

Διαδικτυακό σεμινάριο στο Τμήμα Αειφορικής Γεωργίας του Πανεπιστημίου Πατρών

1. Title: Comparing the carbon footprint of urban and conventional agriculture - A reflection on findings and impacts

Jason Hawes

University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability

Abstract:

Urban agriculture (UA) is often cited as a central feature of sustainable urban futures. However, its carbon footprint remained largely unknown. In this talk, I present the first large-scale study to address this uncertainty across cities and type of UA, employing citizen science at 73 UA sites in Europe and the United States to compare UA products to food available in local stores (published as Hawes et al., 2024 in Nature Cities). We found that one serving of food from UA is six times as carbon intensive as conventional agriculture (420 g vs 70 g CO₂ equivalent). Despite this relatively high carbon footprint, we also found that urban agriculture offers important benefits in terms of social impacts and nutrient use reduction. It is important, then, that we explore and share opportunities for reducing the carbon footprint of urban agriculture. By specifically studying the 17 out of our 72 sites which were carbon friendly, we identify four such best practices, including opportunities in urban symbiosis, land use planning, and crop choices. In this retrospective on the manuscript, I will also explore the social impacts of the work and the media reaction to assessment of urban agriculture's carbon footprint, reflecting on how the response can inform future distribution of work in sustainable agriculture.

1. Title: The importance of social impact and acceptability assessments for cities transition processes to guide societies towards equitable and sustainable outcomes

Dr. Fedra Vanhuyse

Head of Division Societies, Climate and Policy Support and Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute

Abstract:

Reducing climate emissions while simultaneously increasing resilience to climate change has never been more pressing than now. Across the globe, cities are developing climate action plans, implementing mitigation and adaptation measures to protect their infrastructure, institutions, and citizens from the impacts of climate change. Yet, the success of these transitions hinges not only on technological advancements and policy implementations but also on their acceptance and impact on the communities they serve. In this webinar, the importance of social impact and acceptability assessments for transition processes, to guide societies towards equitable and sustainable outcomes will be discussed.