



## Glasgow City Food Plan Development Day

9<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Tontine Building

### DRAFT Summary Notes from the Food Waste and Environment Group

**Present:** Ylva Haglund (Zero waste Scotland); James Crawshaw (EH, GCC); Christine White (EH, GCC). Note: Christine moved to the Economy group for Exercise 2; Katrina Gowans (Glasgow University Environmental Sustainability Team (GUEST)); Lauren Scott (GUEST); Anna Richardson (GCC Councillor); Stephanie Anderson (Adam, Smith Business School, UofG); Scott Armstrong (GCC Recycling); Cormac Quinn (GCC); Jill Muirie (GCPH and Glasgow Food Plan Project Management Group) - facilitator.

**Apologies:** Nicola McDonald, Fareshare

#### **Exercise 1: Reflecting on what we know.**

**(Are there particular data or evidence missing from the briefings? Do we know how to fill these gaps? Should there be other priorities?)**

- We need greater choices in the range and variety of food on offer - importance of driving change that influences customer behaviours. Include encouraging manufacturers to make healthier more sustainable food.
- Link to Public Health agenda
- Procurement chains important – can we use procurement to get organisations to report food waste. Can the Council commit to report on food waste and the carbon impact of the food they procure?
- How to use food registration scheme/licensing to help us make progress?
- Need to measure the intensity of the Glasgow food system and what the impact is i.e. Where does our food current come from and how is it disposed of?
- Look at breakdown of the waste compositional analysis: city wide and neighbourhood level. Will also give indication of what waste isn't collected. Also require data on waste collection from private contractors to build comprehensive picture – available from [SEPA?](#)
- Need to recognise barriers to effective food waste disposal – issues with flats/high rise properties around access for residents to bins and ease of access for waste collection.
- There is an education element and a need for effective communication strategy to underpin this – there needs to be strong messaging about the changes required to how we use and dispose of food. A comms plan is important – decide how we are going to do this then have consistent messaging.
- When it comes to packaging recycling - in particular card & paper – it might be useful to look at [Biochar](#) as a more effective method of reuse and carbon capture i.e. transform



that card/paper waste stream to make it higher value. This was considered hard/ambitious and concern expressed that this could conflict with other waste policies.

### **Other policies/strategies to include in our discussions (current or forthcoming):**

- New Food waste policy (current being consulted on). Possible mandatory reporting on food waste.
- EU platform for food waste - European action plan being developed to help identify what we need to do across the supply chain. This might be useful.
- Glasgow's Plastics strategy has been approved – launched in January 2020
- Glasgow's Climate Emergency Action Plan – expected Spring 2020, also [Climate Emergency working group recommendation](#) and carbon neutrality to be achieved by 2030
- Circular economy routemap and waste strategy (currently 2015-2020) to be revised next year (2020).
- Zero waste Scotland is doing a mapping of redistribution of food – looking at barriers to redistribution of food at community level and opportunities for the future.
- Other Zero Waste Scotland initiatives, such as [Circular Economy Investment Fund](#)
- GU reviewing their waste policy and planning an audit for 2020.
- Links to Glasgow Social Enterprise Strategy and wider Economic strategy

### **Who else to involve?**

- Rep from food waste industry body (SESA)? There are 20 waste contractors in the city and they are not required to report. Waste is not just a council responsibility.
- Food intercept/redistribution organisations. E.g. Fareshare. Also organisations like [Hubbub](#) who encourage food redistribution & other environmentally sustainable solutions
- Do we need to consider farmers and food production (i.e. local food suppliers to talk about challenges of moving to more sustainable practices and packaging)
- Waste manager from an organisation?

### **Data gaps/issues**

- Food waste data - what proportion of food is wasted at retail stage vs consumption stage?
- What to measure? I.e. If quantity of food waste increases is this good (less to landfill) or not good (food waste is not being prevented).
- Also look at [Kantar](#) information with regard to overall supermarket consumption. You can then run this through Oxford numbers to get a carbon figure.
- How much are we spending to recycle?
- How much are we spending to add to landfill?



## **Exercise 2 – outcomes**

Our group would like long term outcomes adapted to more explicitly incorporate:

- Sustainable food production
- Prevention of waste in the first place
- Issue of choice – and how to guide healthy choices in a competitive commercial environment.
- Using Planning tools and Licensing as a potential lever to license and encourage healthier food choices
- Education has to be a key plank of any long term outcome focus

**Specific proposed changes to long term outcomes** - Revisions suggested to:

- “Our food is produced and disposed of in a way that is good for the environment as well as us” to reflect the need to reduce/minimise food waste (and all waste) /reflect the food waste hierarchy. i.e. “Our food is produced in a way that is good for health and for the environment: the food waste hierarchy is reflected in our approach to our food system and as a result food waste is minimised, surplus food is redistributed and any food that cannot be consumed is recycled in a way that minimises the environmental impact.” Do we also want to touch on procurement in this outcome or should this be a separate outcome?
- “Everyone has access to fresh, fair, healthy, affordable food.” to add choice and to reflect the need to give people the capacity to make the right choice. People should be educated to have an awareness of choices. Supported to have the capacity to make the healthy choices.
  - o Not stigmatising food choices
  - o Changing behaviours
  - o Choices are ok so long as people are making educated choices
  - o Influencing choices using approaches such as progressive measures.

### **Short term outcomes for this theme**

- Improve measurement – food waste, but also the carbon produced in the food system in Glasgow. Is an estimate possible that can be recalculated in future to track change?
- Reduce/prevent food waste – identify where to focus in food system for greatest effect.
- Increase food redistribution (to avoid food to landfill). Support this to happen in ways that help community organisations/recipients and help provide nutritious food.
- Improve education/comms/campaign
  - o Consistent messaging across the food plan work in the city and over time and with community groups involved in any food or food waste strategy
  - o Look at the work of [Trifocal](#) around Communication and Community Engagement.



