

Steps Towards Sustainability



**HEALTH.
WELLBEING.
EVERYONE.** WESTERN
REGION
HEALTH
CENTRE



Finding Common Ground

Food security

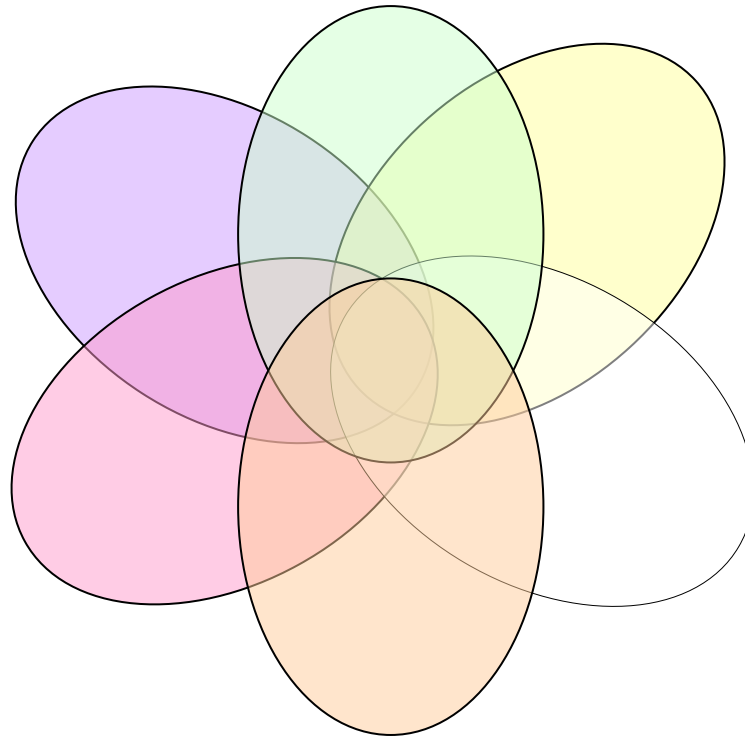
Local and global environment

Household and local economies

Social interaction and inclusion

Local Food Production

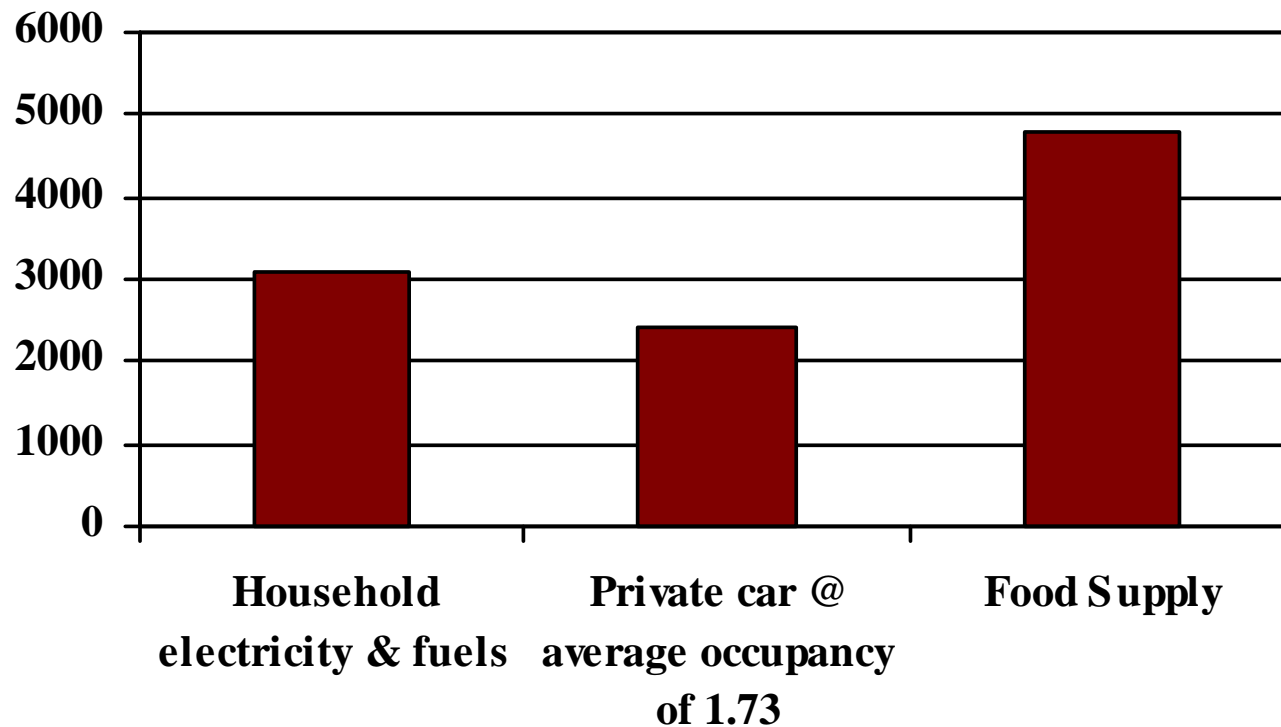
Health & nutrition



Finding Common Ground 2

- Fossil fuel use in the food system:
 - environmental impacts
 - food prices impacted by oil price rises
- Processed and packaged foods:
 - resource use in processing and packaging
 - strong promotion of high profit processed foods
 - lowered consumption of fresh healthy foods
- Food waste
 - waste adds to prices and environmental costs
 - additional environmental impact of dumping
 - closing the cycle from waste to fertiliser

Greenhouse gas emissions per person (kg CO₂-e)



From figures calculated by Lenzen (1997), Australian context.

Developing Relationships

- Maribyrnong Fruit and Veg for All project in-council awareness raising activities:
 - display of Mapping Maribyrnong research
 - fresh fruit baskets
 - tours of local food markets
- Opportunities for casual conversations
- Awareness of common ground
- Organisational culture that has allowed us to work together

Complementary Approaches

- Bringing new issues into the Council arena
 - awareness raising within council
 - development of new policies for Council
 - *Peak Oil Policy, Food Security Policy*
 - inclusion in other Council planning documents
- Community Awareness and Skills
 - forums, garden workshops, open garden tours
- Developing relationships with sustainability groups in the community
 - carbon reduction action groups
 - food localisation groups
 - *food co-ops, community gardens, permablitz*

Peak Oil Policy

- Draft of policy forwarded to Maribyrnong Fruit and Veg For All project officers for comments on food security implications
- Food security included as a major issue of impact on the community of Maribyrnong
- Food security one of the themes discussed in Peak Oil contingency planning – to be addressed as a community impact

An extract from Maribyrnong City Council Peak Oil Policy

http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=3395&h=0



How will peak oil impact on our community?

While no one knows what a post peak oil future will look like for our community, the following are some of the major issues that are possible under a long term transition and oil shock scenario.

Food Security

