Careers in sustainable food and farming
Do you want to work in a climate and nature friendly role? Do you want to influence and shape a progressive food system?

The sustainable food movement has a range of roles and careers suiting all skills and experience.

When you understand that the current food system is broken; built on unfair practices that are harming our planet and the people and animals living on it, one positive step you can take is to join the workforce leading change.

From agroecological agriculture to food policy there are many career paths across NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and charities, SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises), local and national government, academia and community and civil society organisations working towards a more sustainable food system.

Who is the guide aimed at?

If you’re new to the jobs market, you might not know exactly what you want to do. That’s ok! This guide sets out options to help you follow your passions, amplify your skills and make a meaningful contribution to the planet. At the end of the resource there are useful next steps to get your job search going.

If you’re a career changer, welcome! Linear career paths are a thing of the past and there’s a lot to be said for utilising transferable skills and life experience whilst gaining satisfaction working in a role that aligns with your values. Explore this resource to see what jobs and organisations appeal to you to identify what transferable skills you could utilise and what areas there are for development.

If you work in a careers service, the guide provides an overview of a growing and diverse sector. It can be used to inform students and engage with relevant organisations.

The guide is split into 5 sections:

- Sustainable farming and food production
- Food provision, including hospitality and retail
- Food policy, programmes and campaigns
- Food and health
- Sustainable food education and research

Each section lists a few sample roles that provide a snapshot within a constantly evolving sector. There are many routes into the world of sustainable food and farming and at the end of each section there is signposting to education, training, skills development and volunteering as well as some organisations to check out.

From food production to consumption, the skills and knowledge required to work in sustainable food cut across all disciplines. If you’re a budding tech bro or a thriving academic – everyone can have a positive impact in the good food movement! You also do not need to be a sustainable food expert - core roles such as operations, finance, marketing and HR are required in all organisations, so everyone can use their skills and experiences in this sector.
Ethnic diversity in the sustainable food movement

The sustainable food and farming sector has one of the least ethnically diverse workforces in the UK which can present challenges for many new entrants to the sector as well as for people of colour already in it.

The 2023 RACE Report showed that only 6% of the workforce in environment and conservation charities are people of colour or from racially/ethnically minoritised groups, compared to 15% of the working population. Across the entire agriculture sector this figure drops to 0.02%.

Sustain is committed to progressing racial justice in the sustainable food and farming movement and has a dedicated diversity outreach project working on this. The priorities of this work are:

• Supporting organisations to develop their work on anti-racism, diversity and inclusion so that people of colour can enter and stay in the sector.

• Amplifying opportunities in Black and people of colour led organisations and celebrating and showcasing the work of people of colour in the work.

• Informing more people of colour about the sector and the roles in it.

For more information on this work email: sustain@sustainweb.org
Why a career in sustainable food and farming?

The growth in targets to reduce the environmental impact of food production, such as achieving net zero and meeting Sustainable Development Goals has made sustainable food a growing sector for green jobs and investment.

We define the sustainable food and farming sector by organisations that are proactively working towards a greener and more equitable future. This includes parts of the agri-food industry of agriculture, manufacturing, wholesale, retail and catering.

The sector also features charities and organisations that work on sustainable food issues from community growing to food policy. Often these organisations advocate for radical change, challenge the status quo or propose an alternative food future. We typically do not include corporate businesses that produce food in unsustainable ways or that have a negative impact on consumer health and the planet.

By working in the sustainable food and farming sector you can play a part in creating access to affordable, healthy and nutritious food for all citizens. That in turn can tackle health inequalities, food insecurity and socioeconomic conditions that impact the lives of many, as well as enabling environments and habitats to thrive.

It’s worth being aware that being a growing sector brings the dual challenge of fewer entry level jobs and lower rates of pay. We advocate for paying people fairly – and paying them well – as the work done in this movement is transformative and requires talented and committed individuals.