- Increase awareness and understanding in relation to food waste – including food waste as a climate change issue, costs and benefits of reducing food waste and how to use our food waste recycling and redistribution services.
- Highlight the use of water in the process of producing food and how the level of water usage has intrinsic environmental impacts Especially when discussing food from abroad/places where water is scarce.
- Reduce packaging (but this shouldn't dominate – don't simply want to replace with 'biodegradable' packaging as that is another waste disposal issue, nor do we want food waste to increase due to inadequate packaging). Aim should be to incorporate messages to reduce unnecessary single use packaging where possible.
- Increase in local food provision and local training that incorporates how to cook affordably and sustainably (ie. Incorporating seasonality), what to cook, how to reduce food waste.
- Question: How much do we want to focus on carbon in terms of outcomes and measures?

#### Barriers to progressing these

- Cost: Food waste service would be more cost effective if more people participated.
- Cleaning bins is an ongoing issue – allegations of vermin being attracted. There appears to be a chain of issues that makes food waste recycling difficult/unattractive to consumers especially in flats. Do we understand this chain and where we can intervene?
- Sustainability is still seen as an added extra, etc
- Need for radicalism in our approach – the potential to consider more radical solutions and not reject them out of hand- at all levels but particularly amongst decision makers
- Who drives decisions? Decision makers or consumers (by putting pressure on the need for different choices)?
- No one thinks they produce much food waste (i.e. they think other people are the problem)
- Lack of data/inaccurate measurement
  - Publishing data (on food waste/surplus) needs to be encouraged
  - Data on supply chains need to become increasingly transparent
- Barriers/challenges/difficulties in food waste recycling arrangements in flats/tenements

#### Risks

- Risk of talking too much about plastic – displaces other messages.

#### Opportunities

- Making the messages positive. Identifying opportunities. E.g a community fridge is about reducing surplus food, it's about avoiding waste and it's about contributing to efforts to respond to the climate emergency. In this way some interventions (e.g. community



fridges, food redistribution) is less about food poverty and more about addressing environmental issues and thus more dignified and more acceptable.

- Food Charter For Glasgow. Could the charter be a focus for food waste action?
- Food Waste Surplus Reporting. Explore the possibility of mandatory reporting

### **Exercise 3 -First steps/early actions to consider**

#### **Improve our understanding of:**

- Plans for waste collection considered in new build housing schemes
- Can we build biogas into new builds for heating – what is the long term plan for heating new homes in the city?
- Plastics Pact – around packaging
- Issues relating to food waste recycling in tenement/flats

#### **Opportunities to improve connections:**

- Incorporate Zero Waste messages/resources/support as part of EH public health messages in local food retailers?

#### **Improve measurement/data:**

- To track changes in awareness and understanding, can we add a question to the Glasgow Household Survey?
- Better understanding of food waste behaviours by deprivation?
- Data – need to understand what data is available in relation to food waste and carbon footprint of Glasgow's food system and how we can improve it.
- Better understanding/data about individual contribution to encourage behaviour change?
- What about the carbon footprint of the food on our menus? Do we know how to measure this? Rough estimate? Can Sustainable Scotland Network help with this?

#### **Food Packaging:**

- Packaging – need to reduce this. WRAP – the UK Plastics Pact. UK wide initiative – can we declare that we support the principles of UK Plastics Pact?
- ZWS decision tree on packaging – help with the vegware issue (ie. Not a simple substitution for single use plastic. Need facilities to dispose of it properly)
- Policy change on packaging – suppliers will have to pay 100% of the cost of disposal (consultation due in 2020). 2023 likely to come into law but mechanics of implementation still to be decided. How can we link our work with this policy change?

#### **Communications:**



- Messaging is really important – do people understand what happens to waste and recycling? (note: there are 3 food waste films on the website – can we incorporate these into more consistent messaging as part of the City Food Plan?). Begin to develop consistent messaging (for food waste strand or whole city plan?). Better understanding of the difference between food waste and food surplus.
- Link the food waste messaging to the climate emergency – retweeting films, consistent messages, where the waste goes, this is part of our common endeavour.
- ZWS Food waste recycling campaign to run in Feb/March – can we do something in tandem?
- Take different approaches to media using audience segmentation (e.g. younger generation using social media. Different challenges for different audiences. A planned social media campaign).
- Could we name the bin lorries as part of a comms campaign (like the gritters)?! – simple messages are key. Involve schools.
- Have a picture of what 2030 looks like – what do we need to have done if carbon neutrality is to be achieved? This will facilitate what we have to do now? Need to force people out of their comfort zone. i.e. This is what we anticipate things will look like – work back to inform the transitioning process now. What can GCC/public bodies do as institutions in preparation for 2030/to help make progress towards this?
- Messaging should include an achievable 2030 vision which is communicated as an opportunity for the better – but avoid utopia thinking!
- Water: Water use can be more impactful than carbon in provision of messages about impact. What is the best approach for us to take? Link this to local food economy messaging?
  - o ZWS has tried to bring in the water message more. A lot of water is wasted in agriculture (e.g. Beef). Cost of food doesn't reflect the true social and environmental cost.
- Letting agents - should provide info to tenants about the arrangements for waste disposal. Would need to do it on a regular basis. How?
- Opportunity to think about messaging to (public sector) staff (in GCC, NHSGGC, HSCP etc) about sustainability, provide food waste recycling for staff.