

VERSION 2
2024

Including case
studies of
leading cities
and regions

Cities & regions let's get started

Pathways for **local and regional governments** to engage with
Doughnut Economics as a tool for transformative action



Scan this QR code for the online version with links to case studies and tools
<https://doughnuteconomics.org/tools/cities-regions-let-s-get-started>

Cities & regions let's get started



	Content	page
1	About this guide	4
2	About Doughnut Economics	5
3	Cities, regions and the Doughnut	10
4	Nine pathways	12
5	Working with integrity	32
6	Taking the next steps	34
7	Case studies	35
	Grenoble, France	36
	Nanaimo, Canada	40
	Tomelilla, Sweden	44
	Brussels, Belgium	48
	Amsterdam, Netherlands	52
	Bad Nauheim, Germany	56
	Cornwall, UK	60
	Glasgow, Scotland	64
	Ipoh, Malaysia	68
	Copenhagen, Denmark	72
	Valence Romans, France	76
	Barcelona, Spain	80

Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL)

is an organisation co-founded by *Doughnut Economics* author Kate Raworth, existing to support changemakers worldwide – in communities, education, cities and regions, business, government, and more – who are turning the ideas of Doughnut Economics into transformative action and aiming to bring about systemic change.

1 About this guide

We published the first version of this guide in 2023, and one year later, we are thrilled to publish this updated version which includes 12 in-depth case studies of the journey, experiences and learnings generously shared by pioneering civil servants and leaders from Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Grenoble, Valence Romans, Ipoh, Cornwall, Glasgow, Tomelilla, Bad Nauheim, Nanaimo and Barcelona. I hope their work inspires many of you to get started, or to keep going, with ambition, passion and creativity.

This guide is for anyone working in or alongside local or regional governments who is inspired by the concepts and tools of Doughnut Economics and wants to better understand how to start putting them into practice in their own place. It collects real-world approaches and examples that can be applied and adapted worldwide and at many scales - whether for a city or town, a rural village or district, a county or state. It is intended as a starting point for those new to Doughnut Economics and a source of information and inspiration for those already familiar with and engaging with it.

Ever since the Doughnut was first published in 2012, cities, regions and communities around the world have been interested in exploring what it would mean to turn that vision into reality. At Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL), we have been learning with and from the emerging practice of these places, evolving a shared understanding of what it means for local governments to work with Doughnut Economics in practice.

Drawing from the principles of Doughnut Economics, from DEAL's tools and methodologies, and from the experiences of cities and regions, this guide brings together our most current understanding of how Doughnut Economics is being put into practice by local and regional governments, along with examples from places already in action. It lays out nine pathways for getting started with Doughnut Economics - from learning and testing, to developing metrics

and strategy, to using the Doughnut as a unifying framework for policy-making.

Each pathway sets out a series of potential actions, examples from places worldwide, and key available tools and resources. These pathways are not a step-by-step approach, but rather a catalogue of possibilities, allowing each mayor, councillor, department head and ambitious civil servant to identify the possibilities and opportunities where they are. Most places will be exploring more than one pathway at the same time, and the most ambitious ones may aim to engage with all of them, and more. These pathways are in no way a definite and prescriptive list. There may be more, fewer, or entirely different ones in a few years' time - as we hope to see the work expand and deepen in its ambition for transformative change and challenging old economic paradigms. We continue to invite all cities and regions to join us on our learning journey to find and share entry points for local adaptation and transformative action.

As we all continue to innovate and experiment together, DEAL will continue to update this guide with new learning, insights and case studies.



Leonora Grcheva
Cities and Regions Lead
Doughnut Economics Action Lab

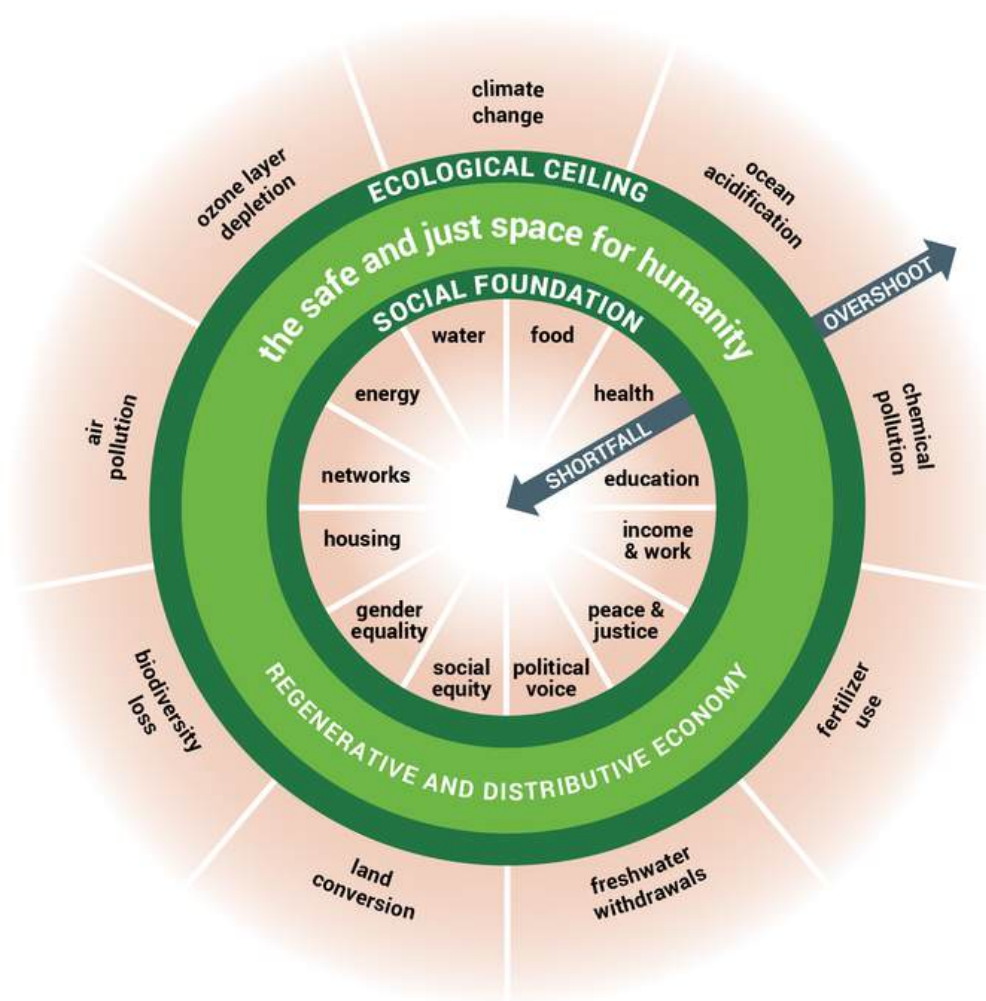
2

About Doughnut Economics

The Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries offers a vision of what it means for humanity to thrive in the 21st century - and Doughnut Economics proposes a mindset and many ways of thinking needed to get us there. Kate Raworth's 2017 book, *Doughnut Economics: seven ways to think like a 21st*

century economist, explored the economic thinking needed to bring humanity into the Doughnut, aiming to draw together insights from diverse economic perspectives in a way that everyone can understand.

The Doughnut is a compass for human prosperity in the 21st century, with the aim of meeting the needs of all people within the means of the living planet. It consists of two concentric rings: a social foundation, to ensure that no one is left falling short on life's essentials, and an ecological ceiling, to ensure that humanity does not collectively overshoot the planetary boundaries that protect Earth's life-supporting systems. Between these two



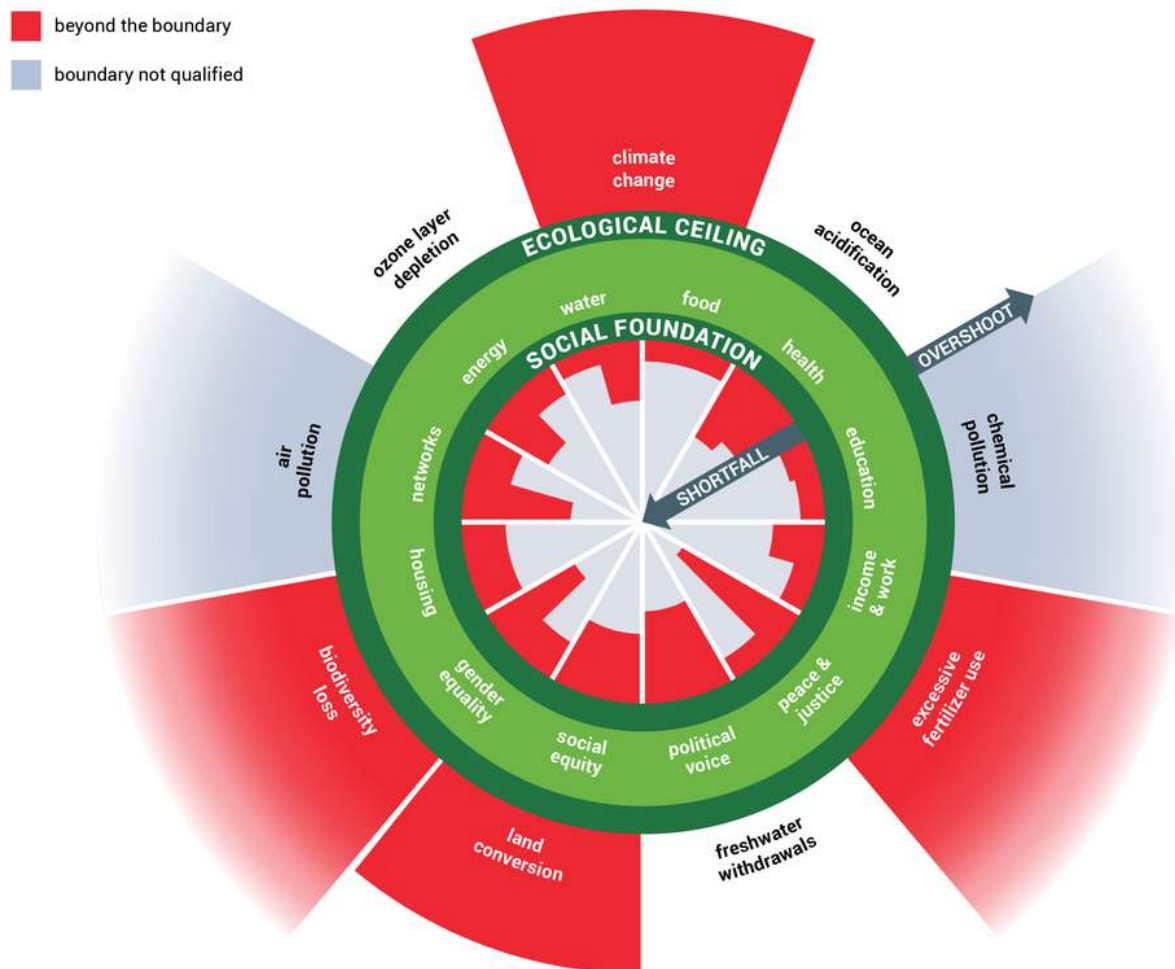
The Doughnut of social and planetary boundaries.

sets of boundaries lies a doughnut-shaped space that is both ecologically safe and socially just: a space in which humanity can thrive. If the 21st century goal is to get into the safe and just space of the Doughnut - then how can humanity get there? Not with last century's economic thinking.

Doughnut Economics proposes an economic mindset that's fit for our times. It's not a set of policies and institutions, but rather a way of thinking to bring about the regenerative and distributive dynamics that this century calls for. Drawing on insights from diverse schools of economic thought - including ecological,

feminist, institutional, behavioural and complexity economics - it sets out seven ways to think like a 21st century economist in order to transform economies, local to global.

The starting point of Doughnut Economics is to change the goal from endless GDP growth to thriving in the Doughnut. At the same time, see the big picture by recognising that the economy is embedded within, and dependent upon, society and the rest of the living world. Doughnut Economics recognises that human behaviour can be nurtured to be cooperative and caring, just as it can be competitive and individualistic.



Transgressing both sides of the Doughnut's boundaries (2017).

Doughnut Economics also recognises that economies, societies, and the living world are complex, interdependent systems that are best understood through the lens of systems thinking. And it calls for turning today's degenerative economies into regenerative ones, and divisive economies into far more distributive ones. Lastly, Doughnut Economics recognises that growth may be a healthy phase of life, but nothing grows forever: things that succeed do so by growing until it is time to stop growing and learn to thrive instead.

The Doughnut's holistic scope and visual simplicity, coupled with its scientific grounding, have turned it into a convening space for big conversations about reimagining and remaking the future. It is now being discussed, debated and put into practice in education and in communities, in business and in government, in towns, cities and nations worldwide.

In particular, DEAL has seen local governments demonstrating ambitious leadership in engaging with Doughnut Economics as they seek to manage and emerge from 21st century crises - including climate breakdown, a global health pandemic, and economic crises - to make the transformations needed for societies and economies to become far more socially just and ecologically safe.

Learn more about Doughnut Economics on the [DEAL Community Platform](#), where you can also dive deeper into the seven ways to think like a 21st century economist with our series of [90-second animations](#), or use these [seven ways one-pagers](#) to guide your conversations.

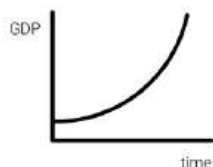
Seven ways to think like a 21st century economist

Seven ways to think

From 20th century economics

To 21st century economics

1 Change the goal



GDP

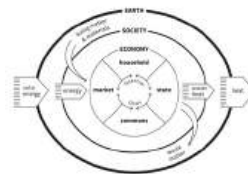


the Doughnut

2 See the big picture



self-contained market



embedded economy

3 Nurture human nature

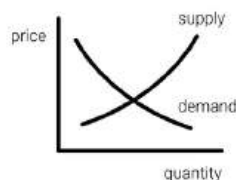


rational economic man

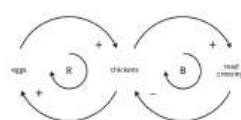


social adaptable humans

4 Get savvy with systems

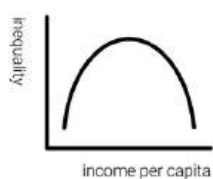


mechanical equilibrium



dynamic complexity

5 Design to distribute



growth will even it up again

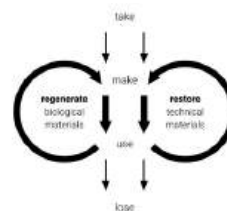


distributive by design

6 Create to regenerate

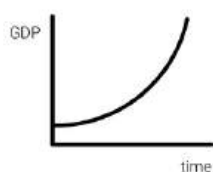


growth will clean it up again

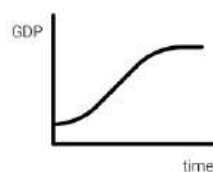


regenerative by design

7 Be agnostic about growth



growth addicted



growth agnostic

Explanation

Instead of seeking endless GDP growth, cities and regions should aim to meet the needs of all people within the means of the living planet.

Cities, like economies, are embedded within society, within the living world, and meet people's needs through provisioning by the state, by markets, by households and by the commons.

City design and policies can nurture the best in humanity: not selfish competitiveness, but prosocial, reciprocal relations in caring and compassionate communities.

Cities don't evolve in linear, predictable ways: embrace their dynamic complexity, unpredictability and interconnectedness.

Focusing on growth won't lead to equitable outcomes: make cities distributive by design, sharing value and opportunity with all.

Focusing on growth won't lead to a 'green' future: make cities regenerative by design - in planning, building, and living.

Cities and nations need economies that make people thrive whether or not they grow - not economies that need to grow, whether or not they make people thrive.

Questions to inspire policymakers

What are our current local measures of success?
What would a truly ambitious compass for the future look like, and who should be involved in creating it?
How could it help to guide local decision-making?

How can our policies better support households and help expand the commons?
How could we support new forms of ownership or stewardship for land, housing, local businesses, energy generation and city data?

Which policies and practices are creating polarisation - and how could solidarity and empathy be generated instead?
How can public services be less transactional and more relational? How could policies deepen local residents' sense of belonging and connection to the rest of the living world?

How can we break organisational silos and work to a shared vision, embracing the complexity of today's challenges?
How can we encourage experimentation, learning and adaptive policy-making, so that we have the capacity to respond to fast-changing realities?

Which sectors perpetuate the biggest local inequalities and what policy interventions can address this - e.g. in housing, transport, education, health? What policy leverages do we have to reduce our impacts on people living elsewhere - through procurement, trade, advocacy?

What are the key material flows in this region and how can our policies promote the principles of circularity?
How can we support land regeneration and promote efficient use of energy? How can we invest in creating a culture of sustainable lifestyles?

How can we reshape mindsets and narratives - within local government, and in the wider community - to focus on long-term thriving?
How can we transition away from depending on endless growth, in a way that works for our local context?

3

Cities, regions and the Doughnut

Cities and regions aiming for the Doughnut - what does this mean and what would it take?

The journey for any city or region aiming to live within the Doughnut starts with the ambition of this question:

How can our region/city/municipality be a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, while respecting the wellbeing of all people, and the health of the whole planet?

This question invites every place to explore its local aspirations in the context of its global responsibilities, recognising that every place is connected to people and the planet worldwide. The Doughnut Unrolled becomes the compass, the North Star helping us reimagine the desired future of our places, while the seven ways help us reflect on the transformations needed to get there.

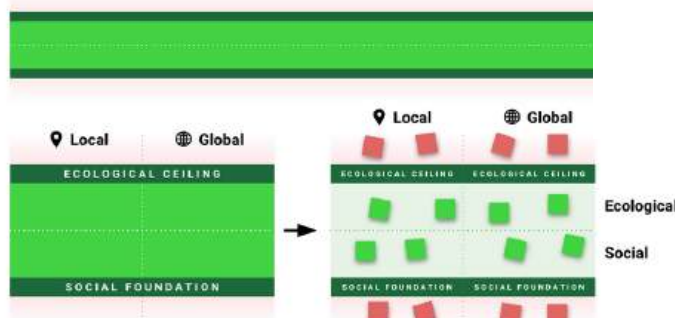
Four lenses of the Doughnut Unrolled

How can a place help bring humanity into the Doughnut? If we unroll it, we can create a space for exploring the possible futures we

DEAL has created a set of five 'Doughnut Unrolled' tools that explore this question using different approaches, including explainers, data-led methods, and workshop activities.

What's the vision of a city or region that lives within the Doughnut? It's a place that meets the essential needs of every person – from food, education and housing to social equity and political voice – rebuilding the systems of governance and ownership based on solidarity, care and collaboration to enable that. It's a place that has a reciprocal relationship with the living world that it's a part of, where people recognise their communities as embedded in and dependant on the natural ecosystems that surround them and actively restore and regenerate the living world through their infrastructure and actions. It's a place that respects the rights of people whose lives it affects worldwide, from workers in global supply chains to refugees seeking safety. And it's a place that lives within planetary boundaries by running on renewable energy, repairing and reusing its materials, changing its diets and lifestyles, and moving away from consumerism towards sufficiency.

want, through four lenses. The four lenses address both social and ecological issues while combining the local aspirations of a place with its global responsibilities.



Getting into the Doughnut calls for transforming the dynamics that shape economies, local to global. How can cities and regions shift from being degenerative to becoming regenerative of the living world? How can they shift from being socially divisive to becoming distributive of opportunity and value to all?

Many indigenous societies have learned to live and thrive this way, but today, there are – as far as is known – no towns, cities, regions or nations that succeed in doing so. Some are starting out now on a journey towards this vision, recognising that the ambition is clear but complex, that the journey is urgent but it takes time, and that it demands taking action here, even in the face of wider constraints.

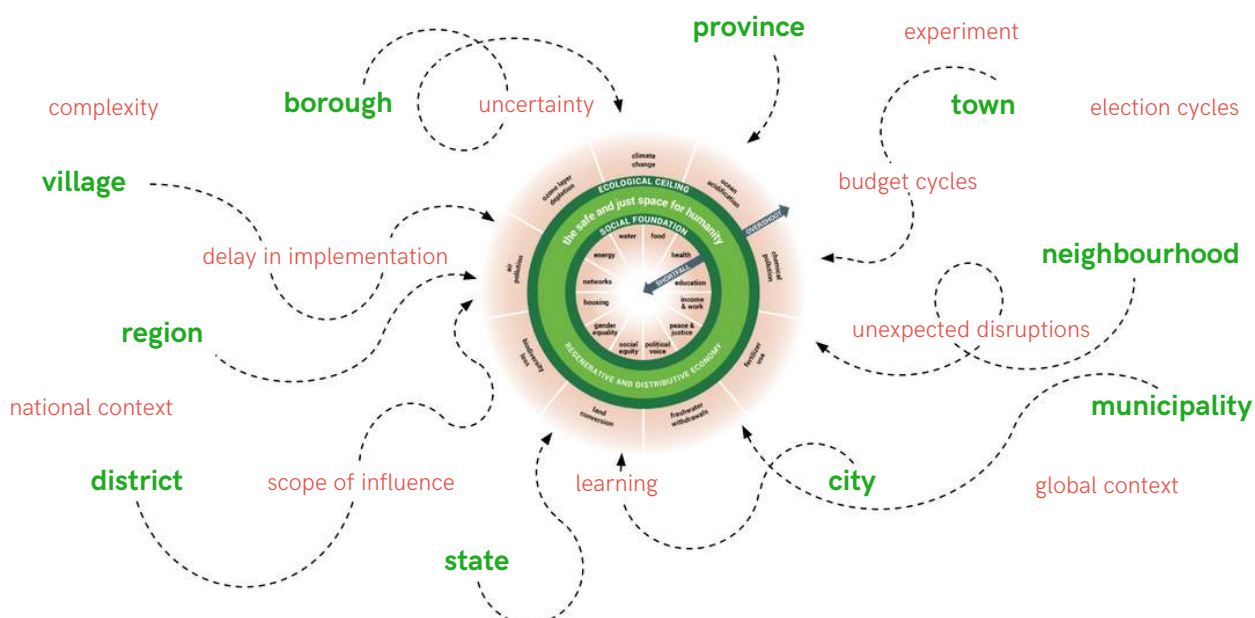
While all places can share the ambition to ‘thrive within the Doughnut’, the journey to get there will look different for each place, based on its geographical, cultural, and socio-political context, and on its unique challenges and opportunities. For most places, moving towards the Doughnut will mean both continuing, spreading and amplifying what is currently going in the right direction, stopping and letting go of old degenerative practices,

as well as adopting completely new approaches and changing how we plan and organise in our places, to meet people’s needs and care for our planetary home. Every place will have its own unique journey of how it moves towards a safe and just future. Local governments – enabled or held back by their own organisational structure and remits, policies and budgets, by political will or inertia – will get started in different ways, sometimes big, sometimes small, and sometimes in many different ways at once.

So far, local governments in over 90 localities around the world have begun exploring the ideas, and over 50 have formally brought them into policies, strategies and processes, finding a wide range of ways to work with the concepts and tools of Doughnut Economics. This guide offers a synthesis of opportunities for action by identifying nine possible pathways for local and regional governments to engage with Doughnut Economics, as well as in-depth case studies of the journeys and learnings of 12 places. The overall aim is to share approaches and examples arising in different contexts, and tools to inspire further action and possibilities for everyone to get started.

Every place will have its own unique journey of moving towards living in the safe and just space of the Doughnut.

Aiming for the Doughnut



4

Nine pathways

This is an overview of nine possible pathways for local and regional governments to use Doughnut Economics for transformative action.

These nine pathways, divided into three clusters, are just a rough guide and are not intended to be followed in any order. Some places start with quick experiments, others with plans for a journey, and others still start with long-term and official commitments. However you get started, it's clear that even the smallest first steps may open doors to transformative change.

Taking steps - Initiatives that can be done with few resources and can work as short-term commitments or one-off experiments without high-level approval.

On a journey - Initiatives that take more resources, require a commitment to work over at least a given period of time and lead to visible outcomes in either policies or projects.

Committing long-term - Initiatives that require a high level of political will and organisation-wide commitment and are aimed at long-term processes of transformative change.

Taking steps



#1 Page 14 | engage

Starting conversations and internal learning

Learning about the concepts and tools of Doughnut Economics internally across leadership and departments, and exploring possibilities to take action in your own place.



#2 Page 16 | experiment

Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects

Finding strategic opportunities, within already approved projects and processes, to bring in Doughnut Economics thinking, ambitions and tools.



#3 Page 18 | empower

Empowering local change-makers

Using the concepts and tools of Doughnut Economics to empower diverse actors in your city or region through collaboration and support, enabling mutual learning and creating spaces for action.

On a journey



#4 Page 12 | quantify

Data, measuring and monitoring

Using DEAL's Data Portrait of a Place tool to create a holistic data snapshot of your place, as a starting point for a range of activities - from identifying data gaps to steering policy decisions to monitoring progress over time.



#5 Page 22 | strategise

Plans and strategies

Bringing Doughnut Economics into all stages of place-based plans or thematic strategies - as a guide for visioning, collaborating, prioritising or monitoring, based on the social and ecological indicators of the Doughnut.



#6 Page 24 | demonstrate

Demonstrator projects

Initiating, funding or supporting the design and development of projects aiming to be transformative through the lens of Doughnut Economics.

Committing long-term



#7 Page 26 | guide

Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass

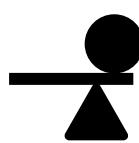
A high-level and high-ambition commitment, at a council or mayoral level, to a mindset and culture shift, bringing Doughnut Economics as a unifying framework for policy, strategy, management, and planning.



