



Challenge support cycle 2021 – The City Council of Glasgow, Scotland.

Social inclusion and recovery of derelict sites through urban food models

Located on the Scottish Lowlands, the city of Glasgow is currently transitioning away from its manufacturing heritage of the industrial revolution towards a just and sustainable future. Aiming to become one of Europe's most circular cities by 2030, Glasgow is committed to reinvent its identity upon a more innovative, fair and participatory economic growth, already included in its Resilient Strategy. Aware that the circular economy approach can help generate inclusive and sustainable business models, the City Council has developed its [Circular Economy Route Map](#). The upcoming COP26 that will be held in Glasgow is seen as an opportunity to catalyze the growth of a greener and fairer local economy.

As part of its Urban Transition Alliance Challenge for 2021, Glasgow will focus on the development of a circular strategy to repurpose derelict urban spaces incorporating circular models such as urban food systems, support local community building and business innovation. To this end, Glasgow identified three key steps: First, select the most suitable urban spaces to set and develop the food systems. Second, design a convincing business model able to involve senior officials and private companies in the project. Last, collect and implement good practices that assure the social and sustainability purposes of the urban growing spaces.

Urban Transitions Alliance Support

The Urban Transitions Alliance will support Glasgow City Council in refining its community-based urban growing systems initiative. The knowledge gained from other peer legacy cities that already undertook similar actions will serve as a basis for peer-to-peer exchange. From Germany, Dortmund's transformation of industrial spaces and Essen's urban greening of its post-industrial landscape will offer valuable insights related to derelict site renewal processes. Similarly, from the U.S., Cincinnati's token system for low-income households to access locally produced sustainable food and Pittsburgh's Vacant Lot Toolkit will contribute with different perspectives on community engagement.

On its journey towards becoming a global leader for inclusiveness and sustainability, Glasgow will contribute with its own experience to the Urban Transition Alliance, as well as to peer-learning and cross-regional exchanges with other Alliance member cities.

Key Questions

- What are the advantages and drawbacks of possible places within the urban context to develop community-based food systems?
- What types of business models could help to direct private sector resources into developing and operating urban food systems?
- How to stimulate the potential of urban food projects as a strategy for community involvement, cooperative models of land ownership, economic growth and local food supply?

Expected Outcomes

- Create linkages among the experiences of other post-industrial cities, and a peer network for discussion and learning on urban food systems.
- Improve Glasgow's understanding of the circular transition journey and its circular economic models for community-based urban food systems
- Conceptualize a roadmap for a green recovery from the Covid crisis while addressing the climate emergency, based on re-definition and transformation of urban spaces.