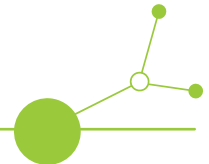


The Kraków Action Plan for the Transformation of the Food System through Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture



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1. Introduction

The Action Plan is an implementation-oriented document that translates the adopted vision for the development of the urban food system into a set of concrete, time-bound actions. It defines what needs to be done, by whom, and within what timeframe, through a structured set of strategic objectives and associated actions.

The document serves as a practical and flexible tool, supporting the phased implementation of actions and their continuous adaptation based on experience, available data, and stakeholder collaboration. In this way, it enables a systematic and coordinated transformation of the urban food system.

1.1. Vision

Kraków aims to build a **sustainable, resilient, and inclusive** local food system that ensures all residents have access to **safe, high quality, diverse, and affordable** food, based as far as possible on local resources and short supply chains.

The food system is a broad and interconnected network of activities related to the production, processing, distribution, consumption, and recirculation of food and organic resources. As such, it links people, land, infrastructure, institutions, markets, and ecosystems, while generating important social, economic, and environmental impacts.

Kraków's vision is to develop a food system that not only strengthens food security and improves nutrition, but also supports local economic development, protects natural resources and biodiversity, reduces waste, and contributes to both climate mitigation and adaptation. In this perspective, food is not treated as an isolated sector, but as a strategic area of urban development connected to public health, spatial planning, environmental management, education, and social cohesion.

A key ambition is to strengthen local food sovereignty by increasing the role of local production, supporting short and more transparent supply chains, and improving the city's ability to respond to future disruptions and crises. At the same time, Kraków seeks to foster a food system that is adaptive, circular, and regenerative, capable of creating value not only through economic activity, but also through education, innovation, community engagement, and the responsible stewardship of urban and peri-urban land.

Within this vision, sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture plays a particularly important role. It is understood not only as a means of producing food, but as a strategic tool for shaping and implementing food policy – one that connects governance, food security, local economy, environmental protection, and social change into a coherent and adaptive system.

This vision is translated into three strategic directions for action:

- Building a permanent and coordinated governance system for the urban food system
- Enhancing food security and strengthening urban resilience
- Building a circular and regenerative food system and a conscious food culture.

1.2. Implementation

The implementation of the Action Plan will follow an incremental and adaptive approach, recognising the complexity and uncertainty inherent in urban food system transformation. Rather than relying on fixed,



fully predefined solutions, actions will be implemented progressively, with continuous learning, adjustment, and refinement based on emerging evidence and practical experience.

A key initial step will be to formalise the Action Plan within the city's regulatory framework, including its adoption through a Mayor's Decree, ensuring institutional anchoring and enabling coordinated implementation across municipal departments.

The Plan has been designed for the period 2026-2031, providing a stable strategic horizon for action while preserving the flexibility needed to respond to unforeseen external factors, evolving local needs, and the outcomes of implemented measures.

This approach will support gradual implementation, testing, and scaling of solutions, while allowing the city to respond flexibly to emerging needs and changing conditions.

2. Details of the actions envisaged

2.1. Building a permanent and coordinated governance system for the urban food system

2.1.1. Rationale for the action

Kraków's urban food system currently operates in a fragmented and sector-based manner. Food-related activities – including urban agriculture, education, bio-waste management, and community initiatives – are mostly implemented through pilot projects or as part of separate thematic policies.

At the same time, Kraków's spatial policy framework, as defined in the Kraków Development Strategy “Here I Want to Live. Kraków 2030/2050”, already provides strong protection for agricultural functions as an important component of the city's structure. The high coverage of local spatial development plans makes it possible to protect significant areas of agricultural land from urban development, particularly land with the highest soil value, which has been included in the General Plan within the Agricultural Production Zone.

A major gap, however, remains the lack of systematic use of data and indicators in the governance of the urban food system. Effective transformation of the local food system requires breaking down sectoral silos, integrating diverse sources of knowledge, and establishing permanent mechanisms for monitoring and policy adaptation. Without such tools, food-related actions remain difficult to assess, coordinate, and adjust in the context of dynamic environmental and socio-economic change.

