The Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP), launched in June 2021, was shaped responsive to the City’s current needs and circumstances. With 2.1% of Glaswegian children living in poverty, a 20% adult obesity rate, and 78% of adults reporting eating fewer than five portions of fruits and vegetables a day, the City’s food plan aims to address socioeconomic and health inequality as much as climate catastrophe. Indeed, Glasgow City Council’s decisions to secure city-wide carbon neutrality through the Food Inequality Inquiry Inquiry Report (2019) and the Declaration of a Climate Emergency released by Glasgow City Council that same year signal ambitions to work towards more climate-friendly food policies, and deal upfront with a progressing new strategy.

ENABLERS

FROM CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION TO AN INTEGRATED CLIMATE AND FOOD PLAN

When Glasgow City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, it accelerated a process of collaboration both within and beyond the City Council to adopt more climate-friendly policies. For example, in 2020, the Climate Emergency Declaration contributed to the drafting of the Sustainable Glasgow Charter where the Food Policy Partnership successfully included an action to promote sustainable and local food provision.

Glasgow’s increasing focus on climate change also shows up in the City Food Plan. Across its six themes (procurement, poverty, economy, children and young people, the environment, and community food) several actions integrate climate change and food sustainability. These include: working with food businesses and restaurants to choose seasonal and locally sourced sustainable food and adopt circular economy principles, improving school food; increasing the availability for fresh food; improving food purchasing processes, promoting production and consumption of (agroecologically grown) food; increasing the proportion of locally sourced and low carbon produced food used in public catering including school meals; and improving a learning about the food system in the educational curriculum in schools and colleges.

A WHOLE CITY PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The Glasgow City Food Partnership, together with over 600 organisations across Glasgow in a process that led to the final Glasgow City Food Plan in June 2021. A participatory process allowed the Food Partnership to listen from residents and ensure the Plan’s relevance to Glaswegians, while allowing for the City’s future take ownership of the food system and its outcomes. For example, the Plan includes a target to reduce the levels of poverty in Glasgow, if it was an achievable task to improve access to fresh food and vegetables as part one of the Plan’s action points, rather than asking residents to change their behaviour and reduce meat consumption.

MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE IS ESSENTIAL FOR FOOD POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Like many municipal governments, the City of Glasgow brings many levers to influence food systems transformation, these being: community and local level; multi-level governance with three pillars: equity, health and sustainability. Over the past year, the Council has had an active choice to work towards more climate-friendly food policies, and cleared a path for a progressive new strategy.

The City of Glasgow, the proud and welcoming host of COP26, has taken an important step in adopting a City Food Plan that builds on its Declaration of a Climate Emergency. Taking an integrated approach, the Plan aims to operationalize the entire food system: its participatory approach and commitment to ensuring “good food for everyone”, is aligned with the Council Leader Susan Aitken’s message for COP26 that “climate justice and social justice are inseparable” in tackling the climate emergency.

Like Mydman for 2030 is that it is all in all areas of the city people can access food, they have enough money to buy healthy foods and vegetables and they have the knowledge to cook with them, regardless of their circumstances and regardless of their income. That’s my dream.

The Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP) was launched in June 2021 with three main equity, health and sustainability. Over the next 15 years, 75 actions points will be implemented across 6 themes. Many of these themes relate to distributing nutritious food across the city.

The Glasgow Food Policy Partnership is responsible for implementing the City Food Plan’s action points. They will publish several public progress reports along with an annual review and revision of the plan’s action points. The Glasgow City Food Plan’s plans the transformation of the city food system (CGO, GCC, Glasgow City Centre Partnership) and Food Inequality Inquiry Inquiry Report (2019) to make food systems that are healthier, more sustainable and more equitable. Glasgow’s Food Plan aligns with other city strategies and uses similar wording, like the Glasgow climate emergency implementation plan.