

Learning from Bergamo

An Integrated Food Policy in Practice

Eurocities Academy training: Policy to table: Building local capacity for sustainable food systems

Nadia Tonoli, Food Policy Officer, City of Bergamo



Presentation Objectives

1. Share the path of the Bergamo Food Policy (successes and challenges).
2. Identify transferable lessons for your Action Plans.
3. Discuss your challenges.



Bergamo: Our Context

- 122,000 inhabitants
- Unique geography: "Upper" City vs "Lower" City
- Surrounded by the "Parco dei Colli" (Hills Park)
- UNESCO Creative City for Gastronomy
- UNESCO World Heritage (Mura Veneziane)



Our path: From the idea to practice



Our Governance Model



Political Coordination

Led by the Mayor (Elena Carnevali). Ensures commitment and integration at the highest levels.



Food Policy Council

multi-stakeholder body (Slow Food, UNIBG, Coldiretti, Confagricoltura, Camera di Commercio, Bio distretto ecc.) coordinated by Raoul Tiraboschi.



Food Policy Team

Inter-departmental municipal team (City Manager, european projects office, environmental, botanical aarden, social affairs, schools and youth service) for project implementation.

Our 6-Point Strategy (Manifesto 2023)

-  **Access:** Guarantee healthy food for all citizens.
-  **Value:** Recognize the value of agriculture.
-  **Partnership:** Develop local agri-food production.
-  **Education:** Promote healthy and sustainable eating.
-  **Sustainability:** Improve agri-food supply chains.
-  **Food waste:** Combat waste and redistribute surplus.

Supporting Local Agriculture: New Government Plan (PGT)

- Create a "green belt" around the city.
- Expansion equal to 3.5 million square meters of green area, to relaunch the ancient vocation of these territories and promote zero-kilometer product production

PROPOSTA DI AMPLIAMENTO

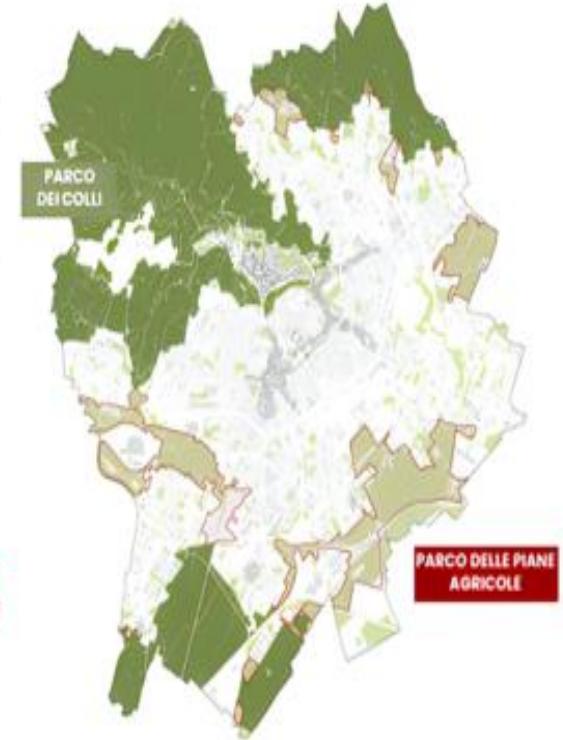
L'amministrazione comunale prevede l'**inserimento nel perimetro del Parco dei Colli** delle aree di rilevanza paesaggistica ambientale con l'obiettivo di incrementare le aree oggetto di tutela.

Per queste aree, denominate "**Parco delle Piane Agricole**", in attesa del loro inserimento nel Parco dei Colli, si propone un articolato normativo nelle NTA del PdR, **volto a definire gli interventi ammessi e vietati al loro interno** già coerente con la disciplina del PTC del Parco dei Colli

