

Mailing 28 June 2012

## Revaluing Public Sector Food Procurement (RPSFP) on the Knowledge Hub

Dear RPSFP Group members

Welcome! This is the first in a regular monthly mailing that aims to keep you up-to-date with cutting edge information about the public procurement of sustainable food. You may be aware that our numbers are growing and we already have 44 members but not all are contributing yet - so we also hope this will act as a prompt for you to join in debates and share your own learning, experiences and ideas with the Group on the Knowledge Hub <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/home>

Current plans are to include in the Mailing links to interesting articles, blogs and events that have been posted on the Knowledge Hub. You can see from the information and links posted below that a lot is already happening – but by visiting the site you will find much more, including documents in the library, comments on the blog and events listings.

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### SHARING KNOWLEDGE – tools and links

#### RSS Newsfeed

The public face of the Foodlinks project has been revamped and expanded - see <http://www.foodlinkscommunity.net/foodlinks-home.html?&L=0> . Here you can find news of how the project is developing, including information about receiving RSS Newsfeed:

*Always know what's new at foodlinkscommunity.net*

*RSS is an easy way for you to always keep up-to-date with Foodlinks news. All you need is a piece of software called an RSS reader which you can install on your computer for free. In order to receive the Foodlinks newsfeed simply copy the following address and paste it into your RSS reader. That's it.*

<http://www.foodlinkscommunity.net/foodlinks-feed.100.html>

#### Other Foodlinks groups on the Knowledge Hub

There are two other Foodlinks Groups operating on the Knowledge Hub which connect with work on public sector food procurement. These focus

on **short food supply chains** and **urban food strategies**. You are welcome to join these – contact [Julie.Smith.1@city.ac.uk](mailto:Julie.Smith.1@city.ac.uk)

### Interesting KB-tool: email-conferencing

Bettina Bock posted the following on the **blog**:

I just received the link below in which FAO invites people to participate in an email-conference and I thought it might be an interesting KB tool. Something different from a webinar and as it seem possible to do on a large scale - inviting people from all over the world and different kind of stakeholders.

<http://www.fao.org/oek/research-extension-systems/ais-ff/econf/en/>

### UK government issues social media guidance for civil servants

Julie Smith posted this on the **blog**:

The social media guidance is made up of six principles:

Government should

- Communicate with citizens in the places they already are

- Use social media to consult and engage

- Use social media to be more transparent and accountable

- Be part of the conversation with all the benefits that brings

- Understand that government cannot do everything alone, or in isolation

- Expect civil servants to adhere to the Civil Service Code (online as well as offline)

You can read about it here: <http://digital.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/2012/05/17/cabinet-office-launches-social-media-guidance-for-civil-servants/>

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## NEW DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

### Foodlinks Conference ‘Public Procurement of Sustainable Food’ – presentations now online

The Foodlinks Community of practice (CoP) Revaluing Public Procurement held a day long conference - "Public Procurement of Sustainable Food" at City University London, on Thursday 10 May 2012. Conference speakers reflected on past experience, the current situation and also on the ways forward for public procurement of sustainable food in the UK. We hope that the conference has already created some new networks for knowledge exchange between these groups and look forward to helping to build these networks over the coming months.

You can read more about the conference and find links to the presentations on the Foodlinks home page, under News:

<http://www.foodlinkscommunity.net/>

### The challenges facing contemporary food systems

David Barling's article on the challenges facing contemporary food systems is in the **library** on the Knowledge Hub. The article focuses on European policy and governance pathways to sustainable food consumption and production. It discusses EU reforms and planned reforms around a more resource efficient Europe including a common LCA methodology for environmental impact of products and a Communication that is planned on sustainable food.

The link to the article is:

[www.agronomie.asso.fr/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Revue\\_AES/AES\\_vol1\\_n2\\_dec2011/AES\\_vol1\\_n2\\_2\\_Barling.pdf](http://www.agronomie.asso.fr/fileadmin/user_upload/Revue_AES/AES_vol1_n2_dec2011/AES_vol1_n2_2_Barling.pdf)

### Also on the blog:

#### UK Public Services (Social Value) Act

The new UK Act received Royal Assent on 8th March 2012. This has relevance for public sector food procurement practices. To quote from the summary of the Bill:

'this requires local authorities, when entering into public procurement contracts, to give greater consideration to economic, social or environmental well-being during the pre-procurement stage'.

You can read about the Act here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/3/contents/enacted/data.htm>

#### TAP WATER: The elements of a sustainable presidency

The Danish EU presidency is calling itself "the tap water presidency".

During the EU Presidency, Danish sustainable initiatives and solutions for sustainable food include: menu's based on seasonal ingredients; 50% of food comes from local suppliers; 100% Danish organic dairy products; honey produced from local beehives at the conference venue, Bella Center; and food waste transported directly to local bio-gas plant and then converted into energy for Danish households.

You can see more here:

[http://eu2012.dk/en/EU-and-the-Presidency/About-the-Presidency/~/\\_media/Files/About%20the%20Presidency/The%20elements%20of%20a%20sustainable%20presidency.pdf](http://eu2012.dk/en/EU-and-the-Presidency/About-the-Presidency/~/_media/Files/About%20the%20Presidency/The%20elements%20of%20a%20sustainable%20presidency.pdf)

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## UP-COMING EVENTS

Featured Events include:

*Digging In!* Farm to Cafeteria conference,  
August 2-5 Burlington, Vermont

For those working on and interested in the role of public purchasing, see this conference hosted by the US national farm to school network. It is to be in Vermont this August 2-5.

It will be looking at institutional purchasing as a tool for re-localisation of the supply chain. It's the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, and will be in Burlington Vermont. For more information, see:  
<http://farmtocafeteriaconference.org/6/>

## Eco-Procura: 19 September 2012 Malmo

The conference will discuss and present:

- the importance of sustainable public procurement in the green economy debate
- the proposed European Directive on Public Procurement
- the potential of public procurement of innovation
- the opportunities for addressing social and ethical issues in procurement
- achieving sustainability in the public construction sector

EcoProcura 2012 will provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge amongst procurers from all levels of government, policy-makers, suppliers, manufacturers, multipliers and representatives from the European Commission and European Parliament.

Organiser: ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

For more information see: <http://www.ecoprocura.eu/malmo2012>

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