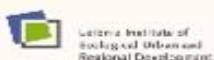


ARTS project Key Findings

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ARTS Project scope

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Accelerating Transitions

Two views on progress to sustainability in Brighton:

1. Pace and scale of change

- *Key opportunities*
- *Key blockages – especially ‘governance’ factors*
- How can we speed up the transition?

➤ *Useful strategies*

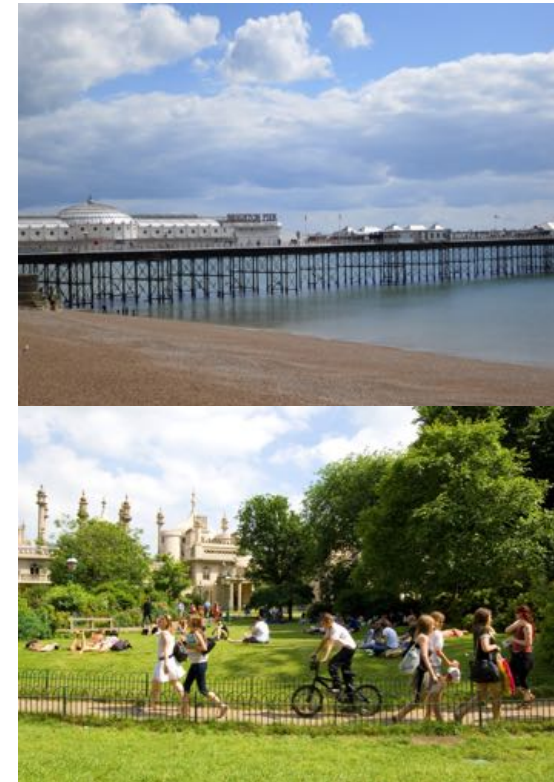
2. Innovations for sustainability

- Are they spreading across the city?
 - If yes, how?
 - If no, why not?



Sustainability in Brighton:

- **Politically self-consciously aiming for sustainability:**
 - **2005** B&H signed up to the **Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change**
 - **2006 First Sustainable Community strategy;**
 - **2013 A Sustainability Action Plan** agreed; pledging to achieve a 'One Planet City' by 2050
- **Have UK's only Green MP**
- ***Had* a Green-led administration**
- **Many (100+) local initiatives aiming for environmental sustainability**



Key opportunities? Key blockages...

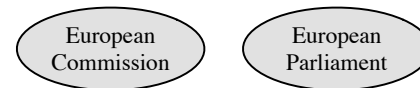
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Governance factors

Issues:

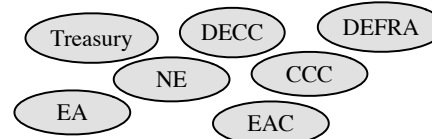
- Dominance of National Government – much flux
- Emphasis on roles and **responsibilities of Local Government** – austerity severely limiting capacity
- **Proliferation of local-to-regional governance bodies**
 - often public-private partnerships
 - differing geographical boundaries
 - varying functions, responsibilities and transparency

Supranational



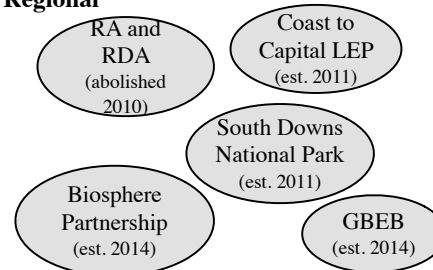
- * 2020 targets
- * Directives (e.g. bathing water, habitats)
- * EU ETS

National



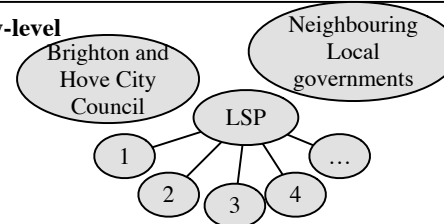
- * Financial control
- * National targets (e.g. 80% by 2050),
- * Policy and programmes (e.g. Green Deal)
- * Regulation (e.g. NPPF)

Regional



- * Regional strategies (i.e. housing) under RA and RDA
- * Strategic Priority setting under LEPs
- * Distribution of funding (national and European)
- * Regional infrastructure planning
- * Agenda setting

City-level



- * Delivering statutory duties
- * Setting targets
- * Spatial strategies (e.g. housing)
- * local regulations
- * Procurement policies

Implications:

- Makes local governance messy
- Unclear who and where agendas and priorities are being set – where and who do you seek to influence?
- Who holds regulatory and legislative power to support sustainable practices?

How can we speed up the transition?