To address this challenge, Kraków needs to develop an integrated urban food governance system that strengthens the city's capacity to treat food as a tool for long-term urban transformation. This system should combine integrated local policies, community-oriented activities, and research-based technological innovation.

2.1.2. Implementation steps

The action will focus on the **institutionalisation of urban food system governance**.

A dedicated **Urban Food Policy Coordinator**¹ will play a central role in the implementation of this action. This role will be responsible for:

¹ The Urban Food Policy Coordinator is a dedicated role established within the local municipality in early 2026. The position is responsible for coordinating research activities, implementing innovations, and advancing urban food policies to build a resilient and sustainable local food system.



- identifying and engaging key stakeholders;
- supporting cross-departmental governance and collaboration around a “Food in All Policies” approach;
- preparing and implementing the stakeholder engagement plan;
- facilitating the functioning of the permanent coordination structure;
- supporting the development of indicators, monitoring tools, and policy integration mechanisms.

Costs will depend on the scale of implementation and may include:

- coordination and staff resources;
- stakeholder engagement and facilitation processes;
- establishment and operation of the permanent governance structure;
- analytical, research, and expert support;
- development and testing of food system indicators and monitoring tools;
- data collection, evaluation, and reporting activities;
- communication, dissemination, and capacity-building measures.

The action will be implemented through the following key components:

2.1.2.1. Establishing a permanent coordination structure

Establishing a permanent coordination structure for the urban food system as a platform for cross-departmental governance and collaboration.

Responsible Body	Urban Food Policy Coordinator
Stakeholders	Various municipal departments and city agencies; Spatial planning and environmental authorities;
Timeframe	2026 - 09/2027
Estimated Cost	0 EUR (staff costs)
Funding Source	Budget of the Municipality of the City of Krakow

2.1.2.2. Developing a participatory governance model

Developing a participatory governance model for the urban food system through the preparation and implementation of a stakeholder engagement plan, which will serve as an operational mechanism for the permanent coordination structure.

Responsible Body	Urban Food Policy Coordinator
Stakeholders	Various municipal departments and city agencies;



	<p>Higher Education Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Agriculture in Krakow • Krakow University of Economics • AGH University of Science and Technology • Jagiellonian University <p>Civil society organisations and grassroots initiatives; Urban and peri-urban farmers; Food businesses and market actors; Local communities and residents.</p>
Timeframe	09/2026 - 2031
Estimated Cost	0 EUR (staff costs)
Funding Source	Budget of the Municipality of the City of Krakow

2.1.2.3. Developing and testing a set of urban food system indicators

Developing and testing a set of urban food system indicators, including a research programme and implementation plan to support evidence-based decision-making.

Responsible Body	Urban Food Policy Coordinator
Stakeholders	<p>Higher Education Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Agriculture in Krakow • Krakow University of Economics • AGH University of Science and Technology • Jagiellonian University <p>Civil society organisations and grassroots initiatives;</p>
Timeframe	2026 - 12/2028
Estimated Cost	15.000 EUR (expertise costs)
Funding Source	Budget of the Municipality of the City of Krakow

2.1.2.4. Ensuring alignment between food system governance and the city's spatial planning framework

Ensuring alignment between food system governance and the city's spatial planning framework, particularly with regard to the protection and strategic use of agricultural land and food-related infrastructure.

Responsible Body	Urban Food Policy Coordinator
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Stakeholders	Various municipal departments and city agencies; Spatial planning and environmental authorities;
Timeframe	2026/2027
Estimated Cost	0 EUR (staff costs)
Funding Source	Budget of the Municipality of the City of Krakow

2.2. Enhancing food security and strengthening urban resilience

2.2.1. Rationale for the action

Urban food security means ensuring that all residents have stable access to sufficient, safe, and affordable food, including during times of crisis. Food system resilience refers to the ability to maintain this access despite environmental, economic, or social disruptions.

Local food production and short supply chains can significantly strengthen urban food security. Kraków and its regional hinterland have strong production potential, with more than 13,000 agricultural holdings in Kraków County, creating favourable conditions for stronger local and regional food linkages. However, unlocking this potential requires adequate distribution infrastructure.