AREA PARCO DELLE PIANE AGRICOLE: 3.798.850 mq
PARCO DEI COLLI: 15.228.895,00 mq



18
18 in abandoned agricultural areas



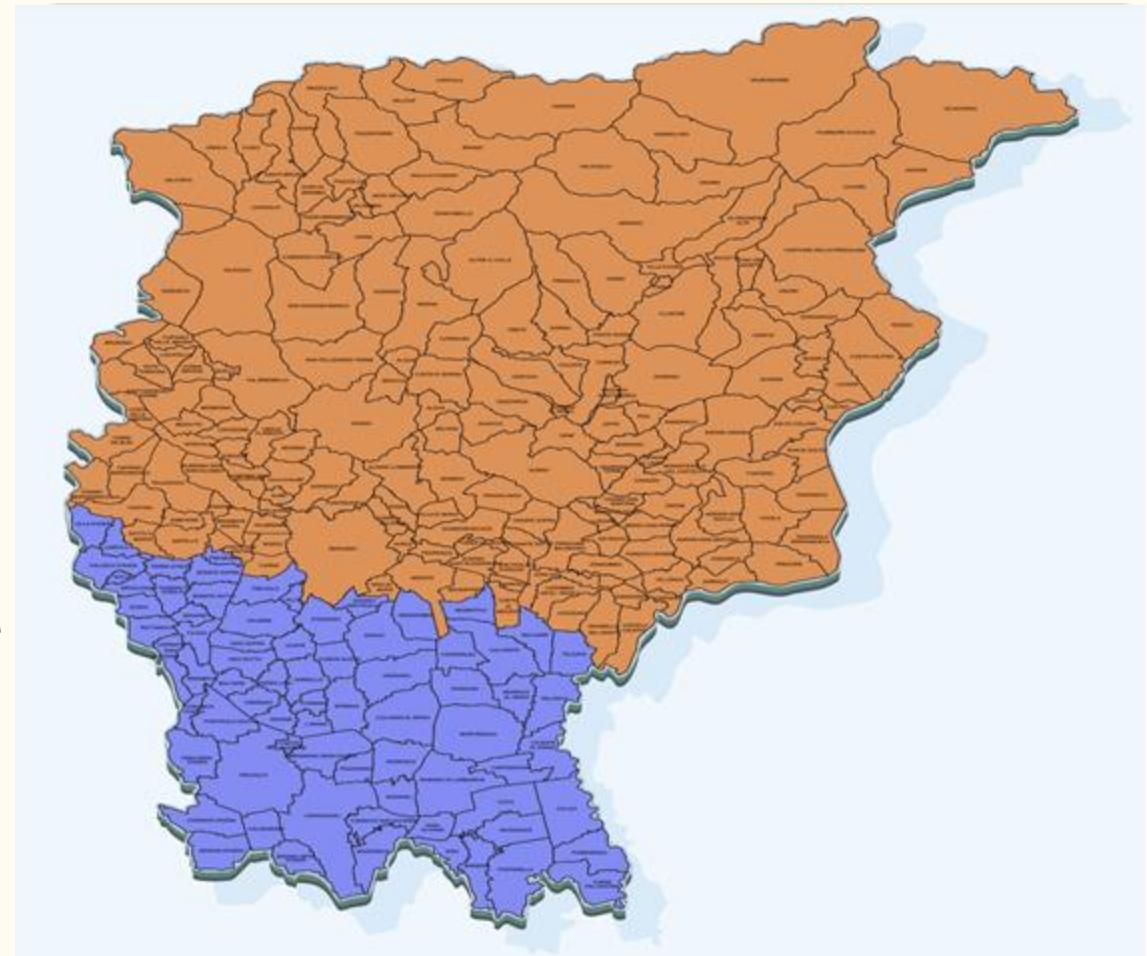
Supporting local agriculture: Partnership

Bio-Distretto dell'Agricoltura Biologica e Sociale bergamasca

- Connects over 40 entities (social cooperatives, farms).
- Focus on social inclusion, organic farming and heritage protection.

Distretto del Cibo di Bergamo, Valli e Laghi

- Connects food and producers.
- Enhance the Orobic agri-food system and promote sustainable growth and development.



