



Momentum for Change: Planetary Health Category

Ghent en Garde: Creating Structural Change through Local Food Policy

Belgium

Ghent is a small city northwest Belgium with around 250,000 residents — and was one of the first European cities to launch its own urban food policy. Launched in 2013, Ghent’s urban food policy demonstrates the potential to transform the food systems at the local urban level.

The policy is called “[Ghent en Garde](#)” and aims to strengthen short food supply chains, increase sustainable production and consumption, while also allowing for better access to food and decreasing food waste. Through participative governance models, including a food policy council, Ghent’s food policy has evolved from a range of small scale initiatives to enable wide-spread structural change to the city’s food system.

Key Facts

- Over a two year period, Ghent en Garde’s programs provided products or food baskets to 57,000 people in need.
- In 2009, the city of Ghent, together with the NGO Eva, launched “Thursday Veggie Day”, making them the first city in the world to officially introduce a vegetarian day.
- Around 7% of the population in Ghent is vegetarian, which significantly higher than the Belgian average of 2.3%
- Ghent has become the city with most vegetarian restaurants per inhabitant in all of Europe.

More information

Digital assets are available for download at <http://bit.ly/mfc-2019>

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