In this regard, Kraków benefits from a strong network of municipal marketplaces, which support direct producer-consumer relations and improve access to local food. At the same time, existing wholesale infrastructure – particularly in Rybitwy – no longer meets current food system needs, highlighting the need for modernisation and more resilient distribution models.

2.2.2. Implementation steps

The action will strengthen food security and resilience through the development of local food capacities, distribution channels, and supporting infrastructure.

This action requires coordination between **municipal, metropolitan, and regional authorities** to strengthen cooperation between Kraków and surrounding municipalities.

The implementation of **pop-up markets** and neighbourhood-based food access initiatives will also require the involvement of **local communities** and **district councils**.

Costs will depend on the scale of implementation and may include:

- coordination and staff resources;
- stakeholder engagement and pilot activities;
- marketplace regeneration and activation;
- training and skills development;
- feasibility studies and technical planning;
- infrastructure and logistics investments, including food hubs.



The action will be implemented through the following key components:

2.2.2.1. Supporting the development of green jobs and skills

Supporting the development of green jobs and skills related to food production, processing, and distribution.

Responsible Body	<p>Higher Education Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Agriculture in Krakow • Krakow University of Economics • AGH University of Science and Technology • Jagiellonian University <p>Technical and Vocational Schools</p>
Stakeholders	<p>Municipal Labour Office in Krakow (Grodzki Urząd Pracy)</p> <p>Lesser Poland Agricultural Advisory Centre (MODR)</p> <p>Municipality of Krakow: Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (Wydział Przedsiębiorczości i Innowacji UMK)</p> <p>Krakow Technology Park (Krakowski Park Technologiczny)</p> <p>The Krakow Metropolis Association (Stowarzyszenie Metropolia Krakowska)</p> <p>NGOs</p> <p>civil society organisations and grassroots initiatives;</p>
Timeframe	2028 - 2031 (first stage)
Estimated Cost	250.000 - 500.000 EUR
Funding Source	<p>Ministry of Education</p> <p>Ministry of Labour</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>European Funds</p>

2.2.2.2. Strengthening the role of municipal marketplace

Strengthening the role of municipal marketplaces as local food distribution and community hubs through a development and regeneration programme.

Responsible Body	Municipality of Krakow: Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (Wydział Przedsiębiorczości i Innowacji UMK)
Stakeholders	<p>Higher Education Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krakow University of Economics • Jagiellonian University



	Institute of Urban and Regional Development (Instytut Rozwoju Miast i Regionów) GAP Foundation (Fundacja Gospodarki i Administracji Publicznej)civil society organisations and grassroots initiatives; Marketplace owners, administrators and users.
Timeframe	2025 - 2031
Estimated Cost	55.000 EUR
Funding Source	Budget of the Municipality of the City of Krakow European Funds National Funds

2.2.2.3. Create a database of local food producers

Develop a regularly updated database of local food producers to improve market access, strengthen supply chain connections, and support informed public and private food procurement.

Responsible Body	The Krakow Metropolis Association (Stowarzyszenie Metropolia Krakowska)
Stakeholders	Municipality of Krakow: Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (Wydział Przedsiębiorczości i Innowacji UMK) The Korona Północnego Krakowa Association (Grupa Działania Korona Północnego Krakowa) Wielka Wieś Municipality
Timeframe	2026 - 06/2027
Estimated Cost	125.000 EUR
Funding Source	Budget of the Krakow Metropolis Association

2.2.2.4. Testing and expanding pop-up markets in new locations

Testing and expanding pop-up markets in new locations, particularly near large residential areas.

Responsible Body	The Krakow Metropolis Association (Stowarzyszenie Metropolia Krakowska)
Stakeholders	Municipality of Krakow: Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (Wydział Przedsiębiorczości i Innowacji UMK) The Korona Północnego Krakowa Association (Grupa Działania Korona Północnego Krakowa) Wielka Wieś Municipality



Timeframe	2025 - 2031 (first stage)
Estimated Cost	4.000 EUR - 6.000 EUR (cost per event)
Funding Source	Budget of the Krakow Metropolis Association European Funds Municipal Budgets

2.2.2.5. Developing food-oriented city infrastructure

Developing infrastructure that supports local food production and distribution, including food hubs and logistics facilities.

