Edible Cities

Exploring the Need for Urban Agriculture

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Urban Agriculture

Edible Cities?

Informality

Moving Forward...
Urban Agriculture
Hong Kong Imports Over 90% of Its Food. Can It Learn to Grow?

By Daniel Kong on August 8, 2013
Photography by Glennugen Elingsen

Oh what heaven to only eat food grown where you live! The disturbing truth about supermarket food - and QUENTIN LETTS’ very simple solution

By QUENTIN LETTS FOR THE DAILY MAIL

Until last week, my teenager children thought “food miles” was the distance we drive to our nearest fish and chip shop in Bonsall-on-Wye, a round-trip of 14 miles.

Then we saw that actress Liz Hurley had set herself a food-miles challenge: to consume only produce that came from her (and our) county of Herefordshire.

Liz did not go short of nosh, she feasted like a Tudor monarch on every item of locally sourced food from local meat and poultry to cheese, vegetables, fruit and even pomegranate and vodka.

According to official figures, in 2010, the UK imported £69.6 billion worth of food and beverages – 94% of which came from another country, much of it from long distances.

In 2012, the UK imported £72.8 billion worth of food and beverages – 93% of which again came from another country, much of it from long distances.

But with Liz Hurley and the Food Miler campaign, it is possible for the UK to move back towards self-sufficiency in its food.

The campaign launched at a time when the British public is increasingly aware of the environmental impact of food miles and the need to reduce it.

The campaign aims to encourage consumers to think about the carbon footprint of their food and to support local producers and growers.

The Food Miler campaign is supported by a range of organisations, including the Soil Association, the BBC, and the UK government.

The campaign has also been endorsed by a number of high-profile figures, including Dame Jenni Murray, Sir Michael Moritz and Liz Hurley.

The campaign is calling on the UK government to take action to reduce the UK’s food miles, and to support local producers and growers.

The campaign is also calling on retailers to reduce the food miles of their products, and to support local producers and growers.

The campaign is calling on consumers to support local producers and growers by buying local food, and to think about the environmental impact of their food choices.

The campaign is calling on government to support local producers and growers by providing funding and support for local food systems.

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URBAN AGRICULTURE

Urban agriculture involves many different types of food-producing spaces, stakeholders, resources, and policies, and contributes to many benefits.

**Benefits**

**Health**
- Access to healthy food
- Food-health literacy
- Healthy eating
- Physical activity

**Social**
- Empowerment + Mobilization
- Youth Development & Education
- Food Security
- Safe spaces
- Socially Integrated Aging

**Economic**
- Local economic stimulation
- Job Growth
- Job Readiness
- Food Affordability

**Ecological**
- Awareness of Food Systems Ecology
- Stewardship
- Conservation
- Storm Water Management
- Soil Improvement
- Biodiversity + Habitat Improvement

**People**
- Local residents
- Volunteers
- Community organizations
- Students
- Visitors
- Market customers

**Soil & Compost**
- Self-produced
- Purchased
- Donated

**Supplies**
- Seeds
- Fertilizer
- Tools
- Construction Materials
- Water
- Electricity

**Key Stakeholders**
- Farmers and Gardeners
- Government Officials
- Support Organizations
- Funders

**Financial Resources**
- Sales of produce
- Grants
- Donations
- Fees for services

**Support Services**
- Technical assistance
- Advocacy and policy work
- Environmental education
- Networking events

Access to land and rooftops

(Five Borough Farm, 2016)
Spectrum of opportunity spaces

From the micro (i.e. grass verge) To the macro (i.e. industrial site)

‘Given the current economic climate, stalled development spaces are a feature of our towns and cities and are likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.’

