garden Parks' and Green Corridors have also been opened up, mainly in low-income neighbourhoods, to help manage flooding and extreme heat, as well as providing space for agriculture on the peri-urban fringe (World Resources Institute, 2020). Key to the programme's success has been a dedicated team of agronomists to support growers and innovate new technologies for agroecology, an accurate inventory of the municipality's land assets, and a joined-up approach across departments of the municipality, with supporting agroecological farmers seen as a way to tackle poverty, food insecurity and the climate crisis (Urban Sustainability Exchange. n.d.). The motivation to set up this transformative programme from a time of crisis provides an example of the sort of changes to UK local food and farming systems which could be achieved as part of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic if comprehensive support is offered to growers.

Further case studies are included at the end of this document.

## 6. Key commitments

Glasgow already has a number of key strategies or commitments in place that either explicitly refer to more sustainable food production and consumption, or could be supported through the expansion of fringe farming, including the Glasgow Climate Plan (Glasgow City Council, 2021). Below, the nine long-term outcomes envisaged in the Glasgow City Food Plan (2021: 5) are highlighted:

1. Improved access to healthy affordable food and reduced food insecurity
2. Increased understanding of the food system especially with regards to nutrition and sustainability
3. More opportunities for communities to enjoy cooking and growing together
4. A thriving local food economy which promotes fair work and principles of sustainability
5. Increased availability and use of seasonal, locally grown and produced food in or close to Glasgow
6. Improved health and wellbeing as a result of improvements in our food system and food environment
7. More food produced in ways that are good for the environment
8. Reduced food waste, increased redistribution of surplus food, and reduced environmental impact from food waste
9. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions (direct and indirect) arising from our food system

These long-term outcomes have been developed into six key themes where action is needed. These six themes are listed below, with any actions related specifically to (peri-)urban agriculture grouped under each, as developing the practical steps needed to meet these goals will be a focus of the upcoming event:

### **Food Poverty - Access to Fair Food for All**

9. Enhance easy access to healthy, affordable, fresh food in local communities and learn from the variety of support models being implemented and tested across Glasgow (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 18-19)

### **Community Food**

15. With support, put communities at the heart of planning, design and implementation of local community food activities and ventures, be they food hubs, growing spaces or other activities (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 23-24)

17. Significantly increase Glasgow's food growing capacity; scaling up allotments and community growing, as well as the development of larger scale urban farming in the city (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 24)

18. Through planning policy make provision for community food spaces, alongside other developments (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 25)

23. Develop accredited and non-accredited programmes and courses so that individuals can acquire the diverse skillset required to deliver in the community food sector (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 27)

### **Food Procurement and Catering**

27. Increased proportion of locally sourced and low carbon produced food used in public sector catering (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 29)

33. Increase the number of small and medium sized food businesses participating in public procurement (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 31)

### **Food Economy**

35. Work with educational institutions and employers to create new apprenticeships in sustainable food growing and local food businesses (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 32)

36. Develop training options and pathways in schools and colleges for routes into food growing and urban farming, which include sustainability principles (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 32)

37. Increase the provision for easily accessible and affordable farmers/neighbourhood markets/shops in all areas of the city prioritising socially and environmentally conscious producers (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 32)

38. Increase land available for food growing (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 33)

39. Review and improve the support that is available to help people set up food growing businesses and link them to sector specific help (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 33)

41. Increase availability of, and demand for, food grown in the city region using agroecological methods (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 34)

45. Strengthen links between commercial organisations and market gardeners, producers and retailers to help support a more local, sustainable food economy, informed by community wealth building principles (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 35)

### **Food and the Environment**

54. Enabling more local food growing in communities across Glasgow by aligning implementation of the Glasgow City Food Plan with the City's Food Growing Strategy (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 39)

55. Increase market scale food production that uses sustainable/organic practices in and around Glasgow (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 39)

### **Children and Young People**

69. All children and young people are provided practical cooking and growing skills as a life skill and expand opportunities for developing the future workforce in the food industry (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 46)

71. Ensure all early years establishments and schools have access to growing spaces (Glasgow City Food Plan, 2021: 46)

## 7. References and further reading

More case studies from elsewhere:

### **Liège, Belgium**

Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise (CATL) or the Liège Food Belt is an association launched in 2013 dedicated to promoting sustainable food amongst the general public and to fostering local food production and distribution in the Liège region. Since their launch, 16 citizen-led food cooperatives have been created (Communities for Future, 2020), the City of Liège has identified and provided communal land suitable for urban agriculture, three food policy councils have been established in the Liège Province, and a cooperative food hub has been set up. The Food Hub seeks to bridge missing links of local food production chains, by providing a vegetable cannery, jar and bottle washing unit, meat cutting and processing workshops, and a logistics hub for distribution. This has been supported by finance from the Walloon regional government, with a key recommendation emerging that food hub infrastructures should be owned by public bodies but preferably run by a group of food cooperatives (Jonet, 2021).

### **New Haven, Connecticut, USA**

The city of New Haven has recently established a Food System Policy Division which operates according to a food justice framework based around health equity, socio-economic and environmental justice. They plan to work with a wide network of non-profits, volunteers, and community groups to develop a New Haven Urban Agriculture Masterplan. So far, initiatives rolled out include:

- Creating an ordinance to allow small food business entrepreneurs (particularly those with fewer resources) to access shared commercial kitchens, as a way of entering the food industry, as well as creating jobs, and encouraging sourcing from local producers.
- Laying the groundwork for a city-wide community composting network.
- Building institutional partnerships between, and creating tools for, schools, hospitals, and universities, to move towards more sustainable and transparent food procurement practices (IPES Food, 2020).

### **Brighton, UK**

The non-profit Brighton and Hove Food Partnership is pushing for a consideration of food growing at a wide scale, including through the planning system, and via the management of the Downlands Estate landscape. An updated version of the Planning Advice Note on Food Growing and Development was recently adopted by the Council's Tourism, Equalities, Communities and Culture Committee, and includes guidance and practical examples for developers on including food growing spaces in new development such as through edible hedgerows, roof gardens or mini allotments (Ward, 2020).

The Partnership has also submitted a response to the recently closed council consultation about how it should manage the Downlands surrounding Brighton for the next 100 years (O'Brien, 2021). In this, the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership advocate for a shift to sustainable farming and



food practices to be placed at the heart of the City Downland Estate Plan, and that the Downlands should be recognised not as a 'wild' landscape but primarily a managed one (often through farming), which communities should have a greater say in. You can read their full response here.

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