

Local and Sustainable Food Sourcing – Working Group

WHAT – Is the Impact of Food Procurement...

The production and consumption of food and the handling of food waste account for 20-30% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions globally. With an increasing population and changing patterns of consumption, the environmental impacts of agriculture are set to increase, fuelling climate change and threatening food security.

WHY – Should Nottinghamshire take action on this...

All of the major public institutions in Nottinghamshire are committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions in their operations and increasing the proportion of food sourced from local producers.

Nottingham City Council's Carbon Neutral Nottingham Action Plan, which supports its Carbon Neutral 2028 policy, states that 'we have a role to play... to support the most sustainable approaches to food and drink. The plan pledges to 'buy more local and sustainable food and drink' and address a range of key issues including, 'the development of a sustainable food strategy for Nottingham'. The University of Nottingham supports the city council's CN28 agenda. Similarly, **Nottinghamshire County Council's Net-Zero Framework 2024** includes a commitment to support "support the work with farmers and landowners to encourage low-carbon practices that produce local, homegrown, farm-to-fork produce". And Nottingham Trent University has a **Net Zero Carbon 2040 policy**.

There is a large volume and variety of produce available within the 'local' (East Midlands) area. Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire are highly productive agricultural counties, as well as Nottinghamshire itself. Within this area, there is the potential to secure a local, sustainable food supply for public institutions (councils, universities and the NHS) and consumers. These institutions have started working together to explore how to leverage their catering/food spend to encourage more sustainable food production, processing and delivery within their supply chains. The next step of this Working Group is to...

"Establish a system of public procurement that prioritises environmental, economic and social sustainability, promotes circular economies and facilitates access for the community sector."

We envisage a local and sustainable food sourcing working group, which encompasses local authorities, the community, academic and private sectors across the city and county.

HOW – Will we achieve this...

The working group will create specific goals that people and organisations can work towards over the next few years, based around and building upon the following:

- Clarifying the current state of play, and identifying areas that can be improved
- Creating an end-goal and system that will benefit all stakeholders
- Getting input from all organisations currently involved, and other potential future partners
 - Ankose, HisChurch, Wholesalers, etc.
- Ensuring more local companies and producers are supported to supply Nottinghamshire institutions
- Expanded awareness of local suppliers among procurement officers at all relevant organisations
- Seek funding for and deliver a supplier and procurement event for Nottinghamshire food SMEs, producers and procurement teams from the universities, city and county councils
- Etc...

Addressing each of the overall objectives of this Working Group in each of the 3 categories will also be key:

Economic Aims are in Blue / Environmental Aims are in Green / Social Aims are in Purple

<u>Sustainability Objective</u>	<u>Areas of work to achieve this</u>
Support Local Businesses	Promoting more local purchasing and institutional procurement from SME's
More Affordable food for Communities and Families	Collaborative bulk purchasing system, reducing costs
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Changes in supply chain, consumption habits, waste
Increase Biodiversity	Shifting local agriculture methods, food sourcing guidelines
Improved Health and Wellbeing	Making nutritional whole foods more available & appealing
Stronger Culture & Identity	Local food initiatives, creating pride among communities
Fair & Ethical Trade	Securing jobs & livelihoods, promoting diversity & equality
Higher Animal Welfare	Strong food sourcing guidelines, with transparency

Plus, we'll ensure each of the below criteria for Successful Local & Sustainable Food Sourcing are considered:

- **Clear policy aims and objectives backed by political and policy commitment**
- **Dynamic individuals working across departments are vital**
- **Stakeholder engagement is key**
- **Taking time to work through the important issues**
- **Being clear about what collectively needs to be achieved, what success looks like, how it is measured and setting science-based targets**
- **Striking a balance between sustainability aims and what is feasible**

WHO – Will we involve and engage in this working group...

Targeting organisations in four areas of expertise:

- **Community** – Local organisations working directly with individuals
- **Academic** – Educational institutions who can provide insight, support and resource
- **Public** – Local authorities and network partner groups
- **Private** – Food producers and suppliers, including restaurants

WHEN – Will we aim to achieve certain milestones...

Time Period	Milestone Targets	Outcomes Achieved
Q1 - 2025	• TBC	• TBC
Q2 - 2025	• TBC	• TBC
Q3 - 2025	• TBC	• TBC
Q4 - 2025	• TBC	• TBC
Q1 - 2026	• TBC	• TBC
Q2 - 2026	• TBC	• TBC