#8 Page 28 | inform

Decision-making and impact assessment

Using the Doughnut as a basis for designing outcome-led decision-making and assessment processes so that projects, policies, and investments are steered by their potential impact on social and ecological outcomes.



#9 Page 30 | transform

Identifying levers of transformative change

Using the ideas and tools of Doughnut Economics to identify levers of transformative change, helping to address the systemic and structural barriers embedded in inherited institutions, policies and ways of working.



#1 | engage

Starting conversations and internal learning

Local and regional governments can learn and hold discussions about the need for new economic models, concepts, tools, and practical applications of Doughnut Economics internally across leadership and departments. Learning could be done at the beginning of a local government's journey, exploring how it relates to different areas of work and possibilities to move forward. Equally, it's crucial to keep the learning going throughout and simultaneously with deeper work - as part of a continuous organisational change process.

Why local governments are doing this

- Advancing ecological and social crises calls for a rethink of our relationship with economic growth, nature, and how we manage places and services. Doughnut Economics is one way to explore alternative models and ideas and then make informed decisions on whether these could be brought in in a deeper way.
- Responding to internal and external interest, as awareness of Doughnut Economics grows.
- Throughout ongoing work with Doughnut Economics ideas, as part of an ongoing process of change, learning and capacity building, so that the concepts are meaningfully put into practice across all streams of work.
- Working in silos no longer works, and Doughnut Economics is a holistic model that opens pathways for more holistic thinking and collaboration.

What actions could look like

Organise learning and discussion

opportunities - presentations from other cities, practitioners, communities, and researchers that have worked with Doughnut Economics, watching online talks, and sharing between in-house departments that have knowledge or experience.

Explore how different silos, sectors and strategies relate to the Doughnut and to one another through **cross-departmental learning and exchange workshops**.

Attend events, create peer exchanges, participate in networks, join forces with others and visit cities enabling you to **learn directly from the practice and experience of peers around the world**.

Explore and learn from the many **stories of action on DEAL's platform**.

Explore **how Doughnut Economics relates to other frameworks** you may have been using (such as the SDGs or wellbeing economy).

Useful tools and resources

- [Presenting Doughnut Economics: videos and slides from the DEAL team](#)
- [The latest work on Cities & Regions from the DEAL team](#).
- [Set of workshops for local governments](#)
- [Powers to Act: Deep Design of Cities and Places workshop tool](#).
- [Communities: Let's Get Started!](#) - a collection of tools and stories for learning, sharing, workshops and building networks.
- [Schools & Educations on DEAL's platform](#) - including tools and resources for teachers, educators, students ages 5-18 years old.

Examples in action

- Many places have organised online events open to all staff, senior leadership or targeted departments as a way to begin a learning journey. DEAL's platform has ready-made videos and slides that can either be directly played, or adapted and translated.
- In some places, change-makers from departments that lead the work with Doughnut Economics have been the ones to hold presentations, workshops and discussions for other departments e.g. the Innovation, Sustainability & Climate team in **Bad Nauheim (Germany)** the Climate & Environmental Sustainability team in **Bath & North East Somerset (England)**.
- In many places, such as **Amsterdam (Netherlands)**, **North Saanich (Canada)**, **Riga (Latvia)**, the process of working with Doughnut Economics started with cross-departmental workshops. In **Frome (UK)**, they started with internal learning workshops, that were subsequently turned into open-to-public monthly learning sessions.
- Many cities embarking on their journey with Doughnut Economics have reached out for conversations to other places as part of their learning, e.g. officials from **Grenoble (France)** visited **Amsterdam** to learn about their approaches to circularity and Donut Deals, the **Ipoh (Malaysia)** team visited **Brussels (Belgium)**, and many cities have been learning from trailblazers in their region, e.g. Ipoh have been sharing with other Malaysian municipalities, and Grenoble and Valence Romans with interested French municipalities.
- Many officials and leaders have attended and learned at various events and lectures held by the DEAL team, DEAL community and other cities.
- Many officials have participated in DEAL-led peer-to-peer gatherings, open to all cities and regions actively working with Doughnut Economics.
- Cities have joined forces to apply for funding, like in **Sweden**, where the Research Institute of Sweden (RISE) and three towns (**Tomelilla, Vadstena and Kalix**) got funded to test different uses of Doughnut Economics in municipal processes.
- Amsterdam included the Doughnut as a 'compass for localising SDGs' in its Voluntary Local Review.



Amsterdam



Frome



Ipoh



Ipoh visits Brussels



DEAL peer gathering



Cities and DE first in-person gathering in Bad Nauheim



#2 | experiment

Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects

Local and regional governments can look for strategic opportunities amongst already approved initiatives and resourced projects, to experiment and play with the worldview and tools of Doughnut Economics. This could entail anything from bringing in some tools into workshops, discussions and participatory processes, to trying out Doughnut Economics as a lens through which an ongoing project can be reviewed.

Why local governments are doing this

- Exploring the potential value of Doughnut Economics tools and concepts, without long processes of decision-making, or the need for additional resources, before making any longer-term investments or commitments.
- A new lens on a project or a policy can help push its ambitions or make it better.
- Learning-by-doing types of experiments help establish a more practical understanding of how the tools could be used.
- Practical demonstration helps spread awareness, shift mindsets, and build interest internally.

What actions could look like

Hold workshops to review, discuss and potentially enrich **draft policies, strategies and processes**.

Hold workshops to review, discuss and potentially enrich **ongoing built environment or other place-based projects**.

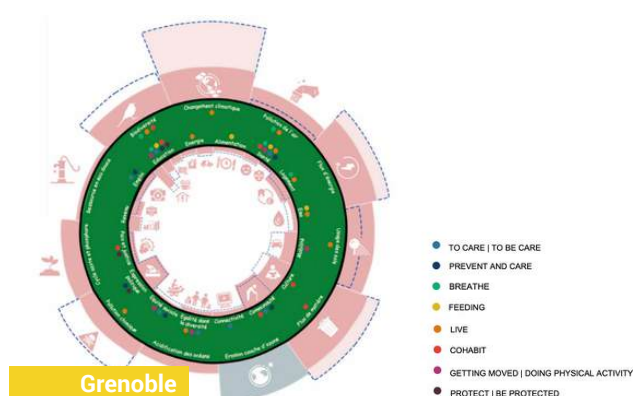
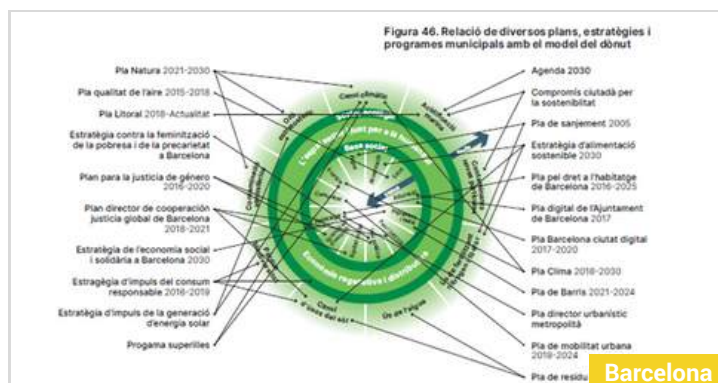
Use Doughnut Economics concepts and tools to gather ideas and trigger holistic discussion, as part of **visioning exercises or community engagement**.

Useful tools and resources

- [Doughnut Unrolled: Exploring a Topic](#) tool.

Examples in action

- **Barcelona (Spain)** and **Glasgow (Scotland)** did exercises mapping the plans and strategies already in place against the social and ecological dimensions of the Doughnut, helping to identify interconnections and gaps in existing strategies.
- In **Grenoble (France)**, they've included a process of "Donut mapping" as part of their review and update of the Health Municipal Plan and Air Energy Climate Action Plan, to build an understanding how the different strategic priorities contribute towards the social and ecological dimensions of the Doughnut.
- The **Brussels Donut team (Belgium)** ran workshops for the Administration for Territorial Development to help them delve into the question of giving space to nature in an urban context with an increasing demand for housing.
- The **Brussels Donut team** has been leading co-enquiries on a series of ongoing architectural and urban projects in the city, entering a dialogue with the key stakeholders over a series of workshops to understand how they are already contributing to a Doughnut economy, how they can be even more ambitious, and what obstacles they may be facing.
- In **Tomelilla (Sweden)**, Doughnut Economics has been used as a dialogue tool internally and with other actors, through four lenses workshops on various themes, e.g. reusing abandoned buildings.
- In **Bath and North East Somerset (England)**, they held an internal workshop with various department leads, exploring the 7 ways to think, using their strategic investment projects as a basis for discussion.
- Doughnut Economics plays a central role in the Rough Planet Guide to Tomelilla 2050, a project based on 'narrative prototyping', a creative technique of futuring and a way of exploring the possibilities of the times ahead, with a focus on visualizing how a zero-carbon region could look like.





#3 | empower

Empowering local change-makers

Local and regional governments can use the concepts and tools of Doughnut Economics to empower diverse actors in a city in many ways - from working with and supporting existing networks to convene people around the ideas of Doughnut Economics, to amplifying existing activities that are already demonstrating an ambitious and Doughnut-aligned vision, to supporting the transformation and transition of economic activities that need to change. It could also entail a local government strongly sharing the scale of ambition and the level of commitment the city is giving this work, thereby giving actors in the city permission, space and opportunity to be bold in their own ambition.

Why local governments are doing this

- Local governments alone cannot 'solve' complex 21st century challenges, as these require a collective effort involving many economic actors in a place.
- The idea of the Doughnut - and the inviting language of Doughnut Economics - has shown to resonate with people across different cultures and sectors, whether as residents, community members, businesses, industries, schools, academia, civil society organisations and civic institutions.
- The holistic nature of the Doughnut has shown the potential of connecting actors who are focused on different parts of the Doughnut (local or global, social or ecological) around shared challenges and opportunities, catalysing collective action.

What actions could look like

Support the networks convening people around the ideas of Doughnut Economics by: funding the time of organisers, providing event space, participating in events, supporting and amplifying existing activities demonstrating a shared vision for your place, acting on emerging ideas. See if there's a network in your place [here](#).

Form, support or fund non-hierarchical collaborative partnerships for collective action with multiple actors anchored in the ideas and tools of Doughnut Economics.

Support with funding or resourcing of **initiatives that are attempting to transform businesses** so they can most ambitiously serve to bring humanity into the Doughnut.

Support teachers and educators to bring the ideas of Doughnut Economics to schools.

If the city has committed to a high ambition of working with Doughnut Economics, **give a loud message of the scale and boldness of the ambition, and invite and enable other actors to join in that ambition** - by sharing knowledge and capacity, organising events, raising resources, bringing the tools and concepts of Doughnut Economics into existing forums, partnerships, and participatory processes.

Useful tools and resources

- [Communities & Arts on DEAL's platform](#) - introduction to community-led work, including a selection of tools and resources.
- [DEAL's Doughnut Design for Business tool](#) and shorter [taster tool](#).
- [DEAL's Public Policies to foster regenerative businesses tool](#).
- [Schools & Educations on DEAL's platform](#) - including tools and resources for schools.

Examples in action

- The City of **Amsterdam (Netherlands)** has co-funded the Amsterdam Donut Coalition's annual festival in 2021 and 2022. Officials and administrators participate in these festivals, as well as in regular meetups and special events. The City is also funding a project to design the Amsterdam Donut Coalition 2.0 (phase 2023 - 2025).
- In **Oxfordshire (UK)**, the Council commissioned members of the Oxfordshire Doughnut Network to support their early work with Doughnut Economics.
- The municipality of **Tomelilla (Sweden)** shared insights from their work at the Doughnut Economics festival in **Norway** organised by the **Tønsberg** Doughnut Economics group, Smultring Tønsberg.
- In **Barcelona (Spain)**, the Barcelona+Sustainable network of 2,000+ public and private organisations, has based their Citizen Commitment of more Sustainable Barcelona 2024 - 2034 on the Doughnut City Portrait, defining the current state of sustainability in Barcelona, and identifying areas where priority collective action is needed by all city actors and network members.
- A community hub in Amsterdam started facilitating 'Donut Deals' - agreements made between two or more partners to jointly work on issues from both the inside and the outside of the Doughnut. The City of Amsterdam has now partnered in some of these Donut Deals, and **Grenoble Metropole (France)** developed their own Donut Deal with local actors.
- The Future Workshop in **Bad Nauheim (Germany)** invited 100 randomly selected local residents to propose, select and develop priority measures for the city council to deliver, in order to help Bad Nauheim move inside the Doughnut.
- Impact Hub Basel (Switzerland) will be running workshops for businesses, using DEAL's Design for Business tool that supports businesses to start their own journey to help humanity into the Doughnut.
- Brussels Donut project, based in the Brussels Region (Belgium), offers support to both Brussels Capital Region and public operators, as well as private companies to learn about and implement the principles and tools of Doughnut Economics - providing brief information sessions, full-day workshops, and training and piloting programmes.



Amsterdam



Amsterdam



Bad Nauheim



Barcelona



#4 | quantify

Data, measuring and monitoring

The starting point for downscaling the Doughnut data approach to a local scale is using DEAL's Data Portrait of Place tool. This is a handbook for creating a holistic data snapshot of how well a place is currently doing, measured against its own targets, across both social and ecological dimensions. It provides approaches for gathering targets and indicators in a place, across each of the four lenses (local-social, global-social, local-ecological and global-ecological), to create a 'portrait' of the place's current performance. The Data Portrait can be used as a starting point for a range of different activities - from identifying data gaps, to setting new policy targets, to identifying priority areas for action. It could also become a compass to guide policy and action, a city-wide progress monitor, or a tool for cross-sectoral collaboration.

Why local governments are doing this

- There is a need for a holistic approach to measure and monitor the current state, progress, and trajectory of their place, and to inform priority action.
- Many places have a lot of disjointed data and/or monitors, and are lacking an accessible, comprehensive overview.
- City visions and strategies have set goals but no indicators to measure whether or not they are achieving them.
- There is interest to move towards impact-oriented policy-making.

What actions could look like

Produce a **Data Portrait of Place**, either through desktop research and internal cross-departmental workshops or in combination with participatory processes involving local residents and other actors.

Develop a **monitoring and reporting process on the state and progress** of places based on the Portrait.

Use the Data Portrait as a **basis for new strategies, policies and decision-making processes** - as seen in other pathways in this guide.

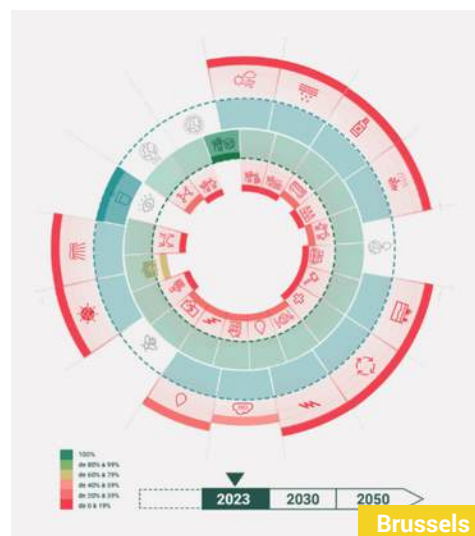
Use the Data Portrait monitor or findings to **identify areas of need, and prioritise investment, action, annual planning or new strategic cross-sectoral initiatives**.

Useful tools and resources

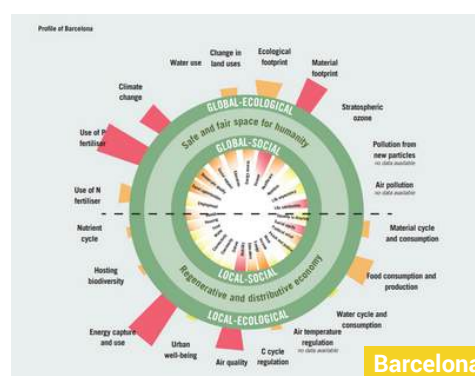
- [Doughnut Unrolled: Data Portrait of Place - a methodological guide](#).
- [Downscaling the Doughnut - Data Portraits in action - a collection of examples and stories from different places](#).

Examples in action

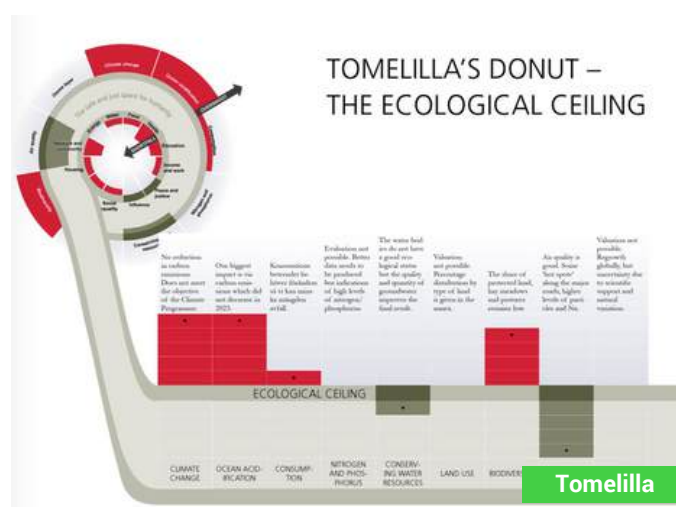
- The first City Portrait was done in **Amsterdam (Netherlands)** in 2020, as part of the Thriving Cities Initiative, a collaboration between Biomimicry 3.8, C40 Cities, Circle Economy and DEAL.
- **Glasgow (Scotland)** partnered with a university research team to develop their Digital Glasgow Doughnut, evolved through workshops with councillors, city officials, and resident engagement.
- **Barcelona (Spain)** has been working with Barcelona Regional (the city's urban development public agency) to develop its Data Portrait, which has been validated by academic and technical city experts, and informed by various participatory workshops. Their Data Portrait developed a unique methodology for the global-social lens, as well as a first ever visualisation of a four-lens "Re-rolled" Doughnut.
- **Brussels' Donut Portrait 2.0** looks at current state, but also follows trend indicators, determining if and when indicators will enter the Doughnut.
- In **Yerevan (Armenia)**, they complemented the City Portrait with a City Selfie, based on a city-wide representative sample survey of people's opinions.
- In **El Monte (Chile)**, a Data Portrait was developed informed by a series of three participatory workshops with community leaders.
- In **Birmingham (England)**, CIVIC SQUARE led the development of a first Neighbourhood Doughnut, including a Data Portrait, and Community Portrait.
- In **Tomelilla (Sweden)** the Municipal Portrait is now being used as their annual Sustainability Report mechanism. The data is complemented with stories of action for each of the dimensions.
- In **Riga (Latvia)**, as part of a EU funded project, they are developing a City Portrait, and planning to use it as a basis to re-evaluate the city's sustainable strategy for 2030, and a series of pilots by 2027.
- In **Leeds** and **London (England)**, community-led initiatives developed Data Portraits as a starting point for discussion between different city actors.
- **Copenhagen (Denmark)** produce an annual status report on Copenhagen with the Donut model (so far done for 2023, and 2024) as an informational tool, informing the prioritisation of projects in budget discussions, and helping identify areas with 'need for solutions' where action needs to be taken.



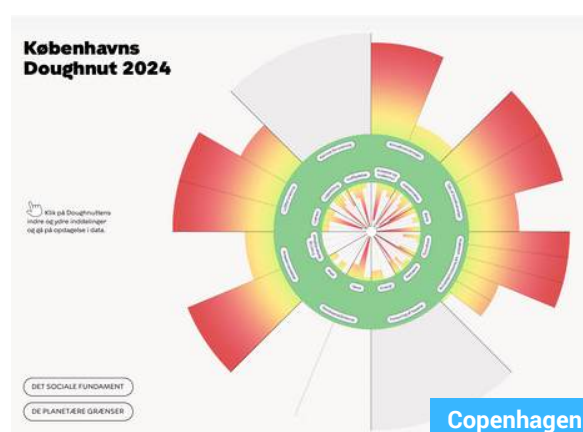
Brussels



Barcelona



Tomelilla



Copenhagen



#5 | strategise

Plans and strategies

Local and regional governments can bring the ambitions and metrics of Doughnut Economics into the design, review, monitoring and evaluation of plans or thematic strategies. This could range from shaping a 20-year city vision to a transport strategy, from a net-zero policy to a public health agenda. There are many ways to bring Doughnut Economics into plans and strategies: as a guide for setting an ambitious vision, as a tool for collaborative processes, as a tool to identify key themes, objectives and priorities, or as a tool for designing a monitoring framework with social and ecological indicators based on the Doughnut.

Why local governments are doing this

- The holistic nature of the Doughnut lends itself as an effective framework for setting guiding principles and steering visions.
- There is interest to add measurement and monitoring to strategic goals, addressing both ecological and social objectives.
- There is a need for new approaches that widen civic conversations and stakeholder engagement that help bridge the citizen/government gap, and get people excited about shaping their place's future.
- To bring stakeholders from different areas to work and collaborate together.
- To explore and help identify new types of implementation partnerships.

What actions could look like

A new plan or thematic strategy using Doughnut Economics as a guide for setting a regenerative and distributive vision, ambitions and priorities.

A measuring and monitoring system as part of a strategy - linking it, where possible, to the social and ecological indicators from an existing Data Portrait of Place.

A participatory process informing a city-wide vision, using the Doughnut Unrolled and its four lenses as a tool for conversations, identifying challenges, opportunities, and priority areas - internally between various departments, or externally, with stakeholders and communities.

Using the Doughnut and its four lenses as **a framework for reviewing and revising existing plans and strategies**.

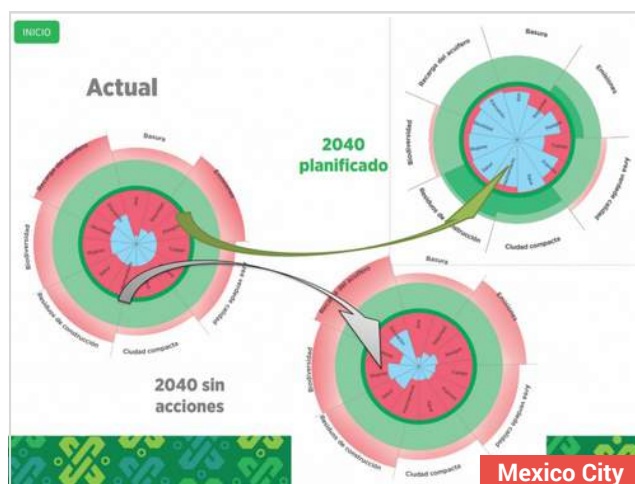
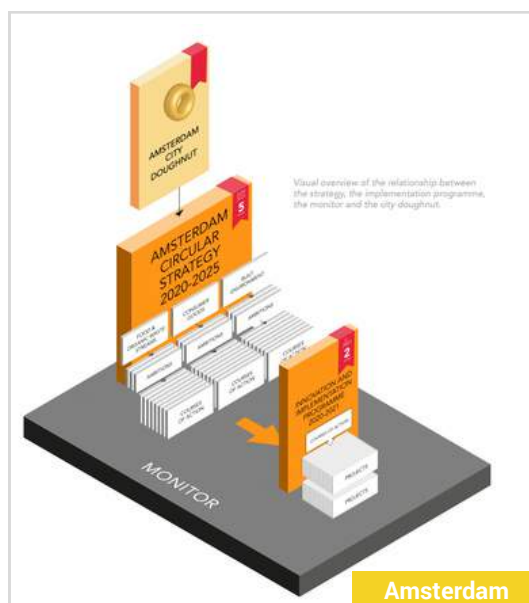
Using the Doughnut and its four lenses as a basis for **building collaborations and implementation partnerships**.

Useful tools and resources

- [Developing city strategies with Doughnut Economics- Miro board of ideas](#)
- [Doughnut Unrolled: Exploring a Topic](#) tool.
- [Doughnut Unrolled: Community Portrait of Place](#) tool.

Examples in action

- **Amsterdam (Netherlands)** used Doughnut Economics to shape their Circular Strategy, Urban Development Strategy and Mobility Strategy, bringing in a holistic view, a stronger focus on social outcomes and on staying within planetary limits.
- **Curaçao's** Economic development strategy uses the Doughnut as a compass for 'economic prosperity', and was informed by a series of neighbourhood workshops identifying existing initiatives through the lens of Doughnut Economics.
- **Thimphu (Bhutan)** developed a spatial Structure Plan with Doughnut Economics driving the vision, alongside Gross National Happiness.
- **Portland's (Oregon, USA)** Sustainable Consumption and Production Workplan is underpinned by Doughnut Economics.
- In **Barcelona (Spain)**, the vision and ambition of the Change for the Climate 2030 Plan (Sustainability Culture Strategy), is guided by Doughnut Economics.
- In **Santiago de Cali (Colombia)**, city staff used the Doughnut's social and ecological indicators as a monitoring tool in their Municipal Development Plan 2020-2023.
- The **Cornwall Plan 2020-2050** (UK) includes an outcomes framework to measure progress towards social and ecological outcomes, based on the Doughnut.
- In **Izmir (Turkey)**, the 2025-2029 Strategic Plan developed by the Izmir Planning Agency is organised with key performance indicators and strategic objectives according to the Doughnut.
- **Mexico City (Mexico)** used a contextualised Doughnut as a tool for discussion and resident engagement in their 20-year Development Plan, visualising where the city currently is and where they want to move towards in the long term.
- **Bad Nauheim (Germany)** invited citizens to co-create implementable climate measures in a Future Workshop, based on the Doughnut. The measures went through a political process, in which 7 have been prioritised to be implemented. Some were also included in the Climate Protection Plan.
- In **Pontypridd (Wales)**, Friends of the Earth used the Doughnut's four lenses to frame a community response to the draft Pontypridd Place Plan.





