URBAVORE

A Comparative Analysis of Best Practices in Urban Agriculture

What is it?

The Urbavore initiative aims to provide The City of Montreal with insights into best practices of urban agriculture from around the world as well as actionable recommendations on how to make the city more resilient and improve access to locally grown food.

Photo Source: Daria Shevtsova - Pexels

Why is it relevant?

While 53% of food purchased by Quebecers comes from within the province, on average all food still travels in transport for about 2,400 km before it reaches a Quebec consumer. Montreal is far from being self-sufficient with regards to food production, which can make its population especially vulnerable in the event of supply disruption such as the recent one caused by the COVID19 pandemic.

Photo Source: Unsplash

What was done?

Comparative analysis was done to find best practices in urban agriculture among four regions: Cuba, Singapore, Paris and Cleveland. Furthermore, the analysis was based on the methodology of three "pillars": social impact, partnerships and education.

Recommendations

Based on the analysis, Urbavore recommends four strategies to further accelerate urban agriculture transformation in Montreal:

1. Based on the partnership pillar: implement clear targets for percentage of food consumed in the city that comes from local urban (indoor) farms.

2. Based on the partnership pillar: create a fully fledge department dedicated to urban agriculture within the City of Montreal.

3. Based on the social pillar: create a new official food label/sticker to help local groceries highlight and distinguish food products grown in the city.

4. Based on the education pillar: develop an online platform to facilitate communications and create synergies as well as grow a sense of community in urban farming.

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