



# Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership

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Co-Chair of the Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership

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# Why Sustainable Food?

Equivalent to

**35%**

of the UK's GHG emissions comes from our food and drink.\*

\*includes emissions overseas from imported food.

[wrap.org.uk/GHGPathway](http://wrap.org.uk/GHGPathway)

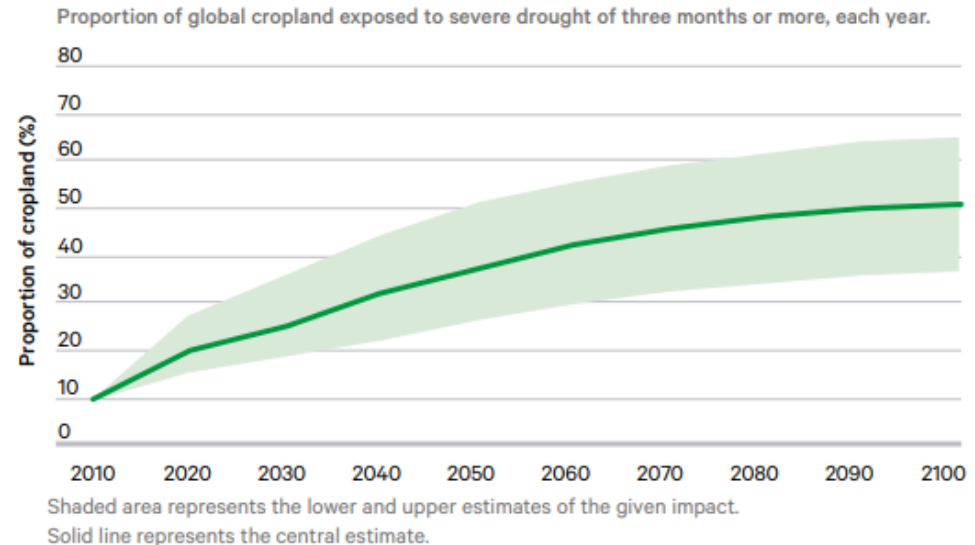


# Why Sustainable Food?

## 50% more food needed

To meet global demand, agriculture will need to produce

almost 50 per cent more food by 2050. But yields could decline by 30 per cent in the absence of dramatic emission reductions.



## Droughts 3 x worse by 2040

By 2040, the proportion of global cropland affected by severe drought – equivalent to that experienced in Central Europe in 2018 (50 per cent yield reductions) – will likely rise to 32 per cent each year, more than three times the historic average.

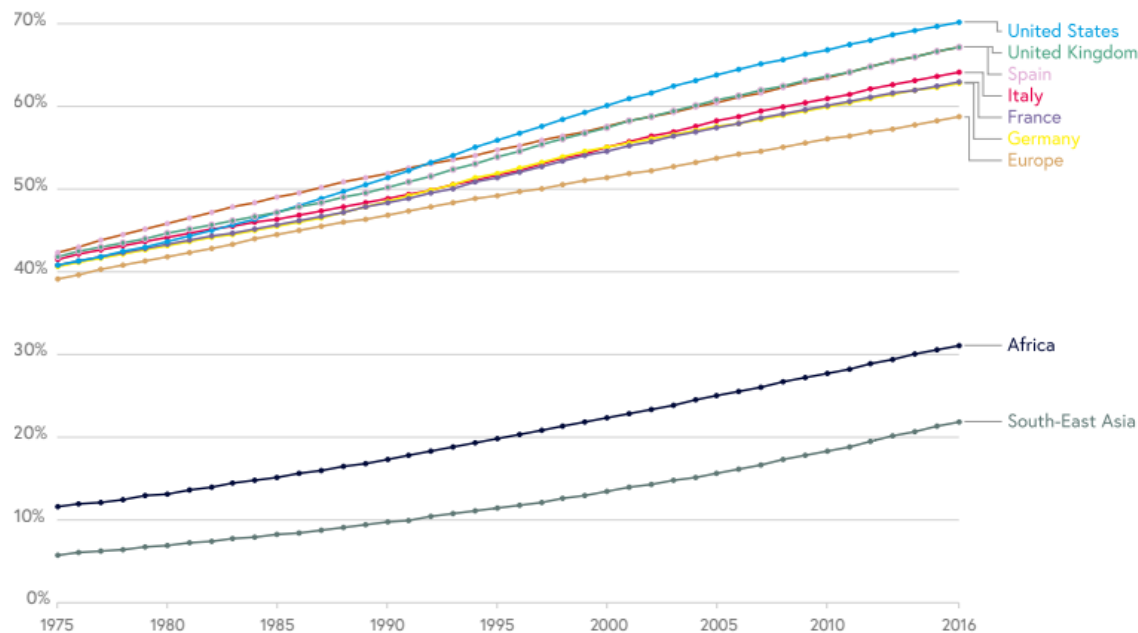
# Why Sustainable Food?