#6 | demonstrate

Demonstrator projects

Local and regional governments can support or fund the design and development of projects aiming to be distributive and regenerative by design, using the tools of Doughnut Economics to achieve this. These demonstrator projects might be designed to have a positive impact across all four lenses of the Doughnut, set best-practice precedents, demonstrate potential co-benefits, test what is achievable, viable, and scalable, or start conversations and debates. Equally, Doughnut-related criteria could be developed to select and prioritise projects or investments.

Why local governments are doing this

- Projects are seen as opportunities to demonstrate proof of concept.
- Local government processes can be slow, and small-scale projects are more likely to get things moving faster.
- Projects are opportunities to trial and test, learn by doing, demonstrate which types of processes, outcomes, and partnerships new ways of thinking can bring about, and trigger wider debates.

What actions could look like

Develop new projects - or transform already approved projects while in inception - that would demonstrate holistic thinking and positive impact across multiple social and ecological indicators in order to test possibilities and outcomes, set precedents, or pilot projects that could be scaled up.

Develop criteria for new transformative projects underpinned by the principles and ambitions of Doughnut Economics - designing projects that are regenerative and distributive by design.

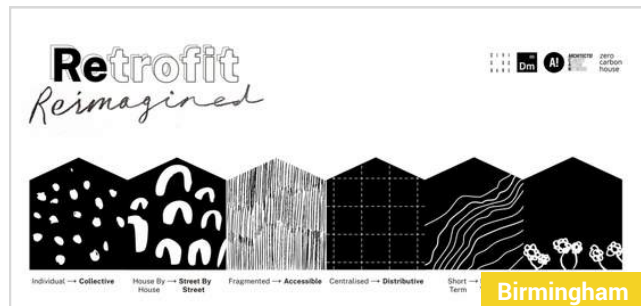
Use Doughnut-led participatory processes to identify and **develop new Public-Commons or Public-Private partnerships** needed to enable transformative projects.

Useful tools and resources

- [Doughnut Unrolled: Exploring a Topic](#) tool.
- [Doughnut for Urban Development Manual](#) and [Workshop Toolkit](#)

Examples in action

- In **Tomelilla (Sweden)**, they are designing and building a new elementary school based on the principles of Doughnut Economics, exploring everything from choosing the team, to participatory processes, to energy and food production on site, to using the school as a community resource, and the new types of educational roles needed for a 21st century school - the insights and learnings emerged have been published as a guide in this report.
- **Amsterdam**, as part of their Circular Economy Programme, a range of circular projects embedding Doughnut Economics principles are being delivered, from food to construction to housing (Circular Economy Lessons & Recommendations).
- Neighbourhood lab CIVIC SQUARE anchors their 'Street demonstrator' in the core principles of Doughnut Economics, as they attempt to develop a street-scale deep retrofit approach on one street in Birmingham (England).
- In **Grønlikaia**, a new fjord district in **Oslo (Norway)**, Oslo Port's development company has been using the four lenses of the Doughnut to bring diverse experts together, identify opportunities, gaps and solutions for the future neighbourhood.
- In **Lviv (Ukraine)** Doughnut-led methodology was used for the impact assessment of the Northern District spatial development plan in Lviv, Ukraine, identifying sectors that would have the most significant long term positive impacts and directions for action.
- In **Santiago de Cali**, Doughnut Economics was used as an inspiration, helping the city set aims to improve both ecological and social outcomes through their public space interventions policy Cali EcoCrea.
- Led and facilitated by the Green Hub in **Amsterdam**, the first International Donut Deal was signed between a range of partners, including the Municipality of Amsterdam, **Grenoble Metropole**, universities, recycling and waste organisations and others, focusing on jointly developing and trialling, in both places, different types of biogas digesters and/or composters.





#7 | guide

Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass

Local and regional governments can adopt Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass or a guiding framework in their transformative journey. This high-level and high-ambition political commitment could take the shape of a council or mayoral decision setting a commitment to a process or a vision. There is no single approach to using the Doughnut as a compass, but generally, it requires embracing a mindset and culture shift (or aligning to an already ongoing ambitious shift) and making Doughnut Economics a common guide and reference for many streams of work and action, like planning, strategy, decision making, engagement or budgeting.

Why local governments are doing this

- There is an ambition to transform the future of places with new economic thinking.
- There is the political will to shift towards outcomes-based policymaking, focused on social and ecological outcomes.
- Much work is siloed, and a common framework is needed with the capacity to bring different sectors from both social and ecological domains together.
- The Doughnut has resonated with communities locally and more widely, presenting an opportunity to galvanise engagement and new partnerships, and bring different actors together.

What actions could look like

Form a task force or working group

identifying potential pathways for action across all streams of work, and what deep commitment could look like in your place.

Adopt an official commitment and approach, and a matching budget for the work.

Develop a vision and action plan to use Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass, through collaborative, cross-departmental processes, linking the Doughnut to different sectors in a way that works for everyone.

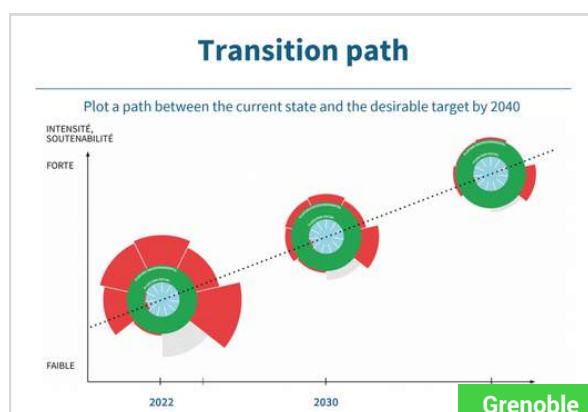
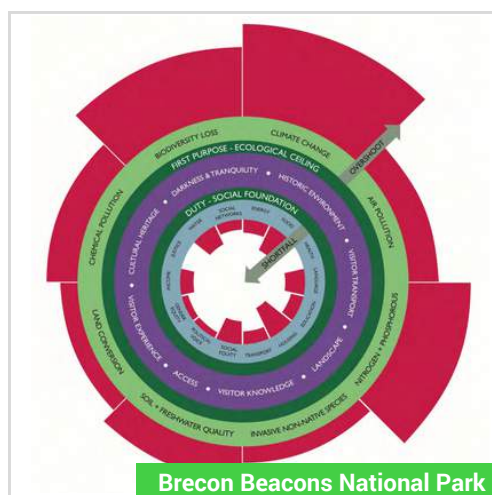
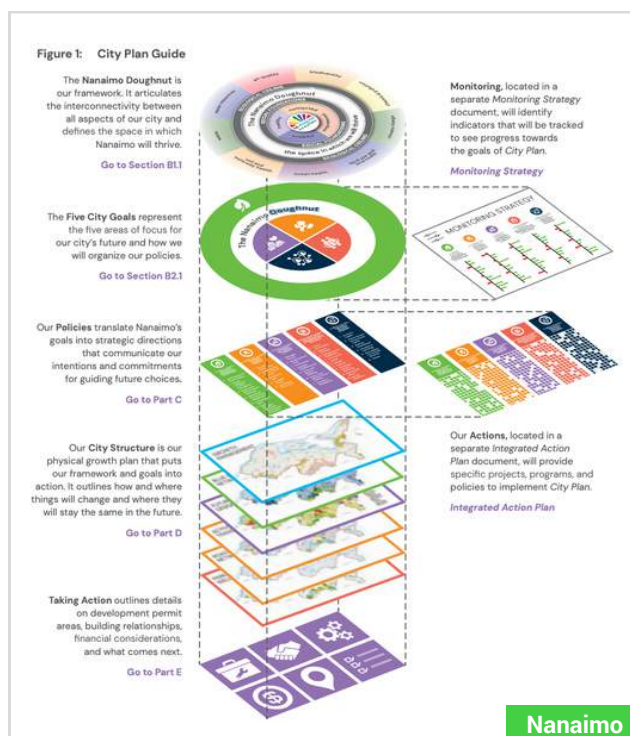
Bring the Doughnut as a strategic compass into different areas of work, at many levels and through many pathways - while diving into many other pathways in this guide.

Useful tools and resources

- [Doughnut Economics as a Strategic Compass: How municipal strategists can use Doughnut Economics for impact-oriented transformation](#) - a publication including detailed case studies and insights from Nanaimo, Copenhagen, Cornwall, Amsterdam and Portland (in English and German).
- [Finnish Doughnut Economics Toolbox](#) (in Finnish)
- [Donut Toolbox](#) (in German)

Examples in action

- **Tomelilla (Sweden)** partnered with a research institute to produce a study exploring the potential to use Doughnut Economics in their planning, and this included a review of other cities' experiences and an analysis of the municipality's own financial and organisational conditions.
- Following a Council vote, **Copenhagen (Denmark)** has implemented an annual status report, which tracks performance across key dimensions and identifies areas where political action is needed. The report is a collaborative effort between representatives from all seven administrations in the municipality. It has been politically determined that the political committees in all administrations must officially acknowledge the status report.
- **Nanaimo (Canada)** voted through a council motion to 'adopt the Doughnut Economic Model as a cohesive vision for all City initiatives and planning processes', blended with the Reimagine Nanaimo process and committing to develop a Data Portrait with measurable targets and indicators.
- **Brecon Beacons National Park (Wales)** has put the Doughnut at the core of their Management Plan, as a framework defining future action, with the targets/indicators set in the 'Park Doughnut' helping monitor change and progress.
- **Grenoble (France)** adopted the "Grenoble 2040" approach, which is underpinned by Doughnut Economics, using the Portrait as a diagnostic tool guiding the socio-ecological transition.
- In **Bad Nauheim (Germany)**, work was led by the Innovation, Sustainability and Climate Department, which held strategy workshops - with actors from all city departments and affiliated organisations - to set the key conceptual foundations for the approach.
- In **Glasgow (Scotland)**, the Thriving City Portrait Definitions were approved at the Council's City Administration Committee.
- In **Bath & North East Somerset (England)**, in a workshop with senior department representatives to discuss using Doughnut Economics as a strategic framework for the next corporate strategy, priorities were explored through the guiding question "Imagine we won a £100 million grant to address shortfalls in the social foundation and overshoots in the ecological ceiling in B&NES by working with Doughnut Economics - what would we do with it?"





#8 | guide

Decision-making and impact assessment

Local and regional governments can develop tools and criteria through which potential projects, policies or investments can be assessed and decisions informed and steered based on their social and ecological impacts across the dimensions of the Doughnut. These can be accompanied with management processes and practices to put these into practice. These decision-making tools and processes could be implemented at different levels and be made either obligatory or advisory.

Why local governments are doing this

- To bring visions created with Doughnut Economics-led ambition into to the day-to-day decision-making that shapes long-term outcomes.
- Decision-making processes are outdated, disconnected from longer-term goals and visions, or too heavily led by financial viability or a limited set of evaluation criteria.
- Budgets are not informed by evidence, and there is no clear link between projects and outcomes.

What actions could look like

Design impact-assessment tools that support decision-making processes using the concepts and tools of Doughnut Economics, focusing on the social and ecological outcomes.

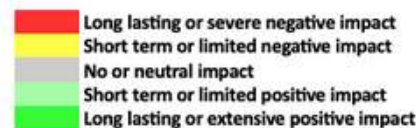
Useful tools and resources

- [Doughnut Unrolled: Exploring a Topic](#) tool.

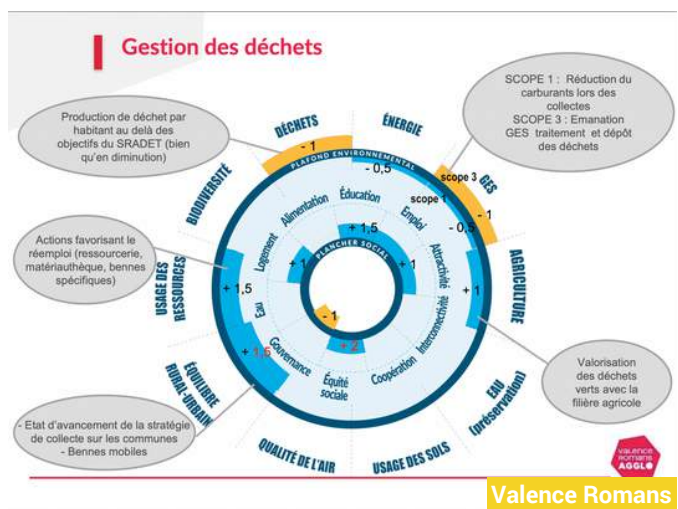
Examples in action

- In **Cornwall (UK)**, the council has introduced the Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel (CDDW) for all decisions, illustrating the positive and negative impacts of proposed decisions in a visualisation that focuses decision-makers on issues that may require further debate or mitigation. CDDW is an accessible-to-all-staff, interactive, digital platform, where users complete questions on an online portal for any project or initiative across social and ecological themes. Based on the answers, scores are assigned to each 'wedge' and a Doughnut-shaped visual is produced illustrating the potential impact of the project (long-term negative, short-term negative, neutral, short-term positive, long-term positive). When the CDDW was introduced, training and support was put in place for key officers and decision-makers.
- In **Valence Romans (France)**, they have developed a Doughnut project-assessment approach specifically for measuring and tracking the impact of 20 projects that are part of the 6-year municipal programme; improvement, adjustments and changes are made throughout implementation, based on the assessment. Each project is tracked through a tailored and unique set of social and ecological indicators, with their own grading scales, co-developed with project implementation teams.
- In **Grenoble (France)** they created an impact assessment tool to introduce social and environmental criteria, drawn from the Doughnut in their municipal decision-making processes. The analysis grid is initially used to assess the contribution of the municipality's strategic investment projects to political social and environmental targets.
- In **Bad Nauheim (Germany)** they are developing an impact assessment software, after a period of testing and trialing the approach with a lighter, more informal process - using an excel sheet and facilitated workshops with project managers.

Case Study: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy



Cornwall



Valence Romans



Grenoble



#9 | transform

Identifying levers of transformative change

Rather than being a further set of actions, the need to 'identify key levers of transformative change' underpins all other pathways. This pathway is a call to action - inviting all cities and regions seeking to live within the Doughnut to recognise and act on the systemic barriers that may hold them back.

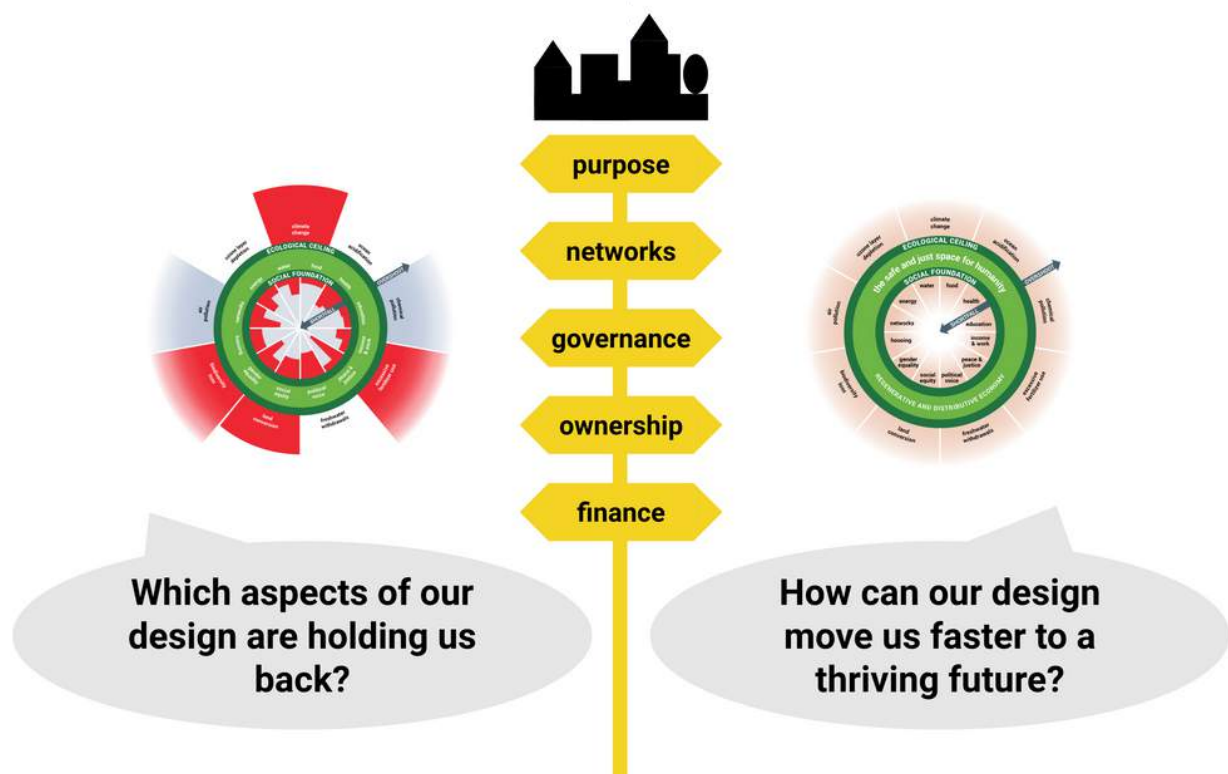
Most places aiming to do transformative work hit obstacles that are deeply ingrained into local institutions' ways of working, growth path dependencies and other patterns inherited from the past. Often hidden beneath the apparent banality of day-to-day operations and business-as-usual planning, lie structures that can enable or block transformative change (e.g. decision-making mechanisms,

land ownership, finance). This final pathway invites places to acknowledge and confront structural barriers, and boldly identify leverage points for overcoming them.

An entry point for doing this is to start the process by asking the question: in our town, city or region, which are the most effective leverage points enabling action at the scale and speed needed to meet 21st century challenges? A key part of the long-term work towards a safe and just future inside the Doughnut lies here.

As one possible starting point, we offer our Powers to Act: Deep Design of Cities and Places framework and workshop tool, already used by some places, as an avenue to starting conversations around these issues, and we welcome other approaches, tools and frameworks that help places explore systemic barriers and opportunities for transformative change.

Deep Design of Cities and Places.



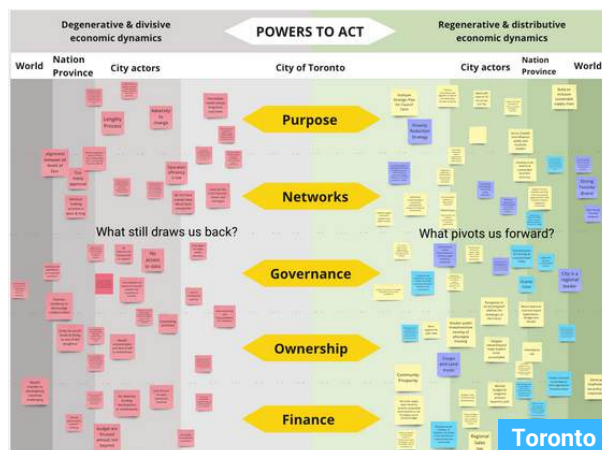
Powers To Act: Deep design of cities and places

The table below offers a summary of the questions our tool asks.

Purpose	What is the purpose guiding your organisation, and is it reflected in the mindsets and working culture?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is your vision and is it ambitious enough for 21st century needs? Do you challenge old paradigms and ways of working and build an organisation, working culture and mindsets fit for this vision? Does that vision guide senior leadership and policy-making?
Networks	What relationships does local government hold, and how does it bring its purpose and values to life through them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you recognise the powers of local government as a regulator, but also enabler, advocate, convenor and look to create new types of partnerships, collaborations with the ecosystem of city actors? How are knowledge and resources shared to tackle complex challenges? Are you held back by old business, profit-driven relationships?
Governance	What are the hard rules, and the unwritten culture, of how things get done? What are the metrics of success?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who makes tough decisions, based on what criteria? What governance and decision-making powers are shared or devolved through partnerships, and participatory and deliberative mechanisms? Are sectoral strategies working towards the same long-term vision? How is success measured - with what metrics, informed by who?
Ownership	What are the sources of wealth creation in this place, and who benefits from how they are owned?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who owns the built and unbuilt land and what are the implications for affordability and equity? Who owns the key utilities (energy, water, digital) and key services (transport, education, healthcare) and with what consequences? How are distributive models of ownership encouraged?
Finance	What are the sources of finance here - and what does that finance expect and demand?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does local government raise taxes, and what does it invest in? How is the budget distributed and why? How are the powers of procurement and purchasing used to promote regenerative and distributive local economies? How ethical are local funds, investments, and pensions?



Different cities and stakeholders doing the Powers to Act workshop.

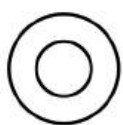


5

Working with integrity

DEAL is making many concepts, tools and resources freely available for change-makers to use to put the ideas of Doughnut Economics into practice. In return, and to ensure the integrity of these concepts, tools and resources when put into practice, we ask that you follow the guidelines set out below. These include DEAL's Doughnut Principles of Practice, and DEAL's Dos and Don'ts for local and regional governments.

Doughnut Principles of Practice



Embrace the 21st century goal

Aim to meet the needs of all people within the means of the planet. Seek to align your organisation's purpose, networks, ownership and finance with this goal.



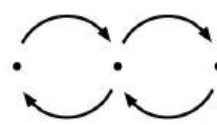
See the big picture

Recognise the potential roles of the household, the commons, the market and the state – and their many synergies – in transforming economies. Ensure that finance serves the work rather than drives it.



Nurture human nature

Promote diversity, participation, collaboration and reciprocity. Strengthen community networks and work with a spirit of high trust. Care for the wellbeing of the team.



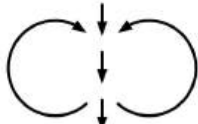
Think in systems

Experiment, learn, adapt, evolve and aim for continuous improvement. Be alert to dynamic effects, feedback loops and tipping points.



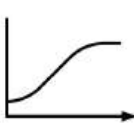
Be distributive

Work in the spirit of open design and share the value created with all who co-created it. Be aware of power and seek to redistribute it to improve equity amongst stakeholders.



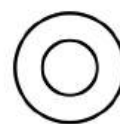
Be regenerative

Aim to work with and within the cycles of the living world. be a sharer, repairer, regenerator, steward. Reduce travel, minimize flights, be climate and energy smart.



Aim to thrive rather than to grow

Don't let growth become a goal in itself. Know when to let the work spread out via others rather than scale up in size.



Be strategic in practice

Go where the energy is – but always ask whose voice is left out. Balance openness with integrity, so that the work spreads without capture. Share back learning and innovation to unleash the power of peer-to-peer inspiration.

Dos and don'ts for local governments



Engage with all four lenses of the Doughnut Unrolled.



Work with local residents and stakeholders to put the tools into practice in your own context.



Feel free to bring complementary tools that are conceptually aligned with Doughnut Economics.



Share back your adaptations and learning with the DEAL community.



Follow [DEAL's Principles & Guidelines](#), including the Doughnut Principles of Practice.



Follow [DEAL's Policy for consultancies & organisations](#) if you are using these tools as a consultant.



Don't use the Doughnut simply for branding.



Don't use the Doughnut as an add-on to traditional growth-focused strategies.



Don't refer to your city or place as a 'Doughnut City', instead communicate your ambitions and commitments (e.g. 'We aim to bring our place into the Doughnut', 'We are using the Doughnut as a guiding framework').

We ask that you visit our [Principles & Guidelines Page](#) for all our guidelines, including specific policies like our [Policy for consultancies and organisations](#) - which asks every organisation intending to use Doughnut Economics concepts and tools in the professional advisory services they offer to cities, regions and others to first affirm that their vision, values, and ways of working are aligned with those of Doughnut Economics, by completing and sharing a public declaration that will remain publicly accessible on the DEAL Community Platform.

6

Taking the next steps

If you are an elected official or staff working in local or regional government, and you are new to the concepts of Doughnut Economics and interested to get started, or if you've already started working with the Doughnut - [do contact us](#), selecting the Cities & Regions theme and Leonora Grcheva, DEAL's Cities & Regions Lead, will be in touch, to welcome you to join the international, growing community of practice of local and regional governments working with Doughnut Economics.

The latest work by local governments with Doughnut Economics will be shared on the [Cities & Regions page](#) on the DEAL Community Platform - do [subscribe to DEAL's newsletter](#) for any relevant updates.

As a small team, we focus on supporting places by:

- Creating open access tools and resources.
- Based on capacity, engaging one-to-one with local governments in an advisory capacity, offering free strategic guidance, connections to other places and learning opportunities.
- Hosting online and offline peer-to-peer learning events.
- Amplifying shared learning through public events.

In addition, there are value-aligned consultants and organisations that can also support you in this work - you can find a list of these on our [Organisations in Action page](#) (all consultants that submit a public declaration following our Policy for Consultancies and Organisations become visible here).

Sharing back

So much of the work and innovation happening in local governments has been motivated, inspired or guided by the precedents set by peers in other places who have shared back their learnings, insights, obstacles and innovations.

We hope that this guide will help you in your journey, and help you learn from those in action.

In the spirit of sharing and reciprocity, we ask that you share back your work with the DEAL community by [writing stories on our platform](#), sharing your insights and learnings with the DEAL team, participating in peer-to-peer learning, public presentations and other events, so that these can, in turn, inspire like-minded change-makers.

7

Case studies

There is no single way to work with the ideas of Doughnut Economics in local government.