Five key strategies:

- The **diffusion** of sustainable innovations from one place to another
- The **partnering** of initiatives in order to exploit synergies
- Strategic **harnessing** of opportunities to support sustainable innovations locally
- The **growth** of initiative members, supporters and users in order to spread sustainable innovations
- The **institutionalising** of sustainable innovations into existing or new governance frameworks



**Are sustainable
innovations
spreading across
the city?**

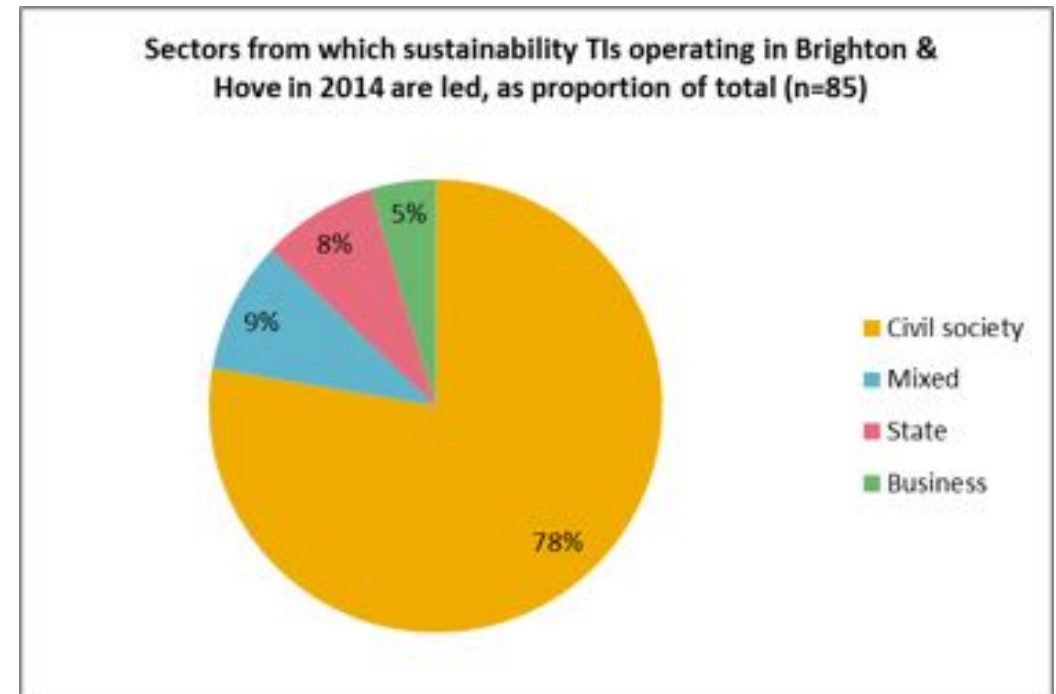
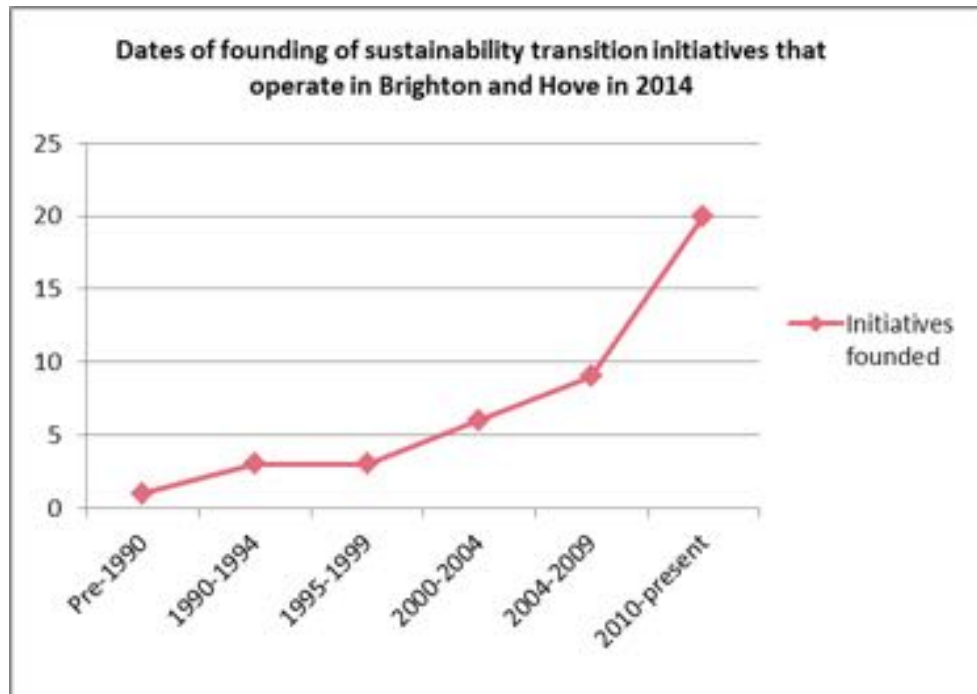
Innovations for sustainability – “sustainability transition initiatives”

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Or just “initiatives”...