You may also need to consider location. Many third sector roles are in London and the South and agriculture roles will typically be in more rural communities. Exploring what the jobs market looks like can help you make some crucial decisions early in your job-hunting process. Look at who is currently recruiting on the Roots to Work website for a useful snapshot.

Did you know?

- The UK agriculture sector provides half of the food we eat.
- 71% of the UK’s land is used for agriculture (of which only 3% is organic farming).
- The agri-food sector contributes 6.3% to the UK economy.
- 35% of the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions come from food and drink.
- Nearly two thirds of the UK public (61%) worry food production will be impacted by climate change, according to a 2023 poll by YouGov.
- The UK has an ambition to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with the National Farmers Union aiming to reach that target as a sector by 2040.
- In the UK the average age of a farmer is 59 and the ageing population is leaving the sector without a resilient workforce to produce our food.

You’ll find regular job postings on our jobs website www.rootstowork.org and Instagram @rootstowork as well as role profiles, employability support and more.
Sustainable farming and food production

Food production takes place in farms, gardens, business premises, warehouses and factories. Beyond the physical act of growing and producing food there are many related roles including the people making decisions about the most sustainable ways to produce food.

Agriculture and fishing

Agriculture is the industry of rearing livestock or managing arable and horticultural crops, grasslands and woodlands. Sustainable farms or fisheries are ones that practice agroecology (using sustainable, organic and/or regenerative practices) and do not intensively rear animals or fish. Jobs span land and farm management, logistics, procurement, farming, fishing and growing. Most roles will be in rural areas but there are a growing number of farms in urban fringes.

Horticulture

Horticulture is the part of the agriculture industry responsible for growing vegetables, fruits and ornamental plants. Sustainable workplaces include gardens and farms that do not rely on monocrops and where crop management has a positive impact on the land and environment such as agroecological farms and community supported agriculture. This sector is popular with career changers who often enter via work-based training or entry level apprenticeships.

**farmer**
manage land, crops and livestock, use equipment and technology, engage with the market

**fisheries officer**
manage fish stock and their habitat, look after environmental concerns

**agronomist**
advise farms on soil health including nutrients and pesticides in the soil to ensure food crops can be grown as efficiently as possible

**animal nutritionist**
plan and manage diets of animals on farms using data and software to ensure peak productivity

**gardener**
manage, plan and maintain garden spaces, grow plants and flowers

**grower**
similar to a gardener but with a focus on growing food

**project coordinator**
combine practical and operational experience to coordinator other activities in the space

**market seller**
work in the supply chain to create links between suppliers and the wholesale or retail market
Community growing

Community growing crosses over with horticulture as it focuses on growing food, however it is usually smaller scale and more focused on people and benefits to communities. Community growing is a foundation of the sustainable food system as it usually includes how to grow and nurture crops free from chemicals or intensive intervention to supplement people’s weekly food needs. Community gardens focus on growing food as well as social engagement, wellbeing and the environment which requires different skills and experience to horticulture.

Logistics and operations

Once food is produced gets to consumers via a supply chain. A sustainable food supply chain reduces detrimental impact on the environment whilst upholding social and ethical values. This can include processing, packaging, transportation, distribution and research.

There are many roles that allow those with technical or logistical skills to combine their passion for sustainability with their expertise. In addition, the public sector procures a huge amount of food for schools and hospitals, with a range of opportunities to improve their sustainability. Sustain's alliance see this whole area as a real area of growth in the sustainable food system.