Practitioners in local and regional governments from around the world have been experimenting, innovating, and taking very different pathways.

In this section we dive deeper into the experiences of twelve different places, namely: Grenoble (France), Nanaimo (Canada), Tomelilla (Sweden), Brussels (Belgium), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Nauheim (Germany), Cornwall (UK), Glasgow (Scotland), Ipoh (Malaysia), Copenhagen (Denmark), Valence Romans (France) and Barcelona (Spain).

In each of the case studies, we can read who led the work and any key partners that were involved, what have their journey, key outcomes and policies been so far, what are currently the main perceived benefits and challenges, and finally what are some lessons learnt that they can share to help others that are just getting started.

Each of the case studies was contributed by the city officials and partners leading the work.

GRENOBLE, FRANCE

In 2022, Grenoble launched 'Grenoble 2040', a political approach based on Doughnut Economics, as a common framework for thinking about the future and developing transition trajectories. So far, they have developed a Data Portrait, an impact assessment tool for assessing strategic projects, and held public workshops, debates and exhibitions focused on the Doughnut. They are currently developing a data observatory and will be launching participatory neighbourhood projects in late 2024.

About the place

The City of Grenoble is located in the mountainous region of the Alps and benefits from important natural ecosystems. It has more than 160.000 inhabitants, a high population density and faces many challenges: heat islands, air and chemical pollution, and the inclusion of vulnerable people. In 2022, the City received the European Green Capital award to honour its policies of transition.

Why Doughnut Economics

Rewarded as European Green Capital in 2022, the City of Grenoble decided to go one step further, relying on Doughnut Economics to reimagine the future. The Council voted to launch "Grenoble 2040" - an approach offering young people born in 2022 the opportunity to imagine and design the world and the city they want to live in when they turn 18 in 2040. Doughnut Economics was chosen for its scientific base and multi-thematic focus, crossing environmental and social dimensions.










Lead departments, organisations or partners

The Grenoble 2040 and Doughnut Economics are politically championed by the Deputy Mayor and the elected representatives. A project manager was recruited to develop and deploy Doughnut Economics. She has been working as part of the Grenoble 2040 team, within the International Relations, Innovation and Transition Department. Doughnut Economics in Grenoble benefits from a strong political (elected representatives) and administrative support (CEO and Directors).

Who else has been involved

Grenoble collaborates with many actors on data, validation, resident engagement and communication, such as Grenoble Business School, GAIA (a transition projects incubator), other local authorities (Grenoble Metropolitan Area, Department of Isère), local agencies (AURG, the Urbanism Agency), national networks (France Villes et Territoires Durables).

Pathways travelled in Grenoble

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change



Journey to date

As one of France's trailblazer cities, Grenoble City Council voted in 2022 a deliberation to launch "Grenoble 2040" - a political approach based on the Doughnut Economics model. This decision led to the creation of a manager position dedicated to its implementation within the city.

Grenoble started working on a diagnosis by publishing a Data Portrait of Place (December 2022), followed by a "Donut mapping" of the main strategies and political plans of the municipality. In 2025, a second version of the Data Portrait will be published, which is being co-constructed with all of the municipality's departments reflecting more accurately the Municipality's skills and competences. There's been focus on internal skills and competences that need to improve or change to help the city move towards the Doughnut. The city is also developing a data observatory based on the social and environmental dimensions of the Doughnut, aiming to establish more relevant indicators that would monitor activities and guide political strategies. This would become a dynamic online tool that would allow all the services within the municipality to have access to all the data used by other services.

In 2024, they created an impact assessment tool to introduce social and environmental criteria in municipal decision-making processes. This analysis grid is used to assess the contribution of the municipality's strategic investment projects to political social and environmental targets.

They've worked with Doughnut Economics transversally across departments, and internal workshops have been held on several themes, e.g. Europe, climate change, energy.

They have begun public dialogue around Doughnut Economics through public conferences, community workshops, and exhibitions. By the end of 2024, an inclusive participation Donut project will be launched based on popular education, involving citizens in designing the future of the city (and world) they want to live in by 2040. A public presentation will be held in May 2025 as part of a huge event (Cities in Transition Biennale) held by the Municipality in Grenoble, that takes place every two years in the city.

Key outcomes

- 1) City Portrait [\[in French\]](#) [\[in Eng.\]](#)
- 2) Environmental and social assessment tool [\[in French\]](#) [\[in Eng.\]](#)
- 3) [Doughnut exhibition](#)
- 4) Donut mapping in the [Health Municipal Plan](#) and the [Air Energy Climate Action Plan](#)
- 5) Data Observatory

Key benefits

More transversality within the municipality, enabling departments to collaborate on issues indirectly linked to a common project (eg. biodiversity in a project of extending the current vehicle impound). A multi-thematic framework for designing and adapting strategies and projects in order to better integrate socio-environmental challenges. It offers an inclusive approach where everyone can find their place as the broad dimensions cover all the skills of the municipality. It is very powerful to connect elected representatives to the technical teams, making links between political targets & strategies on one, and projects & public services on the other side.

Main challenges

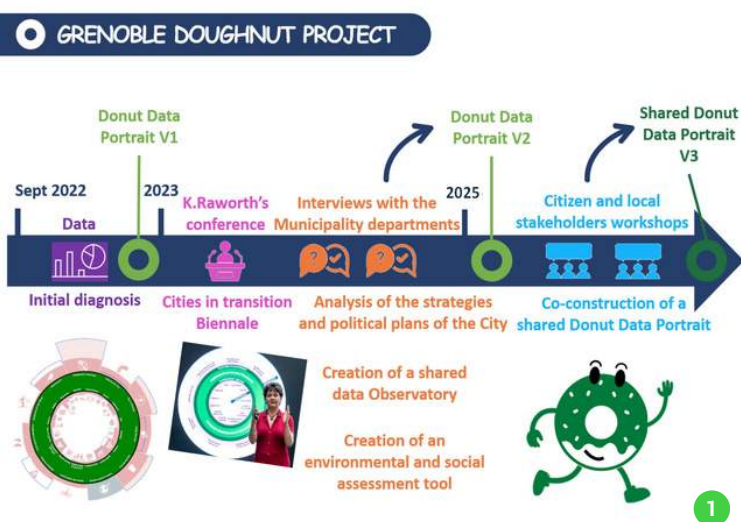
Difficulties to find some data for the City Portrait that does not yet exist or is not being measured. Choosing targets and evaluating thresholds of sustainability at a local scale, especially when there are no political objectives. Mobilising citizens not familiar with these subjects, and trying not to always have the same groups of people attending events and workshops related to transitions.

Lessons learnt

Starting with a City Portrait is very convincing as it is a comprehensive and easy way to discover Doughnut Economics and spread the concept within a municipality. It is also a way to get started, show concretely how Doughnut Economics can be applied and then think and explore other ways of applying the ideas that you could pursue. Political support is essential in order to implement Doughnut Economics within a municipality, but it is also necessary to deploy it among civil servants so that it can become a reality, applied in projects and adopted as a new operational framework.

To learn more

Donut, a new compass for Grenoble: a detailed report by the municipality [\[in French\]](#) [\[in English\]](#)
[Grenoble 2040 political approach](#)
[Video presentation by Grenoble team](#)



- 1 Timeline of Grenoble's key work with Doughnut Economics to date.
- 2 Donut Stand.
- 3 Public workshop at Grenoble's Cities in Transition Biennale 2023.
- 4 City staff sharing the work with Doughnut Economics with international delegations.
- 5 Public conference at Grenoble's Cities in Transition Biennale 2023.
- 6 Doughnut City Portrait, version 1, 2022
- 7 Poster for the Grenoble 2040 approach.
- 8 Environmental and social assessment tool.
- 9 Poster for "Repairing the future" exhibition as part of the Grenoble 2040 programme.



PREFIGURATION OF GRENOBLE CITY DONUT PORTRAIT

December 2022 version

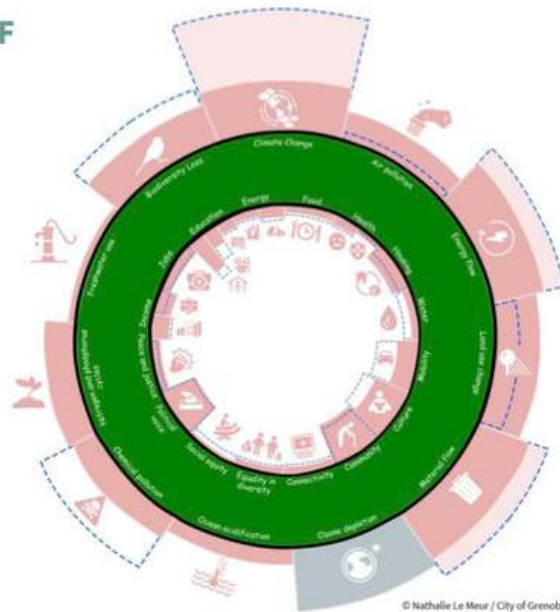
Simplified picture that is neither exhaustive nor definitive. Details of the selected indicators are available on the City's website.

LEGEND:

- The size of the red rectangles states where Grenoble is, sometimes in relation to a 2030 or 2050 target.
- The size of the blue rectangles represents
 - national average (if available)
 - a theoretical scaling up of the French situation to the scale of Grenoble
- Lack of relevant data at the scale of Grenoble

READING TIPS:

- The overshoot or the privation in Grenoble is higher than in the French average
- The overshoot or the privation is higher on average in France than in Grenoble
- If we bring the French data to the scale of Grenoble in proportion to the demographic weight of the city within the national population, the excess in Grenoble is less important than in France



© Nathalie Le Meur / City of Grenoble

6



7

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

6 axis of analysis

CLIMATE CHANGE

18 sub-axis of analysis

Right against climate change

Energy transition

Freshness in the city

BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS

Land use and urban planning

Nature stewardship in the city

Fight against pollution

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Preserving natural resources

Supply and traceability

Circular economy and waste management

HUMAN HEALTH

Basic needs

Healthy living conditions

Public action

SOCIAL COHESION

Social link

Empowerment

Citizenship

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Equality in diversity

Social equity

Income and work



PROJECT IMPACT
Outputs - On, by and for
the city estate

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION AND
OPERATION OF THE
PROJECT

Temporality : PROJECT
DURATION

Perimeter : PROJECT
AREA AND LOCATION

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF
THE PROJECT ON STAFF
AND CIVIL SERVANTS

Temporality : PROJECT
DURATION

Perimeter : PROJECT
STAKEHOLDERS



TERRITORIAL IMPACT
Outcomes - On and for
the territory

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS OF THE
PROJECT ON THE
TERRITORY

Temporality : PROJECT
DURATION

Perimeter : TERRITORY,
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA
CONCERNED

SOCIAL IMPACTS OF
THE PROJECT ON THE
POPULATION

Temporality : PROJECT
DURATION

Perimeter :
POPULATION, USERS,
BENEFICIARIES

8












9

NANAIMO, CANADA

Nanaimo has been working with Doughnut Economics since 2020, voting a motion to “adopt the Doughnut Economics Model as a cohesive vision for all city initiatives and planning processes”. A community plan (an integrated strategic planning document for the next 25 years) called City Plan: Nanaimo Relmaged was developed through extensive participation and grounded in the “Nanaimo Doughnut”. Two key supporting documents have since been developed: the Integrated Action Plan and a draft Monitoring Strategy.

Pathways travelled in Nanaimo

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

Nanaimo is a coastal city located on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. It was originally a coal mining town but is now a vibrant and rapidly growing city of well over 100,000 residents. The main industry sectors are health care and social services, retail and construction. It is a hub city which easily connects to the mainland Vancouver via ferry and planes. In recent years, the city has experienced significant growth both in terms of population and building construction. However, issues of homelessness and community safety have also reached crisis levels since COVID-19.

Why Doughnut Economics

A number of Councillors were inspired by the Doughnut Economics Model and saw an opportunity to use it as a guiding framework for the Official Community Plan refresh. They recognised that without a clear framework to articulate the ultimate aim, it was challenging to find clear directions to where we ultimately want to go and measure success more objectively.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

A number of Councillors acted as champions. Community Planning led the development of the City Plan: Nanaimo Relmaged and the Integrated Action Plan; and Sustainability Section led the development of the Monitoring Strategy. The process involved departments across the organisation.

Who else has been involved

Extensive public engagement was carried out during the Nanaimo Relmaged process. Consultants supported the Relmagine Project (LANARC), and the development of the monitoring framework (REFOCUS Sustainability and Mark McElroy).



Journey to date

In spring 2020, the newly formed Environment Committee was reviewing City of Nanaimo's environmental framework and in search of performance indicators while trying to integrate climate action into the community plan update (a project called ReImagine Nanaimo). A few Councillors inspired by Doughnut Economics introduced the concept to the Committee. The Committee eventually recommended to Council that Nanaimo "adopts the Doughnut Economics Model as a cohesive vision for all City initiatives and planning processes, a City Portrait for Nanaimo be created to scale down the Doughnut Economics framework, the City Portrait be blended with the ReImagine Nanaimo process and measurable targets and indicators relevant to the community be identified and included in the framework to track progress". In late 2020, Council passed the motion to support this recommendation.

ReImagine Nanaimo was a two year process with extensive community consultation to develop an integrated strategic planning document that provides direction for the coming 25 years on land use, Truth and Reconciliation, climate change and adaptation, health and wellness, diversity, accessibility and inclusion, economic prosperity, sustainable living and more. The Nanaimo Doughnut is the framework used to organise how we plan for Nanaimo's future in a balanced and integrated way. The resulting City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined was officially adopted in July 2022. Two key supporting documents have since been developed: the Integrated Action Plan and a draft Monitoring Strategy. Both are grounded in the Five City Goals, organised around the Nanaimo Doughnut to support the implementation of the City Plan. The Integrated Action Plan is a living document and lists the "library of actions" the City of Nanaimo is already doing and would like to do short and long term to implement the policies in City Plan.

The Monitoring Strategy assesses the overall progress towards achieving the Five City Goals and informs the Integrated Action Plan update. The set of three documents works together to create a vision, deliver actions and carry out monitoring. The review and update of the Integrated Action Plan and Monitoring Report will be carried out in tandem to provide opportunities for meaningful

community engagement and be aligned with Council's strategic planning cycle as well as annual financing planning cycle.

Key outcomes

- 1) [Nanaimo's City Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined](#)
- 2) [Integrated Action Plan](#)
- 3) [Draft Monitoring Strategy](#)

Key benefits

Having a unifying framework to integrate all our major plans and strategies into a single set of documents. The process of creating the set of these documents helps break down silos and creates more collaborations and organisational awareness across departments. It improves operational efficiency, reduces confusion and duplication of efforts and helps address opposing objectives of different plans and actions.

Main challenges

Not everyone is a fan of the Doughnut analogy. When it comes to developing indicators and targets suitable to reflect the intention of Doughnut Economics at a city level, there isn't a lot of guidance or a robust methodology. Most indicators commonly used in monitoring processes are not rigorous enough to show the integrity of the concept the Doughnut Economics model conveys (i.e. it is very challenging to quantify and measure a city's success defined as living in the safe space where everyone thrives within planetary boundaries). In some fields, there is a general lack of knowledge and data to support monitoring.

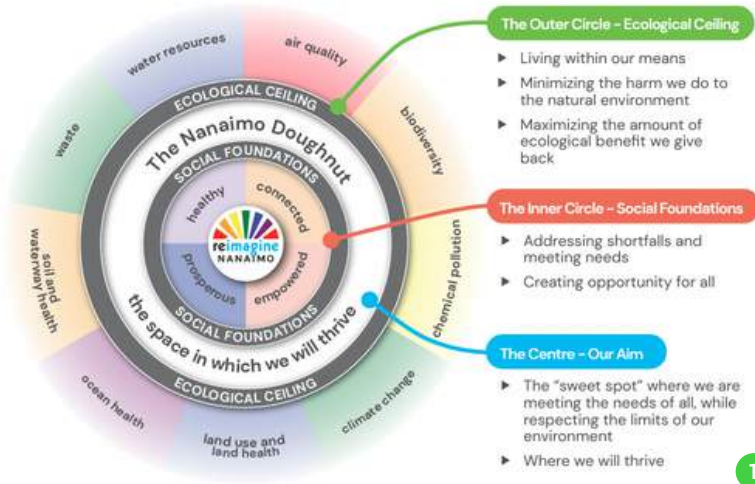
Lessons learnt

Having champions among elected officials was crucial to embedding the Doughnut Economics model into our City Plan. The task to integrate all our plans and organise our vision around this framework is enormous. Senior leadership support and staff's willingness to collaborate, innovate, take risks, and work through challenges made this possible. We are fortunate to have very capable and effective project managers through all phases of the City Plan project and would definitely recommend finding strong leaders that thrive in building relationships and trust for this task.

To learn more

[ReImagine Nanaimo](#)

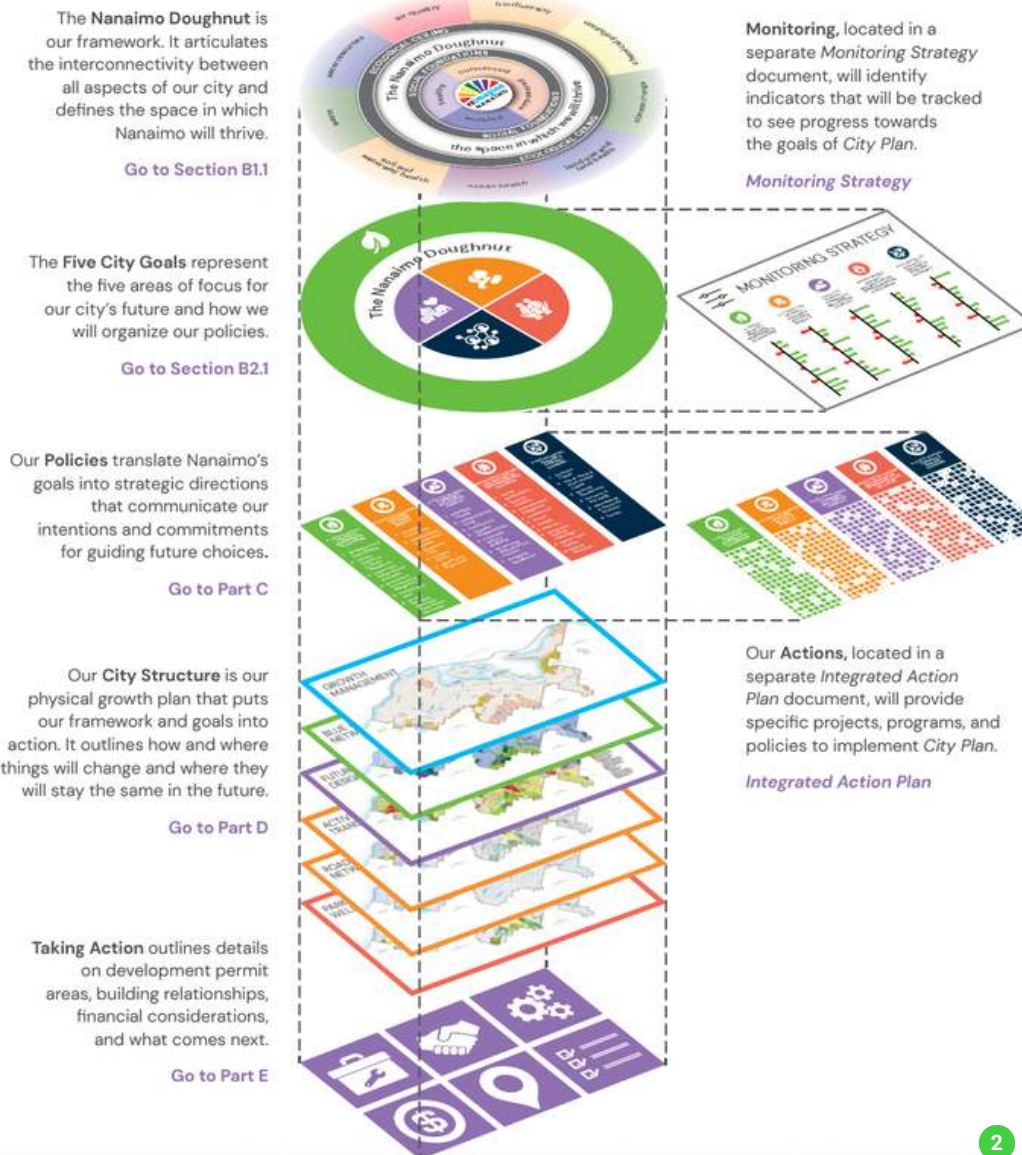
Figure 5: The Nanaimo Doughnut
Based on the Doughnut Economics theory created by Kate Raworth



1

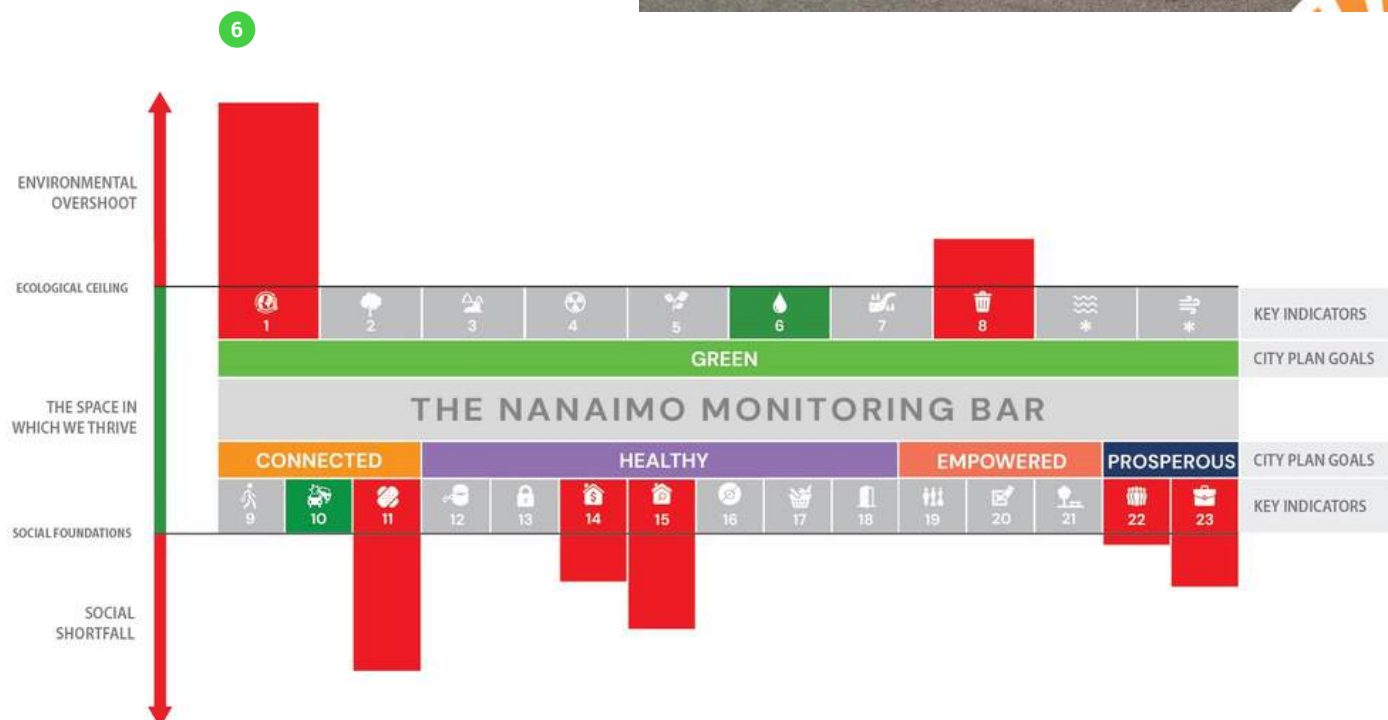
City Plan is an invitation for everyone to join in creating Nanaimo's future. Follow this guide to find the information you need to navigate the plan.

Figure 1: City Plan Guide



2

- 1 The Nanaimo Doughnut.
- 2 Reimagine Nanaimo: City Plan Guide.
- 3 Reimagine Nanaimo: photo during the consultation process.
- 4 Reimagine Nanaimo: public consultation.
- 5 Reimagine Nanaimo: public stand.
- 6 The Nanaimo Monitoring Bar, as part of Nanaimo's Draft Monitoring Strategy.



TOMELILLA, SWEDEN

Tomelilla started their work by conducting a pre-study exploring how Doughnut Economics has been used elsewhere, and if it would be a useful and pragmatic model for their municipality. They are now using Doughnut Economics across several streams: they developed a Data Portrait as an evaluation tool for their Quality of Life programme, have started the design of a school based on Doughnut Economics principles, are developing a decision making and impact assessment tool, and have used Doughnut Economics as a tool for internal and external dialogue, holding various workshops and discussions.

Pathways travelled in Tomelilla

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

Tomelilla is a small rural municipality with 14.000 residents in the south-eastern tip of Sweden called Österlen. It is famous for its food culture and beautiful landscape.

Why Doughnut Economics

The work with Doughnut Economics started with a new Quality of Life program that integrated environmental, social and public health issues in one single program. That forced civil servants leading the work to rethink how they evaluate their sustainability work. Inspired by Amsterdam, they were attracted by the holistic and simple visualisation of sustainability that Doughnut Economics offered.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

The work with Doughnut Economics is led by the civil servants at the Growth and Development unit. The municipality is organised in one single municipal department and the unit serves the whole municipal administration. The management philosophy is based on a high degree of trust, decentralisation and flexible teamwork across units. So the implementation of Doughnut Economics is characterised more by organic development than by linear or hierarchical structures.