Responsible Body	Balicka Market Centre (Centrum Giełdowe Balicka)
Stakeholders	<p>Regional Government Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marshal's Office of the Małopolska Region (Urząd Marszałkowski) • Małopolska Voivode / Voivode of Małopolska (Wojewoda) <p>Strategic Development Bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Krakow Metropolis Association (Stowarzyszenie Metropolia Krakowska) • Kraków Nowa Huta of the Future (Kraków Nowa Huta Przyszłości) <p>Municipal Administration - City of Krakow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (Wydział Przedsiębiorczości i Innowacji (Wydział Przedsiębiorczości i Innowacji UMK) • Crisis Management Department (Wydział Zarządzania Kryzysowego) • Department of Environment, Climate and Air Quality <p>National and local Agricultural Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Małopolska Agricultural Advisory Centre (MODR) • National Support Centre for Agriculture (KOWR) • Małopolska Chamber of Agriculture (Małopolska Izba Rolnicza) <p>Higher Education Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Agriculture in Krakow • Krakow University of Economics • AGH University of Science and Technology • Jagiellonian University
Timeframe	2026 - 2031 (first stage)



Estimated Cost	50 mln EUR
Funding Source	State Budget Municipal Budget European Funds Budget of the Ministry of National Defence (MON) Budget of the Ministry of Agriculture (MR) Budget of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration (MSWiA)

2.3. Building a circular and regenerative food system and a conscious food culture

2.3.1. Rationale for the action

Kraków’s local food economy currently operates largely within a linear model, where resources are extracted, processed, and consumed, while a significant share of organic waste is not returned to productive cycles. This has important economic, environmental, and social consequences.

The agri-food sector, including urban and peri-urban agriculture, plays a key role in closing local resource loops (materials, water, and energy), integrating food production with the urban environment, and promoting the reuse of organic waste, rainwater, and energy. It also supports a shift towards treating urban land as a social and ecological resource, rather than solely an economic asset.

A key lever for long-term change in food culture is schools and young people. Schools, as major food consumers and learning environments, influence dietary habits across families and communities. A whole-school approach to food – combining education, school gardens, meal preparation, and cooperation with local producers – strengthens food literacy and builds lasting relationships with food.

Fostering a conscious food culture in Kraków means enabling learning by doing, strengthening local communities, and supporting social and educational innovation embedded in everyday practices. Agro-living labs, school-based activities, and community initiatives form the foundation of a long-term transformation towards a healthier, more resilient, and socially cohesive food system.

2.3.2. Implementation steps

The action focuses on integrating circular economy principles and food culture transformation through public procurement, education, and community-based innovation.

Costs may include:

- coordination and staff resources;
- analysis and adaptation of procurement systems;
- pilot implementation in schools;
- educational programmes and school infrastructure (e.g. gardens);
- agro-living lab development and operation;
- communication and community engagement.



The action will be implemented through the following key components:

2.3.2.1. Integrating local food into public procurement systems

Integrating local food into public procurement systems, particularly in schools, by adapting procurement procedures to the specificities of short and flexible supply chains, including:

- **mapping and analysing** Polish public procurement frameworks;
- **identifying barriers and opportunities** for sustainable food system transformation;
- **prototyping and implementing** green public procurement in selected schools;
- **piloting programmes** to reduce food waste and improve organic waste management in schools;

Responsible Body	Municipality of Krakow: Education Department / Education Finance Centre Municipality of Krakow: Public Procurement Division
Stakeholders	The Krakow Metropolis Association (Stowarzyszenie Metropolia Krakowska) Social Initiatives Office (Biuro Inicjatyw Społecznych)
Timeframe	10/2026 - 12/2028
Estimated Cost	15.000 EUR (expertise costs)
Funding Source	Budget of the Municipality of the City of Krakow European Funds

2.3.2.2. Designing and piloting a food-oriented school programme

Designing and piloting a programme to strengthen the role of schools and young people as drivers of long-term food culture change through a whole-school approach, including education, school gardens, meal provision, and cooperation with local producers.