WHY IT MATTERS

National  
Food Strategy

## The UK has one of the highest rates of obesity in Europe

SHARE OF ADULTS THAT ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE, 1975 TO 2016



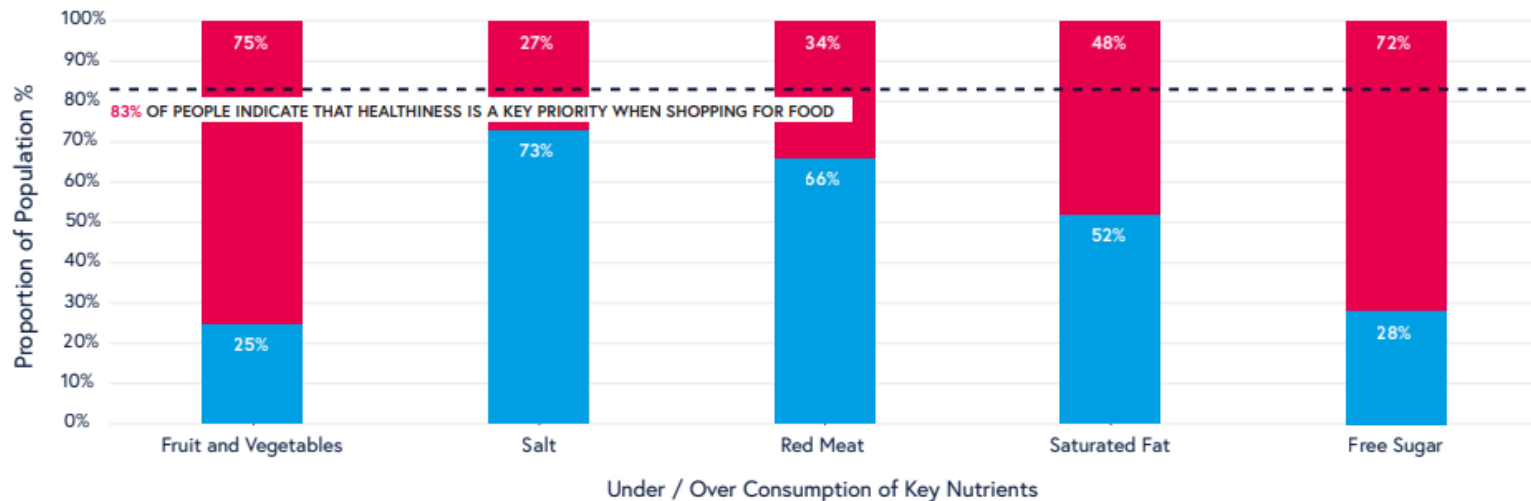
Being overweight is defined as having a body-mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 25. Obesity is defined by a BMI greater than or equal to 30. BMI is a person's weight in kilograms divided by his or her height in metres squared.

