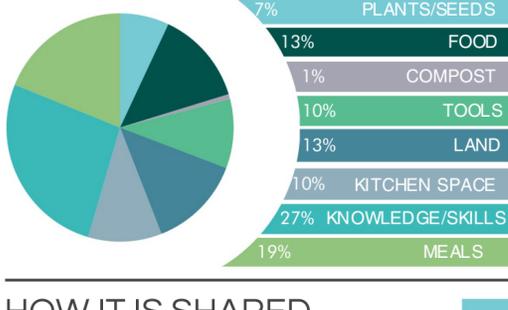


SINGAPORE



Singapore is ranked 27th in the SHARECITY100 Database of global ICT-mediated food sharing, with 50 initiatives currently active in the city.

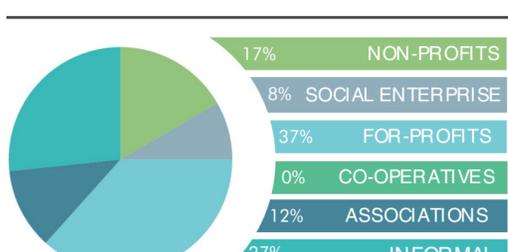


WHAT IS SHARED

80% of food sharing initiatives in Singapore share multiple things. Knowledge and skills makes up the largest portion of stuff, spaces or skills shared, followed by meals, and food (including fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and food products not prepared into a meal). Compost, plants, and seeds are least shared in Singapore.

HOW IT IS SHARED

Selling makes up the largest portion of food sharing activities in Singapore, followed very closely by gifting. Collecting and bartering are relatively infrequent. 44% of initiatives use multiple modes of exchange to share food, the most common combination being gifting along with selling.



SHARING ORGANISATION

For profit enterprises are the most common form of food sharing initiative in Singapore, followed by informal initiatives, and non-profits (including charities). No initiatives in Singapore were established as co-operatives. Of the initiatives identified only 20% use multiple organisational structures



GEOGRAPHY & POLITICS



Singapore is a sovereign city-state in Southeast Asia made up of the island of Singapore and about 62 smaller islands, with total landmass of 710.2 sq. km (1). The main island has a population of 5.75 million, and it is the second densest sovereign state in the world. Singapore is a Republic with a parliamentary system of government, which has been dominated by the People's Action Party (PAP) since gaining independency from Malaysia in 1965, though the formal Head of State of the Republic of Singapore is the President. The power structure is highly centralized and characterized by a top-down governance style, and its politics are rooted in the Confucian ethics, with a focus on family values and loyalty to the society (2).

Singapore is ranked 8th in the 2016 Global City Index which assesses 125 cities across five dimensions, including business activity, human capital, information exchange, cultural experience, and political engagement (3). However, despite Singapore's accomplishments, the country receives a much lower ranking for freedom of speech and democracy, and in 2014 was ranked 153rd out of 180 nations on the Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders (4). Additionally, the 2015 Democracy Index identified Singapore as a "flawed democracy" and ranked it 74th out of 167 countries (5).

ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Singapore is one of the Asian Tigers, known for its neoliberal free trade export policies. The GDP in Singapore was 292.74 billion US dollars in 2015 and it represents 0.47 per cent of the world economy (6). The World Economic Forum ranked Singapore 2nd in its Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012 (7) and the 2016 Index of Economic Freedom ranks Singapore as the second most liberalised economy in the world (8). Since Singapore's independence, the Economic Development Board implemented national economic strategies to promote the country's manufacturing sector and export-oriented industrialization. Currently, focused measures are in place to develop Singapore as a world-class financial centre and continue investing in new growth sectors such as clean technology and biotechnology.

Singapore is a multi-racial and multi-ethnic society, with a mix of Asian and European cultures. All citizens are assured access to education, and primary education is compulsory. Unemployment is very low, with rate of 1.9 % recorded in 2015, and there is currently no minimum wage policy and no retirement protection for the elderly population (9). Singapore ranks 11th in the Human Development Index, though the city faces an aging population and a need for greater investment in social infrastructure including regulation of working hours, income inequality and affordability (10) (11). Homelessness is also an issue in Singapore; the majority of homeless individuals are men in their 50s and the affected families are predominantly low income households (with monthly income of \$1, 500 or less), with 4 or more members who have weak social support (12).



FOOD, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



Only 1 % of land in Singapore is used for farming and the island imports over 90% of its food (13). However, in spite of its dependence on food imports, Singapore was ranked the second most food secure nation in the world in 2015 (14). A food crisis in 2008 sparked a new interest in urban farming, and the trend of growing of food on rooftops, footpaths and vacant lots is slowly taking root.

Singapore's environmental policies have been a cornerstone of public policy. The city is also well known for its greening policies and the vision of "City in a Garden". In the 2011 Asian Green City Index, Singapore was ranked Asia's greenest metropolis, with the best environmental performance in energy and carbon dioxide emissions, land use and buildings, transport, waste, water, sanitation, air quality and environmental governance (15). In 2015 the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) released the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint (SSB), which outlined national vision and plans for sustainable Singapore. These include smart technology and eco-friendly features; cycling and walking trails; electric car sharing and driverless car trials; green economy industry and active community stewardship (16). Singapore has also set an ambitious goal to make at least 80% of all buildings 'green' by 2030 as part of a broader climate change agenda, and to become a Zero Waste Nation by reaching overall recycling rate of 70% (17)(18). A 2016 ranking of global sustainable cities ranked Singapore 2nd overall, with the city coming in 1st in profit, 12th in planet and 48th for people (19).

TECHNOLOGY

The World Economic Forum's 2015 Global Technology Report described Singapore as the most "Tech-Ready Nation" in the world (20). It has the world's highest smartphone penetration rates at almost 90% of the population, and in 2016 it found that almost 82.5% of the population are internet users (21). A government programme was established to bridge digital divide and increase IT awareness and literacy among the elderly and attracted over 3,000 senior participants (22). The Smart Nation program, with a goal to create a hyper-connected nation, was launched in 2014 in order to deploy number of sensors and cameras across Singapore that will allow extensive governmental monitoring of the city. According to the Singaporean government, the Smart Nation is shaping the image of the city as a participatory online platform where citizens can interact, share and observe real time data and become active as citizens of a future regulatory body (23).



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