
The Challenge of Urban Food Planning

*Food and Spatial Planning Conference
UCL, 15 July 2011*

Kevin Morgan
School of City and Regional Planning
Cardiff University

The forgotten planning domain

- Among the basic essentials of life – air, water, shelter, food – food has been absent from the planning agenda (APA)
 - The food system (from farm to fork) has been “a stranger to the planning field” (Pothukuchi and Kaufman, 2000)
 - This applies to Europe and the US, while street food vendors in Asia and Africa are harassed by planners
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The drivers of change

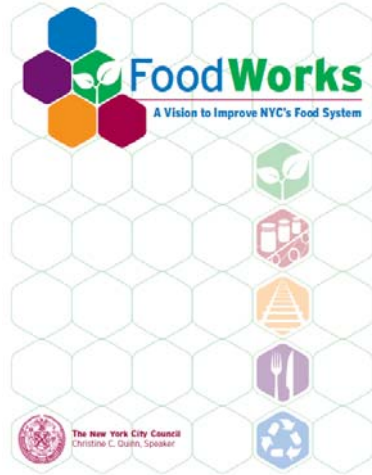
- Food has moved up the political (and planning) agenda for many reasons:
 - ❑ food security is now a national security issue
 - ❑ food chain accounts for 31% of GHG emissions in the EU
 - ❑ burgeoning problems of obesity/hunger
 - ❑ food system a prism for land, water, energy and transport planning
 - ❑ local food revolution/place and provenance
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Food planning in North America

- First food planning track in APA history at the national planning conference in SF in 2005
 - Over 100 food policy councils been formed at state, city and county levels
 - Big cities loom large in food planning:
 - **New York** – food and health agenda
 - **Seattle** – food and sustainability agenda
 - **San Francisco** – most holistic agenda to date
 - **Toronto** – first Food Policy Council (1991)
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NYC: Life-Cycle FoodWorks Model



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION 13



PROCESSING 31



DISTRIBUTION 39



CONSUMPTION 47



POST- CONSUMPTION 65

Seattle: holistic goals drive food policy



HEALTHY VENDING MACHINES? YES, SAYS BOARD OF HEALTH!

