Marches Food & Farming Convergence

Marches Forward food branch

(Monmouthshire in

20251

## MARCHES FOOD **NETWORK**

-Food Loops Planning (Funded by Sustain) -Uk Lottery Climate Bid: Resilience through projects and knowledge sharing for systems change

-Esme Fairbairn Bid: Network dev for coops, routes to Market

& Relocalisation

Policy Engagement and consultation at Town & Parish Council Level

# MULTI-LEVEL STAKEHOLDER **ENGAGEMENT**

-Supporting farmers & Farmer cluster needs -Grassroots trainings & skills shares for local empowerment -Talks, Webinars & Field Sessions

-National input in SFP network working groups

Collaboration with training centres and academic institutions: Rural Skills, Horticulture,

Regen

Tourism: Working with artners SHNL, Visit ropshire, Telford & Wrekin

**SHROPSHIRE GOOD FOOD** 

> -Resilient food systems theme: Best practice in Action. -Events, talks, tours, offers, skills workshops for a ACTIVE trail offer, funded through sponsorship & adverstising

SHROPSHI

ARTNERSHIP

COMMUNICATIONS

-Producer storytelling and

brand building

-Good Food Movement

-Two-way membership

engagement, voice for members

-Resilience, skills, signposting,

call to action

-Consultation on Issues &

engagement

-Blogs, Newsletters, Press, Radio

TRAIL

Linking with other project areas for visibility

# **PRODUCERS**

-Routes to Market & infrastructure engagement planning -Intensive Farming engagement -CIC & Funding Bids Support -Collaboration on infrastructure and branding needs education & Outreach on food systems resilience

# **SCHOOLS**

-Schools Food Web continues (Primary Schools) Food & decarbonisation -School Food Policy -Planning for Secondary Schools: Healthy eating, reconnection to landscape & mental wellbeing

# **RESILIENCE** PLANNING -Building SGFP Network &

membership diversification support

Over 350 members Partners

Network - Multi orgs for a unified voice across many areas

-engagement for crisis planning -Upskilling, landmatching, food production for people, on-farm -Emergency services connection

Shropshire Resilience

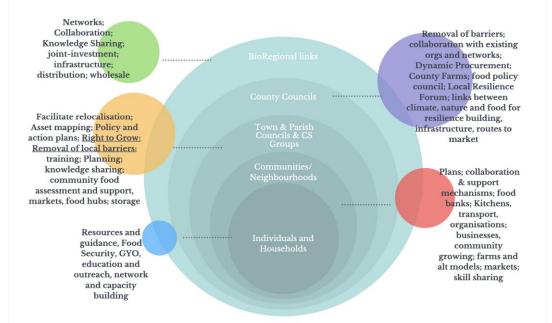


Register here



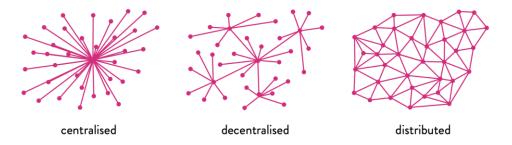


# **Building out Civil Food Resilience**



Plus: ....Businesses & food related sectors, Farms, retailers, abattoirs, trainers, food champions, wholesalers, transport, water, land managers, foresters ++++,

Figure 8: Centralised, decentralised and distributed flow systems



Source: Baran / RAND Corporation (1962)<sup>34</sup>

# **School Food Web**

Engaging stakeholders, building partnerships, and fostering a supportive network creating a strong foundation for the school food web and ensure its long-term success in promoting sustainable food practices, nutrition education, and community engagement.



#### Roadmap



#### BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Conduct an initial assessment to establish a baseline of the school's food system. This could include emissions from food procurement, transportation, processing, storage, preparation, and waste management. Pupil questionnaires should be part of this process.



#### **DATA COLLECTION**

Collect data on food purchasing practices, including the distance food travels to reach the school, the types of transportation used, and the packaging materials involved. Estimate emissions associated with food waste and disposal, considering decomposition processe



# QUANTIFICATION OF CARBON FOOTPRINT

Use carbon footprint calculators to assess foodrelated emissions to quantify the carbon footprint of the school's food system. Calculate emissions associated with different food items based on factors such as production methods, transportation distance, and packaging



#### INTERVENTION

Identify projects that can be implemented as part of the school food web initiative, focussing on those expected to reduce earbon emissions. These may include growing, sourcing food locally, reducing food waste, promoting plantbased most.





