

Mailing 28 August 2012

Revaluing Public Sector Food Procurement (RPSFP) on the Knowledge Hub

Dear RPSFP Group members

Now that the summer break is coming to an end, it seems a good time to send out the second mailing with some of the latest postings from the Revaluing Public Sector Food Procurement site on the Knowledge Hub. Of course, there is plenty more to see if you go on-line at: <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/home>

Don't forget that there are also two other Foodlinks Groups operating on the Knowledge Hub that connect with work on public sector food procurement. These focus on **short food supply chains** and **urban food strategies**. You are welcome to join these and become part of the wider discussion – please contact Julie.Smith.1@city.ac.uk for more information.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Fourth Foodlinks project meeting

The fourth Foodlinks project meeting will take place in September 2012 in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain. The project has 14 partners (universities, regional and local governments and civil society organizations) from 9 European countries and this marks an important stage in the three-year project cycle that began at the beginning of 2011. The fourth meeting has a particular focus on building knowledge between the three communities of practice (COPs) – revaluing public sector food procurement, short food supply chains and urban food strategies. Each COP aims to build knowledge brokerage activities to promote sustainable food consumption and production and the outcomes of this cross-COP fertilization will be available soon on the project's website

<http://www.foodlinkscommunity.net/foodlinks-home.html?&L=0> .

Contracts that capture social value embedded in agricultural production

Femke Hoekstra asked for the following information on the blog:

Have you ever seen examples of contracts between producers and caterers (or other buyers) in which the social value embedded in that agricultural product is captured?

You probably know the examples of farmers being paid for environmental services where for example the farmers is paid a price premium. Have you even seen such a construction in terms of social return? Like "By buying this product, you are supporting the creation of x number of jobs for disadvantaged people".

I am asking because in another project, one of the project partners (the head of a care farm association) is developing this idea as he believes that companies might want to be able to make such claims in light of their CSR and for farmers it can also be an interesting way to position themselves more strongly in society. I was wondering if this has been done before.

Thanks for your help!

If you have any information to share or have a comment to make, please respond to Femke on the blog.

Revaluing Public Food Procurement: school meals as a driver for change

Francesca Galli uploaded a copy of the presentation she gave to students of the International Master / Euromodule on Rural Development held this summer at Pisa University. You can view it in the library on the Knowledge Hub:

Francesca says:

In the presentation I focused on green public procurement and the level of uptake in the EU and then I spoke about the best practices I got to know through Foodlinks: Malmo, East Ayrshire and Copenhagen, together with an Italian case here in Tuscany (I only had 1 hour!). It was a fruitful occasion for me, first to prepare myself for this lecture and then I think it raised the interest of the students (6 europeans, 4 africans and 2 south americans).

I invite you to share your thoughts with me on what I presented.

Why not take a look and post a comment on the blog?

Tomorrow's City Today: An International Comparison of Eco-City Frameworks

Launched in July 2012, Tomorrow's City Today: An International Comparison of Eco-City Frameworks is a three-year international network that supports cross-comparative research into international urban sustainability indicators, standards and certification schemes. Funded by the Leverhulme Trust and led by the University of Westminster, the network comprises eight international partners that bring together complementary research and policy expertise from a geographical spread. The initiative responds to the recent growth of various types of 'eco-city' initiatives and seeks to contribute to the advancement of research and policy capacity concerning international urban sustainability standards. The Eco-cities website features a range of research outputs and tools, including a compilation of eco-cities around the world with individual descriptions and location, type, size, development phase, and website information (information taken from the SDRN mailing 31 July 2012).

You can read more here:

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/research/a-z/eco-cities/leverhulme-international-indicators>

NEW DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Sustainable Consumption Institute Report – What's cooking? Adaptation and mitigation in the UK food system

UK consumers could face dramatically reduced food choices in the future unless much more is done to cut greenhouse gas emissions, a new report from the Sustainable Consumption Institute, University of Manchester warns.