Promotion of Biodiversity: La Valle della Biodiversità



The “Valley of Biodiversity” section of the Botanical Garden, entirely dedicated to agro-biodiversity, has been offering the city opportunities for reflection and action on food and biodiversity.

www.ortobotanicodibergamo.it



Engaging
The Public
with Responsible
Research &
Innovation on
Food Security

BigPicnic



Promotion of urban horticulture: 13 Urban Community Vegetable Gardens

The map displays the city of Bergamo and its surrounding areas, including the districts of Città Alta and Città Bassa. Numerous red location markers are placed on the map, corresponding to the list of sites on the left. The sites are categorized by color: orange for CTE Loreto, red for Muraschi, blue for Bonomelli Malpensata, green for Ortaggi e Relazioni, purple for Monterosso (Quintino), and pink for the remaining sites. The map also shows the boundaries of the city, major roads, and some geographical features like the Valtesse, Valverde, and Redona valleys.

- Aggiungi livello
- Condividi
- Anteprima
- Stili individuali
- Orti CTE Loreto
- Orti di via Muraschi
- Orti Bonomelli Malpensata
- Orti Ortaggi e Relazioni
- Orti Monterosso (Quintino)
- Frutteto Via Valle
- Orti di via Ponchia (Brolì di M...)
- Orti Villaggio Sposi (Aps per ...)
- Orti dell'Azzanella (Arcobale...)
- Orto di Capacytes
- Orto Generavivo
- Orti Sociali San Martino dell...
- Orto Sociali Via Tre Armi
- Orti di via Muraschi
- Orti di via Ponchia (B...)
- Orto di Capacytes
- Orti dell'Azzanella (A...)
- Orto di via Muraschi



27 online and on-site
training sessions on
urban horticulture
(August 2020 – September 2025)

Continua il corso di orticoltura urbana biologica
Seminario in presenza e online rivolto agli appassionati di orticoltura urbana,
aperto a tutti coloro che vogliono avvicinarsi a questo tema.

20° appuntamento
Media Partner **eppen**

FARE L'ORTO IN CITTÀ
L'orto autunnale

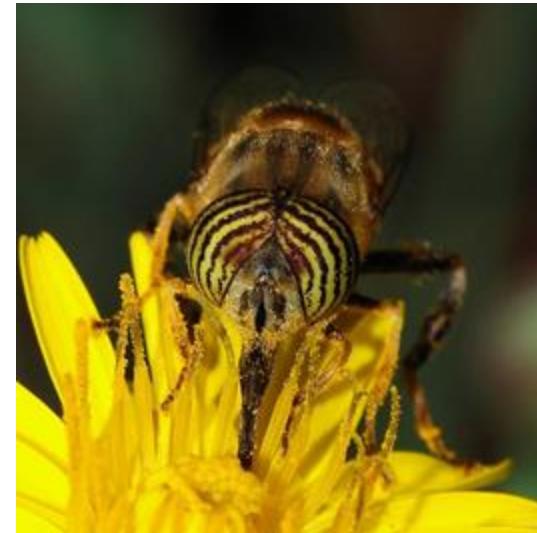
Venerdì
30 AGOSTO 2024
dalle 20.30 alle 22.00

CORSO DI ORTICOLTURA
A cura di
Francesca Zanca
curatrice dell'Orto Botanico di Bergamo
e
Maria Zanca
agronoma e collaboratore dell'Orto Botanico

COME PARTECIPARE
Dove: On line **Paltaforma Zoom**
<https://www.eventbrite.it/e/fare-orto-in-citta-corsi-orticoltura-online-e-in-presenza-tickets-95429098207>
Dopo l'iscrizione, riceverai un'email di conferma con le informazioni necessarie per entrare nella riunione.
Dove: in presenza **Spazio di quartiere Grumello - Via Borsa 4g - Bergamo**
(prenotazione non necessaria)

www.ortobotanicodibergamo.it

La partecipazione è gratuita
e aperta a tutti.



SABATO
12 OTTOBRE 2024

dalle ore 10 alle 19
VALLE DELLA BIODIVERSITÀ
Sez. di Astino dell'Orto Botanico
Via dell'Allegrezza
BERGAMO

EVENTO GRATUITO APERTO A TUTTI



Promotion of food and wine products: Bergamo UNESCO Creative City

- Is member of the UNESCO Creative Cities network
- 9 cheeses trachitunt, il Formai de Mut, il Bitto, il Grana Padano, il Gorgonzola, il Quartirolo Lombardo, il Salva Cremasco, il Taleggio e il Provolone Valpadana.
- Promotes local and sustainable gastronomy.
- Enhances Bergamo's culinary identity.
- Develops innovative projects in the food sector.