Who else has been involved

The initial exploratory work was a collaboration with RISE (Research Institute of Sweden). The municipality has hosted master students doing apprenticeships. When!When! and Wingårdhs were commissioned to strategise and design the new school. They've also collaborated with a newly formed climate action NGO, and have held resident workshops.



Journey to date

The work of Tomelilla started in 2021 with a collaboration with RISE (Research Institute of Sweden) on a pre-study "Doughnut Economics as an evaluation tool for the Quality of Life Programme", exploring the potential use of Doughnut Economics in Tomelilla. The study showed that the Doughnut model can contribute to creating a clear picture of social, ecological and economic sustainability aspects in the entire municipality, which can facilitate joint work in promoting a high quality of life. Since then, they have been working with Doughnut Economics across several streams of work.

In 2022, they began working with Doughnut Economics indicators as part of their Sustainability Report. In 2024 they renamed the Sustainability Report to Municipal Portrait, as it is now based on a Doughnut Data Portrait, as an evaluation tool for the Quality of Life programme. They are now also exploring using Doughnut Economics for impact assessment and decision making, and are planning to develop a tool aligned with the Data Portrait.

Tomelilla got a grant to design a new elementary school based on the principles of Doughnut Economics, and commissioned a team to develop plans exploring "how to create an educational and recreational environment that sets a precedent around the question of what it means to work towards a safe and just world for future generations". They've been looking into everything from material use and local energy production, to nature play and food production on site, to using the school as a community resource and shelter, and the type of new educational roles needed for a 21st century school. They have taken a new approach to tendering - having open planning rooted in the principles before they set a budget.

The municipality has also been using the Doughnut Unrolled four lenses framework as a tool for dialogue within the administration and with private actors and residents. Over the years, several workshops have been conducted, including a workshop focusing on abandoned houses, and visioning citizen workshops collaborating with a master student and professor from the University of Freiburg. They will soon be using Doughnut Economics in the citizen dialogue connected to updating the general master plan.

Key outcomes

- 1) [Study: the Doughnut Model as an evaluation and dialogue tool in Tomelilla municipality](#)
- 2) [Sustainability Report 2022](#)
- 3) [City Portrait of Tomelilla 2023](#) (evaluation tool)
- 4) [New school based on Doughnut principles](#) municipal page + masterplan (in Swedish)
- 5) [New school strategy by When!When! \(in English\)](#) - a general guide to planning a school based on Doughnut Economics, emerging from the masterplan work

Key benefits

A more holistic approach to sustainability. A compass to help us navigate in super complex contexts. Positive attention (as we are the first municipality in Sweden working with DE). The visual Doughnut combined with the workshop materials with four lenses helps us to connect a strategic level with a more operational and practical level in both our work and in our dialogue between colleagues and with citizens and other stakeholders.

Main challenges

The only key challenge so far is that we want to do more and move faster than we have time and resources for.

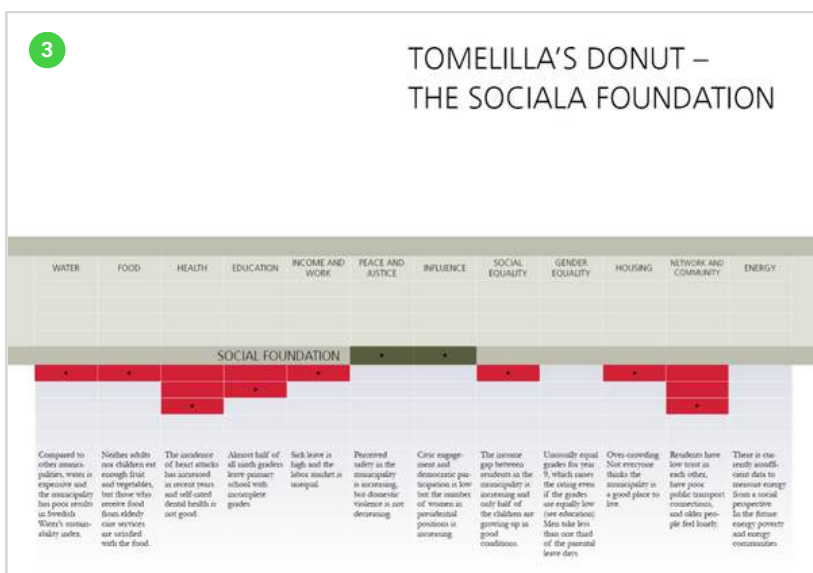
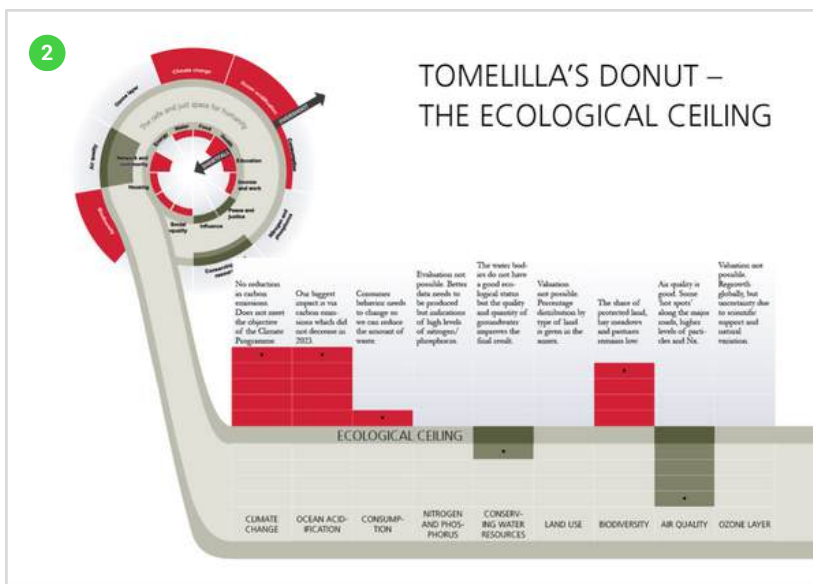
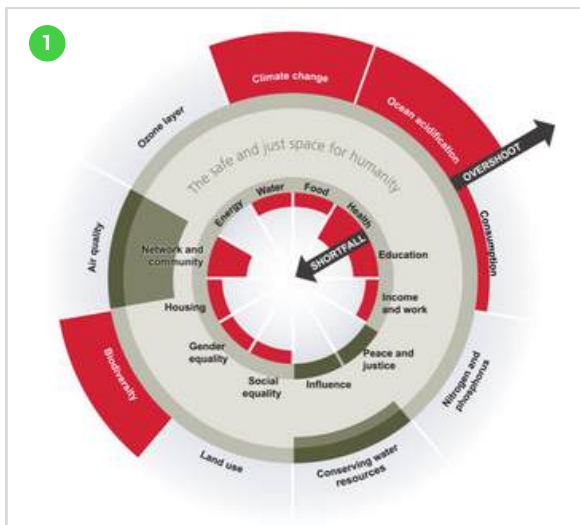
Lessons learnt

Don't make it too complicated. Start workshoping with your colleagues, get a feel for Doughnut Economics and go where the energy is. This has really helped us and made the implementation fun.

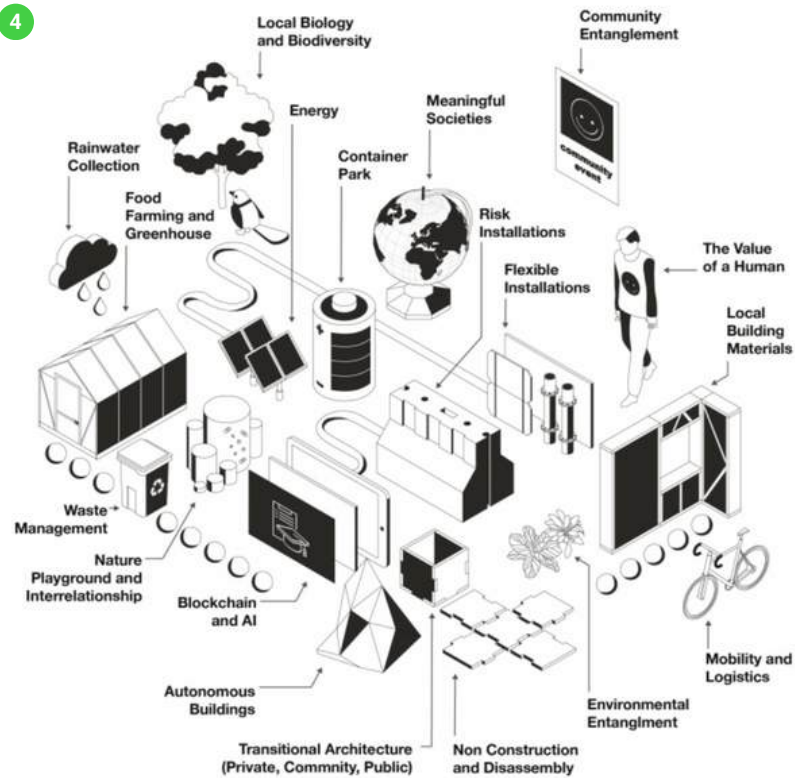
To learn more

[Tomelilla's work with Doughnut Economics](#)
[Tomelilla's stories on DEAL's platform](#)

- 1 Tomelilla's Donut from their City Portrait 2023.
- 2 Tomelilla's Donut, ecological ceiling, 2023.
- 3 Tomelilla's Donut, social foundation, 2023.
- 4 A future school strategy based on Doughnut Economics (from the english report).
- 5 City staff presenting their work.
- 6 Four lenses workshops with citizens.
- 7 A future school strategy (from the cover page)
- 8 Four lenses workshops with citizens.
- 9 Four lenses workshops with citizens.



4



5











6



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Doughnut Economics was brought into Brussels Capital Region as a new economic paradigm underpinning the vision and metrics of the region's economic transition outlined in their "Shifting Economy" strategy. The Brussel Donut team developed a Doughnut Portrait serving as a diagnostic tool and compass, and support city players (associations, private players or public authorities) to adopt the Doughnut as a transition compass, and to adapt and use it in their own work in many different ways.

Pathways travelled in Brussels Capital Region

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

The Brussels Capital Region is a small and dense territory (162 km² for 1,2 million inhabitants). It's the capital of the EU and its economy is mainly tertiary (services, HQs of international institutions), with very few productive or agricultural activities. One of the richest regions in the EU (according to GDP metrics) but also one where a third of the population is at risk of poverty.

Why Doughnut Economics

The Brussels Capital Region set ambitious environmental targets in the 2019 Government Agreement. There was awareness that these targets could not be achieved only by working on "green" policies (mobility, energy, etc.) but that "non-green" policies should also be mobilised, the first one being the economy. When Barbara Trachte became in charge of the economy, she decided to show that the economy itself could become an ally in the transition. That's why she became the State Secretary, not for the economy, but for the economic transition. But to operationalise this vision, she could not rely on traditional, mainstream economic metrics (GDP). She needed a new paradigm. That's where the Doughnut Economics theory came into the place.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

The work has been politically championed by Secretary of State for Economic Transition. The project was initially carried by co-creation non-profit Confluences and by academics from ICHEC business school. Now the BrusselsDonut project will start a new chapter thanks to its partnership with RCR², network for collectives seeking for resilience, and broaden their scope of action beyond the borders of the Brussels Capital Region.

Who else has been involved

Regional public administrations, some municipalities, NGOs, enterprises helped shape the first Doughnut Portrait. The Brussels Donut team has held workshops and presentations for a lot of companies, non profits, and administrations.



Journey to date

The experiment with Doughnut Economics in Brussels Capital Region started in 2019, as part of the State Secretary for Economic Transition's vision to bring a new economic paradigm to guide the transition. Today, the project is spreading in many directions guided by a conviction that a transition to an economy "in the Doughnut" is only possible with a systems approach. That is why Brussels is experimenting at four different levels with the adaptation of the Doughnut model to Brussels: macro, meso, micro and nano.

At macro level is the Donut Portrait, developed first and updated in 2023 - serving like a compass for establishing the diagnosis of the overall situation with the participation of stakeholders in the field and gradual refinement of indicators to achieve a high level of scientific rigour.

The meso level is about policy measures, and how they take their social and ecological, local and global impact into account. In 2022, the Brussels Region published its regional economic transition strategy, "Shifting Economy" in line with the principles of the Doughnut Economy, as it aims to refocus economic activity within the limits of the planet, while respecting human well-being. They introduced the notion of social and environmental exemplarity. This notion of exemplarity is central to the economic transition work, and has reoriented all regional economic instruments: enterprises must be exemplary in order to access any financial support, rent reduction etc. from the region (from 2024 on, there are top ups for exemplary businesses, and from 2030 on, support will only be available for exemplary businesses). The region transformed their investment bank so that it finances only exemplary businesses, and is now only funding exemplary research and innovation projects.

At the micro level, the BrusselDonut team has been supporting city players in adopting the model, whether they be private players or public authorities, so that they understand that the Doughnut does not offer a ready-made solution and can therefore be used in many different ways and for many different purposes. The nano level is about looking at everyday objects through the four lenses to learn how our consumption triggers socio-ecological impacts, and helping conscious choices at individual and organisational levels.

Key outcomes

- 1) [Shifting Economy: Strategy for the Economic Transition of Brussels Capital Region 2022-2030](#)
- 2) [Doughnut Portrait of the Brussels Region](#)
- 3) Social and environmental exemplarity - in economic instruments, regional law and ordinances, and regional investment bank

Key benefits

The Doughnut Economics theory and its Brussels translation are a great common language to bring together economic administrations around the notion of social and ecological transition. It's the best point of entry to discuss how the economy must take into account the social and environmental impact of its action. The Brussels Donut portrait, although it should be developed further, represents a unique piece of work to guide Brussels concretely towards achieving a fairer and safer territory. The Donut Model is a fantastic way to give a positive and simple narrative around the transition that can be appropriated by a large audience. It helps the audience to concretely work on their own transition path.

Main challenges

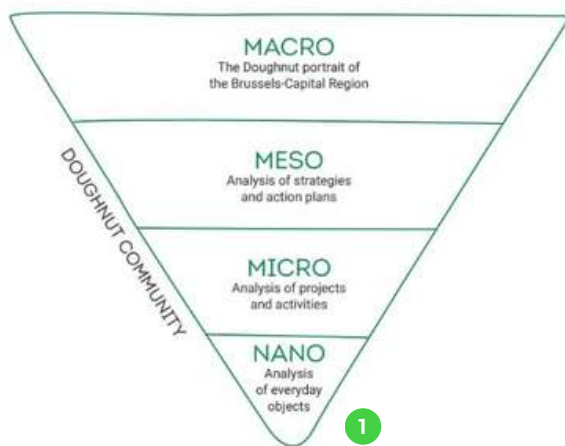
Political support and coherence must be present if you want to work with Doughnut Economics on a public policies scale. That can become a challenge when there is a coalition government where some of the government partners need to be convinced by the model. At the micro level (organization level), there is still a need to have some success stories of businesses that have concretely change after a Doughnut Economics workshop. On that regard, we are still lacking some concrete tool to really implement and operationalize the transformative ideas.

On a very practical way, finding resources to finance such a project is still a real challenge.

Lessons learnt

As a political representative, you have to go through a journey to understand that having an image of your territory's Doughnut portrait is probably not the most important (even if it is key to have this communication tool). The most important is what you will do, in terms of policymaking, with all the work and wisdom gathered through the Doughnut journey.

To learn more
donut.brussels



Donut RBC

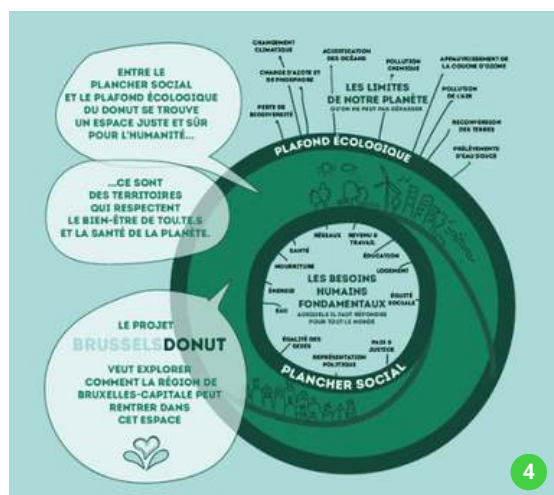
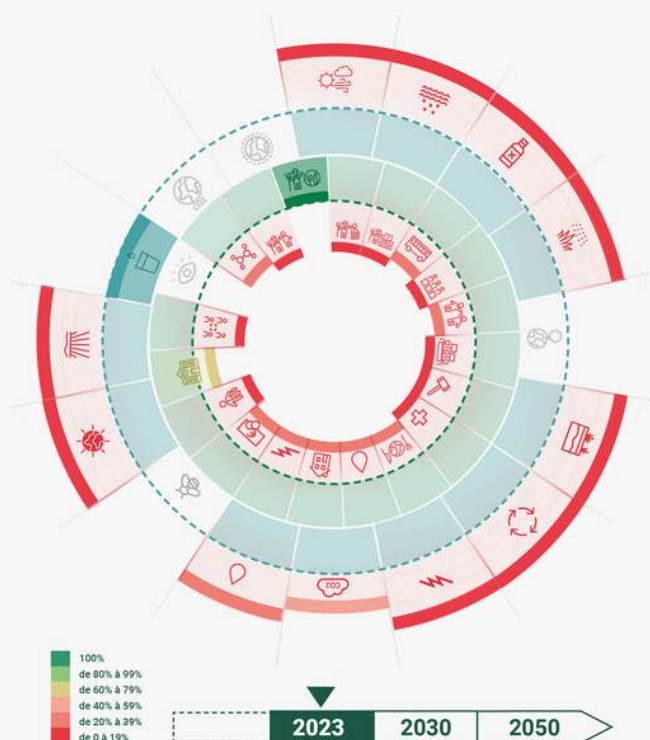
Le portrait Donut représente schématiquement deux types de limites : un plancher social en dessous duquel la dignité humaine est bafouée et un plafond écologique au-delà duquel nous faisons peser des risques significatifs sur la planète.

Dimension sociale

local	global
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Santé Alimentation Eau Logement Energie Revenu Emploi Education Communauté 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture Connectivité Mobilité Equité sociale Egalité dans la diversité Expression politique Paix et justice Commerce équitable & citoyens Commerce équitable & commerces et HORECA Commerce équitable & organisations privées Commerce équitable & organisations publiques

Dimension environnementale

local	global
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climat Biodiversité Eau Air Flux de matière Energie Sol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changement climatique Acidification des océans Pollution chimique Utilisation de fertilisants Prélèvements d'eau douce Conversion des terres Perte de biodiversité Pollution de l'air Appauvrissement de la couche d'ozone





- 1 Four levels of adapting the Doughnut to Brussel's context: a diagram.
- 2 Brussel Donut Portrait, version 2.
- 3 BrusselsDonut presenting their work to Le Grand Rendez-vous des Engagés in Nantes.
- 4 Sketch from Brussel Donut's website.
- 5 Shifting Economy. Regional Strategy for Economic Transition 2022-2030.
- 6 Workshop with a network of organisations from different sectors in Luxemburg.
- 7 Workshop within an organisation working in education in Brussels.
- 8 Workshop on food systems through the prism of the Donut in Brussels.
- 9 Workshop within an organisation working in the health sector in Brussels.
- 10 Brussels Donut team was presenting their work to EU Economy Ministers and the EU Council Director General in charge of Competitiveness.

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam was the first city to work with Doughnut Economics and develop a City Portrait in 2020. So far, Doughnut Economics has underpinned the vision and direction of several strategies: Amsterdam Circular Strategy 2020-2025, their urban development policy Comprehensive Vision Amsterdam 2050: a humane metropolis, and their mobility vision "Amsterdam makes space".

About the place

Amsterdam is the capital of the Netherlands and has 918.000 inhabitants. The city centre is a Unesco world heritage site. The biggest industry is the commercial services industry, but Amsterdam also has a large harbour and airport. Amsterdam was the first city to launch a Doughnut City Portrait.

Why Doughnut Economics

The doughnut provides the framework for the systemic change needed to tackle the climate crisis, and makes the connection to social issues. It also connects the local and global levels; it makes clear we have an impact beyond our city limits that is also part of our responsibility.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

At the beginning, the former municipal government Deputy Mayor Marieke van Doorninck was a champion. Currently, the work in the municipality is led by the circular team within the Sustainability Department, it was integrated in the work of the spatial planning and mobility teams.

Who else has been involved

Key partners are the Amsterdam Doughnut Coalition and the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. Also several city districts have started their own Doughnut projects.

Pathways travelled in Amsterdam

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change



Journey to date

Amsterdam was the first city to create a Doughnut City Portrait in 2020, with DEAL, Circle Economy, C40 and Biomimicry 3.8 working together to develop the methodology. To create support for the City Doughnut, several meetings with residents were organised. The City Portrait was linked to the circular strategy, because a circular economy was seen as the way to stay within planetary boundaries. Amsterdam's Circular Economy Strategy 2020 - 2025 aims to halve the use of new raw materials by 2030 and achieve a fully circular city by 2050, the City is focusing on consumer goods, the built environment and food and organic waste streams. The Implementation Agenda 2023-2026 sets out more than 70 actions that the City of Amsterdam will plan and carry out in the coming 4 years in partnership with entrepreneurs, social initiatives and residents. The City also developed a Circular Monitor, through which they measure the environmental (and some social) impact of material use in Amsterdam. This is effectively how the "impact elsewhere" is measured. Bi-annually, the Research & Statistics Department publishes 'The State of the city' report which is an overview of how Amsterdam is doing on 'beyond GDP' type indicators.

The Doughnut was also integrated in the long-term spatial planning vision Comprehensive Vision Amsterdam 2050: a humane metropolis. The vision describes desired development based on 5 strategic choices, one of which is 'growth within limits', specifically aiming to strengthen the social foundations without exceeding the planetary boundaries, by limiting urban growth to the current city limits, and focusing on conversion and densification, as well as on material re-use and renewable energy.

Doughnut Economics was also integrated in the Mobility Vision ('Amsterdam makes space'), that sets out the need to make difficult choices in the limited open space the city has, looking through a triangle of 'boundaries' - the social boundary, the ecological boundary and the (municipal) feasibility boundary.

Currently, they are working on a new subsidy programme for initiatives that contribute to the Doughnut, where they will try to break organisational silos (e.g. between the sustainability and social domain). They are also working on a

decision making tool, to help policy makers and politicians in broadening their view and create policies based on Doughnut thinking.

Several city districts have started their own doughnut projects, like the Donut Bakery. Resulting from the City Portrait, the Amsterdam Doughnut Coalition was founded, that collaborates on various initiatives with the city.

Key outcomes

- 1) [Amsterdam City Portrait](#)
- 2) [Amsterdam Circular Strategy 2020-2025](#)
- 3) [Amsterdam Implementation Agenda 2023-2026](#)
- 4) [The Circular Economy Monitor](#)
- 5) [Comprehensive Vision Amsterdam 2050: a humane metropolis](#)
- 6) [Mobility vision: Amsterdam makes space](#)
- 7) [Inclusive prosperity decision-making tool \(wip\)](#)

Key benefits

The idea of the four lenses and that it's important to look at your impact elsewhere has been gaining traction within the city. This is important, because we cannot tackle the climate crisis without looking at our impact beyond city limits. The Doughnut also provides us with a broader, comprehensive view. Different departments need to look beyond their own silos. The basic idea of the Doughnut is very easy to understand for residents who want to start their own neighbourhood initiatives. The Doughnut has also opened up conversations about the planetary boundaries and moving away from economic growth as a main factor.

Main challenges

We feel we still need to improve in connecting the social and climate aspects internally.

Lessons learnt

It takes time to make everyone aware of what the doughnut entails and how to work with it. A lesson is to make sure to have enough people who can work on this. Another lesson would be to work on having political support from the whole municipal executive leadership. Initially our Doughnut efforts came from the Deputy Mayor for Sustainability and therefore the work was focused in the Sustainability Department. We now have support from the whole municipal executive leadership to develop a decision making tool.

To learn more

[Amsterdam's work on C40's knowledge hub](#)



1 Doughnut from Amsterdam's Circular Strategy 2020-2025.

2 Visual overview of the relationship between the Doughnut, and circular strategies.

3 Material flows in Amsterdam (from their Circular Monitor).

4 Sketch from the Implementation Agenda for a Circular Amsterdam 2023-2026.

5 Case study project led by local actors from the Implementation Agenda.

6 Case study project led by local actors from the Implementation Agenda.

7 Workshop with local actors.

8 First exploratory workshops with various city departments.

9 Donut Deal Day 2022, organised by Amsterdam Donut Coalition, supported by the city.

10 From Amsterdam's City Portrait.

11 Assessment and prioritisation of means of transport, from the Mobility Vision.

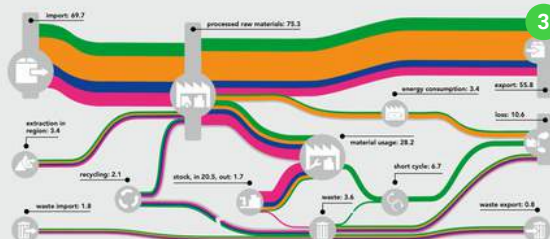
12 Amsterdam Donut Days workshop, Donut Deal Day 2022.