May 3rd, 2011

PARKS LEVY MAKING IT HAPPEN: EXPANDING COMMUNITY GARDENS

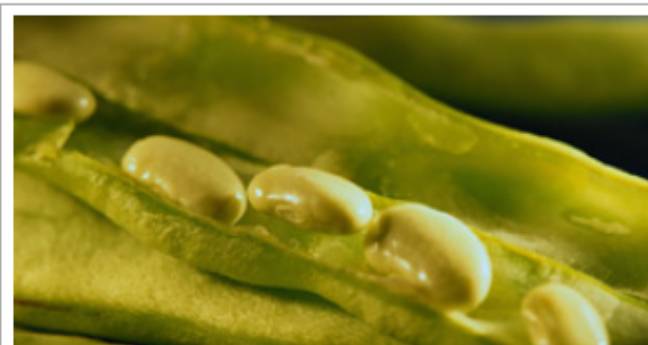
April 14th, 2011

REGION AGREES TO CREATE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

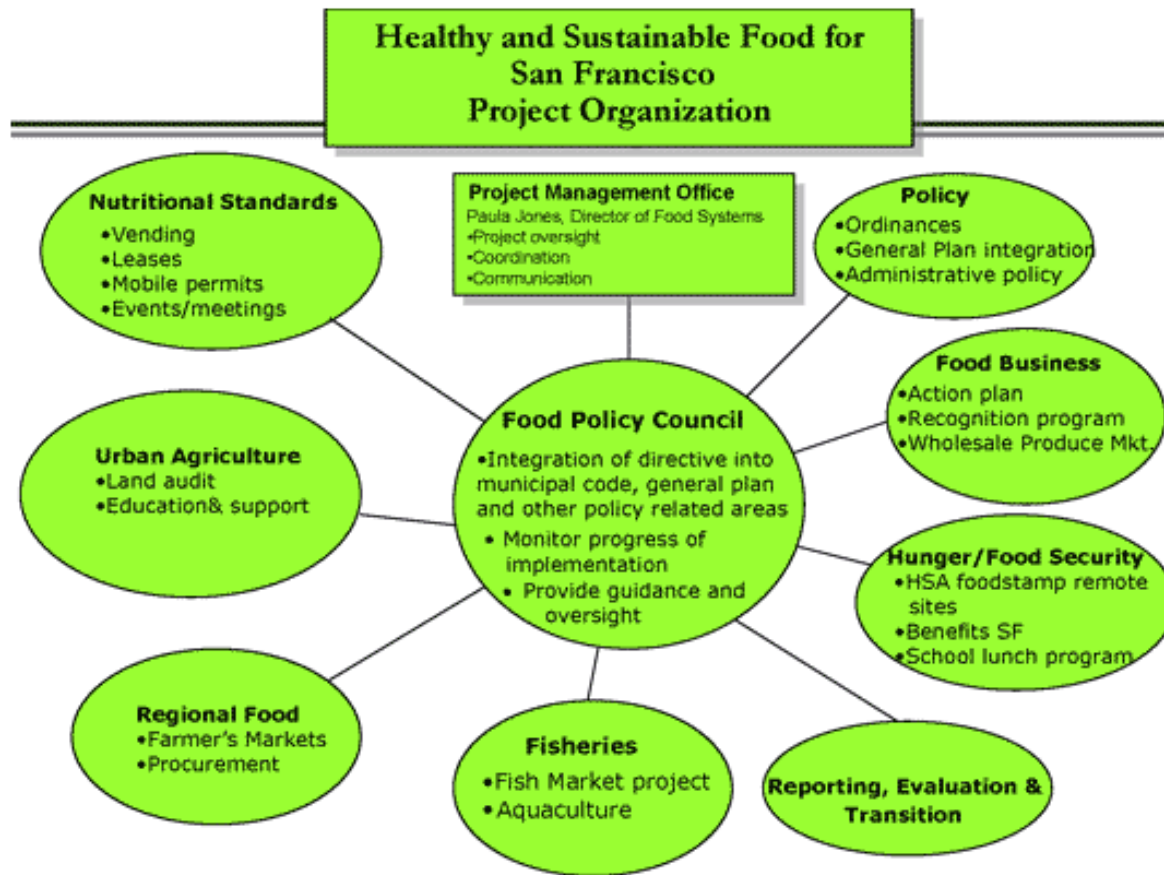
December 7th, 2010

Local Food Action Initiative

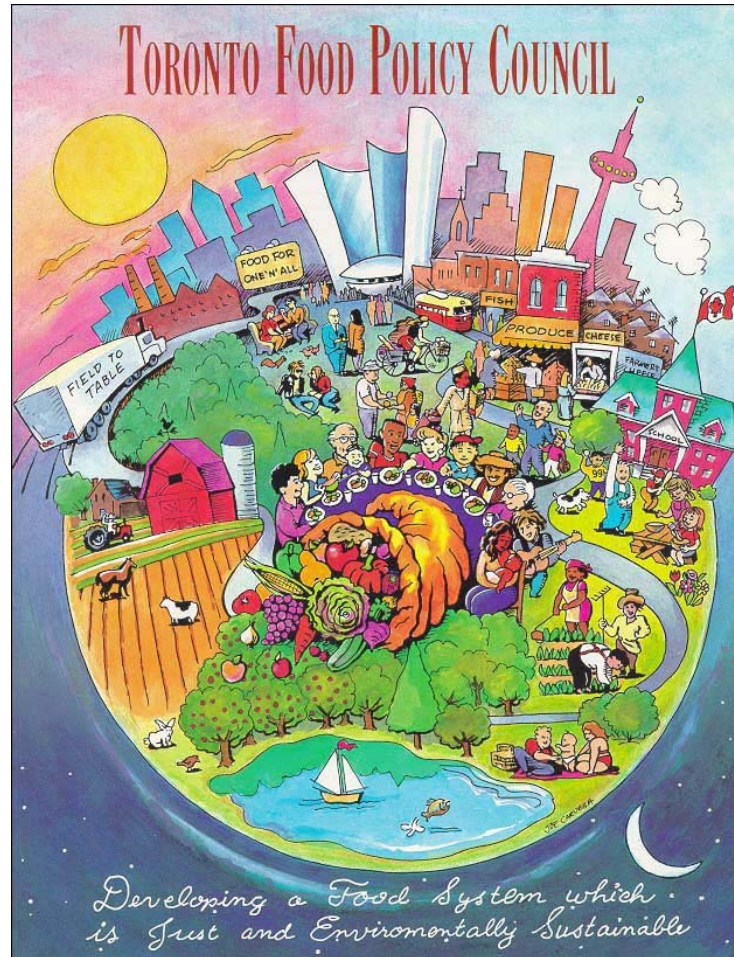
The Local Food Action Initiative is a series of actions meant to promote local and regional food sustainability and security. The intent is to improve our local food system and in doing so, advance the City of Seattle's interrelated goals of race and social justice, environmental sustainability, economic development, and emergency preparedness.