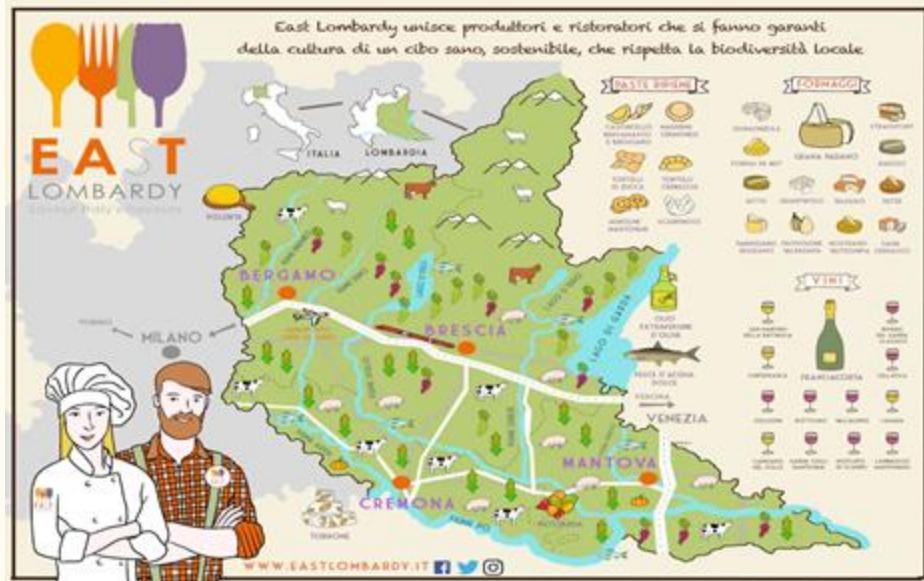
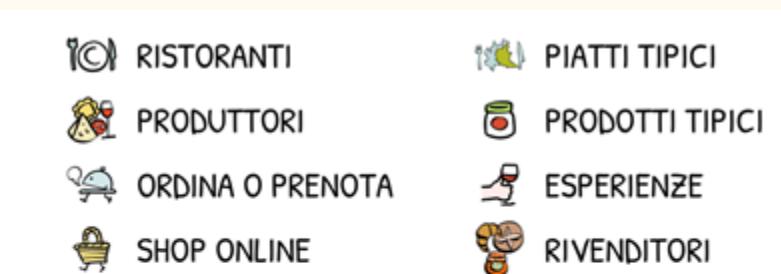
www.bergamoocittacreativa.it



Promotion of food and wine products: EAST LOMBARDY

- Represents four provinces of Eastern Lombardy: Bergamo, Brescia, Cremona and Mantua
- Offers a cultural and gastronomic heritage
- Promotes tourism and local excellence.

www.eastlombardy.it



Promote healthy and sustainable eating “La Buona Mensa” Menus and products

A revolution in our school canteens

95% Organic and 50% Local Producers

Introduction of the green menu one day a week to reduce animal protein and educate students, teachers and parents on sustainability.



Promote healthy and sustainable eating “La Buona Mensa” Education

Students: study visits, show cooking classes, workshops and informative sessions the importance of biodiversity, local and seasonal food consumption.



Teachers and School Canteens Committees: Show cooking for Green Menu recipes and informative sessions to help them better understand the scientific basis for a healthy and sustainable diet



Parents: Informative sessions, show cooking and open days aimed at raising awareness on the importance of local and seasonal food and dispelling the myths about plant nutrition.



Citizen engagement



City, Bees, Plants and People

Creation beekeeping section

From June 2025:

new 1000 square meters added

94 species of scalar flowers throughout the year



AgriCultura

Annual public event with markets, seminars and workshops.

www.agriculturabg.it



Green Menu (Public)

Extension of the school green menu to restaurants, bars and collective canteens in the city.

