Increasing food security in Cambridge
Aims
To explore ways in which we can safeguard Cambridge’s food supply into the future, in the face of rising energy prices and the effects of climate change
(approx. 40 minutes, including a role play and discussion)
What do we mean by “food security”?

Having reliable access to enough good food now and in the future.
Food security in Cambridge - is this likely to be an issue?

In Cambridge, food security relates mainly to the ability to supply sufficient food to the city into the future.
Threats to food security

• Freak weather in the UK – if heavy snow or flooding close roads, it will affect distribution networks from supply depots to supermarkets

• Freak weather in other countries – these are already resulting in export bans of some crops that we depend on, such as wheat from Russia

• Peak oil, resulting in rising oil prices, affecting food production, distribution and packaging

• Oil supply problems – e.g. major exporters deciding to reduce how much oil they export or anything which disrupts transport of oil
John Gossop, author of “Famine in the West” explains some of the threats to our current food supply

(3 minute youtube clip)
The scenario:

Oil prices continue to rise, reaching 10 times current levels - petrol and diesel prices rise to over £12 per litre.

Could this happen? The International Energy Agency acknowledged that conventional oil peaked in 2006, so from now on, oil prices are likely to rise, although this may occur in a series of spikes rather than a long-term gradual rise.
The parts of the food supply chain that would be affected

- Chemicals (fertilizers/pesticides)
- Transport
- Packaging
- Modernization of farmers
- Supermarkets
- Restaurants/canteens
- Transport
- Local consumers