# Why Sustainable Food?

IMPACT OF THE JUNK FOOD CYCLE ON OUR DIETS

National  
Food Strategy

## We mostly fail to meet dietary recommendations



**We eat too little** fruit and veg, fibre and oily fish.

**We eat too much** salt, saturated fat, sugar and red meat.

**Less than 0.1%** of the population meet all elements of the Eatwell Guide recommendations.

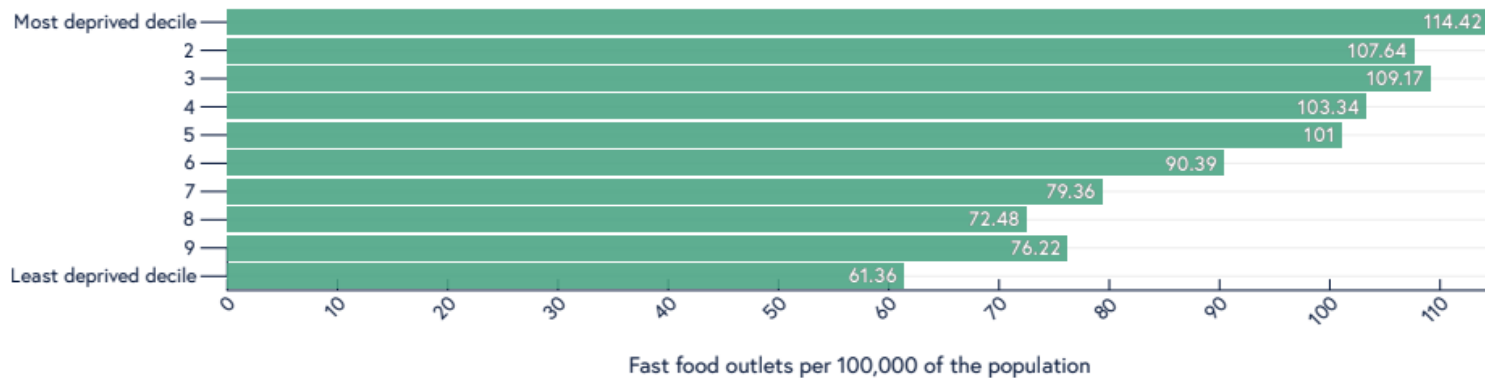
# Why Sustainable Food?

IMPACT OF THE JUNK FOOD CYCLE ON OUR DIETS

National  
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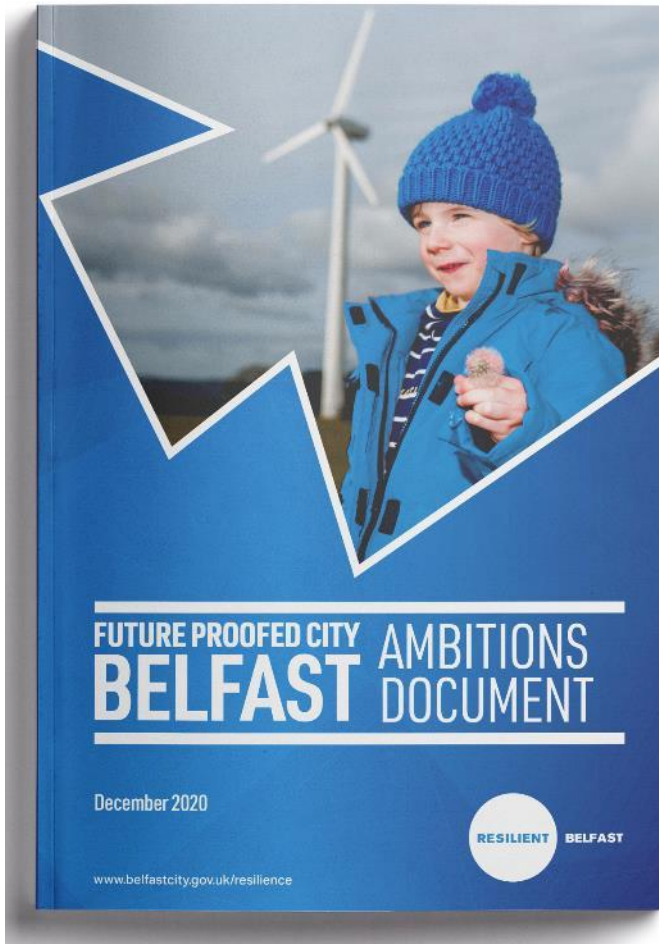
## Unhealthy food is easier to access: deprived areas have a higher density of fast-food outlets

