



FUTURE NEWSPAPER

Originally developed by: GoNano Project, [UNaLab](#)

OBJECTIVE

Creating a vision for desirable future outcomes

TARGET AUDIENCE

All stakeholder groups

TIME NEEDED

2 hours

LIST OF MATERIALS

Pens, paper, post-its

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QUICK OVERVIEW

The Future Newspaper is a creative visioning tool that invites participants to imagine a headline from a future where their ideal food system transformation has been achieved. By thinking backwards from that imagined future, groups uncover the necessary people, conditions, and events that would make it possible. This tool is ideal for inspiring collective thinking, building shared direction, and informing strategic planning and action.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Develop a shared, imaginative vision for a desirable future
- Identify key enabling conditions, stakeholders, and steps required to realise that future
- Practice backcasting and systems thinking in a collaborative setting
- Distil community priorities into actionable directions
- Use creative storytelling to engage others and build support

Future Newspaper

The *Future Newspaper* is a playful and imaginative group activity that helps participants explore what success could look like for food system transformation. By stepping into the future and writing the front page of a newspaper, participants envision a bold headline describing a world in which their goals have been realised. They then work backwards to uncover what happened to make that headline possible: who was involved, what actions were taken, and what shifts occurred.

This storytelling-based tool combines creativity with strategic thinking. It is designed to spark conversation, align values, and build a sense of collective direction. The resulting newspapers can be used as inspiration for further planning, communication, or prioritisation.

Steps

1. Form groups (5 min)

Divide participants into small groups of 3–5. Provide each group with a Future Newspaper Canvas and Post-its for brainstorming.

2. Create a headline (20 min)

Each group writes a bold newspaper headline from 10 years in the future, describing a successful and desirable transformation in their context (e.g. “*Local Schools Go 100% Organic Thanks to Community Co-ops*”). The headline can be visionary, provocative, or even humorous, encouraging creativity. The headline sets the tone and direction for the group’s vision.

3. Fill in the newspaper (30–40 min)

Using the canvas, participants reflect on the question:

“How did we get here?”

They brainstorm and record:

- Key actions and milestones
- Stakeholders involved
- Policies or innovations that helped
- Cultural or behavioural shifts
- Obstacles overcome

4. Share and discuss (20 min)

Each group presents their newspaper headline and key steps. Encourage applause, curiosity, and questions.

5. Voting & reflection (15–20 min)

Facilitate a **dotmocracy** session: give participants dot stickers and invite them to vote on the visions or elements they find most compelling, feasible, or urgent. Reflect together:

What ideas have the most support? What next steps could we take now?

Tips for Facilitators

- Ask groups to choose a scale (neighbourhood, region, EU level) for their future story.
- Encourage drawing, colour, and creativity on the newspaper to stimulate engagement.
- This tool can be adapted for:
 - Climate action
 - Youth engagement
 - Policy co-creation
- Debrief at the end: what felt inspiring, surprising, or challenging?