San Francisco: integrative policy



Toronto Food Policy Council: a pioneer



Food planning in Africa

- Examples of food planning in Africa include:
 - **Urban agriculture:** planners are beginning to recognise UA as a legitimate activity in the city, where vendors need better access to resources and more secure user rights (Dar es Salaam/Kampala are the pioneers here)
 - **Home-grown school feeding:** a radical new model which aims to procure more locally-produced food instead of imported food from the global north
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Food planning in Latin America

- **Belo Horizonte** (Brazil) is the community food planning capital of Latin America
 - Strong city-wide commitment to food security in a country with strong national policies (Fome Zero)
 - BH targets all stages of the food chain and the most vulnerable citizens (e.g. poorest, children, pregnant women, nursing mothers)
 - BH dubbed “the city that abolished hunger”
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Food planning in Europe

- Big cities hog the food planning headlines:
 - **Rome** – led the school food revolution with its quality food for all
 - **London** – launched a healthy food plan as part of a sustainable world city strategy
 - **Amsterdam** – issued an urban food strategy for human health, ecological integrity and to re-connect the city with its countryside
 - But all these cities have since regressed
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The quality revolution in Rome

- ❑ 67.5% of the food is organic
- ❑ 44% of the food comes from 'bio-dedicated' food chains
- ❑ 26% of the food is local
- ❑ 14% of the food is Fair Trade
- ❑ 2% of the food comes from social cooperatives



Rome: “Goodbye, organic food”

la Repubblica **ROMA.it**

Giovedì 07 Luglio 2011 – Aggiornato Alle **17.09**

Mense a scuola, addio ai cibi bio Ora nei menu torna il "generico"

Famiglie in allarme la carne di coniglio viene sostituita con quella di suino. Il parmigiano reggiano bio, così come il burro bio abdicano in favore di quello più economico. E il Pd rilancia la petizione sulle tariffe

di *LAURA SERLONI E SARA GRATTOGGI*

The public plate/power of purchase

- Food planning must harness the power of purchase
 - Paradox of public procurement:
 - one of the most powerful policy tools
 - one of the most neglected tools
 - Can the power of purchase help re-localise the food chain?
 - In theory yes - but remember the rise and fall of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative
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Public procurement: the key barriers

- **Cost** – perceptions of higher costs
 - **Knowledge** – lack of whole life costing skills
 - **Risk** – risk-aversion is deeply entrenched
 - **Legal** – uncertainty about the legal rules
 - **Inertia** – the power of habit/comfort zone
 - **Leadership** – the lack of leadership is the norm
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Community food enterprise