13 Amsterdam Donut Days public event, Donut Deal Day 2022.



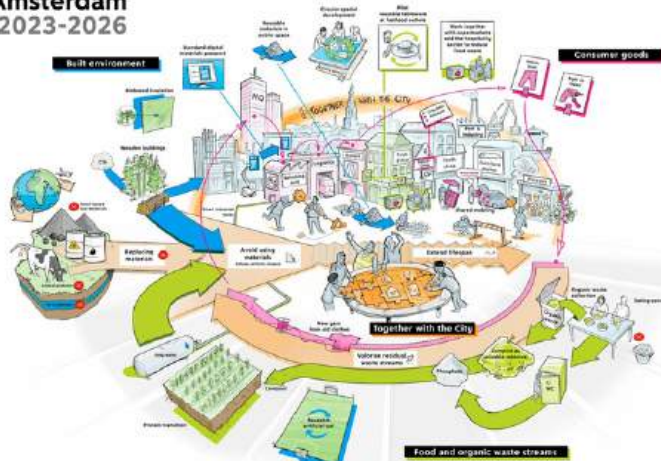
2

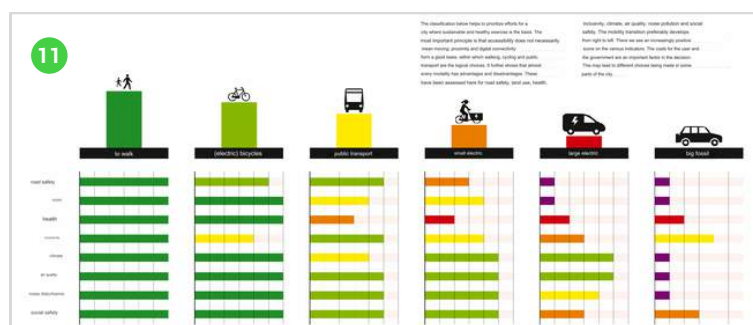
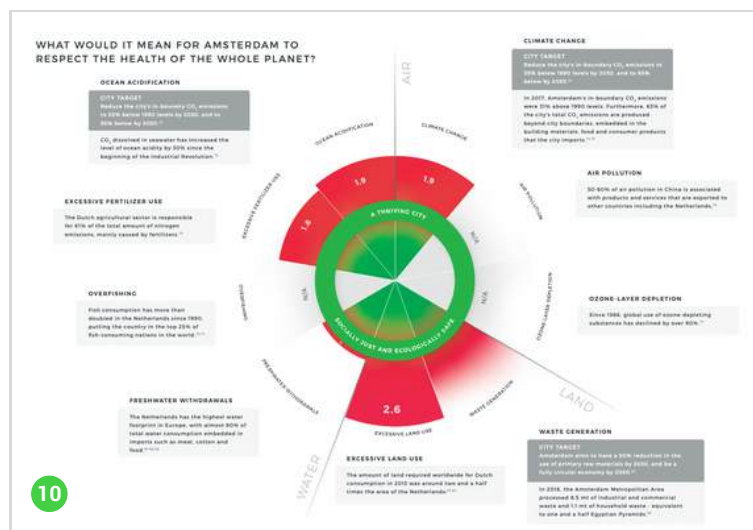
Material flows in Amsterdam (billions of kilograms), 2019



4

Implementation Agenda for a Circular Amsterdam 2023-2026








BAD NAUHEIM, GERMANY

Bad Nauheim started working with Doughnut Economics in 2021, aiming to embed a holistic perspective in the decision-making processes of the city administration and associated daughter companies. To date, they have created an adapted Bad Nauheim Doughnut as a compass and a common vision, a Doughnut Screening tool alongside structural changes to decision making structures. They have held an 8-months long Future Workshop citizen co-creation process to develop measures through the lenses of the Doughnut. An Integrated Climate Protection Plan has been developed, and an Integrated Climate Adaptation Plan is in the making.

Pathways travelled in Bad Nauheim

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

Bad Nauheim is a small town in central Germany with 34.000 inhabitants. It is located in a very fertile agricultural land, on top of a mineral brine spring. It has been a spa town since the 1800s that is now a modern place for health treatments and recuperative therapy, with public infrastructure to hold up to 60.000 visitors. Since 2014, Bad Nauheim is a certified "Fairtrade Town".

Why Doughnut Economics

Bad Nauheim is using Doughnut Economics in order to embed a truly holistic understanding of human wellbeing while highlighting the local areas of influence, in the decision-making processes of the city administration and associated subsidiary companies - such as the local energy provider and the local housing association. The intention was to apply a systemic approach to the most pressing challenges of the time such as climate justice and embed it in a framework that encompasses the bigger picture instead of creating insular solutions. The very intuitive visual of the Doughnut was seen as a good tool for inclusive communication.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

The work is led by individual champions within the authority. A new Office of Sustainability and Climate Protection was set up with the aim of combining a more systemic approach. A Sustainability Manager was hired due to their experience with Doughnut Economics, and has been mostly leading this work since. She was joined by a Climate Protection Manager who chose to work for Bad Nauheim in order to work with the Doughnut approach.

Who else has been involved

Many individuals and organisations have been actively shaping and developing the work through participatory processes - elected leaders, department leaders, civil servants, representatives from subsidiary companies, civil sector representatives, Bad Nauheim residents, and businesses.



Journey to date

The concept of Doughnut Economics was introduced to key decision makers (Mayor and Head of Central Administration) by an external expert, who was then hired as a Sustainability Advisor, tasked to adapt and implement the concept within the municipality.

The process started in 2021 with a series of workshops with senior management staff: heads of departments and CEOs of the municipal subsidiary companies (energy supplier, housing association). Accompanied by DiFU (German Institute of Urban Affairs), a Bad Nauheim Doughnut was developed as a compass and a common vision for a liveable and future ready city. This Doughnut, representing the most important areas of influence of the town, serves as a vision for the city to strive towards. It has been used to inform and guide citizen participation processes and change management processes within the municipality. A Doughnut Screening tool is currently being developed for city project coordinators to assess activities during the project development stage, and to increase transparency in decision making processes. The tool is to be connected to the smart city infrastructure as well as local, regional and national databases to allow more objective assessment of measures. The results of the assessment are to be exported in different formats for project planning or budget approval processes. Alongside this, decision making structures are undergoing a structural change to strengthen cross-departmental coordination. At the same time, indicators for a Data Portrait are currently being developed.

In 2022, a deliberative process was held over several months - a Future Workshop on all ecological dimensions (climate protection, climate adaptation, air quality, nature conservation, land use, water management) - with an assembly of a random sample of 100 residents, who worked in groups to develop measures to help Bad Nauheim move inside the Doughnut. 21 measures were co-developed, from a bigger number of proposals that were screened through the Doughnut screening tool, and through a financial and jurisdiction assessment. The measures were developed in detail, including financing and implementation, and presented to the Council. Out of these, the implementation of 7 measures - mostly climate adaptation measures - have been prioritised and approved for budget by local parliament

in October 2024. All CO2 emission reduction measures were directly included in the Integrated Climate Protection Plan (adopted in early 2024), where a total of 42 measures were outlined with the main focus of reducing CO2 emissions locally (some of which were co-developed by a participative body - a Climate Forum, which is still active), each accompanied with a Doughnut Assessment. An Integrated Climate Adaptation Plan is in the making.

Key outcomes

- 1) [City Doughnut as a strategic compass](#)
- 2) [Data Portrait \(in progress\)](#)
- 3) [Integrated Climate Protection Plan](#)
- 4) [Doughnut Screening Tool](#)
- 5) [Sustainability report within the yearly budget planning](#)
- 6) [Climate Adaptation Concept \(in progress\)](#)

Key benefits

More collaboration and exchange within the municipality and its subsidiary companies. The holistic view of the Doughnut brings people together and highlights opportunities and areas of individual influence.

Main challenges

Breaking down the holistic complexity without creating too much extra work, which people resent, while maintaining the integrity of the concept.

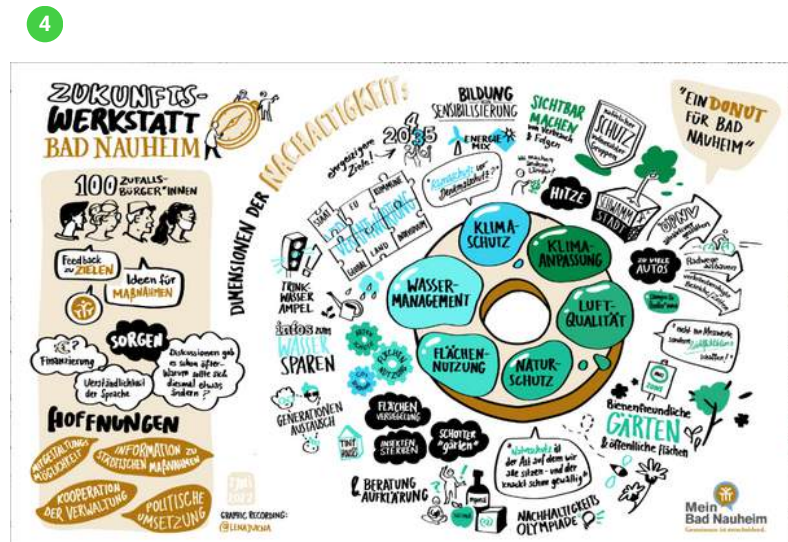
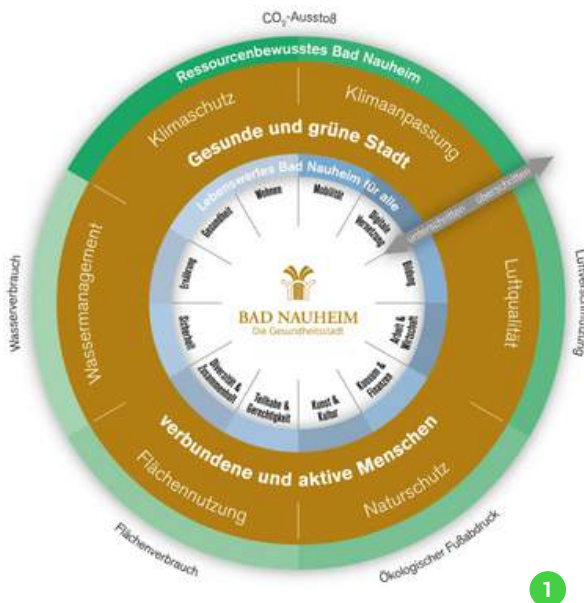
Lessons learnt

The Doughnut is a very good and easily understood visual, which people get instantly. It is a good starting point for discussion where people feel seen. Key to the success of lasting change is the building of relationships with everyone involved. Open communication and repetition is key.

To learn more

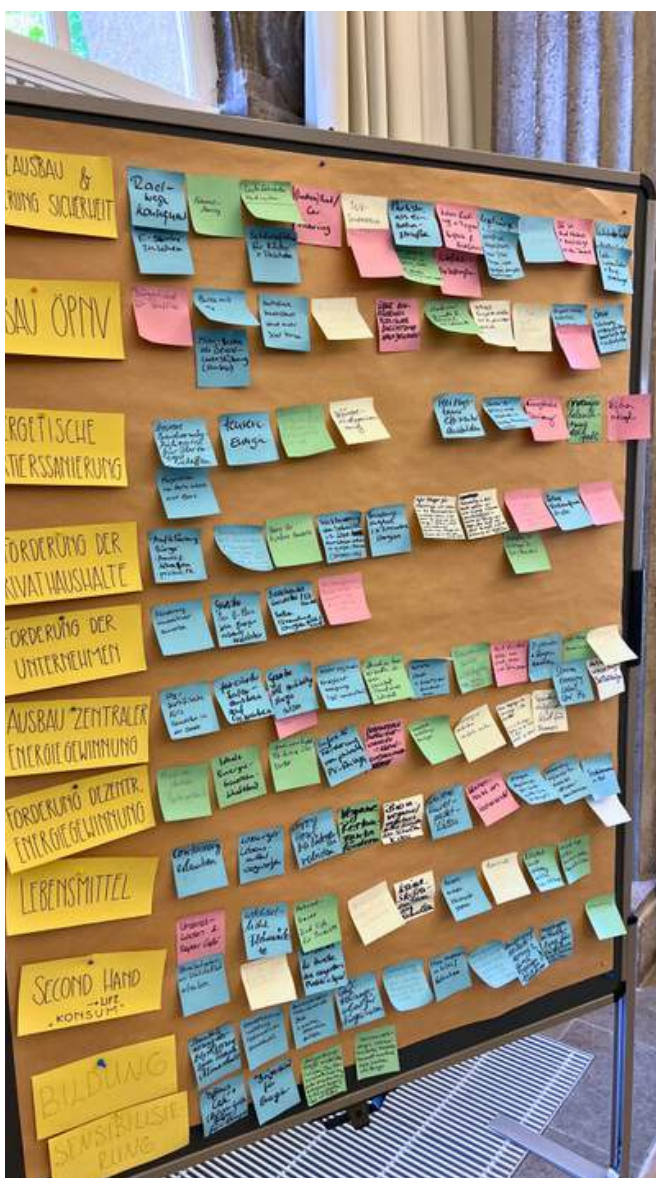
[Future Forum](#)
[Doughnut Economics as a Strategic Compass \(a report including Bad Nauheim\)](#)

- 1 Bad Nauheim's conceptual Doughnut.
- 2 Work-in-progress Data Portrait visualised (by ui! Urban Software Institute).
- 3 Work-in-progress Doughnut Screening Tool (by ui! Urban Software Institute).
- 4 Artist's sketch from the Future Forum.
- 5 Bad Nauheim's Future Forum, 2022.














5



CORNWALL, UK

Cornwall was one of the first places to base some of their work on Doughnut Economics in 2019. In 2020, they developed the Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel based on the Doughnut, a Council-wide impact assessment tool which is used to assess the positive and negative impacts of a proposed decision or policy. This work was further developed in 2023, with the creation of the Cornwall Plan Annual Review dashboard, an interactive dashboard visualising Cornwall's progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the partnership-led Cornwall Plan.

Pathways travelled in Cornwall

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

Situated in the South-West of the UK, Cornwall is a mostly rural area with a population of 570,000. The Cornish have a distinct cultural identity, and their own language. Cornwall's industries rely on its natural resources: three quarters agricultural land, over 400 miles of coastline with thriving tourism and ambitions to progress Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW); and a wealth of metals and minerals below the surface. Cornwall is also the home of the UK's first licensed spaceport, Spaceport Cornwall.

Why Doughnut Economics

Following their declaration of a climate emergency in January 2019, Cornwall's Carbon Neutral Cornwall Action Plan provided a clear steer that environmental assessments should be carried out as part of the Council's decision-making processes and that all decision-making pertaining to climate change mitigation should also look to drive increases in social justice. The Doughnut model was suggested as a way to achieve this.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

As the decision wheel was developed, key senior leaders championed the work – namely the Chief Executive, the then Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change – and there was widespread support across the Council for this new approach to decision-making. The work is led by the Strategy and Policy team within the Strategy and Business Planning Service, with support from colleagues in the Carbon Neutral team. It continues to be championed by senior leaders and elected members.

Who else has been involved

The Decision Wheel was developed in-house. The core team worked with members, staff and wider partners and stakeholders to generate the methodology for the decision wheel.



Journey to date

Following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in January 2019 and a steer towards the need to look at social justice alongside climate change mitigation, the Council developed a tool – the Climate Change Decision Wheel – to ensure these factors are embedded in decision-making with Doughnut Economics at the core, adapted to fit local context. The tool was later expanded to include the Equality and Inclusion wheel.

The tool is web-based and accessible to all council staff. The team developing the tool engaged with managers across the organisation to co-design the assessment questions for each of the social and ecological dimensions.

Once the CDDW was introduced, a Steering Group was established to help guide initial application of the tool with training and support put in place for key officers and decision-makers. It was initially used for Cabinet decisions from 2019 and then expanded to all decision-making processes from 2021. The tool is now used as part of all strategy, policy and project development. Some of the examples where the CDDW has been used include, for e.g. Mid-Cornwall Metro Project and the Cornwall Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. In early 2024, a review of the use of the CDDW was conducted resulting in an action plan with recommendations for improvement. Work has also been done to develop a method to review the cumulative impact of multiple interventions.

Building onto this work, the Cornwall Plan Annual Review dashboard was developed. The Cornwall Plan 2020-2050 is the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (CIOS) Leadership Board's shared vision. The Plan was refreshed in 2023, and a new approach to measuring progress was adopted, modelled on the CDDW and rooted in Doughnut Economics. The dashboard shows how the Cornwall Plan is performing against the Doughnut's social (fairer, more inclusive Cornwall) and planetary (greener, cleaner Cornwall) boundaries. The Cornwall Doughnut offers a snapshot of how Cornwall is performing in each area, using the outcomes set in the Cornwall Plan. The Cornwall Plan Doughnut is not a comprehensive assessment of Cornwall but serves as a starting point for big-picture thinking, co-creative innovation and systemic transformation. The Doughnut will support Cornwall's leadership in seeking holistic reflection on Cornwall's ambitions and driving meaningful change.

Key outcomes

- 1) [Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel](#)
- 2) [The Cornwall Plan Doughnut \(for the Cornwall Plan 2020-2050\)](#)
- 3) [Cornwall Plan Annual Review Dashboard](#)

Key benefits

The CDDW has been extremely successful in shaping the future direction of the Council's work. It is embedding a new way of thinking, helping people understand the interconnectedness of our lives with the environment in which we live by demonstrating the trade-offs between generating social, economic and environmental growth. It is focusing the resources of our decision-making structures onto the most relevant issues which now formally include the environment and our impact on it. It is helping to facilitate cross department working, breaking away from siloed thinking.

Main challenges

Considerable resource and time needed to develop and embed the tool across the council. Some see it as an additional process, or at least initially, although this does decline with time and support. It is not always adopted early enough in project and policy planning to really help influence/drive thinking, though again that is improving over time as the CDDW becomes embedded. There are different views on impacts which need to be moderated; this can be difficult and time-consuming.

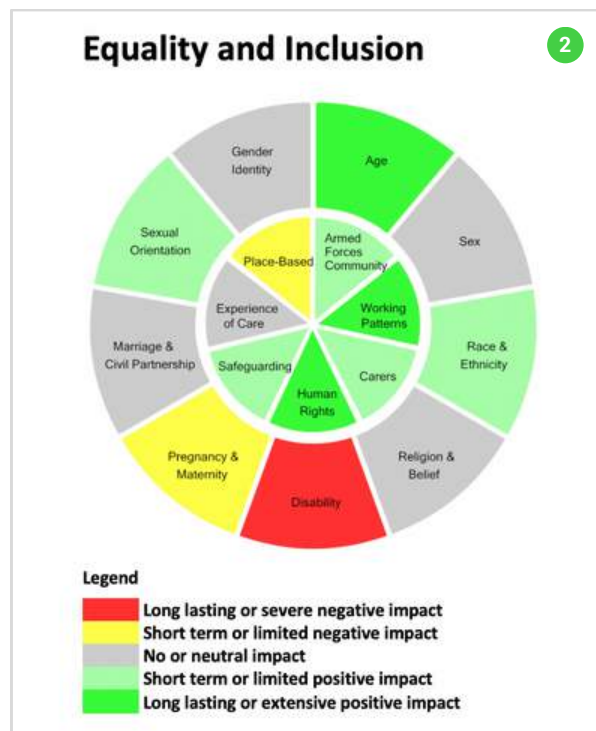
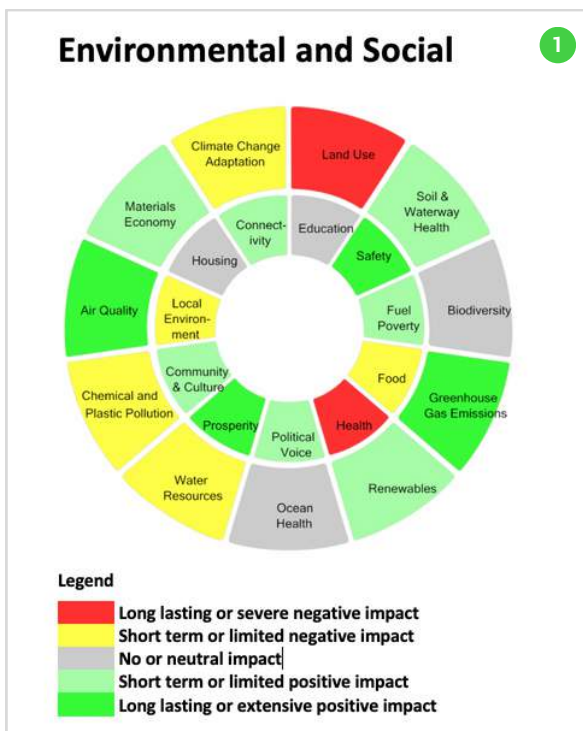
Lessons learnt

It is important that anyone considering integrating such a process into decision making understands the resources and technical skills required, and take time considering what is achievable before they start out. Demands include the time and cost of developing the tool, as well as training and familiarisation sessions. To address this, we decided to deliver the training in an agile way, focusing on those likely to use the tool initially. It is vital to develop an internal communications plan to help make everyone aware of the reasons for the change and how the new decision-making process will work. Buy in from the highest levels within the Council is also essential to its success. Cornwall Council's Chief Executive and senior leadership team are firm proponents of the use of the CDDW and this has helped in its widespread adoption.

To learn more

[Video introduction of the CDDW](#)

- 1 Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel: example assessment.
- 2 Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel: example assessment.
- 3 Cornwall Plan workshops.
- 4 The Cornwall Plan 2020-2050 cover.
- 5 Cornwall's Plan Annual Review Dashboard.
- 6 Cornwall's Plan Annual Review Dashboard.





4

The Cornwall Plan Annual Review 2023

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly leadership board

THIS SHARED VISION FOR OUR FUTURE IS GUIDING OUR RECOVERY AND RENEWAL.

Partners are committed to using their individual and collective resources to drive progress. Above all, we are committed to working with you – with the people and communities of Cornwall. The spirit of *Gyllyn Warbarth: Together We Can* is at the heart of this plan, because we all have a role to play in creating sustainable ways of living that enable people and planet to thrive.

Select 'Greener, Cleaner Cornwall' or 'Fairer, More Inclusive Cornwall' to see the annual update for each area.

Greener, Cleaner Cornwall

A Fairer, More Inclusive Cornwall

5

Greener, Cleaner Cornwall

Doughnut: Greener Cleaner Cornwall

Select a segment

The 2023 dashboard is modelled on the Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel, showing how the Cornwall Plan is performing against Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics model. Doughnut Economics visualises a world in which people and planet can thrive in balance. The Doughnut contains two elements: the outer ring, which covers the ecological ceiling; and the inner ring, which covers the social foundation. These link to our ambition to deliver a greener, cleaner Cornwall as well as a fairer, more inclusive Cornwall.

The Cornwall Doughnut offers a brief snapshot of where we are in each area, using the outcomes set in the Cornwall Plan. The outcomes in the Cornwall Plan – and the Doughnut – are measured by key headline indicators.

Each outcome from the Cornwall Plan has been mapped to an element of the Cornwall Council Development and Decision Wheel. Detail on how each element was selected, see below.

The Cornwall Plan Doughnut is modelled on the Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel. The Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel uses alternative wording to the Doughnut Economics model, using 11 elements in comparison to the original 9. Renewables and Materials Economy were added as these were a priority for Cornwall.

6 Green measures in this chapter

1 Amber measures in this chapter

10 Red measures in this chapter

6 Grey measures in this chapter

Rag Status	Definition
Green	On or above target
Red	Significantly off target
Amber	Slightly below target

See the Annual update of our data for this area →

6

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Glasgow City Council and the University of Glasgow co-created the Thriving Glasgow Portrait, informed by participatory workshops with different stakeholders and launched in 2023. The City-University Partnership continues to build on this work by mapping policy systems, strategies and response options to the Thriving Definitions, and creating a multi-objective optimisation tool to support decision making.

Pathways travelled in Glasgow

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

Glasgow is Scotland's largest city and plays a key and unique role in Scotland's economy and culture. Glasgow was an influential part of the industrial age and now looks once more to transform, moving from a post-industrial to a post-carbon city. Glasgow has become one of the world's leading cities for sport, culture and innovation. Glasgow has built a reputation as a sustainable and green city, and was the host of UN's Climate Conference COP26 in 2021.

Why Doughnut Economics

In response to the climate and ecological emergency, Glasgow City Council launched its city-wide Climate Plan in 2021, followed by the Glasgow Green Deal; demonstrating a deep commitment to climate action. Doughnut Economics, focusing on social and ecological aspects of a thriving future, serves as a compass to guide this transition, providing a vision of how Glasgow can achieve climate and social justice, both locally and globally, whilst creating a flourishing city.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

Glasgow City Council's Sustainability Team have been central to developing the Thriving Glasgow Portrait, with wider council support from Elected Members, Planning, Economic Development, Centre for Civic Innovation, and others. The University of Glasgow is a key partner, through GALLANT, a £10.5 million research programme, bringing together over 65 interdisciplinary researchers. The University's partnership on the City Portrait work was initiated by the cross-university Centre for Sustainable Solutions and endorsed by the Senior Management Group.

Who else was involved

The Portrait drew on input from participatory workshops with representatives of local community groups, civil society organisations, Glasgow-based businesses, and government agencies. Glasgow has had continued collaboration with C40 Cities and DEAL.



