

Mon 28/03/2022 17:28

Community Gardens Ireland [REDACTED]

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please note the following submission from Community Gardens Ireland for Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap:

Q2: What additional actions do you think would be effective in helping Ireland reduce its food waste?

Currently there is no mention of the role of community growing initiatives in *Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap*.

Other countries such as Scotland have highlighted following:

"Community growing can lead to a reduction in food waste through composting and reduced food packaging, contributing to the national and local zero waste agenda, and help to meet the food waste reduction target"

Ref: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/part-9-community-empowerment-scotland-act-2015-allotments-guidance-local-authorities-section-119-duty-prepare-food-growing-strategy/pages/6/>

In addition, recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change call out urban growing initiatives such as Community Gardens making important contributions to local food security and nutrition. In addition, urban agriculture initiatives are detailed as having the following potential benefits:

"can divert organic waste produced in cities as compost, to reduce water contamination and input costs (Menyuka et al., 2020)"

https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_FullReport.pdf

Also, in 2019 the IPCC released a report which included Urban Agriculture initiatives, as follows:

"Urban and peri-urban agriculture reduces the food carbon footprint by avoiding long distance food transport. These types of agriculture also limit GHG emissions by recycling organic waste and wastewater that would otherwise release methane from landfills and dumping sites (Lwasa et al. 2014). Urban and peri-urban agriculture also contribute in adapting to climate change, including extreme events, by reducing the urban heat island effect, increasing water infiltration and slowing down run-offs to prevent flooding, etc. (Lwasa et al. 2014, 2015; Kumar et al. 2017a1209).

For example, a scenario analysis shows that urban gardens reduce the surface temperature up to 10°C in comparison to the temperature without vegetation (Tsilini et al. 20151210). Urban

agriculture can also improve biodiversity and strengthen associated ecosystem services (Lin et al. 20151211)."

"In summary, urban and peri-urban agriculture can contribute to improving urban food security, reducing GHG emissions, and adapting to climate change impacts (robust evidence, medium agreement)."

Ref: <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/chapter-5/>

In light of the above, Community Gardens Ireland believes that *Ireland's National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap* should include specific mention of the role of community growing initiatives such as allotments and community gardens have when it comes to reducing food waste. Appendix 2 should also be amended to include "Communities" as a key sector with additional references to the role of communities in working together to reduce food waste.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Best regards,

[Redacted signature block]