**community gardener**

maintain community gardens and growing spaces in a community setting, more interaction with the public and through events or education

**gardeniser**

a ‘garden organiser’ running a community garden or growing space that cultivates people and cultivates crops

**gleaning coordinator**

assist with the planning, leading, and follow-up of gleaning activities that harvest excess stock

**education worker**

work in a school or community setting educating people about growing, plants and the environment

**warehouse operative**

work in food production or manufacturing in line with food hygiene and health and safety requirements

**software developer**

support business efficiency through software systems, can focus on aspects of sustainable development

**operations manager**

oversee the logistics and operations of any type of organisation, requires a broad skill set

**sales executive**

help get goods to market, liaise between production and distribution, needs solid product knowledge
Getting into sustainable farming and food production

A degree is not compulsory in many roles. If you’re considering a degree, be aware that many are generalised across the wider food system and may not focus on sustainable food production. You might want to compliment such learning with shorter courses or personal learning on sustainable techniques and processes.

- **Volunteering**: look out for opportunities at local gardens or farms or through work away schemes like WWOOF.

- **Short courses**: check what your local authority or college provides as well as some of the organisations listed below and at the end of the guide.

- **Further and higher education courses**: some relevant disciplines include:
  - Agriculture
  - Agricultural Science
  - Agriculture for Sustainable Development
  - Horticulture
  - Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production or Food Security

Organisations that provide information, training and jobs

Organisations including Landworkers’ Alliance, Land In Our Name (LION) and Shared Assets have programmes that support new entrants, particularly those from backgrounds and identities underrepresented in the sector, to get into land-based work. Many of the others listed offer information, training or job listings.

- **Black Rootz**: multi-generational growing project that provides opportunities for Black and minoritised communities to learn and share growing expertise.
  → [www.ubele.org/our-work/black-rootz](http://www.ubele.org/our-work/black-rootz)

- **Capital Growth**: A long standing network for community gardens in London that hosts training and events and shares opportunities.
  → [www.capitalgrowth.org](http://www.capitalgrowth.org)

- **FarmEd**: training and education on agroecological farming.
  → [www.farm-ed.co.uk](http://www.farm-ed.co.uk)

- **Future Gardeners**: training and work experience scheme to gain entry level jobs in horticulture.
  → [www.bost.org.uk/future-gardeners](http://www.bost.org.uk/future-gardeners)

- **Landex Jobs**: Jobs website for the land-based education sector.
  → [www.landbasededucationjobs.co.uk](http://www.landbasededucationjobs.co.uk)

- **Land In Our Names (LION)**: resources and training on land, growing and justice.
  → [www.landinournames.community](http://www.landinournames.community)

- **Landworkers’ Alliance**: outlines of agroecological pathways for land-based roles.
  → [www.landworkersalliance.org.uk/agroecological-pathways](http://www.landworkersalliance.org.uk/agroecological-pathways)

- **Lantra**: provides training, qualifications and careers guidance for land-based industries in the UK and Ireland.
  → [www.lantra.co.uk](http://www.lantra.co.uk)

- **Permaculture**: exploration of what is permaculture plus regular events and training.
  → [www.permaculture.co.uk](http://www.permaculture.co.uk)

- **Shared Assets**: training, resources and research on land access.
  → [www.sharedassets.org.uk](http://www.sharedassets.org.uk)

- **Social Farms & Gardens**: runs a Gardeniser training programme covering the unique combination of skills to run a community garden.
  → [www.farmgarden.org.uk/our-work/gardeniser](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/our-work/gardeniser)

- **Social Farms & Gardens**: growing-related jobs board.
  → [www.farmgarden.org.uk/jobs](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk/jobs)

- **Soil Association**: source of useful information plus they host regular events and webinars and have regular job listings.
  → [www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org)

- **The Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture (TIAH)**: careers advice and guidance including learning opportunities, jobs search and skills development.
  → [www.tiah.org](http://www.tiah.org)
Many people join the sustainable food movement through their love of cooking, serving and eating food and a commitment to a healthier planet and population. This might be through setting up a business or project that focuses on your passion, working for an ethical food or retail business, or being based in the community.

**Entrepreneurship**

If you’re a creative, solutions-focused individual you might see a gap in the market that you can plug. Perhaps you want to open a real bread bakery or plant-based cafe in your area or create an oat drink made from locally grown crops. Apps and services like Olio and Ooooby have been entrepreneurial business ideas that are good for the planet. Whatever your idea there might be investment opportunities for it. To get started look for entrepreneurship support and mentoring programmes from organisations like Impact Hub.