DENSITY OF FAST-FOOD OUTLETS PER 100,000 POPULATION, BY IMD DECILES, ENGLAND, 2014



The number of fast food shops also increased by eight per cent between 2014 and 2017.

# What are we doing about it?



## 11 Sustainability and Food



In developing this strategy, we have had insufficient time to look in detail at the city's food needs into the future, however this is a priority for strategy implementation. Working with partners across the city, a workstream examining the climate impacts and opportunities for an ongoing and city wide programme of healthy and sustainable food will be critical to Belfast's resilience.



-  No poverty
-  Zero hunger
-  Good health and well-being
-  Quality education

-  Decent work and economic growth
-  Industry, innovation and infrastructure
-  Reduced inequalities
-  Responsible consumption and production

-  Climate action
-  Life below water
-  Life on land
-  Peace, justice and strong institutions
-  Partnerships for the goals



# GLASGOW FOOD AND CLIMATE DECLARATION

In 2021 Belfast signed up to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration.

A commitment by local and regional governments to tackle the climate emergency through integrated food policies and a call on national governments to act.

Run by IPES.

List of Signatories





# Background in Belfast

Belfast Food Network was run through Northern Ireland Environment Link with support from Belfast City Council until recently.

Belfast achieved Bronze in 2016 recognising the coordination of efforts across the city.

BCC is being asked to lead on the setting up and coordination of a new Sustainable Food Partnership.

Opportunity for Climate Team & Inclusive Growth and Anti-poverty teams to co-lead.

Agreed and adopted by Community Planning Partners in March 2023.



# What is The Sustainable Food Partnership?

A cross sectoral partnership of organisations that work across the food system in Belfast.

Driven by a passion to improve access to healthy, local, fresh food in Belfast, and build community wealth.

Doing it in a way that will help address the climate and nature emergency.



**Strategic and collaborative approach**



**Active food citizenship & good food movement**



**Tackling food poverty and diet related ill health**



**Vibrant, prosperous and diverse food economy**



**Transforming catering, procurement & sustainable supply chains**



**Tackling climate, nature emergency and end to food waste**



# 1. Food Governance & Strategy

Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action

DAERA Draft Food Strategy Framework Priorities

Public sector food procurement (hospitals, prisons, schools, councils, universities etc.)

Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework

**Vision**

**“A transformed food system that protects natural resources for future generations, is economically and environmentally sustainable and provides safe, nourishing, accessible food to people, who make informed healthy choices”.**

Food at the Heart of our Society - A Prospectus for Change  
*Public Consultation Document*  
2021

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



## 2. Good Food Movement

Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement

Promoting good food citizenship

Mapping what currently exists to identify gaps

Developing an urban growing/farming movement

Connecting people back to where their food comes from





## 3 Healthy Food for All

Tackling food poverty and diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food

Need for better nutritional standards

Food Justice and ethics

Need to find an economic model that works around feeding people in food poverty.  
Transformation of system rather than increasing the number of food banks.