Journey to date

In 2021, while hosting COP26, Glasgow joined the Thriving Cities Initiative. From 2022 to April 2023, the University of Glasgow and Glasgow City Council co-created a City Portrait of a Thriving Glasgow. This included participatory workshops with different stakeholders to co-create a vision for Glasgow as a home to thriving people, in a thriving place, while respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the whole planet. The portrait was launched in 2023, including Glasgow City Council's approval of 44 Thriving Glasgow definitions which cover the local, global, social and ecological dimensions of life within the Doughnut.

In addition to focused work on five main themes (Flood Adaptation, Enhancing Biodiversity, Regeneration of Vacant and Derelict Land, Active Travel, and Community Energy) and three cross-cutting work streams (Systems Transformation, Community Collaboration and Data Analytics), GALLANT continues to collaborate with Glasgow City Council to build on the Thriving Glasgow Portrait by co-producing a suite of Thriving Glasgow indicators, mapping policy systems, strategies and response options to the Thriving Definitions, and creating a multi-objective optimisation decision support tool.

The University and the Council teams have been revising the indicators for the local social and ecological dimensions to ensure that they align with the Council's monitoring and evaluation. For example, as the Council is in the final stages of revising its Climate Plan (consolidating the Climate Action Plan and the Climate Adaptation Plan under one plan), the teams are working together to maximise the complementary suites of indicators. A Global Impact Indicators Working Group was formed to address the challenge of understanding and measuring the impacts of Glasgow on the health of the planet and the social foundations of communities in the countries from which Glasgow sources many of its goods and resources.

The Thriving Glasgow Indicators and Digital Doughnut will be used to provide an indication of progress towards achieving the Thriving Glasgow Portrait by giving the City a holistic sense of whether systems are shifting in the right direction. This process will support Glasgow to evaluate impacts and influence future policy curation to address climate and ecological emergencies.

Key outcomes

- 1) Thriving Glasgow Portrait
- 2) [Digital Doughnut \(in progress\)](#)
- 3) Thriving City Indicators (in progress)

Key benefits

Adapting to our changing climate cannot be done by government alone. It will require collaboration across local authorities, private and public sectors, infrastructure providers, and our citizens. Communication of the risks, the impacts, and the action to take is an important part of transition. Engaging the community in climate action is a key aspect to this transition. The development of the Portrait was a useful process to start to engage the city with envisioning what our Thriving City could be. The Thriving Glasgow Portrait provides a vision for the future of Glasgow that aligns with the city's commitment to the climate emergency.

Main challenges

Thriving Glasgow calls for changes which are often outside the City's sphere of influence. Different stakeholders must participate in ongoing discussion to ensure they are not in conflict. In addition, inequalities and heterogeneity of lived experiences in the city create an additional challenge to ensuring just transitions. It is important that any indicators developed are relevant and meaningful and can add value and understanding for how we track and manage our progress towards a thriving city for all its people. These complexities create challenges as we build the suite of indicators to understand the 'as is' and 'to be' of Thriving Glasgow and explore the interconnections amongst the Doughnut's dimensions.

Lessons learnt

The process of developing our Thriving City Portrait has been one which Glasgow has been able to use to engage stakeholders from across the city in the principles of Doughnut Economics and to co-design the vision for our Thriving City. The scale at which we need to bring people with us on our journey to creating a Thriving City is however significant. In order for the next steps to lead to practical action for the city, we will need continued time and resource from all key stakeholders, including the Council.

To learn more

[GALLANT programme website](#)
[Glasgow stories on DEAL's platform](#)

- 1 City Portrait workshops.
- 2 City Portrait community workshop.
- 3 Public launch of the Thriving Glasgow Portrait.
- 4 Screenshot from the interactive Glasgow Doughnut website.
- 5 Screenshot from the interactive Glasgow Doughnut website.
- 6 City Portrait workshops.
- 7 City Portrait workshops.

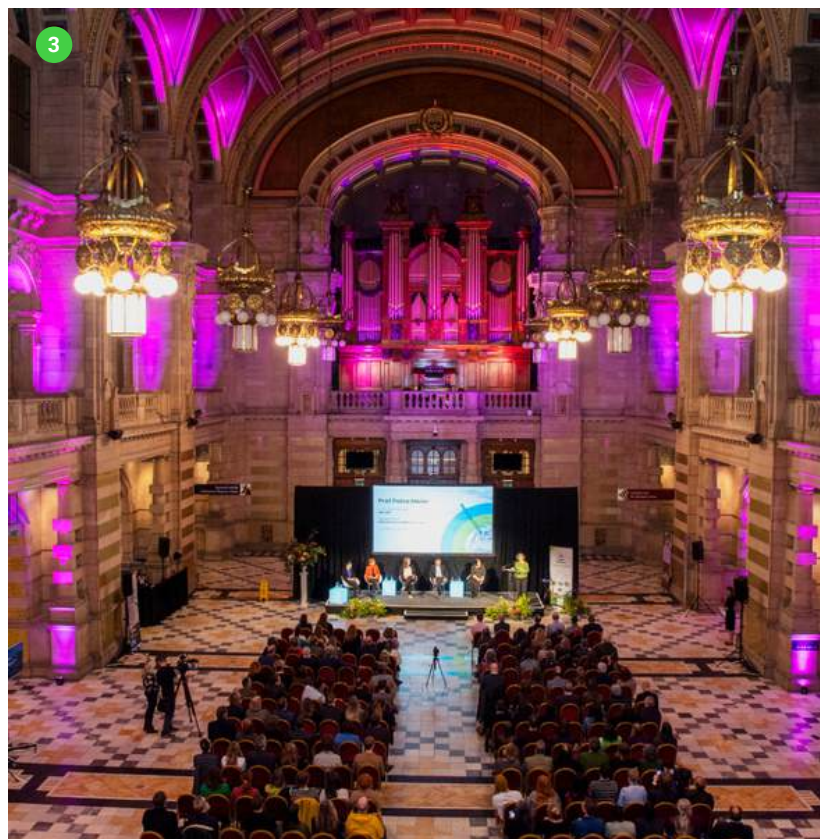
1



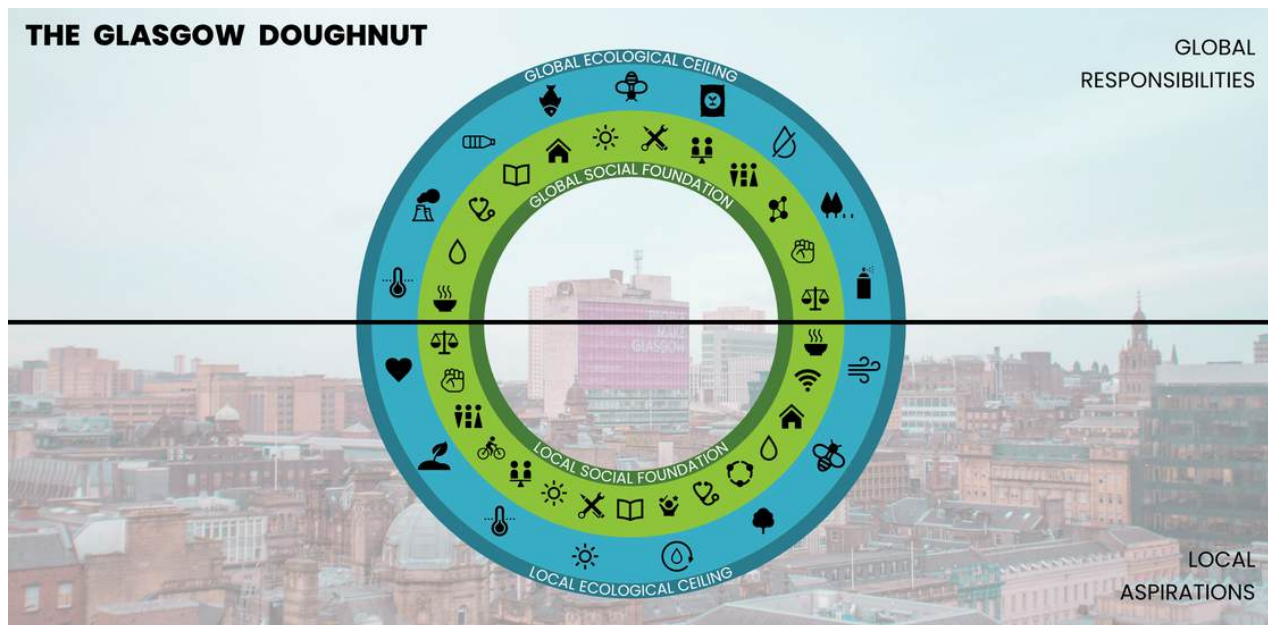
2



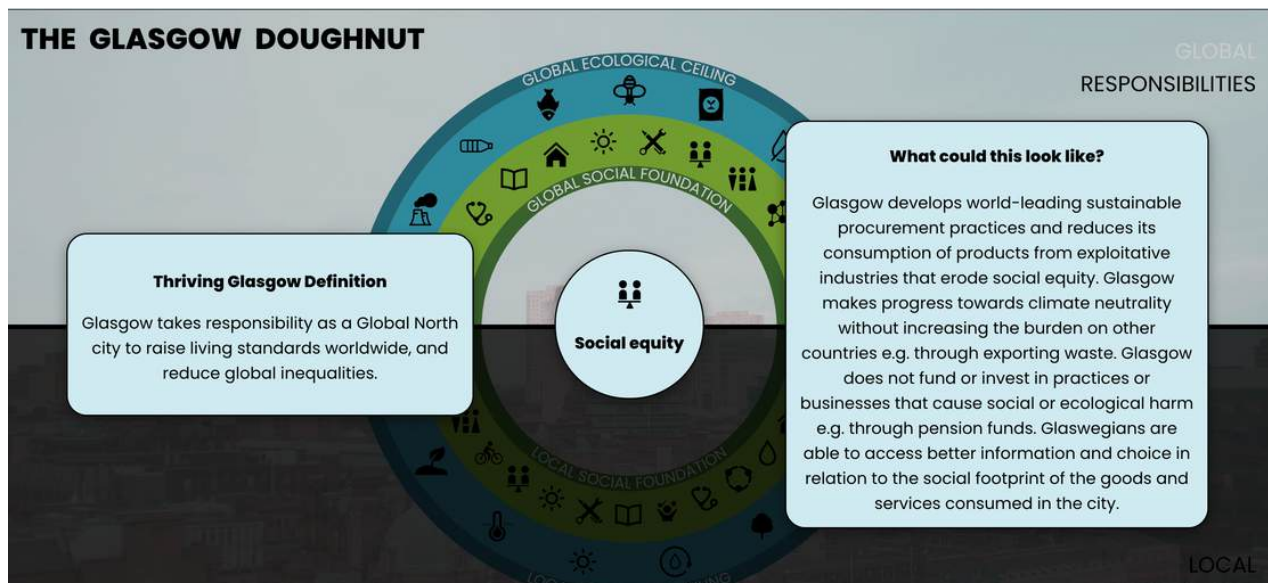
3



4



5



IPOH, MALAYSIA

Ipoh adopting Doughnut Economics was part of the state blueprint, Perak Sejahtera Plan 2030, which included Ipoh as a pilot city. With a university centre - Sunway Centre for Planetary Health based at Sunway University, and a state think tank - Institut Darul Ridzuan as key knowledge partners, the Ipoh City Council is now developing Ipoh Doughnut: City Portrait in Action, that will serve as the city-level Action Plan, using Doughnut Economics to bring together all the existing Action Plans into one. They will also be bringing Doughnut Economics thinking to seven demonstrator projects across eco-tourism, waste management, planetary health, and creative culture.

Pathways travelled in Ipoh

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

Ipoh is a mid-sized city in Malaysia with a population of about 1 million. It is the capital city of the state of Perak, located between Penang and Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur, and was famously known as being one of the biggest producers of tin ore in the world. With its unique landscape and history, the city is thriving on heritage and ecotourism, with strong service and manufacturing industries.

Why Doughnut Economics

Recognising the environmental impacts of Ipoh's tin mining industry and the need to shift to a more regenerative and distributive economy with a greater focus on and care for environmental protection, Ipoh's government and people have decided to embark on adopting Doughnut Economics as a means of achieving this vision. Ipoh's 'Doughnut' journey is also motivated by its attempt to address challenges common to other cities globally, such as balancing economic growth, ecological sustainability and social wellbeing.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

It is a collaboration by Ipoh City Council (MBI) as the key stakeholder and implementer, Sunway Centre for Planetary Health, Sunway University (SCPH) as the knowledge partner, and Institut Darul Ridzuan, the think tank of the Perak State Government (IDR) as a consultation partner.

Who else was involved

Many have been involved through capacity-building workshops, mentoring sessions, and community outreach programmes. This includes staff and agencies within the municipality and IDR, as well as industry partners, NGOs, residents, and civil society. Partnerships are central, for example, the team has partnered with the monthly Ipoh Low Carbon Day and set up exhibition booths and interactive activities on Doughnut Economics and Ipoh's implementation journey.



Journey to date

In late 2021, the Sunway Centre for Planetary Health (SCPH) and Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR), together with a team of experts on sustainability, social impact financing, environmental conservation, and circular economy, presented a vision for Ipoh as the first city to adopt Doughnut Economics in Asia to His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Shah of Perak and senior officials of the Perak state government. This led to Doughnut Economics being adopted as the overarching monitoring framework in the state blueprint, Perak Sejahtera Plan 2030, in 2022, with Ipoh as the pilot city and SCPH and IDR serving as knowledge and consultation partners. In Spring 2023, SCPH was awarded a grant from national foundation, Yayasan Hasanah to support Ipoh City Council's implementation through knowledge documentation and capacity-building programmes. Following this, a series of workshops, mentoring sessions and community outreach were held for Ipoh City Council staff, industry partners and civil society.

Since 2024, the city is actively developing its Ipoh Doughnut: City Portrait in Action that will serve as the city-level Action Plan, using Doughnut Economics to bring together all other related former Action Plans into one e.g., Ipoh City Council Strategic Master Plan 2025, Ipoh Smart green City Plan, and MBI Local Plan 2025. Upon draft completion, public consultation will be held.

Additionally, the team has also outlined 7 key demonstrator projects for Ipoh to embark on, focusing on three themes that can leverage greatest change: 1) regeneration, building on Ipoh's rich biodiversity and eco-tourism potential, 2) planetary health, designed to build community resilience against climate change impacts and strengthening the many existing waste management initiatives led by the Ipoh City Council that could be scaled up, and 3) enhancing Ipoh's creative culture, especially following its recognition as a UNESCO Creative City of Music. The demonstrator projects include reviving a part of a once active quarry to an eco-tourism site, feasibility study on the potential economic value of limestone karst to influence policies and regulations for its protection, vulnerability assessment of communities living in flood-prone areas and developing a central website of an "Ipoh Food Trail" - a trail of sustainable, low-carbon and local food choices.

Key outcomes

- 1) Ipoh City Portrait Action Plan
- 2) Seven demonstrator projects in eco-tourism, regenerative developments (if suitable), waste management, planetary health and community empowerment

Key benefits

Data sharing which helped identify gaps in existing data, and what can be strengthened. Common vision - Doughnut Economics is seen as the concept that brings all other existing development plans and strategies in Ipoh together. Multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral collaboration.

Main challenges

Lack of and fragmented ownership and scope of some local data, e.g. some data are collected at state or national levels at long intervals. Thus there was difficulty faced in deciding the geographical scope of data to be used Action Plan indicators. Community participation is still below ideal levels. Before the Action Plan was proposed, there was a challenge in communicating Doughnut Economics in practice, beyond the model. Sharing best practices from other cities through a workshop held with DEAL helped to shape a better understanding. It helped to initially have top-down support for project implementation considering Ipoh's local context. Now that the programme is up and running, a key challenge is building bottom-up community-led engagement ownership, and understanding of the project to meet the top-down efforts for an effective systems change.

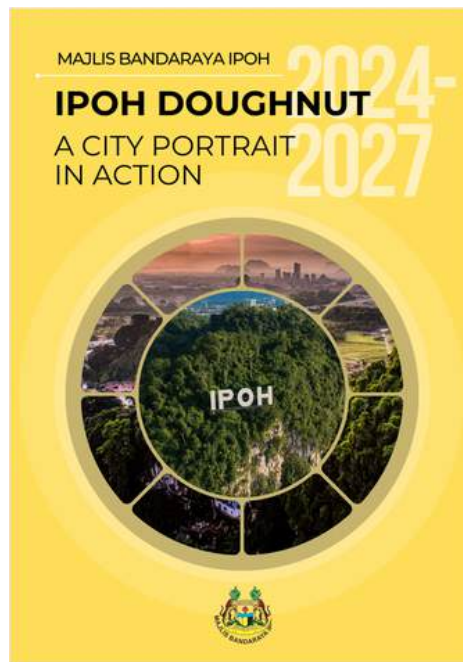
Lessons learnt

Collaboration builds confidence and a sense that "we are all in this together" rather than siloed. Operationalising Doughnut Economics at the local level is a lengthy process and should take into consideration local and political contexts and sensitivities. A lot of time is needed to invest in building trust within the municipality. Translating from a conceptual framework into an operational action plan was somewhat overwhelming e.g., developing measurable indicators. The team formulated indicators by merging existing data from local plans and strategies, and adjusting them to match the needs of Ipoh in terms of social foundations and ecological boundaries. Learning from other cities' experiences was helpful.

To learn more

[Video presentation about Ipoh's Doughnut work](#)

1



2



3



4



5





- 1 In progress: Ipoh Doughnut Economics City Portrait
- 2 Workshop with city council's key officers and partners.
- 3 Townhall session with all city council's staff.
- 4 Discussions to identify key transformative actions.
- 5 Workshop: Incorporating Doughnut Economics into waste management.
- 6 Introducing Doughnut Economics to the public.
- 7 Communication workshop with city council's media unit.
- 8 Introducing Doughnut Economics to the public during Ipoh Low Carbon Day.
- 9 Online workshop with DEAL: Downscaling the Doughnut.
- 10 Ipoh city council's Head of Department syndication session for key demonstrator projects.



COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Copenhagen started exploring their potential use of Doughnut Economics in 2020. Since 2023, they are using the Doughnut in two ways: (1) as an annual status report (Copenhagen Doughnut) with quantitative indicators showing how the city is performing in relation to the different dimensions, and (2) on the basis of the report, areas with 'need for solutions' are identified, indicating areas where politicians need to take action.

About the place

The City of Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark, with a population of 650.000 people. Copenhagen is the country's largest student city and has a relatively young population. The average age in Copenhagen is 36 years, compared to 42 years nationwide. Since 1995, the population of Copenhagen has increased by 39%. Population growth is expected to continue until 2049, and Copenhagen has been the second fastest-growing municipality in Denmark since 2008.

Why Doughnut Economics

The motivation for the City of Copenhagen to engage with Doughnut Economics was to gain insight into how the city's economy can support welfare and prosperity without exceeding environmental limits. In 2020, it was decided to explore how the Doughnut model could be used as a management tool for the city's economy and development. Additionally, with Copenhagen's current climate plan expiring in 2025, the Doughnut model was seen as a relevant framework for identifying parameters for a new climate plan.

Lead departments, organisations or partners










The work has been led by Elected representatives. The finance administration is leading the work on the annual reports, but all seven administrations in the municipality are involved in the Doughnut report, particularly in selecting indicators that show how Copenhagen performs.

Who else was involved

There has been an ongoing collaboration with the network Copenhagen Doughnut, the municipality of Amsterdam, and DEAL. Copenhagen Doughnut network has closely followed and provided feedback on the first Doughnut report. During the initial work with the Doughnut model in 2020 and 2021, many organisations contributed with their knowledge, including: Broen til Fremtiden, C40, Concito, Dansk Industri, Fagbevægelsens Hovedorganisation, FN-Forbundet, Kommunernes Landsforening, KVINFO, Prof. Katherine Richardson, Red Barnet, 92-gruppen.



Pathways travelled in Copenhagen

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

Journey to date

In 2020, the City Council decided to examine whether the Doughnut model could be used as a management tool in Copenhagen's budget processes. It was concluded from this work that the model is not suitable for managing the budget, as it was not developed for that purpose.

During the 2023 budget negotiations, the City Council agreed to implement the Doughnut model in Copenhagen through two elements: (1) an annual status report with quantitative indicators showing how the city is performing in relation to the model's dimensions, including consumption-based CO2 emissions. (2) Identification of areas with a "need for solutions," indicating where politicians should take more action to ensure Copenhagen reaches a "safe and just space." The areas with "need for solution" are being identified based on the results of the annual status report. Among other things, the model supports the transition to a consumption-based accounting method for CO2 emissions.

Today, the City Council has determined that the new climate plan for 2035 must include targets for reducing Copenhagen's consumption-based CO2 emissions.

The Doughnut model is being implemented on a trial basis for three years, during which the City of Copenhagen will assess its performance across the different dimensions of the model, including the Planetary Boundaries Framework. The report is intended as an informational tool for Copenhagen's politicians, serving as a basis for prioritizing projects during budget negotiations. To date, two annual reports have been published, in 2023, and 2024. All seven administrations in the municipality are involved in the Doughnut report, particularly in selecting indicators that show how Copenhagen performs in relation to the model's dimensions.

Based on the selected quantitative indicators in Copenhagen Doughnut 2024, Copenhagen found some 'need for solution' in the following areas: Mental health, housing conditions, equality, employment and activation initiatives, infrastructure and the Earth's climate and ecosystem.

Key outcomes

- 1) Annual City Portrait ([Copenhagen Doughnut 2023](#))
- 2) Annual City Portrait ([Copenhagen Doughnut 2024](#))

Key benefits

Enhanced focus on developing indicators to monitor Copenhagen's performance in terms of environment, climate, and welfare, from both local and global perspectives. Enhanced focus on transversal cooperation across the administrations in the municipality

Main challenges

Finding indicators to assess Copenhagen's performance from a global social perspective. Translating the planetary boundaries into local boundaries that are meaningful for a capital city to monitor, as well as identifying indicators that reflect the city's performance in relation to these boundaries. Additionally, it can be challenging to move from the development and publication of the status report to its practical implementation and use in decision-making processes

Lessons learnt

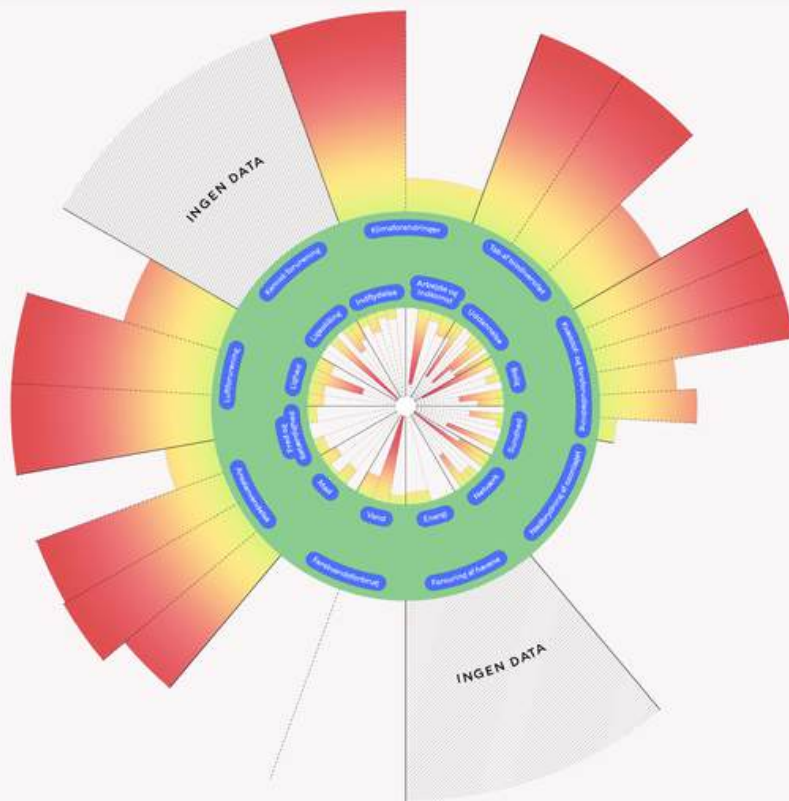
Working with the Doughnut model as a data portrait in the City of Copenhagen has been a good starting point because it is closely aligned with the existing work within the municipality. For example, the selected quantitative indicators in the report are based on data and assessments that the administrations are already using. This has made it more tangible for both employees and politicians to engage with the work initially. Having developed the first data portrait, we now have a foundation to build on in the coming years.

To learn more

[Report from the initial examination on how to work with Doughnut Economics in 2020 \(in Danish\)](#)
[Description of the municipality's work with Doughnut Economics today \(in Danish\)](#)

Københavns Doughnut 2023

Klik på Doughnuttens indre og ydre inddelinger og gå på opdagelse i data.