**Community**

Community food provisions include community kitchens, food pantries, cookery schools and outreach education programmes. To find opportunities that are focussed on sustainability look for organisations focused on organic, local, seasonal and plant-forward (plant-based or limited meat, eggs and dairy) foods. These roles often include engaging with the public and require good communication and people skills.

- **founder**
  - a visionary who sets up a business or social enterprise, usually creative and dynamic person

- **social entrepreneur**
  - a founder that specifically creates an enterprise with a social goal e.g. community interest company or coop

- **chief officers**
  - a variety of senior roles in startups that focus on different areas of expertise

- **community chef**
  - deliver food-related programmes and activities with or for the community e.g. community meals or cookery classes

- **co-op member**
  - a democratic role within a food co-operative that can specialise in an area of expertise e.g. baking, front of hour or administration

- **food project coordinator**
  - deliver and develop a project that engages community members through food
Hospitality and retail

There are many jobs working in small or medium-sized businesses that focus on sustainable food such as cafes, restaurants and shops. These roles can be good routes into working in the sector. This could be in your local low waste shop or farm-to-fork restaurant or it could be for a high-end greengrocer like Natoora which provides seasonal produce from suppliers to hospitality. Many organisations offer opportunities for learning and development as well as a range of roles from on the floor to behind-the-scenes.

head chef
plan and execute a sustainable menu, create food policy, manage kitchen, staff and health and safety

sales assistant
provide sales service to customers with passion and knowledge, a good starting point to grow in a business

distributor
responsible for getting goods to the market, growing business and developing relationships

sustainability manager
design, monitor and evaluate processes to assess the sustainability of an organisation

Getting into food provision

In formal training or education you could study a generalised course that can be applied to a sustainable food setting e.g. culinary skills. This is where lifelong learning and personal development comes in as many roles will be based on softer or transferrable skills. You will probably have already realised there isn’t a typical linear path into much of this sector.

• Volunteering: community food projects and charities are a great place to learn e.g. FoodCycle and The Felix Project or search for community kitchens in your area.

• Short courses: check what your local authority or college provides as well as some of the organisations listed below and at the end of the guide.

• Further and higher education courses: some relevant disciplines include:
  - Business Management
  - Culinary Arts
  - Community Education

Organisations that provide information, training and jobs

• Food Standards Agency: provides free training for community food organisations on essential elements including allergens and food safety. → www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/training-for-charity-food-providers

• Open Food Network: training and support for community food enterprises, food hubs and producers. → about.openfoodnetwork.org.uk/open-my-shop/

• School of Artisan Food: teaches people about healthy, sustainable and delicious food and offers a range of training courses including degrees. → www.schoolofartisanfood.org

• Slow Food in the UK: connects grassroots organisations that focus on community and environment including chefs, businesses and academics. → www.slowfood.org.uk
The sustainable food movement works to influence the wider food system for the benefit of land, environment, habitats, people and animals. Change can happen through policy development, campaigning and running relevant programmes and projects. Therefore, jobs focussed on sustainable food and farming sit in several settings including government, charities, communities and business. The roles across the sub-sectors will overlap, for example you will find policy roles in government, the third sector and community organisations.

**Government**

Local and national governments create and enact policy and decision-making across society. Roles within these bodies typically follow a particular mandate or strategy with civil servants and officials having the ability to shape and influence policy.

Sustainable food activities are most prevalent in health, particularly public health and nutrition, environment, rural affairs and education remits but also appears in less expected places such as advertising, procurement and economic development. There is an emerging world of regional food partnership coordinators with roles being created through the growth of Sustainable Food Places.