**In NI, 94% children aged 11 to 18 not getting their 5 a day. 80% aged 65+ are not.**

National diet and nutrition survey



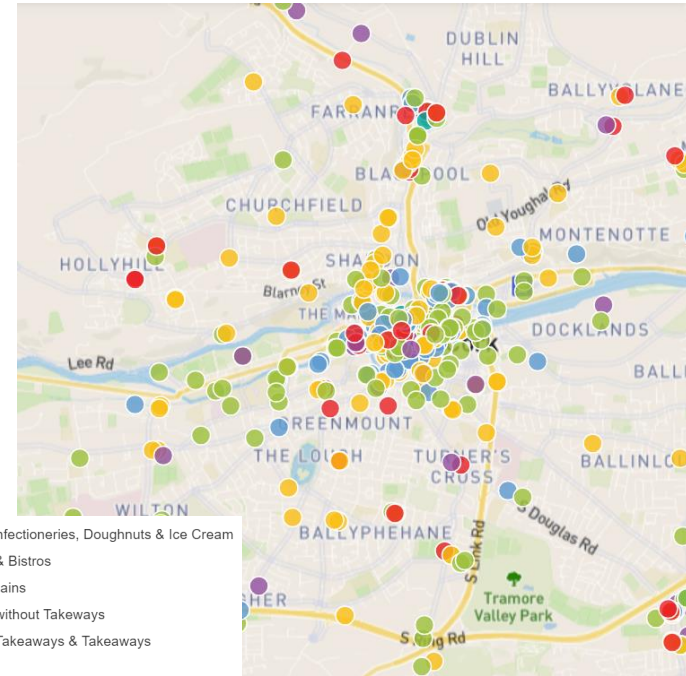
# 4 Sustainable Food Economy

Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy

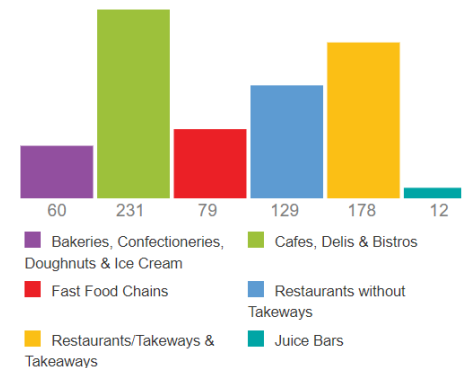
Increasing access to good food

Understanding the food economy of Belfast and where the gaps are (physically and what sectors need strengthened)

Bridging the Gap - partners hoping to pilot more effective models of working



Total Number of Outlets





## 5. Catering and Procurement

Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising local and sustainable food supply chains

Supporting, promoting businesses trying to source more sustainably

Responding to greater plant-based diet choices by public

Key institutions and public expenditure in the city providing leadership on this

**PLANTBASED TREATY**



**No meat please, we're British: now a third of us approve of vegan diet**

**A boom in plant-based diets means next year's Veganuary will attract more uptake than ever**





# 6 Food for the Planet

Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food & farming and an end to food waste

Opportunities to reduce and recycle food waste better

Sustainable Procurement Policy

Need to ensure a just transition so that no one gets left behind

Climate demonstrators underway in soils and biodiversity improvements as well as community growing,

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**BELFAST  
CLIMATE  
COMMISSION**

advises



**The Belfast Agenda**  
continuing the conversation



Resilience and sustainability board



Living here board



Working and learning board



Growing the economy and city development board

establishes

Sustainable Food Partnership



BCC Internal Food Coordination Group

coordinates

Belfast Sustainable Food Network

organises and maps

Work Programmes and Task and Finish Groups setup to deliver key initiatives



**Strategic and collaborative approach**



**Active food citizenship & good food movement**



**Tackling food poverty and diet related ill health**



**Vibrant, prosperous and diverse food economy**



**Transforming catering, procurement & sustainable supply chains**



**Tackling climate, nature emergency and end to food waste**

# What we have achieved so far...

- 1 public event in City Hall in June
- 2 partner workshops in 2022/2023
- 1 Partnership with 19 partners to date



An open Food Network for sharing ideas, learning, opportunities etc.

Application for City's Bronze Award from Sustainable Food Places

Supporting the development of a number of climate demonstrators

A photograph of a person's hands holding a red apple in a green mesh shopping basket. The person is wearing a blue and white striped shirt. The background is a blurred market setting with warm lights. The image is partially obscured by a large green arrow pointing to the right, which serves as a background for the text.

# Thank You

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