

TRONDHEIM SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM, NORWAY



Trondheim Municipality and Trøndelag County collaborated with a variety of local stakeholders to co-create solutions for a more sustainable food system in Trondheim. The Trondheim Transition Arena aimed to tackle the pressing challenges in the local food system, create a sustainable Trondheim food vision and foster collaboration.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

Approximately 30 local stakeholders participated in the workshops, including representatives from Trondheim Municipality, Trøndelag County, local NGOs such as "Future in Our Hands", as well as farmers, food distributors, retailers, and community organisations. Also the founder of "The Just Store" that connects local food producers directly with consumers, contributed to the discussions. The variety of participants ensured a broad range of perspectives on local food system challenges.

The Just Store in Trondheim is a shop with a focus on sustainable local food. The Store aims to become a key player in developing a fair food system for all local food stakeholders.

The Just Store prioritizes selling locally produced organic food from the Trondheim region and is committed to giving farmers a fair price for their products. A strong emphasis is placed on reducing food waste and environmental impact.

IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

The key challenges identified within Trondheim's food system include:

1. Limited awareness and knowledge about sustainable food practices.
2. Unequal access to locally produced food.
3. Inefficient distribution networks that hinder the availability of local produce.
4. The decrease of the role of shared meals as a community-building activity.

ABOUT THE PROCESS

The arena workshops followed a three-phase structure. The first phase focused on visioning, where participants explored the question: "How can we facilitate a food system that benefits nature and all links in the value chain?" Participants identified challenges in the current food system, envisioned a sustainable future, and formulated a shared vision.

In the second phase, participants created transition pathways. This phase included backcasting exercises to determine the actions needed to achieve the shared vision. In the final phase, participants set an agenda for pilot projects. This phase culminated in the creation of concrete action plans as well as forming the working groups for implementation.



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RESULTS

The Trondheim Transition Arena resulted in the creation of a comprehensive transition agenda and vision document, providing a clear roadmap for change. Several pilot projects were launched including:

Food Competency Center

The Competence Center, located at The Just Store, will share knowledge and networks that strengthen the work towards the visions for sustainable food. A pilot project will be implemented with the municipality to increase the use of locally produced food in public kitchens.

Education in kindergartens and schools

Focus on cultivation, cooking, and nutritive knowledge. Emphasis on practical teaching and close collaboration with the food competence center. Strengthening interdisciplinary learning align with the Norwegian curriculum.

Neighborhood Long Table

This pilot aims to use food as a social glue in the local community by bringing people from different neighborhoods together around a long table with locally produced and sustainable food. This will strengthen the sense of community and empower residents to make sustainable food choices.

Urban cultivation "Pallet Box School"

The Pallet Box School will be a competence-building program for residents where they can enroll in a two-year educational program to learn from professionals how to grow food. This will increase knowledge about food production and thus lead to increased self-sufficiency, home gardening, and better understanding of food production.

Increased diversity at the Trøndersk Food Festival

The pilot project will showcase the ethnic diversity within Trøndelag, building stronger communities where everyone feels included. It also recognizes the value of cross-cultural learning and collaboration in developing an inclusive sustainable food system.

Working groups were established to coordinate these projects. The transition arena demonstrated the power of bringing different actors together and laid a solid foundation to transform Trondheim's food landscape in the long term.

"It was incredible to see so many people working towards a positive change. Trondheim sustainable food transition arena created a vibrant community where new relationships, ideas, and opportunities in co-creation with the public sector could grow."

CONTACT

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