Responsible Body	Urban Food Policy Coordinator/Kraków Municipal Greenspace Authority
Stakeholders	Schools and Kindergartens NGOs (ProVeg, Zero Waste, Green REV Institute) Private Enterprises (ESG and Corporate Social Responsibility programmes) Municipality of Krakow: Health Department Family Affairs Commissioner
Timeframe	2026 - 06/2028
Estimated Cost	25.000 EUR (expertise costs)
Funding Source	Private Enterprise Sponsors



	<p>European Funds</p> <p>Budget of the Municipality of the City of Krakow</p>
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2.3.2.3. Developing agro-living labs

Developing agro-living labs as spaces for social, educational, and agricultural innovation, supporting experimentation, knowledge exchange, and community engagement.

Responsible Body	Urban Food Policy Coordinator
Stakeholders	<p>Krakow Technology Park (Krakowski Park Technologiczny)</p> <p>Higher Education Institutions</p> <p>University of Agriculture in Krakow</p> <p>Krakow University of Economics</p> <p>AGH University of Science and Technology</p> <p>Jagiellonian University</p> <p>Deisgn Pharmacy (Apteka Designu)</p> <p>NGOs</p> <p>District Councils</p> <p>Local Communities</p>
Timeframe	2026 - 2031 (first stage)
Estimated Cost	15.000 EUR - 1 mln EUR(depending on project)
Funding Source	<p>European Funds</p> <p>Budget of the Ministry of Education</p> <p>Ministry of Education Budget</p> <p>Private Funds</p>

2.3.2.4. Establishing a training space for teachers

Establishing a training space for teachers and educators involved in food and environmental awareness programs within an existing community allotment garden on Orla Street.

Responsible Body	Community and School Gardens Coordinator/Kraków Municipal Greenspace Authority
Stakeholders	<p>Municipality of Krakow: Education Department</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Resilience Gardens Foundation</p>
Timeframe	Until 09/2026



Estimated Cost	5.000 EUR
Funding Source	Resilience Gardens Foundation

2.3.2.5. Establishing a second community allotment garden

Establishing a second community allotment garden in another district, based on the lessons learned from the first garden developed under the CoFarm4Cities project.

Responsible Body	Kraków Municipal Greenspace Authority
Stakeholders	District Council NGOs Residents
Timeframe	until 2027
Estimated Cost	75.000 -100.000 EUR
Funding Source	Budget of the Municipality of the City of Krakow European Funds

3. Executive Summary

This Action Plan provides a practical framework for the development and implementation of Kraków’s urban food policy. It translates the city’s vision for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive urban food system into a coherent set of strategic objectives and actions.

The Plan recognises food as a cross-cutting area of urban development, linked to public health, environmental management, spatial planning, education, local economic development, climate resilience, and social cohesion. In this context, food policy becomes a strategic tool for shaping a more sustainable and liveable city.

Kraków’s vision is to build a local food system that ensures all residents have access to safe, healthy, diverse, and affordable food, while relying as far as possible on local resources and short supply chains. The city also seeks to strengthen food sovereignty, support local production, reduce waste, protect agricultural land and biodiversity, and promote a more conscious food culture.

The Action Plan adopts an adaptive and implementation-oriented approach, based on gradual testing, learning, and scaling of solutions. Its implementation will begin with the institutional anchoring of food policy within the city’s governance framework and will be structured around three strategic directions:

- **Building a permanent and coordinated governance system for the urban food system** through stronger institutional coordination, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based decision-making;
- **Enhancing food security and strengthening urban resilience** by supporting local food production, distribution systems, municipal marketplaces, and enabling infrastructure;
- **Building a circular and regenerative food system and a conscious food culture** through public procurement, education, school-based activities, and community innovation.



Taken together, these actions provide Kraków with a strategic and operational roadmap for using food as a lever of long-term urban transformation – strengthening resilience, improving quality of life, and supporting a healthier, more sustainable urban future.