**policy advisor**

develop and deliver policy on a specialist area such as food, farming, environment or health

**food partnership coordinator**

build a network of individuals, businesses and community organisation to create a local good food movement

**sustainability data specialist**

improve the performance of an initiative or project to meet environmental or sustainability goals

**social research officer**

support policy development through research projects, manage research teams and projects
Third sector

NGOs (non-governmental organisations), charities and non-profits make up the third sector (outside of public and private sectors). In sustainable food and farming these include policy, campaigning and development organisations of all sizes including Sustain – and its 100+ alliance members – Feedback, the Food Foundation and Landworkers’ Alliance to name a few. If there’s a part of the sustainable food system you want to get involved in, identify several organisations working in that area and see what skills or experience you might need to join them.

Community

A lot of the work done in sustainable food and farming directly engages with communities at a grassroots level. This will have some overlap with the third sector including community interest companies, cooperatives and smaller charities. This might include food partnerships, community groups and education provision. Sustainable food partnerships are a growing part of the sector, bringing together organisations to collaborate on food policy and delivery at a local level – find out more in the organisations section below. Volunteering can be a good way to get started in the community, especially to explore the variety of organisations, roles and campaigns.

campaigner
create and execute campaigns that advocate for a more sustainable food system, involves research, writing and communications

fundraiser
research and write funding bids, develop project budgets, write engaging copy

project coordinator
develop and deliver a thematic project such as sustainable farming or children’s health

director
senior leadership role to oversee strategic direction of policies and campaigns, manage teams and budgets

campaigner
create and execute campaigns that advocate for a more sustainable food system, involves research, writing and communications

fundraiser
research and write funding bids, develop project budgets, write engaging copy

project coordinator
develop and deliver a thematic project such as sustainable farming or children’s health

director
senior leadership role to oversee strategic direction of policies and campaigns, manage teams and budgets

participation worker
actively engage with the community to involve them in the design and delivery of a service

membership coordinator
build and maintain a network of supporters and donations through communications and member benefits

food education facilitator
educate and train communities and businesses on healthier and more sustainable food options

volunteer manager
recruit, train and manage volunteers to support a project or campaign
Getting into food policy, programmes and campaigns

Many people join this sector after gaining transferable experience in another sector or they develop in different relevant roles in the sector. This means that people with any discipline in higher education could move into sustainable food and farming work. Yet a degree is not compulsory – always look at the roles you're interested in and see what they require. Many charities offer entry level roles, where people can gain and develop skills.

- **Volunteering**: look out for opportunities at charities and NGOs across the sector.
- **Short courses**: check what your local authority or college provides as well as some of the organisations listed below and at the end of the guide.
- **Further and higher education courses**: relevant disciplines include:
  - Anthropology of Food
  - Food Economics
  - Food Policy
  - Food Security and Climate Change
  - Public Policy
  - Sustainable Food Systems
  - Sustainable Leadership

- **Centre for Food Policy**: runs an MSC in Food Policy as well as PhD and CPD programmes. → [www.city.ac.uk/research/centres/food-policy](http://www.city.ac.uk/research/centres/food-policy)

- **IFSTAL**: Interdisciplinary Food Systems Teaching and Learning programme can be completed alongside a degree at a selection of universities in England. → [www.ifstal.ac.uk](http://www.ifstal.ac.uk)

- **Networks and events**: connecting with people already working in the space through events, networks, LinkedIn and social media can be a really valuable route in. Regular food policy conferences in London are held by organisations including the Westminster Food Policy Forum and the World Public Health Nutrition Association.

