UNHEALTHY DUBLIN

FOOD SHARING: CULTIVATING THE CITY

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"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).
FOOD SHARING PRACTICES

https://sharecity.ie/research/sharecity100-database/
“... 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.”

“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.”

“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. ” [transl.]
“... when I do Twilight Gardening ... I set them a task and then I turn around and walk away and then I give them like sort of thirty seconds and suddenly they start talking and I know that I’ve won again. You know, **they’ll make friends, they’ll start talking, they won’t feel lonely. You know they’ll feel part of something again.** And that’s important, especially in London ... This [*I, we, planet*] approach provides space for people to **increase awareness of self, to connect to each other and to connect to the natural world ...**

“... one can **learn a lot more** from each other by **meeting regularly** in the garden and by the **joint engagement** with pleasant things ... And actually one can **enter into a different relationship** than if you just pass by at each other on the street.” [transl.]
“... by providing experiential, non-formal education for sustainable development for all ages ... Organisation Earth promotes knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a better future ... To expand our visitors’ capacity so that in their everyday activities they can identify and adopt attitudes and practices that ameliorate the planet’s future, while contributing to collective prosperity and a better quality of life”

SKIP GARDEN & KITCHEN

“So it’s not just a garden, it’s an outdoor classroom and you use growing to teach kids about maths, geography, history. You know, it’s a very powerful tool that works extremely well with children that might not be really great inside the classroom”

“There are many books on gardening, but not one in easy language. The aim of the project is to write a book about gardening with an inclusive group that can be read by all. The project enables a group process that gives space to friendship and exchange, but also to disagreement and conflict ... The participants find solutions themselves and exchange ideas about needs and barriers.” [transl.]
FOOD SHARING: A WAY TO WELLBEING?


- **Keep Learning** - Learning new things will make you more confident, as well as being fun. Try something new. [Learn to cook your favourite food](https://livewellkent.org.uk/six-ways-wellbeing).

- **Give** - Look out, as well as in, to help yourself and others. [Volunteer your time. Join a community group](https://livewellkent.org.uk/six-ways-wellbeing).

- **Connect** - Invest time in developing connections with the people around you. At home, work, school or in your local community.

- **Take Notice** - Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you. [Notice the changing seasons](https://livewellkent.org.uk/six-ways-wellbeing).

- **Care for the Planet** - Small steps to a greener life can make a difference. [look after your community and the world](https://livewellkent.org.uk/six-ways-wellbeing).
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.

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, Upper Road, and Oliver Road Street.

"We wish it wasn't closing down": Edmonton food kitchen closure forces clients to search elsewhere for a meal, friendship

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.

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City shuts down the community garden

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CHAMPIONING RESIDENT STEWARDSHIP OF LAND TO BUILD JUST AND EQUITABLE CITIES

Kaikōura community kitchen on cusp of closure

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Growing pains: The Dublin community gardens under threat

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CHAMPIONING RESIDENT STEWARDSHIP OF LAND TO BUILD JUST AND EQUITABLE CITIES
Insecure access to land due to a lack of long-term planning for shared growing spaces by planners and policy makers

A lack of common language to communicate the positive impacts of urban growing, and shared growing, between the different stakeholders involved

Commercial and financial interests hold significant power and are given priority when it comes to forming policy and shaping planning decisions
CONCLUSION:
Cultivating the conditions for change

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

https://theconversation.com
Thank you

This presentation draws on research from SHARECITY, a collaborative project involving a multidisciplinary team and the participation of many food sharing initiatives internationally.

All outputs from the project are available online:
Website: [http://sharecity.ie/](http://sharecity.ie/)  
Twitter @ShareCityIre
Emails: daviesa@tcd.ie and sharecity@tcd.ie

Free (Open Access) book: Urban food sharing  
[https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/urban-food-sharing](https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/urban-food-sharing)