Many initiatives are quite recent (set up after 2010):

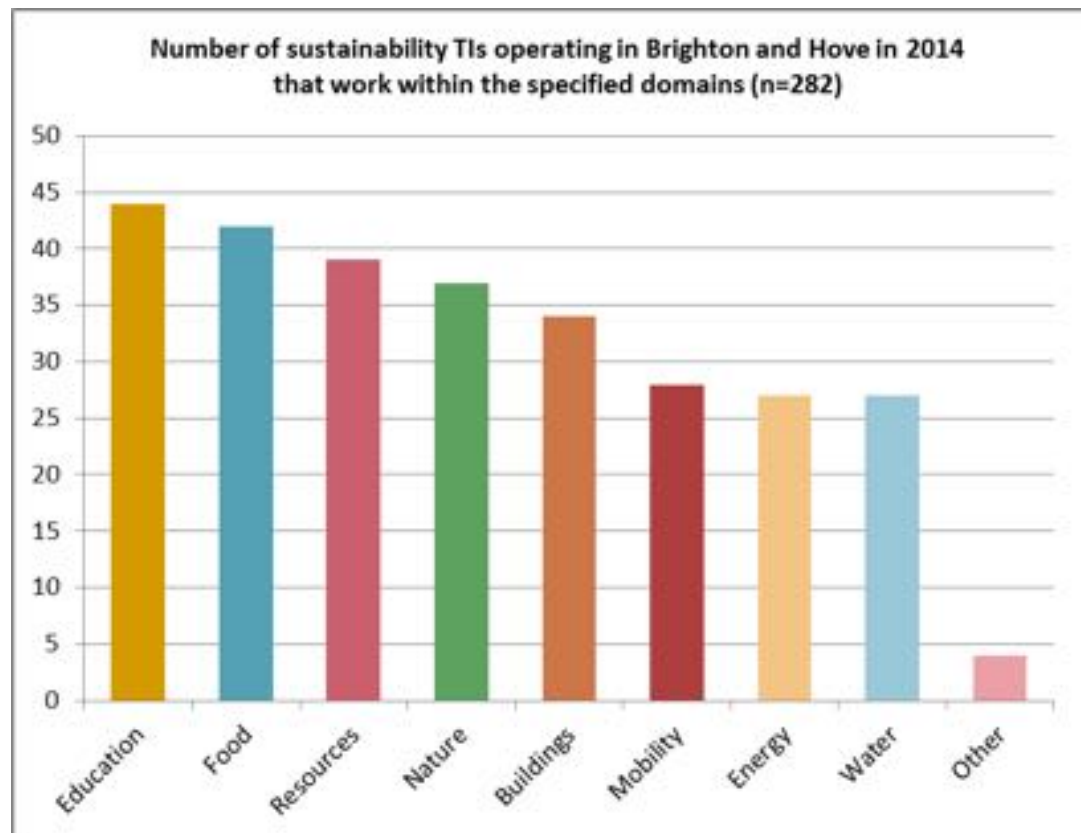
Predominantly **civil-society led**, but the council is also active and often works in partnerships with other orgs



Innovations for sustainability – “initiatives” cont’d

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Relatively even spread across domains,
many initiatives tackling multiple domains



Innovations for sustainability – “initiatives” cont’d



Research identified 98 local initiatives

→ 11 featured initiatives selected for more in-depth analysis

Name	Lead actor	Domains
Biosphere Partnership	State	Nature / biodiversity
City Sustainability Partnership	State	<i>Cross-domain</i>
Brighton & Hove Food Partnership	Civil society	Food
Brighton Peace & Environment Centre	Civil society	Education
Brighton Paper Round	Mixed	Resource management
Brighton Energy Co-op	Civil society	Energy
Brighton Bike Hub	Civil society	Mobility
Sustainable Business Partnership	Business	<i>Cross-domain</i>
Hanover Action for Sustainable Living	Civil society	<i>Cross-domain</i>

How useful are the ‘useful strategies’?