Food Security is an issue that already impacts on members of our community with low incomes or poor access to transport. Braybrook, Maidstone and West Footscray / Kingsville have all been identified as “food deserts”. The availability and access to fresh foods in these areas is extremely low, especially to those with limited mobility and income. Residents in these areas, particularly Braybrook and Maidstone are also some of our most disadvantaged in terms of income, education and employment, and have car ownership rates well below the state average. This compounds their vulnerability to food insecurity. Peak oil is likely to expand food insecurity to a larger number of residents living in the Maribyrnong municipality as the cost of personal transport, food transport and food production increases. In some of the most pessimistic scenarios, food insecurity will spread to almost all residents.

Declining profits for farmers and food manufacturers may mean that less food production will take place if food producers decide to close down their businesses. International food imports are likely to decline dramatically due to the high cost of transportation. The declining availability of oil is likely to result in increasing food prices and shortages of some items, especially imported or highly processed items.

Raising Awareness Within Council

- Lunchbox Sessions: Environmental Sustainability arranges speakers according to surveyed interest in topics
 - highest ranking topics were sustainable food gardening, home preserving, food preparation and organic food co-ops
- Networking: project officer alert to opportunities to raise food security issues
- External factors: Council officers are part of the population and exposed to the increased information about food security

Municipal Public Health Plan

- Decision taken to integrate the MPHP into the Council Plan and the MSS
 - to give more influence to health and wellbeing issues in strategic documents
 - to raise the bar in terms of formalising strategies
 - to open ways of thinking about how to work together

Council Plan and MSS

- Consultation across council units
- Food security related issues raised as part of community wellbeing
- Issues raised relate particularly to edible public plantings, spaces for community gardens and more diverse use of public open space
- Issues raised from an environmental sustainability perspective and a community engagement perspective, as well as the equity of access to healthy foods.