DET SOCIALE FUNDAMENT

DE PLANETÆRE GRÆNSER


INDHOLD

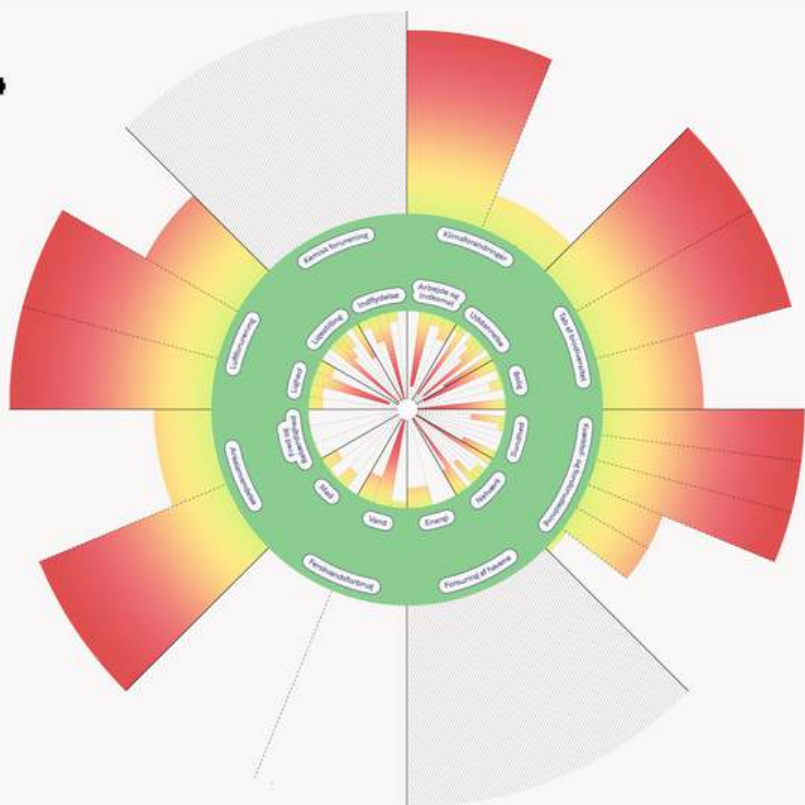
④

④

G

Københavns Doughnut 2024

 Klik på Doughnuttens indre og ydre inddelinger og gå på opdagelse i data.



DET SOCIALE FUNDAMENT

DE PLANETÆRE GRÆNSER

INDHOLD

G

④

2

- 1 Copenhagen Doughnut 2023.
- 2 Copenhagen Doughnut 2024.
- 3 From Copenhagen Doughnut 2024.

Københavns Doughnut 2024

INDHOLD DOUGHNUT 2024

3



Denne pdf er interaktiv.

Klimaforandringer

INDHOLD DOUGHNUT 2024

Forbrugsbaserede CO₂-udledninger pr. indbygger



Resultatet
Forbrugsbaserede CO₂-udledninger pr. indbygger i København er faldet fra 14,5 ton i 1990 til 12,5 ton i 2020. Dette er et fald på 14,1%.

Kilde
Energiplanen (2023), IWECO, Dan-
mark for Region og Tursplanlægning og
Klimaforvaltningen.

● Danmark
● København
○ IPCC-scenarie 1,5°C
○ DK-klimatindsigt 1,5°C

Noter
Forskel på forbrugsbaserede CO₂-udledninger i København og i Danmark som helhed er 1,5 ton CO₂ pr. indbygger i 2020. Dette skyldes, at København har en høj andel af grønne bygninger og grønne transportmidler.

PE's verdensdel
13 - Klimaklubben

Geografiske CO₂-udledninger pr. indbygger med VE-godskrivninger



Resultatet
Geografiske CO₂-udledninger pr. indbygger i København er faldet fra 4,5 ton i 2004 til 2,8 ton i 2020. Dette skyldes, at København har en høj andel af grønne bygninger og grønne transportmidler.

Kilde
Energiplanen (2023), IWECO, Dan-
mark for Region og Tursplanlægning og
Klimaforvaltningen.

● København
● IPCC-scenarie 1,5°C
○ DK-klimatindsigt 1,5°C

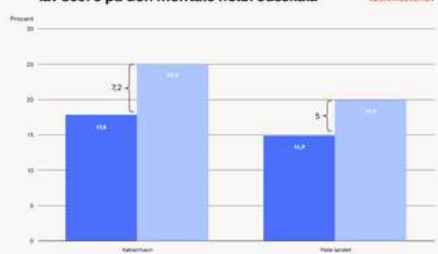
Noter
Forskel på geografiske CO₂-udledninger i København og i Danmark som helhed er 1,5 ton CO₂ pr. indbygger i 2020. Dette skyldes, at København har en høj andel af grønne bygninger og grønne transportmidler.

PE's verdensdel
13 - Klimaklubben

Ligestilling

INDHOLD DOUGHNUT 2024

Forskel i andelen af mænd og kvinder med lav score på den mentale helbreds-skala



Resultatet
Andelen af mænd og kvinder med lav score på den mentale helbreds-skala er højere i København end i det øvrige land. I København er andelen 18,8% for mænd og 22,9% for kvinder. I det øvrige land er andelen 14,8% for mænd og 19,3% for kvinder.

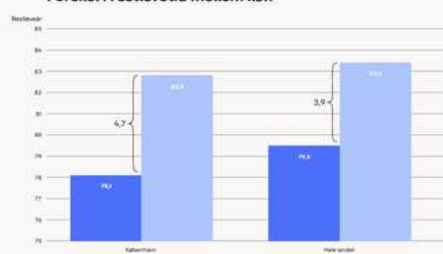
Kilde
Den regionale sundhedsindsatsplan (2023), IWECO, Dan-
mark for Region og Tursplanlægning og
Klimaforvaltningen.

● Mænd
● Kvinder

Noter
Forskel i andelen af mænd og kvinder med lav score på den mentale helbreds-skala er 4,1% i København og 4,5% i det øvrige land.

PE's verdensdel
13 - Klimaklubben

Forskel i restlevetid mellem køn



Resultatet
Forskel i restlevetid mellem mænd og kvinder er højere i København end i det øvrige land. I København er forskellen 4,7 år, mens den er 3,9 år i det øvrige land.

Kilde
Danmarks Statistik (Statistikbanken.dk).

● Mænd
● Kvinder










Noter
Forskel i restlevetid mellem mænd og kvinder er 0,8 år i København og 0,8 år i det øvrige land.

PE's verdensdel
13 - Klimaklubben

VALENCE ROMANS, FRANCE

Since 2021, in Valence Romans, they have been using Doughnut Economics as the basis for an impact assessment, evaluation and tracking tool for 20+ strategic investment project included in the administration's 6-year programme. The assessments have been used in budgetary discussions and decisions, and in political reporting. The plans are to next develop a Data Portrait.

Pathways travelled in Valence Romans

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

Valence Romans Agglomeration is an urban-rural conurbation, in the Rhone Valley in the south east of France. It regroups 54 municipalities, and has 227 000 inhabitants. Its key location, on the crossroads of the main European axes, and the dynamic economic network makes it a quite attractive place.

Why Doughnut Economics

The work started from an economic development initiative, led by Fab T, a subsidiary organisation of the authority created with the purpose of accompanying the territory in its transformation, by helping citizens create projects and businesses addressing new challenges they were facing. Through this work with innovative start-ups, they assessed that there is a huge gap between the dynamic of these new ambitious enterprises and the internal ways of municipality work, that needed to change and move at a faster pace. This is when Doughnut Economics was brought in as a model that would support the administration in advancing new ideas of the social and ecological transition, and moving ahead, developing new ways of managing projects and making decisions. It was also chosen for its potential to help measure public actions in order to improve the social and ecological impacts.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

FabT - a subsidiary of the local authority, a public establishment mostly working as a territorial business incubator, with a focus on positive impact economy. The work is done in close collaboration with the Management Audit Department of the local authority.

Who else was involved

Elected officials, chief executive members, project managers and civil servants from all departments have been actively involved in the work.



Journey to date

Following the early work of FabT, the municipality agreed to test Doughnut Economics as a model that can drive their work with strategic investment projects. At that point, a dedicated person was hired within FabT, and in six months they created and tested an experimental assessment Doughnut-based tool.

Following this successful trial, the Council committed in Autumn 2021 to use this approach for the 20 strategic investment projects included in the 6-year municipal plan. The ultimate aim is to increase the transformative, positive impact of strategic projects across the territory. Some of the projects involved are: a new central kitchen for schools, energy sobriety project, water security and quality, new exhibition centre, circular economy policies.

For each of the strategic projects, a separate assessment Doughnut is created - selecting relevant social and ecological indicators, a threshold - defining the ultimate objectives - and grading criteria for each. The indicators and thresholds are selected through participatory processes with the project managers and teams, and anyone else relevant that is involved in the delivery of the project. Indicators range depending on the project, but can be metrics already used by the municipality, scientific indicators and indicators based on standards or regulations, as well as qualitative, survey-based ones. Each project is assessed annually, following the same indicators, to see if there is improvement or not and to steer and guide the project.

The assessments have been looked in budgetary discussions and decisions, in the half-mandate reporting and political discussions, informing the trajectory for the next years, and might be used at the end of the political mandate as well.

They are now thinking the development of training materials regarding their use of Doughnut Economics for all municipal civil servants, and new employees. They are also working to develop a Data Portrait for the whole territory.

Key outcomes

- 1) Doughnut project evaluations and annual trackers for 20+ strategic investments
- 2) Management tool to improve impacts of the projects

Key benefits

It is a helpful model for increasing sustainability awareness within the local authority, and in the whole territory. It has led to a deeper sensibilisation and understanding of what sustainable development is across projects, and a more systemic and holistic approach in their design and delivery. It is also a helpful medium for talking the same language between different sectors and services.

Main challenges

It's a challenge to find and select indicators, to choose thresholds for each of them and create a scale of grading that is close to aiming to living in the "safe and just space", that also responds to the needs of services. It has also been a challenge to add additional reporting and bureaucracy to the services - as they already report on a lot.

Lessons learnt

Stop trying to be perfect, and start doing it by doing it. Rather than trying to find the perfect indicators - just start the best you can instead, test it, learn from it, and then evolve it to become better in the next year. Doing it in the first year, imperfect as it was, helped us to do it again next year, and it still had a positive effect. Try not to add too much additional work for the people you're working with - do something simple and easy to use.

Plan for a lot of time for wider sensibilisation, socialisation, conversation - less time in the details, and more time talking about the bigger picture. If you're designing new tools similar to this one, try to make them useful and easy to use for everyone at all levels - from junior civil servants to the mayor, from project managers, to external consultants, to residents. They could serve to answer different questions for the different users - 'how can i make the best decision', 'how can i design this differently', 'how can i implement this differently'.

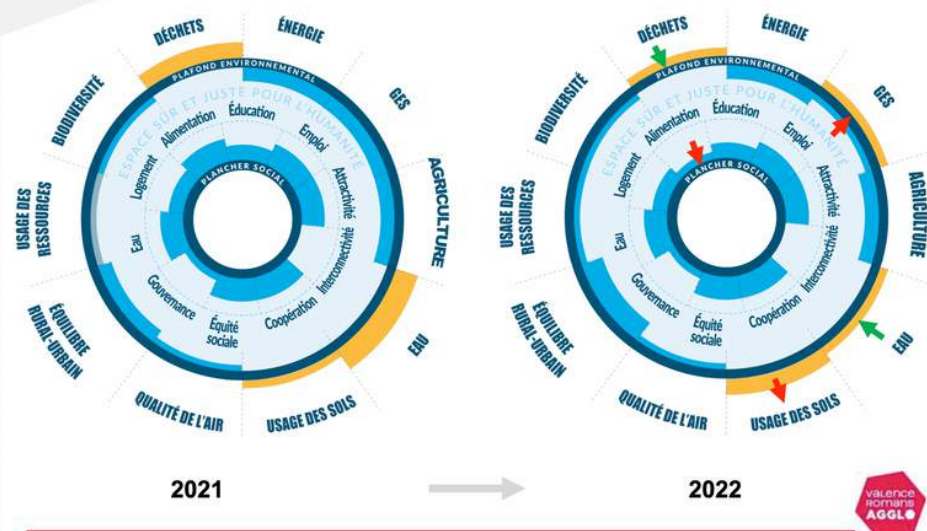
To learn more

[The Donut work explained](#)

[Strategic territorial projects 2020-2030](#)

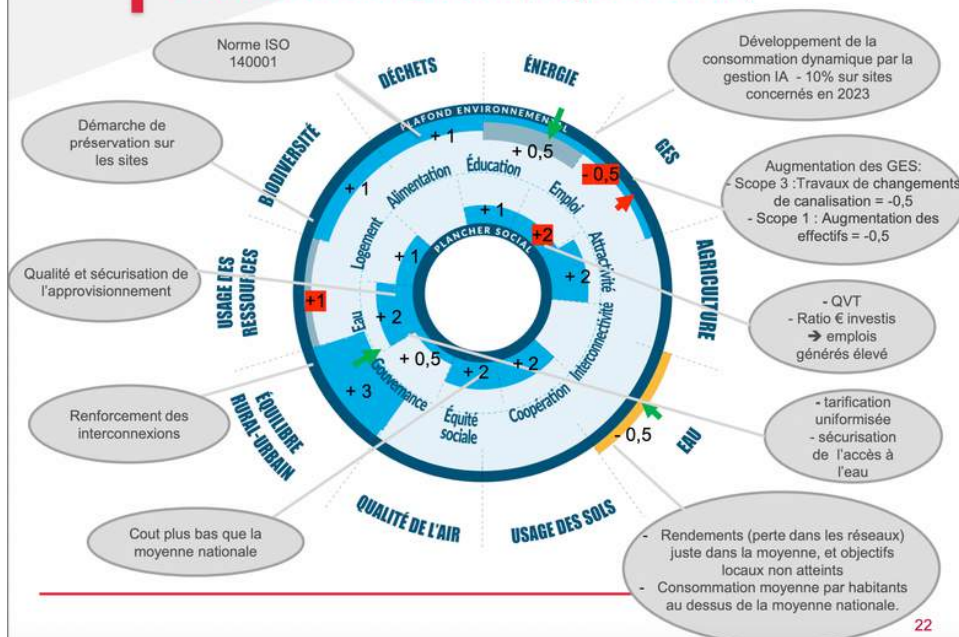
Le Donut tendance du projet de territoire

1



Distribution eau potable (Régie Eau VRA)

2












- 1 Doughnut project evaluation example visualisation of progress observed.
- 2 Doughnut project evaluation example visualisation.
- 3 The Doughnut team presenting their work.
- 4 Project workshop.
- 5 Project workshop.
- 6 The Doughnut team presenting their work.
- 7 Strategic projects 2020-2030 cover page.



BARCELONA, SPAIN

Barcelona has been engaging with the ideas of Doughnut Economics since 2021 to guide actions to address the climate emergency and the ecological transition. They worked with a university and the public planning agency to develop a Barcelona City Portrait. The ideas and findings inform the Citizens' Commitment to Sustainability 2024 - 2034, the action roadmap of Barcelona + Sostenible, a partnership of the municipality and 2000+ organisations, businesses and institutions in the territory.

Pathways travelled in Barcelona

- #1  Starting conversations and internal learning
- #2  Testing the Doughnut on ongoing projects
- #3  Empowering local change-makers
- #4  Data, measuring and monitoring
- #5  Plans and strategies
- #6  Demonstrator projects
- #7  Doughnut Economics as a strategic compass
- #8  Decision-making and project assessment
- #9  Identifying levers of transformative change

About the place

Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, is a coastal city in northeastern Spain with 1.6 million residents. Known for its Mediterranean climate and architecture, it has a diverse economy, primarily oriented around services, such as retail and commerce, information technology, and tourism, accompanied by an active construction sector.

Why Doughnut Economics

There was a perceived need to do an updated reflection on what it means for a city to be 'sustainable', given that this concept was losing strength, especially within the framework of the city's work on the Citizen Commitment for Sustainability and the Barcelona + Sustainability network, made up of 2,000 organizations. Practitioners were inspired to re-evaluate the concept of sustainability using the Doughnut as a compass.

Lead departments, organisations or partners

The department of climate change and sustainability, with the support of the local government leadership at the time the work began. For the development of the Data Portrait, the city had the technical support of Barcelona Regional and the University of Barcelona.

Who else was involved

Municipal leadership from different departments have been involved in various parts of the work. Technical experts, civil sector and organisation representatives took part in participatory workshops. Many more included through the work of the Barcelona + Sustainable network. A series of public debates were held for the general public.



Journey to date

In 2020, Barcelona declared a climate emergency which urged change towards patterns of consumption, education and resource use that guarantees a decent life for everyone, while respecting the planet's ecological limits. In parallel, the time was approaching for the renewal of the Citizens Commitment to Sustainability 2012-2022, a collaborative commitment born as part of Agenda 21, renewed every 10 years. The Commitment is led by the Barcelona + Sustainable (B+S) network, encompassing 2000+ entities (civil sector, businesses, political groups, academic institutions) steered by the Municipal Council for Environment and Sustainability. The Doughnut Economics model was brought in to steer the renewal of the Citizens Commitment, and the necessary change that the Council's declaration committed to.

Notable engagement with Doughnut Economics began in 2021 with Barcelona's Change for the Climate 2030 Plan, a sustainability culture plan, which was underpinned by Doughnut Economics principles. The plan addresses the role of citizens in climate action, and the set of knowledge, values and practices that citizens, individually and collectively, must develop in order to defend the basic rights of people within the ecological limits of the planet.

In 2022, the city committed to develop a Barcelona City Portrait, working with the public planning agency Barcelona Regional and Universitat de Barcelona as partners. In collaboration with experts, organisations and municipal technicians, the indicators for the Portrait were defined and then further developed within the municipality. Through the Portrait, the city and the B + S network identified the challenges that the city faces, and then, through participatory sessions, defined collaborative projects to work with the socio-environmental fabric of the city. The Barcelona Donut principles and findings are now underpinning the Citizens Commitment for a More Sustainable Barcelona 2024 - 2034. The city has established a technical support secretariat that initiates strategic contacts with key actors in the city, establishes a methodology for calculating savings, and provides advice and support to the organisations that want to take action. One of the initial challenges

identified is decarbonisation, which is also related to the City Climate Contract (as one of the EU Mission Cities). The other is water savings, for the drought periods the city is facing.

Key outcomes

- 1) [Barcelona City Dònut](#)
- 2) [Citizens Commitment for a More Sustainable Barcelona 2024 - 2034](#)
- 3) [City Collaborative Challenges](#)
- 4) [Change for the Climate 2030 Plan \(Sustainability Culture Strategy\)](#)

Key benefits

Bringing Doughnut Economics has helped to put the concept of sustainability back on the table and debated, and to incorporate also the social and global impacts and see that they are all interrelated. It has helped us redefine and revisualise sustainable development.

Main challenges

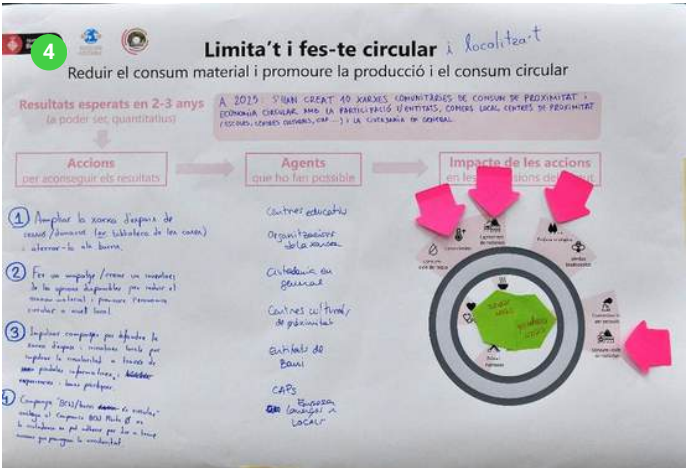
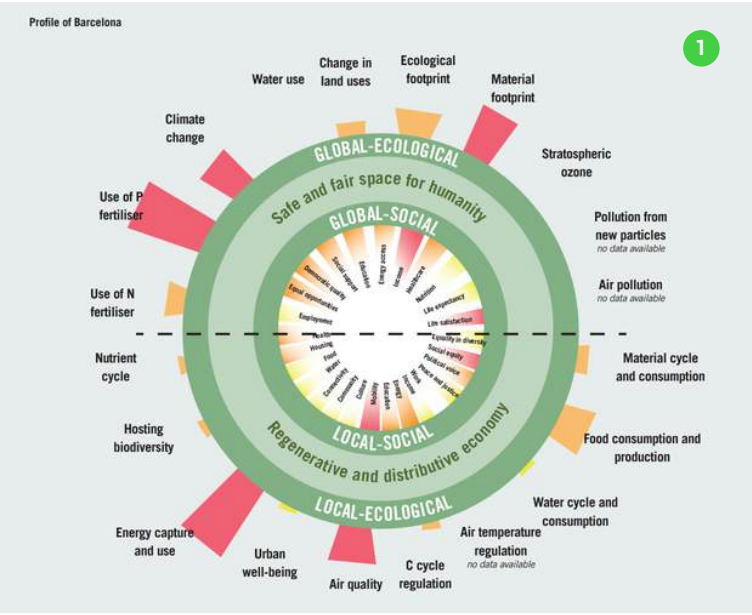
Defining the portrait of the city was complicated, and there was a need for more robust methodology, as the choice of indicators and results were also dependent on the participants' interests at the time. There can be differences in opinion between experts and citizens. The concept is still not very well known and it has been difficult for us to build support and for people to come to debate and participation sessions. The concept is closely linked to degrowth, which is not yet on the agenda in some circles.

Lessons learnt

It has been very useful to collaborate with university experts. The four lenses materials worked well as a participation tool. A lot of inter-departmental collaboration was required.

To learn more

- [Barcelona and Doughnut Economics on the municipality's website](#)
[Barcelona's stories on DEAL's platform](#)





6

1 Barcelona City Doughnut (visualised four-lenses Portrait).

2 Participatory workshop, Portrait development.

3 Participatory workshop, Portrait development.

4 Workshops discussing priority projects.

5 Participatory workshop, Deep Design of Cities.

6 Participatory workshops, Portrait developments.

7 Participatory workshops, Portrait developments.

8 Rethinking a new culture of sustainability and the shifts needed, as part of Change for Climate Plan 2030.



7



8

**Idrees que vol
qüestionar
la cultura de
sostenibilitat**



La cultura de sostenibilitat proposa qüestionar i fer evolucionar conceptes associats a un estil de vida insostenible que ha quedat obsolet.



Expansió
vs límits i contenció



Creixement
vs desenvolupament humà



Opulència
vs eficiència



Prepotència
vs prudència



Guany econòmic
vs qualitat de vida



Menjar porqueria
vs menjar saludable



Malbaratament
vs desmaterialització



Quantitat
vs qualitat



Competició
vs cooperació



Consumisme
vs benestar



Usar i llençar
vs residu zero



Efímer
vs durable



Velocitat
vs serenitat

Acknowledgements

This guide was written by Leonora Grcheva, with case-study contributions from the city practitioners listed below, and valuable contributions from Kate Raworth, Rob Shorter, Andrew Fanning and Ruurd Priester, and support from Floris Priester and Aimee Laurel from the DEAL team.

We would like to thank the city staff and practitioners who generously contributed the content and shared their experience and insights for the 12 case studies included in this guide update: Yuge Lei (for Bad Nauheim), Barbara Goffin, Paul Vanderstaeten, Stephanie Lepczynski (for Brussels), Elsbeth Visser (for Amsterdam), Jane Cox and Emma Williamson (for Cornwall), Josephine Dahl Staalhøj and Julie Kring Jespersen (for Copenhagen), Ting Pan (for Nanaimo), Nathalie Le Meur (for Grenoble), Diane Imbert (for Valence Romans), Zulqarnain Mohamad, Menaka Ganeson, Maisarah Faiesall, Hamizah Kefli, Sharifah Husna (for Ipoh), Stefan Persson and Erika Andersson (for Tomelilla), Charlotte Wallace, Emma Morton, Petra Meier, Jaime Toney, Mary Menton, Jo Winterbottom (for Glasgow), Irma Ventayol Ceferino (for Barcelona).

We are very grateful for the comprehensive review and contributions in the first version to Michele Vianello and Ellie Cosgrave. We would also like to sincerely thank all city officials, DEAL Community members and allies who reviewed and contributed to an early version and a working draft of this guide, including Claudio Cattaneo, Frances Kelsey, Peter Lefort, Clothilde Sauner, Line Kwartborg Vestergaard, Petra Olehno, Annika Hjelmskog, Liisa Perjo, Clayton Lavallin, Aida Mas Baghaie, Jane Whild, Sofia Lindström, Greg Hart, Katharina Schlüter, Gil Scatena, Jonathan Rose, Sheila Jones, Marius Catalin Moga, Willem van Winden, Ona Riera Mateu, Erinch Sahan and many others.

Finally, we would like to thank all change-makers in local and regional government innovating with Doughnut Economics and sharing their learnings, insights and challenges with others - this guide only exist because of your hard and inspiring work.

All images and photographs used are from city and regional documents, reports, materials and documentation provided by cities and city partners, shared with us with approval to use, or taken directly by the DEAL team. We thank Iconmonstr for the icons used.



Doughnut Economics Action Lab (or DEAL) is a non-profit Community Interest Company registered in the UK, doughnuteconomics.org.

All content is licensed under a CC-BY-SA 4.0 licence.

You are allowed to pass on and share this, and we welcome innovations and alterations*, as long as you credit Doughnut Economics Action Lab (or DEAL) and doughnuteconomics.org.

*Alterations may mean changing the words and images so that they are relevant to your context and audience, including translating some or all of the pages or images to another language.

Key diagrams of Doughnut Economics are referenced as 'Raworth 2017'. Full attribution text for these diagrams can be found <https://doughnuteconomics.org/licensing>.

Suggested citation

Doughnut Economics Action Lab (2024). Cities & Regions: Let's Get Started. Pathways for local and regional governments to engage with Doughnut Economics as a tool for transformative action (Version 2). *Doughnut Economics Action Lab*, UK.





**DOUGHNUT
ECONOMICS
ACTION
LAB**