

Enhancing the Impact of Sustainable Urban Food Strategies

To strengthen our work with cities and measure the positive impact of creating sustainable food systems, we are collaborating with Cardiff University to develop a set of indicators to inform city governments and communities as they strive to drive change in the food system at a time of austerity.

Urban Food Strategies are emerging all over the world with the primary objective to build a more sustainable and just food system for all. In the UK, the **Sustainable Food Cities Network (SFCN)** is at the forefront of this work. At the same time, there is an increasing interest in academic circles around urban food, and particularly the implications of these new governance mechanisms to drive change in the food system. In this line, **Cardiff University** is an international leading institution on urban food policy, sustainable food systems and food security debates.

Collaboration between the SFCN and Dr. Ana Moragues Faus (Cardiff University) led to identify the need to define sustainable food cities indicators based on urban food and sustainability research. Therefore, this **project aims** to develop a set of indicators that helps city governments to measure their progress towards the design of a more sustainable and secure urban food system. This constitutes a crucial step to maximise the efficiency of resource investment at a time of austerity, improve urban food security, and provide informed advice to food policy makers at the local, national and international levels. Transforming current research into impact is at the core of this venture.

In order to achieve these goals we defined an action-research project where the input of grassroots stakeholders from different UK geographies is key, as well as a close collaboration between SFCN and Cardiff University academics, mainly Dr. Ana Moragues Faus and Dr. Roberta Sonnino. The project consists of the following steps:

- a) A **review of both academic and “grey” literature** to identify the range of indicators used to measure the environmental, social and economic sustainability of urban food strategies.
- b) Organization of **four workshops** with a sample of UK cities to define what would constitute success for an urban food strategy and select the most relevant indicators to guide action towards that goal.
 - Cardiff on the 5th of November
 - London on the 2nd of December
 - Edinburgh on the 10th of February
 - Manchester date tbc
- c) **Verify the feasibility** and coherence of the selected indicators on the basis of the available literature, our previous research findings and insights from interviews with local and national policy makers and with selected international experts.
- d) **Apply the set of indicators** identified to selected cities (of different sizes) involved in the network and embed it into the SFCN programme and the Sustainable City Award.
- e) Develop **dissemination materials** and conduct a **webinar** to share with policy-makers, practitioners and public bodies.

This project has been granted funding for one year by the ESRC Impact Accelerator Award from Cardiff University. Project started in September 2015.

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