Spring Garden Workshops

- Organised by Maribyrnong Fruit & Veg for All project
- Free sessions held in a community centre in a food desert area
- Range of classes covering food growing, composting, and building a wood fired oven



Water and energy forums



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

Free Water and Energy Forum



David Holmgren

Urban Permaculture

David Holmgren, internationally renowned founder of Permaculture talks about the power of relocalisation, local food and permaculture in the city.



Open Veggie Garden Day

**Do you dream of growing your own fruit and vegetables
but you're not sure how to get started?**

Come and see some fantastic local back yards –organic gardens, water wise gardens, gardens with chooks – all with lots of fruit, herbs and vegetables.

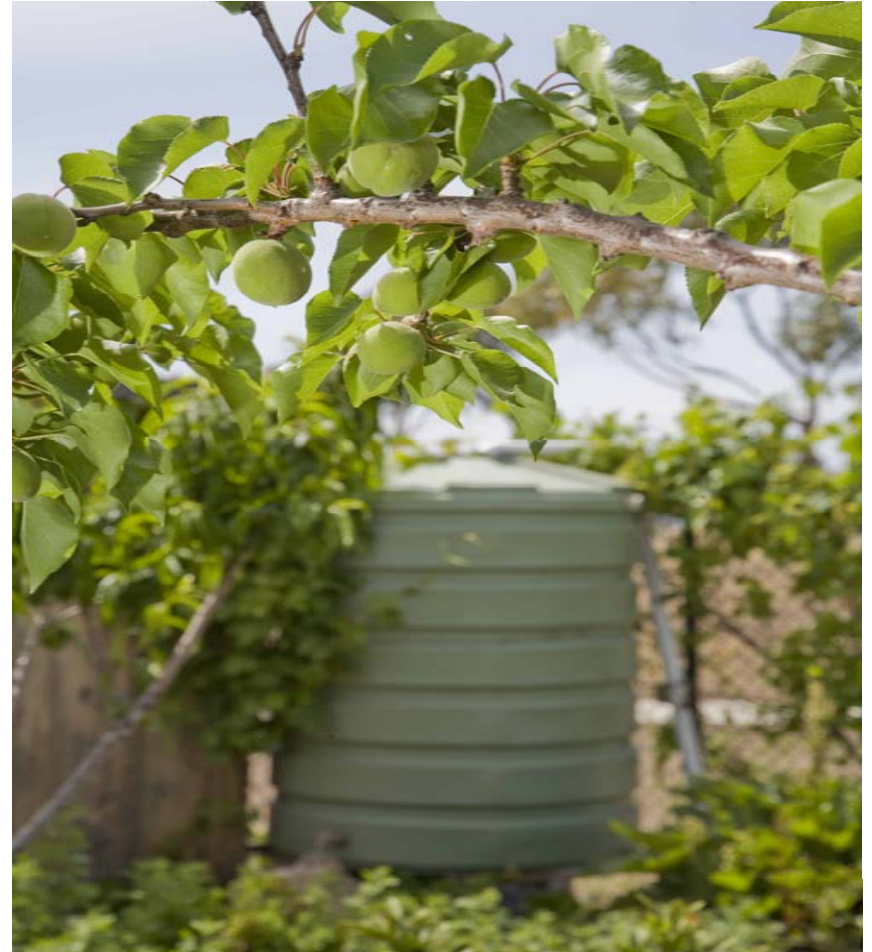
Maribyrnong Council invites you to a **FREE**
tour of local back yard vegetable gardens.

Saturday 25 October 2008

1.00–3.30pm

A free bus will take you to see several local vegetable gardens, or you can make your own way to the sites.

Open Garden Tour 2008



Community Groups

- Westside CRAG – support localised food systems
- Urban harvest swap meets – for home gardeners to swap produce
- Permablitz – transform urban yards into edible gardens
- Organic food co-ops, WOC, SOC, NOC and Grasslands
- Ethical shopping tours

Keys to Successful Partnership

- Areas of overlap in core business
 - joint and separate actions to similar goals
e.g. community gardens to increase gardeners consumption of vegetables and to act as local carbon sinks
- Similar ways of working
 - attitude and behaviour change
 - community partnerships
 - consultation and collaboration