Organisations that provide information, training and jobs

- **Defra**: the Department for Food Environment and Rural Affairs outlines several roles and what competencies are required for them. → [www.defrajobs.co.uk/roles/](http://www.defrajobs.co.uk/roles/)

- **Food for Life**: hosts a learning and skills hub spanning community food to health and nutrition. → [www.foodforlife.org.uk/skills](http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/skills)

- **Sheila McKechnie Foundation**: third sector training with a focus on campaigning. → [smk.org.uk/what-we-do/campaign-training/](http://smk.org.uk/what-we-do/campaign-training/)

- **Sustain**: as an alliance of over 100 organisations of all sizes and focus from health to climate there are regular jobs and opportunities across the movement. Explore organisations individually at → [www.sustainweb.org/membership](http://www.sustainweb.org/membership)

- **Sustainable Food Places**: a network of around 100 food partnerships across the UK made up of organisations working with and for their local community. Find out more about food partnership roles. → [www.sustainablefoodplaces.org](http://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org)

- **TABLE**: a food systems platform that lists jobs, research opportunities, courses and events → [www.tabledebates.org/opportunities](http://www.tabledebates.org/opportunities)
Public Health

Public health is focused on preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting good health, using a wider determinants of health approach which aligns with many of the campaigning organisations working in the sector. Often the focus is on higher risk groups such as people (with certain health conditions,) from specific ethnic or socioeconomic groups, or localities.

Jobs can be found through the typical routes of the NHS and local government as well as through charities and NGOs such as Sustain, British Heart Foundation, Obesity Health Alliance and Cancer Research.

Many health professional focus on diet and food therefore there is scope to consider access to healthy and nutritious food. More generalised roles might have a limited link to the food system, however working in a clinical setting e.g. as a dietitian or registered nutritionist is a great way to get experience that can be transferred to campaigning or policy work. Sustainability of diets is often incorporated into nutrition and dietetic degrees now so it is part of the general remit of these roles, as is cultural competency and food insecurity.

Food and heath

Public health practitioner
develop and implement strategic plans and interventions to improve the health and wellbeing of a population

consultant
lead and oversee services and teams, deliver on policy commitments

campaign lead
advocate for change in a specific health-related area such as diabetes or obesity, involves research and communication

researcher
conduct research and analyse data that can improve health indicators and influence policy
Nutrition

Someone with a nutrition background could work in food policy, campaigning, research or in the development of sustainable products. While the title of nutritionist is not currently regulated, people with appropriate degrees can register with the Association for Nutrition. Dietitians are qualified and regulated health professionals with a protected title, registered with the HCPC.

Within the sustainable food system, roles might look at the diets of particular groups within society to ensure that diets are culturally appropriate and inclusive, as well as advising on diets for individuals, institutions or populations which are health-promoting as well as planet-friendly. The British Dietetic Association’s One Blue Dot project supports dietitians to provide evidence-based dietary guidance with is synonymous with health and sustainability.

**Getting into food and health**

Most roles will require an undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline. There are postgraduate routes in too but that is not typically compulsory. Once qualified there are a range of national professional bodies you can join for further training and support e.g. the British Dietetic Association. There are entry level roles such as assistants that do not require a degree.

- **Volunteering**: it can be worthwhile getting voluntary experience in a relevant field before you apply for a degree course, for example through charities and community groups that focus on health outcomes.
- **Further and higher education courses**: some relevant disciplines include:
  - Dietetics
  - Medicine
  - Nutrition
  - Public Health
- **Apprenticeships**: within public health and nutrition there are integrated degree apprenticeships that combine on-the-job training with studying for a relevant degree. For more information visit → [www.instituteforapprenticeships.org](http://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org)
- **NHS routes**: there is plenty of information available on careers in public health through the NHS. → [www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)
- **Societies and groups**: with a relevant qualification you can join professional bodies that have networking opportunities like the Nutrition Society and Association for Nutrition. → [www.nutritionssociety.org](http://www.nutritionssociety.org) → [www.associationfornutrition.org](http://www.associationfornutrition.org)

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**nutritionist**

provide information to communities or individuals on the benefits of healthy diets, as well as working in the food industry and academia

**dietitian**

clinically trained to assess, diagnose, treat and prevent dietary and nutritional problems at an individual and wider public-health level

**policy lead**

utilise practical experience to develop policy in a sustainable food and health context
Sustainable food education and research

Education and research on sustainable food systems is typically done within higher education institutions and has a role in influencing policy and decision-making, helping to innovate and develop evidence of what works. This can be focused on the UK movement or the wider global food system and can range from science to public policy. There are also education jobs across other parts of the sector where individuals are educating others on sustainable food systems – we call this outreach.

