Urban food sharing: Innovations, governance & sustainability

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What is food sharing?

“having a portion [of food] with another or others; giving a portion [of food] to others; using, occupying or enjoying [food and food related spaces to include the growing, cooking and/or eating of food] jointly; possessing an interest [in food] in common; or telling someone about [food].”

(Adapted from Oxford University Press, 2014)

This definition emphasises the practices and experiences of having things in common and doing things together around food, including but moving beyond commensality; the practice of eating or drinking together. Such a definition includes attention to what is shared, from raw materials (e.g. crops) to products (e.g. processed food products, tools and cooking utensils) and services, as well as capabilities (knowledge and skills) and spaces (e.g. fields, allotments, gardens, and kitchens).
SHARECITY

Aims to establish the **significance** and **potential** of **urban ICT-mediated** food sharing initiatives to help transition towards more sustainable pathways by:

1) Developing **deeper theoretical** understanding of contemporary food sharing
2) Generating **comparative international empirical** data about food sharing activities
3) Assessing the **impact** of food sharing activities
4) Exploring how urban food sharing might **evolve** in the future
Making food sharing visible

www.sharecity.ie/research/sharecity100-database
The diversity of food sharing

**WHAT IS SHARED**

- Knowledge/Skills
- Meals
- Fruits/Vegetables
- Eating Together
- Land
- Food Products
- Tools
- Plants/Seeds
- Kitchen Devices
- Kitchen Space
- Compost
- Meat/Fish

**HOW IT IS SHARED**

- Gifting
- Selling
- Collecting
- Bartering

**SHARING ORGANISATION**

- Nonprofits
- Associations
- Forprofit
- Informal
- Cooperatives
- Social_Enterprises
Practices and performances

https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/25248
Is (ICT-) food sharing innovative?

• Technical innovations
  – Apps (e.g. FoodCloud); collaborative crowdsourcing and open platform mapping (e.g. Fallen Fruit);

• Social innovations
  – Creating food commons (e.g. 596 Acres)
  – Supporting communities (e.g. Be Enriched)
  – Facilitating community cohesion (e.g. Himmelbeet)

• Environmental innovations
  – Circular economies around food surplus
  – Regenerative agricultural practices

• Economic innovations
  – New business models (e.g. EatWith)
  – Reinvigorated exchange models (e.g. ICT-barter);
Connection as innovation

SKIP GARDEN & KITCHEN

“... All of this helps to nurture a close-knit and collaborative community, which cares about its environment - and about the planet as a whole ... I work with a group of ten volunteers that are coming regularly, helping maintain the garden. They give away about a thousand hours a year of work to maintain the garden.”

EDIBLE GARDEN CITY

“There’s a mysterious and undeniable discovery of our own soul when we start to become more connected to our food ... Working with plants is therapeutic and rewarding.”

Himmelbeet

“People pay attention to other people. They also pay attention to animals and plants. They behave in such a way that they do no harm to anyone. That's what we want in the Himmelbeet. That all face each other with respect ... Everyone works together at Himmelbeet. Working together is easier than on your own. Therefore, offer your help if someone needs help. You can accept help or friendly say "no"." [transl.]”
Challenges

Fears for inner city as Bridgefoot Street community garden set to close
Residents have spoken about how much the garden has meant to their community.

Inner city Dublin is set to lose an important community garden by the end of the year, as plans are underway to transform the area with a new park.

While a community garden is included within the future plans, residents in the Bridgefoot Street area are concerned about the interim plans - and what it means for existing crops.

On December 31, the Bridgefoot Street community garden will close in its location nestled between Thomas Street, Oliver Street, and Oliver Bond Street.

Chris Stewart
APTN News
A soup kitchen in Edmonton is being forced to close forcing hundreds another place to get a warm breakfast and lunch.

The Gathering Place on Fort Road, also known as Mawachitstown operating out of a closed downtown hotel since Nov. 2017.

City shuts down the community garden

As of June 2018, 596 Acres is not providing advocacy support in New York City. Our tools remain online but no staff is able to assist with crafting campaigns. Community land access advocacy continues to be done by New Yorkers - we are so glad to have contributed to shaping a movement.
SHARING FUTURES

Workshop:
The Future of Food Sharing Governance

September 2019
Talent Garden Dublin
Overcoming policy challenges

- Personal Action – research local authority food policies in my areas
- Academics should develop metrics for food sharing
- Academics should focus more on race and gender in relation to food
- Create umbrella lobby group for grassroots food sharing
- Lobby policy makers to be more participatory
- Change policies to recognise food waste as a climate concern
- Demonstrate and communicate the social and ecological value of shared growing
- Highlighting stories of successful initiatives
- Personal action – run for office!
Is food sharing sustainable?

SHARE IT
The SHARECITY Impact Toolkit

Toolshed
The Toolshed will support you to create a full sustainability impact report for your initiative and a short summary to quickly communicate these impacts to others.

Talent Garden
The Talent Garden is a space for food sharing initiatives to share stories about their activities and impacts.

Greenhouse
We have created a space called the Greenhouse where food sharing initiatives can connect with others around the world to share experiences and learn from each other.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Connecting and creating new support networks within communities
3 questions
0 responses

Boosting levels of meal sharing
4 questions
0 responses

Increasing well-being through volunteering
6 questions
0 responses

Improving self-confidence and resilience
3 questions
0 responses

Increasing movement and exercise
4 questions
1 response

Increasing access to health and well-being services
5 questions
0 responses

Last added
Can local practices turn into transformative change in a collaborative economy?

For a sustainable future, we need to reconnect with what we’re eating – and each other.
Thank you!

Website: www.sharecity.ie
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