



MONDAY
Politics

TUESDAY
Build the Change

WEDNESDAY
Sport

THURSDAY
Science

FRIDAY
Culture

THE DAY
Build a better world



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S BIG STORY

Meat off the menu in Scotland's capital

Should we all be vegetarians? The city of Edinburgh has signed an agreement to move away from meat-eating and farming animals, the first European capital to do so.



Table banners: Haggis, a Scottish meat dish, could be on its way out. © Shutterstock

So long sausages! Bye bye burgers! Farewell smoked salmon! The city of Edinburgh is done with you. The Scottish capital has signed the Plant-Based Treaty. This is an **initiative** to slash **carbon emissions** by cutting back on meat and dairy products.

Food production makes up about 37% of global CO2 emissions. More than half of that is from meat.

To make 100 grams of beef protein creates 49.8kg of CO2 **equivalent**, but producing the same amount of tofu creates only 1.9kg.

THE STORY SO FAR

The Plant-Based treaty was launched in 2021 during the COP26 Climate negotiations in Glasgow. It invites people, organisations and cities to sign.

One study suggests that even if we stopped burning fossil fuels straight away, we would still see more than 1.5C of warming, just because of food production.

Signing the treaty means the city council promises to take steps to stop the growth of animal farming.

It also means that the city will look to provide more plant-based meals in schools, and add **carbon-labels** to food.

Los Angeles in the USA has already signed the treaty. But this is the first European capital to sign.

Some have criticised the move for **restricting** people's choices. The council points out that the treaty is not binding. They are not banning anything, they say, but the climate emergency means some things will have to change.

Even Scotland's national dish, **haggis**, might have to make way for a veggie option.

KEY WORDS

Treaty: An agreement, normally between countries

Initiative: Plan

Carbon emissions: The amount of carbon released into the air

Equivalent: The same as

City Council: The people elected to run the city

Carbon-labels: Labels showing how much CO2 the food produces

Restricting: Putting limits on, or stopping

Haggis: A sausage made from boiled sheep's intestines.



YOU DECIDE

Should we all be vegetarians?

YES. It is the quickest and largest step anyone can take to help the environment.

NO. We can meet climate targets without getting rid of meat altogether. Cutting back is enough.



THE DETECTIVE ZONE

SPOT THE FAKE

One of these three news stories is fake.
Which one?

Man arrested for stealing 200,000 Creme Eggs

Mars fined after workers fall into vat of chocolate

Woman finds tooth inside her chocolate bar

Which of these foods
is responsible for the
highest greenhouse gas
emissions?



- A) Dark chocolate
- B) Beef
- C) Potatoes

Build THE Change



Waste is a big part of carbon emissions from food. In this challenge you are going to design a piece of technology that runs on leftovers!

Step 1: Think about your design! What kind of tech is this? Where does the food go in? How does it help people?

Step 2: Create your design! Draw a picture of it, or if you have time, use LEGO® bricks or craft materials to make a real-life version of your leftovers machine.

Share your genius
Show your work to your class!



Upload a photo of your work to the Build the Change gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

Talking point

Do you think your school should be fully vegetarian?

Amaze someone

Only 11% of the carbon impact of eating comes from transporting the food.

Wasted food does more environmental damage than food you eat, because it rots in a landfill, releasing methane.

THE EXTRA PAGE

Edinburgh signs up to Plant-Based Treaty

Scotland is famous for its meaty national dish, a “haggis” sheep offal pudding.

But could this iconic meal one day be phased out for a veggie alternative?

Edinburgh has become the first European capital to endorse a plant-based diet to tackle the climate emergency.

The city council has signed on to the Plant Based Treaty, an initiative which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture.

The treaty could eventually see the council introduce some carbon labelling on menus and transition to more plant based meals in schools and council buildings.

How bad are meat and dairy for the planet?

Emissions from meat and dairy are huge drivers of climate change.

Food production contributes around 37% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Farming cows, pigs and chickens for food - and cultivating the feedstock required to sustain them — accounts for 57% of this total.

Producing 100 grams of beef protein creates 49.8kg of carbon dioxide equivalent. In comparison, producing



Meaty: Beef is one of the most carbon-intensive foods that you can eat. © Getty

the same amount of tofu creates 1.98kg.

In their Sixth Carbon Budget report, published in 2020, the UK Climate Change Committee recommended a 20-50 per cent reduction in all meat and dairy consumption by 2050.

Meat production is also the single biggest cause of deforestation globally.

What is the Plant Based Treaty?

Launched in 2021, the Plant Based Treaty is a grassroots campaign which aims to put foodsystems at the forefront of tackling climate change.

Endorsing the campaign is like declaring a climate emergency. While it is not legally binding, it is an admission that “business as usual” will result in planetary disaster.

What will the Plant Based Treaty mean for Edinburgh?

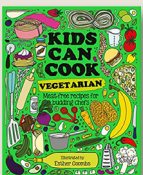
The treaty will not really mean the end of the haggis. But it could lead to a number of pro-plant based initiatives.

These could include introducing carbon labelling to food menus in schools and a “clearer pathway for fully transitioning to plant-based meals ... for example beginning with meat free days in other Council buildings such as offices,” according to the council’s assessment report of the treaty.

Twelve percent of Edinburgh’s consumption based footprint comes from the consumption of meat, so this has the potential to reduce carbon emissions. ■

This is an edited version of a story from Euronews.com © [18/01/2023]

Now read the book



Kids Can Cook Vegetarian: Meat-free Recipes for Budding Chefs by Esther Coombs

Button Books
£14.99



The Big Book of Blooms by Yuval Zommer

Thames & Hudson Ltd
£14.99

Answers to puzzles

Quiz

B) Beef

Spot the fake

Woman finds tooth inside her chocolate bar



This week’s challenge is part of the LEGO® Build the Change programme. It can be done at school or as homework, and parents can help upload photos of pupils’ work to the online gallery.



Visit the gallery at <https://bit.ly/btcgallery> and feel free to use it as discussion point in class.