- Big drivers of change – climate change, peak oil, ethical consumers – are not enough
 - State action needed to create space for CFEs
 - Social clauses to supply the public plate
 - Local authority outsourcing/asset transfers
 - New skill sets and infrastructure for local food
 - Making Local Food Work programme led by the Plunkett Foundation
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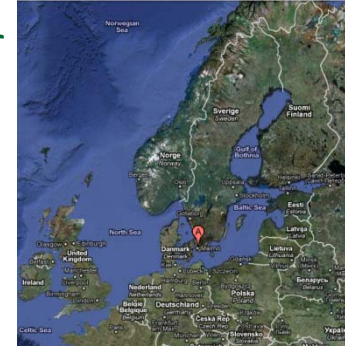
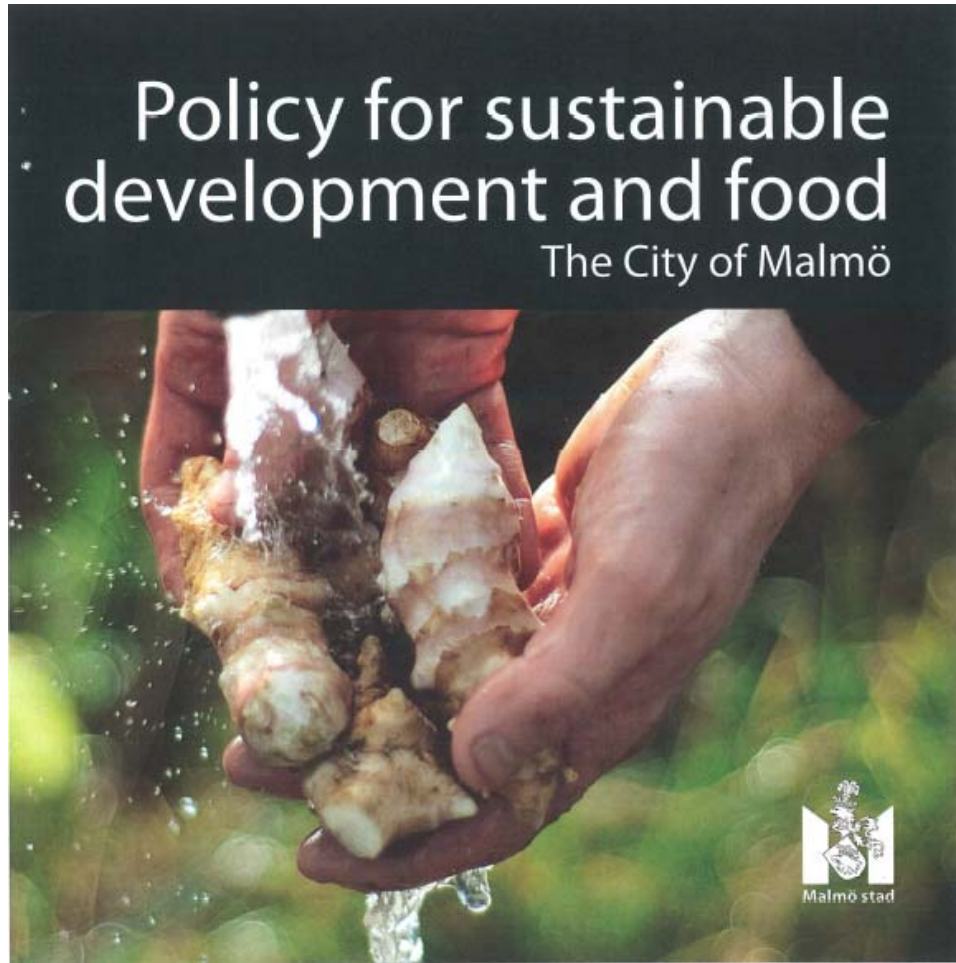


New food planning actors

Smaller cities taking the lead?

- **Malmö**, Sweden – food policy as part of broader sustainability policy
 - **Bristol**, UK – “start to rebuild a food culture for Bristol that has the health of people and planet at heart”
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Malmö, Sweden



The importance of food – more than just a meal



Malmö: “Eat SMART”

S.M.A.R.T. STANDS FOR:

- ① Smaller amount of meat
 - ② Minimise intake of junk food/empty calories
 - ③ An increase in organic
 - ④ Right sort of meat and vegetables
 - ⑤ Transport efficient
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Malmö: leadership by example

WE VALUE FOOD IN MALMÖ

THE CITY OF MALMÖ SHALL LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Food is also important for our quality of life and wellbeing in health and social care. Eating together fulfils a strong educational, social and cultural function.