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Diffusion

- Only few examples – in food, waste, education
- (Related process of importing and exporting ideas to/from other cities – in energy, biodiversity/nature conservation)
- Supports growth

Partnering

- Very common, but often ad hoc and ‘shallow’ rather than ‘deep’, long term, and strategic – e.g. cross-membership and targeted, short-term alliances
- Main purpose of some initiatives
- Deeper forms of joint working too onerous for many – but some powerful examples
- Supports harnessing, growing and institutionalising



How useful are the ‘useful strategies’?

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Harnessing

- Happens across domains, practiced by relatively few initiatives
- Mainly national policies are harnessed (e.g. Feed in Tariff, Green Deal; national nature conservation policy)
- Some EU policy (e.g. bathing water quality, habitats directive)
- Some local policy (e.g. OPL)
- Helps initiatives to grow, brings in funding (supports growth and institutionalising)
- (Perceived) danger of reliance



How useful are the ‘useful strategies’?

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Growing

- Many initiatives have grown, some strongly
- Important for visibility and clout
- Hard work – economic recession unhelpful
- Possible problems with delegation
- Need for new skills
- Not a universally welcomed objective

Institutionalising

- Actively pursued by only a few initiatives – more established, requires capacity
- Specific policies – e.g. procurement, transport infrastructure
- New platforms – OPL, Biosphere Partnership
- Some wariness from initiatives

Pace and scale of change: variability across domains

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Accelerating Transitions

Are sustainable innovations spreading across the city?

➤ If yes, how?
(examples coming)

➤ **If no, why not?**

No easy answers... lots of variability and different issues in each domain

What do you think?

	Diffusing	Partnering	Harnessing	Growing	Institutionalising
Food	Coevolution of supportive local governance structures and the spread of sustainable innovations				
Mobility					
Nature conservation		Institutionalising not resulted in specific policies			
Energy		Difficult national policy context			
Education		Difficult to gauge progress...			
Waste/resources		Lock-in to incineration			
Built environment	Constraints around housing stock, rental sector and housing development?				
Water	Lack of public awareness or concern				

The Brighton and Hove Food Partnership (BHFP)

- Established in 2003 as a collective response to the unsustainability of the local food system
- Developed first Sustainable Food Strategy in the city (2006)
- Tripled the number of community food growing projects from 25 to 76 by 2013, involving over 4000 volunteers each year; set up 30 community composting sites involving 1000 households
- Inserts environmental component into healthy weight management (council) services
- Set up 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign
- Runs annual *feeding the 5000* event
- Has harnessed EU, National and Local funding

i.e.

- **uses all five strategies**
- **highly professionalised, big impact**



See also: Durrant (2015) on the ARTS website

<http://acceleratingtransitions.eu/publication/local-initiatives-accelerating-inclusive-sustainability/>

Brighton Bike Hub/Changing Gears

- Runs a charity bike shop, maintenance and training centre and promotes cycling as an affordable and active form of mobility.
- Development:
 - starting from an interest in green spaces, setting up a community garden
 - founding Lewes Road for Clean Air campaign
 - organising the bike train to make biking feel safer
 - developing the bike hub initiative to provide workshops
 - inputting into development of local road infrastructure

i.e.

- **role in institutionalising sustainable transport options**
- **minimal funding, big impact**



The Brighton Energy Cooperative (BEC)

- Set up in 2010 by a small group as a response to the failure of international climate negotiations
- Focus on practical, bottom-up action by deploying renewable energy
- Developed into a PV cooperative, five share offers (with > £1m invested)
- Recent projects include:
 - 2000 panels (60 kWp) at the University of Brighton
 - Portslade Aldridge Community Academy
 - Infinity Foods Wholesale
 - Now working with the [Big Lemon bus company](#)

However

- ***thwarted by changes to FIT***
- ***held back by reluctance of Council***



Key messages



Key messages for local governments & initiatives:

Key message #1: Establish institutional spaces for connecting change agents and creating partnerships for urban sustainability transitions across sectors and domains.

Key message #2: Actively seek to engage with local initiatives to foster a culture of collaboration for urban sustainability transitions (including early and meaningful participation)

Key messages for local governments & initiatives:

Key message #3: Engage with and capitalise on existing, diverse knowledges of transition initiatives in the city-region.

Key message #4: Cultivate urban governance that embraces social diversity to effectively tap into the diverse capacities and passions of local people.

Key messages for local governments & initiatives:

Key message #5: Providing access to and enabling use of public urban areas and vacant spaces are a critical resource for experiments and innovative actions.

Key messages for local governments & initiatives:

Key message #6: Recognise that shifting to a sustainable society requires changing what we value and how.

Key message #7: Develop capacities to navigate multi-level governance contexts within which local sustainability action takes place.

Thanks...