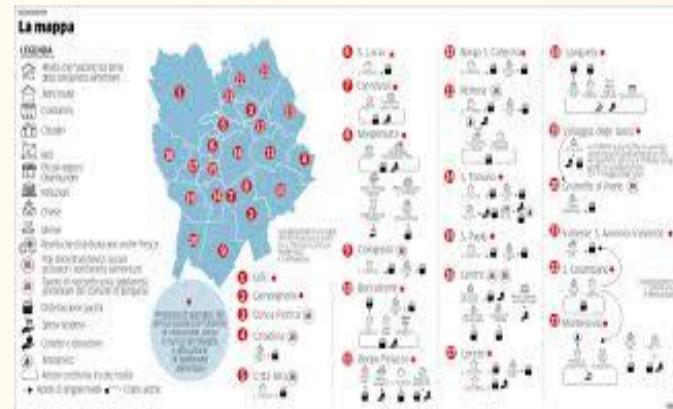
Food security and Inclusion



The Bergamo Food Policy is also inclusive.

Our policy is not just environmental, it's taking care of social aspects. We have a strong Food Aid System to combat waste and poverty.

The Food Aid table is a network of key partners (Mt 25, NamaSté, Banco Alimentare, Caritas etc.) that manages the redistribution of surplus, social pantries, and deliveries to vulnerable citizens.



Telling Our Story and sharing activities



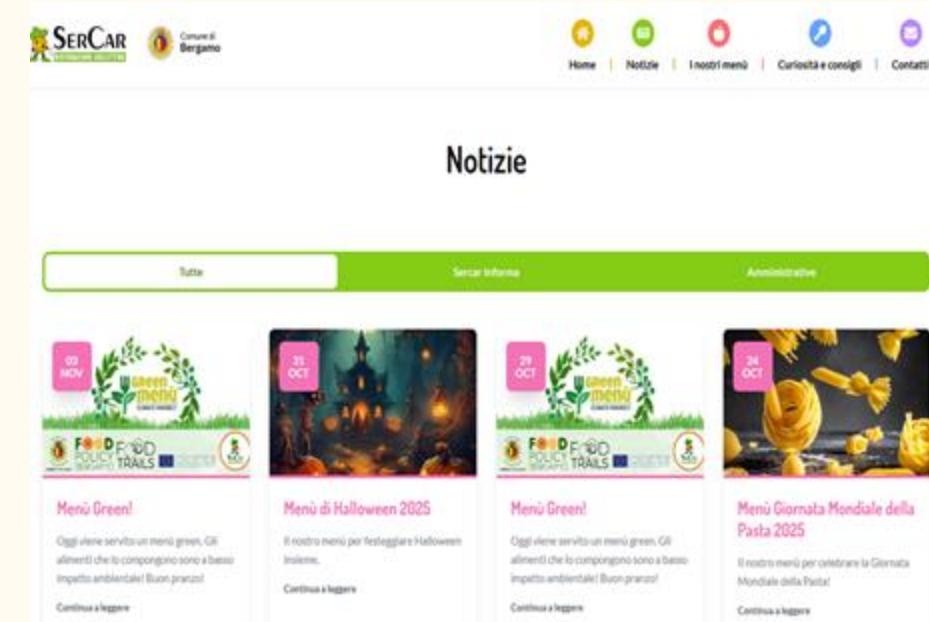
Food Policy website

www.foodpolicybergamo.it



Instagram

@foodpolicybergamo



School Canteens website

www.bergamo.scuole.sercar.it

We don't have all the answers. We are still learning and growing through collaboration.

- ↗ **Turn the Tables (EU DEAR):** Focus on youth engagement and sustainable procurement.
- ↗ Waiting new project: **Co-development of protein supply chains resilient to climate change.**
- ↗ **CLEVERFOOD action plan:** Your Taste, Our Strategy: A Participatory Plan for Canteen Quality.
- 🏢 **City-to-City Exchange:** Sharing our model with Lyngby-Taarbæk City.
- 💡 Collaboration **agreement with the University of Bergamo** to develop various projects also within the Food Policy (Green Menu in canteens, urban gardens, etc...)

Thank you!

Discussion and questions

foodpolicybergamo@comune.bergamo.it | www.foodpolicybergamo.it

Link to our Action Plans

- Which part of Bergamo's Food Policy (governance, canteens, land use) is most relevant to your city?
- Which stakeholders in your city are missing from your plan?
- What is a "key project" (like our canteens) that you could launch?