PURPOSE

The policy shall

- Contribute to a sustainable Malmö with healthy citizens
- Strengthen the importance of food in the City of Malmö's own operations to increase the attractiveness of food.
- Work towards 100% sustainable purchasing in the City of Malmö.
- Ensure that the City of Malmö leads from the front and only serves sustainable and safe food when serving food at official functions and representation.

We need to eat a lot of fruit and vegetables. Vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage, onion, carrots and other root vegetables are very nutritious and are cheap. They are also resource efficient and climate smart when compared to greenhouse grown vegetables such as cucumber and tomato.

Within the City of Malmö's organisation we shall buy more coarse vegetables. Vegetable procurement shall, as far as possible, also follow the seasons.

Malmö: joined-up policy

OTHER RELEVANT STEERING DOCUMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This policy has taken into consideration other steering documents and recommendations, both internal documents, from the City of Malmö, and external documents that have a national focus. The most important are listed below.

INTERNAL

- Environmental Programme for the City of Malmö
- The City of Malmö's procurement policy
- Quality with respect to diet and nutrition in health and social care
- Strategy to prevent obesity amongst children and young people in Malmö
- Action plan to promote physical activity and good eating habits amongst children and young people in Malmö
- Malmö School Restaurant's environmental work



EXTERNAL

- Parliament
 - Law on Public Procurement
- Government
 - Prop. 2009/10:165 The new school law – for knowledge, choice and security
- The National Food Administration
 - Swedish nutrition recommendations
 - Good food for children in pre-school
 - Good food for children in school
 - Food and nutrition for the ill within health and social care
- The Swedish Environmental Management Council
 - Criteria for food
- The Institute for Public Health in Stockholm Region
 - Eat S.M.A.R.T.
- Fair Trade Sweden
 - Criteria for Fair Trade City



Bristol: “positive food planning power”

Who feeds Bristol?

Towards a resilient food plan

Production • Processing • Distribution • Communities • Retail • Catering • Waste

Food System Thinking in Bristol



APA: recognizes food as “important”



American Planning Association

Making Great Communities Happen

Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning

Adopted by the Legislative and Policy Committee, April 13, 2007

Adopted by the Chapter Delegate Assembly, April 14, 2007

Adopted by the Board of Directors, April 15, 2007

Final Policy Guide, May 11, 2007

Introduction

Food is a sustaining and enduring necessity. Yet among the basic essentials for life — air, water, shelter, and food — only food has been absent over the years as a focus of serious professional planning interest. This is a puzzling omission because, as a discipline, planning marks its distinctiveness by being comprehensive in scope and attentive to the temporal dimensions and spatial interconnections among important facets of community life.

Food planning: not a done deal

Stick to the basics

I appreciate APA's efforts to expose the planning community to new ideas and trends in your special issue on "The Food Factor." However, at a time when economic forces are literally redefining the American landscape, it does not seem appropriate to focus on such a peripheral issue. To earn and maintain credibility as a profession, we need to focus on what is truly important. As an issue, food planning pales in comparison to the monumental threats facing our schools, our infrastructure, and our personal and national well-being.

—Christopher D. Baker, AICP
Director of Planning
Hutchinson Moore & Rauch
Daphne, Alabama



APA: promoting planning education

- Fee-based **web conference** for CM credits
 - “Urban agriculture and food systems planning”
 - Free multi-week **online courses** for CM credit
 - “Planning for healthy places with health impact assessment”
 - 2012 **National Conference** to include “Food Systems Planning” track
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Food planning in the UK

- Food is no longer a stranger to the planning field
 - *Copeland v Tower Hamlets* case (2010) ruled that a hot food takeaway near a school was a “material consideration” for planning purposes
 - Planners in the UK can play a big role in shaping sustainable places (but not a mainstream view yet)
 - Planners can help to render food visible in our communities and make the connections with other planning fields (visibility/connectivity are vital)
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We need more food planning icons

