Brainstorming resource efficiency and resource use capping

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• 3 stages of food system resource throughput:
  – Production
  – Distribution/trading
  – Consumption (including waste issues)

• Sustainable organic farming methods – 2 alternative routes:
  – Route 1: aimed at using logistical efficiency of global markets/multiple retail outlets
  – Route 2: short chain, local food systems
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• Choice of route is decisive in determining production methods:
  – **Route 1:** requires large-scale, „efficient” mechanised production. Primary goal to reduce costs and maximise production and profit
  – **Route 2:** focused on low-input, small scale production, high labour, low capital input. Primary goals to reduce inputs, optimise production efficiency, maximise biodiversity, supply quality, seasonal food
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- **Route 1.** can demonstrate in current market conditions (in some cases) better resource efficiency (logistics optimised – delivery trucks full), but on sustainability question the jury is still out. No resource use capping.

- **Route 2.** can demonstrate higher biodiversity, less rapid resource use, sometimes poor logistical efficiency because of small market segment. Resource use capping is a possibility.
Nyitott Kert/Open Garden’s
experiences and attempts

- Small scale production – high labour, low capital input, high social impact
- Local organic seasonal food system
- Direct producer-consumer links. Dialogue between producers and consumers – provides opportunity to set out strategy and goals
- Low energy production:
  - Outdoor cropping
  - Unheated covered cropping
  - Seasonal production
  - Modern animal traction
Brainstorming for resource capping

- Green tax on artificial fertilisers and pesticides
- Ring-fenced tax on non-renewable fuels -> direct income to renewable energy in agriculture
- Tax on food miles (practicability?) or tax breaks for local food supply systems
- Strict limits on peat extraction
- Support for on-farm composting schemes
- Incentive breaks for reduced water use – investment programmes in low water consumption technologies
- Food packaging tax based on environmental impacts
Brainstorming for resource capping
Brainstorming for resource capping (continued)

- Simplification of food processing and supply regulations for local products and food systems
- Biodiversity in agriculture incentive programmes
- Crop rotation requirements
- Erosion tax (practicality?)
- Strict protection of existing forest areas and incentives for native species
- Research on sustainability of energy crops, organic and closed/semi-closed nutrient systems, low energy production methods, local food systems, bio-intensive (= biological energy utilisation) systems, animal traction and equipment, down-sizing agricultural machinery