

# **Sovereign cities through food sovereignty**

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## **Abstract:**

Cities are producing 70 percent of green-house emissions which include 14-17 percent that come from food production and farming. This high level of embedded energy in food growing is brought on by turning seeds to food on the table. Our current food system not only pertains to food miles as an environmental issue, but is also causing social crises. Food riots during 2008 in different parts of the world signified how our food system is fragile.

Democratizing the food system starts by building a relationship with the land and the people. Beginning of 2000s local food movement started to focus on greater re-localization through, community gardens, rooftop gardens, as well as community supported agroecological farming techniques. In this presentation, food sovereignty will be analyzed through the presenter's own initiatives in different countries; one is a multicultural community garden in New Zealand and the second is a real food project in Ankara, Turkey. In these examples the struggles encountered while trying to practice direct democracy with ordinary people will be addressed.