You can read the summary findings here:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/news/display/?id=8454>

UNEP launches International Sustainable Public Procurement Initiative and Associated Resources

Timed to coincide with the Rio+20 conference, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a new Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Initiative. The initiative aims to scale-up the level of public spending flowing into goods and services that maximize environmental and social benefits by encouraging a better understanding

of its potential benefits and impacts and facilitating cooperation between key stakeholders. UNEP has published a set of sustainable public

procurement resources to accompany the launch of the initiative. The following SPP resources are, or will soon be, available: up-to-date SPP guidelines, incorporating findings from pilot projects; an SPP trading toolkit, intended for decision-makers, procurers and suppliers; a study on the impacts of SPP; and the SPP Knowledge Management Centre, which provides access to projects, experts, best practices and capacity building tools (taken from SDRN Mailing 18th July 2012).

You can read more here:

<http://www.unep.fr/scp/procurement/docsres/>

Also on the blog:

The increasing argument for a geographically balanced diet

Pieter van de Graaf posted a comment about a new book, “The Locavore’s Dilemma” by Pierre Desrochers and Hiroko Shimiko. He said:

The publication of the book "The Locavore's Dilemma", which argues, sometimes rather bluntly, against basing your diet purely on local produce, has instigated an interesting, widespread discussion on the arguments for locavorism versus globavorism.

The arguments presented on both sides make it increasingly clear that, as is the issue with similar debates on for instance meat vs. vegetables or organic vs. conventional, there is no obvious winner if all aspects are taken into account.

A wide-ranging, evidence-based review on the impact of the geography of individual diets is needed but it seems that the solution eventually will turn out to be a geographically balanced diet, which could be called Geovorism. This would mean eating local produce where it makes most sense from an environmental, social and health point of view, and supplementing this (to achieve a healthy, balanced diet) with produce from further away, but choosing again in a knowledgeable manner based on the information available.

You can find more information about the book here:

<http://www.globavore.org/>

Local Governments for Sustainability and LSE Cities centre Report – ‘Going Green: How cities are leading the next economy’

The LSE Cities/ICLEI survey report, Going Green: How cities are leading the next economy, was launched at the Rio+20 Summit. It shows the extent to which cities have successfully integrated green policies since the last United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 1992.

You can read more here:

<http://lsecities.net/publications/research-reports/going-green/>

UP-COMING EVENTS

Featured Events include:

Good Food for London Conference: Putting sustainable food on the map

Rich Mix 35 – 47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA - 11 September 2012

We will be celebrating ten years of London Food Link, the network for those who care about ethical and sustainable food, and hearing from the initiatives that have helped improve London’s food over the last decade.

The event will also see the launch of the 2012 Good Food for London report, which documents how boroughs are leading the way in putting better food on the Londoner’s plate. Hear from the campaigns involved and the standout boroughs. Plus, in this Olympic year we’ll hear from those involved in ensuring that the food for the games and beyond is fit for Olympians.

Tickets are available for the full event or just the evening, and both include an evening buffet.

Book your place at <http://www.sustainweb.org/londonfoodlink/>

For more information: Please contact Ross Compton at Sustain on 020 7837 1228 or email ross@sustainweb.org.

4th AESOP Conference of Sustainable Food Planning Berlin, Germany - 01 November 2012

Building upon the stimulating debate and compelling scholarship produced during the first three Sustainable Food Planning Conferences in Almere (2009), Brighton (2010) and Cardiff (2011), this conference will promote cross-disciplinary discussions between active researchers and practitioners in response to these and related issues.

Working at a range of scales and with a variety of practical and theoretical models, the conference will review and elaborate approaches to and definitions of sustainable food systems, and continue to define ways of achieving, implementing and institutionalising them. This conference is focussing on 3 different tracks to contribute to the discussion on 'sustainable food planning': (1) Places, (2) Processes, and (3) Products.

For more information or registration:
<http://www.klima.tu-berlin.de/aesop/index.php>

ESRS conference Florence, 29 July – 1 August 2013

You can find out more about the next conference of the European Society for Rural Sociology here: <http://www.florenceesrs2013.com/>

The conference has much on sustainable food and includes several workshops on sustainable food production, alternative food movements, short supply chains, local production etc. The call for working groups just opened.