#### BUILD A SUPPORT SYSTEM

Strengthen the Schools Food Web by introducing stakeholders, partners, mentors. Share best practice between schools, through teacher/catering/admin events. Involve parents, teachers, community, local growers farmers and businesses. Communicate and celebrate success. Provide resources and training.



#### POST-IMPLEMENTATION

After implementing the chosen initiative, collect data on the changes in practices, energy consumption, waste generation, and other relevant parameters. Engagement questionnaire with pupils, staff and parents. Focus groups.



## COMPARISON AND

ANALYSIS
Compare the baseline with the postimplementation results to determine the

food web initiative.

Look at the contributions of different interventions to the overall carbon reduction identifying which strategies were most effective in reducing emissions.

ions attributed to the school



## REVIEW AND ADJUST

Consider factors such as scalability, costeffectiveness, and co-benefits (e.g., improved nutrition, community engagement) when evaluating the success of the implemented initiatives. Review support, further funding requirements and help needed.





# CELEBRATE AND COMMUNICATE

Using community newsletters, social media, and school websites, share updates, success stories and upcoming events related to the school food

web.
Recognise and celebrate achievements, such as harvest milestones, cooking competitions, or community partnerships, to build momentum and inspire continued participation.



#### REPORTING

including the methodology used, key results, and implications for future action.

Share with stakeholders, including school administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community members, to raise awareness of the environmental benefits of the school food web initiative and encourage ongoing support and participation.



# SCHOOLS FOOD WEB



- School Engagement & Partnerships: We have engaged 20 primary schools and 10 partner organisations, each contributing to various project elements. This collaboration has built a strong foundation for sustainability in the schools.
- Food Audits and Roadmaps: Every school completed food audits, helping assess their needs and create tailored roadmaps for sustainable food practices. These roadmaps have been shared across schools to align future efforts.
- Gleaning Project & Farm Visits: Four visits to Greenacres Organic Farm engaged 120
  children, where they learned about organic farming, wheat and oat production, and flour
  processing. The farm will provide flour for a whole-school bread-making project for 600
  children in the summer term. Additionally, pumpkins, courgettes, pears, apples, and damsons
  were gleaned, some of the produce was processed, and used in a special lunch with parents,
  featuring apple sauce, roasted pumpkin, and apple cake. Three schools also visited Fordhall
  Organic Farm for workshops.
- Training & Workshops: Various workshops have been delivered to both staff and students. Two Letting Off STEAM CPD workshops have been completed, with the final event held in March. GRFFN training sessions were held for 10 schools, and a Citizen Science Project will begin in February. Additionally, 12 workshops with Ben from OsNosh have been scheduled, focusing on food-based activities, community kitchens, and garden visits. Two year long, afterschool growing clubs have been supported, and 20 additional workshops have been delivered, covering topics like planning new growing plots and making soups with reception classes. The Food System Live event on February 10th provided an opportunity for positive engagement, bringing together staff from schools to further skills and encourage the work started by this project. We have also supported a local secondary schools year 7's to take part in the national CanTeam initiative, with the help of Shrewsbury Food Hub it was adapted to a surplus meal for 100 people.
- Micro-grants & Equipment: The project awarded 15 micro-grants, totaling £15,000, to support food system sustainability efforts. These grants have funded everything from cooking and gardening equipment to wormeries and seeds.
- Sustainable Food Systems: We have implemented several initiatives to enhance sustainability, such as composting efforts. Master Composter sessions have been delivered across 18 schools, with ongoing sessions scheduled. Furthermore, 15 schools received funding for Hot Bin Composters to improve food waste management.
- Juicing & Smoothie Projects: Engagement has been strong through our juicing pilot, with
  Weston Rhyn Primary School participating in smoothie workshops and creating a "smoothie"
  fruit allotment. Fruit bushes have been ordered for continued growth. Four schools also took
  part in surplus smoothie bike sessions, collecting approximately 30kg of surplus fruit per
  school, engaging around 1500 pupils.
- Let's Go Zero Programme: Six schools have signed up for the Let's Go Zero programme, committing to reducing carbon emissions and achieving Net Zero by 2030
- Citizen Science: The Growing Real Food For Nutrition Citizen Science Project commenced in February 2025. Students will collect and analyse data on the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables, enhancing their understanding of the impact of food choices on health and the environment, empowering them through science.