(Greenspace Scotland, 2010)
○ Incredible Edible Todmorden - huge impact
  >100 groups in the UK + more internationally

○ Our research shows the network is making a positive impact

○ Edible landscapes - free for everyone!
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Edible Cities?
'Brighton and Hove is using supplementary planning guidance to incorporate food into the planning system and encourage more food growing spaces in the city'

(Morgan, 2015: 22)
Phase 1 – desktop study on the key ingredients for success
Creation of typology and literature on urban farming

Phase 2 – case study analysis of successful projects
Visits to urban farms identified in Phase 1 and soil testing

Phase 3 – key stakeholder consultation and recommendations
Community consultation
‘We rely on grants from charities... you never know where the next will come from’

(Salop Drive)

‘Given the funding environment, a lot of organisations will do what they can to raise funds, it’s a very challenging environment’

(Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens)

‘Our income is below £25,000 a year... our income from supporters and community, which is the donations box generally and one-off donations people might give us, some people give a couple of hundred pound here and there’

(Woodgate Valley Urban Farm)
Animals killed at Wythenshawe Park community farm after youths went on rampage

18:49, 21 MAY 2016 | UPDATED 21:56, 22 MAY 2016 | BY TODD FITZGERALD

It is understood that four youths had hurled missiles at cows, kicked poultry cages and let dozens of birds out of their coops

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Three geese and a chicken were killed after youths went on the rampage at Wythenshawe Park community farm.
- £1 million from a charity to enable UA
- Housing Association providing land – predominantly stalled sites for meanwhile developments
- Beyond food growing – recreate the Garden City feel to the space
Informality
‘Illicit cultivation of someone else’s land’ (Reynolds, 2008: 16)

Guerrillas either legitimise or decline (increasingly the former i.e. Incredible Edible Todmorden)

Evidence shows that many pursue the informal route to avoid what they deem ‘over-bureaucracy’
“Guerrilla gardening revives spaces - creating noise and getting people engaged. It is fun, informal and a catalyst for bringing people together. There is an informal movement in Salford... we've seen things just 'pop-up' in places. Bez (from the Happy Mondays) is leading the creation of a guerrilla orchard.”

(Project Officer, Salford City Council)
Moving Forward...
'The local trap refers to the tendency of food activists and researchers to assume something inherent about the local scale. The local is assumed to be desirable; it is preferred a priori to larger scales. What is desired varies and can include ecological sustainability, social justice, democracy, better nutrition, and food security, freshness, and quality.'

(Born and Purcell, 2006: 195)
Cities need to realise the benefit of using stalled space - meanwhile UA sites should be encouraged

(Angotti, 2013; Hardman and Larkham, 2014; Wiskerke and Viljoen, 2012)

More radical approaches i.e. embracing Guerrilla Gardening

‘Ideally you will choose the time to seek legitimisation. Do this when you judge that you and your guerrilla garden will be more at risk if you continue illegally than if you try to go legit. Once you call a truce and offer to negotiate, it is crucial you do this from a strong position’

(Reynolds, 2008: 226)
- Opportunity space for key actors to seize on the global UA momentum

- UA will never make a city self-sufficient but can radically impact on health and wellbeing

- Planners need to look at exemplars – use tools to enable the practice in cities (like Brighton in the UK)
Urban Informal Agriculture

The Secret Lives of Guerilla Gardeners

Michael Hardiman
Peter J. Lankham

Augsburger, Albert J. Sonny and Michael H. Elson

Observe Guerrillas in the Wild:
Reinterpreting Practices of Urban Guerrilla Gardening

Understanding Guerrilla Gardening in the UK

David Adamson and Michael H. Elson

Abstract: The purpose of the research is to understand the motivations and practices of urban guerrilla gardeners in the UK. The study uses a qualitative research design, conducting interviews and observations of gardeners in different urban settings. The findings reveal that guerrilla gardeners are motivated by a desire to create green spaces, improve urban environments, and promote social and environmental sustainability. They employ innovative strategies to overcome legal and logistical challenges, often working in collaboration with local communities. The research emphasizes the potential for guerrilla gardening to contribute to urban greening initiatives and community development.

Urban Agriculture

Towards Sustainablility?
The Politics of Planning

by

David Adamson, Albert J. Sonny and Michael H. Elson

Land Use Policy

Urban Guerilla Gardening

A Mechanism to Increase

Understanding Guerrilla Gardening in the UK