Academia

Academia covers teaching, learning and research at a higher education (university) level and will often include postgraduate research studies. Institutions range from land-based universities and colleges that provide practical skills to those that focus on the global food system and public health. Academics can work in dual roles where one is focused on study and research and the other may be putting that research into practice.

**Lecturer**

Teach and research in disciplines such as food systems, food policy, sustainability and agriculture.

**Research fellow**

Collect and analyse data to provide evidence and tools to improve the food system.

**Programme administrator**

Develop and deliver student services in a specific school so that all teaching activities run effectively.
Outreach

Education programmes targeting communities on sustainable food systems range from facilitating school groups at community farms to developing engagement programmes with targeted groups such as young people, older people or those who are homeless or in prison. These are usually run by charities, social enterprises or local government. If you are skilled at communications and engagement, then working in outreach education is a rewarding way to connect with people to make meaningful change.

**outreach worker**

engage with community members to develop or deliver a programme, often targeted to reach underrepresented or minoritised groups

**trainer**

develop and deliver training programmes that inform and inspire people and organisations on sustainable food and related issues

**service manager**

run a service that provides learning and education opportunities for a particular group or organisation

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### Getting into sustainable food education and research

To work in academia or research you will usually need an undergraduate degree. Some roles may be paid research positions whilst completing a PhD or masters. At a community level there is more opportunity and flexibility, and volunteering and training are great routes in.

- **Volunteering:** in community food spaces or charities that are working on sustainable food can be a good stepping stone. Or get experience doing education work in another field that is transferable to this movement.

- **Further and higher education courses:** some relevant disciplines include:
  - Public Policy
  - Sustainable Food Systems
Ready to kickstart your career in sustainable food and farming?

Hopefully this guide has informed and inspired you about career options available to you. Our recommended next steps:

- Explore job listings further to see what appeals to you. Look at jobs on Roots to Work to see what experiences and skills you need and consider how to develop those.

- Create and maintain a LinkedIn profile. Use it to connect with others in relevant fields, follow organisations you’re interested in and find out about events.

- Sign up for weekly job alerts on www.rootstowork.org

- When you start to apply, adapt your CV and cover letter to each job. It takes time but it will make you stand out from the crowd. Make sure you explain why you are the right person for the role.

- Get experience through volunteering if possible. It can be a great way to learn and meet interesting people. It can also help you determine what you do and don’t want to do.

- Look for mentoring or coaching opportunities from people or organisations already in the sector.

- Sign up for newsletters from organisations you’re interested in. To find out about opportunities and also as a great source of learning.

Other useful resources

**Careermapper**: website and digital magazine providing careers guidance to students, grads, parents and career advisors.
[www.careermapper.co.uk](http://www.careermapper.co.uk)

**LinkedIn**: connect with people working in sustainable food and farming, search for training, events and blogs and demonstrate your skills, experience and what roles you are looking for.
[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

**FutureLearn**: free and affordable topic-based self-directed online learning including a course on sustainable food systems.
[www.futurelearn.com/courses/future-food](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/future-food)

**National Careers Service**: search by job role or sector to find information on job functions, pay, progression, skills and routes in.
[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

**Roots to Work**: the home of sustainable food jobs in the UK including job listings, blogs on people working in sustainable food and farming, and resources to support you into the movement.
[www.rootstowork.org](http://www.rootstowork.org)

**Tasty Careers**: links to food and drink courses across colleges, universities and training providers.
[tastycareers.org.uk/courses](http://tastycareers.org.uk/courses)

**The Skills Network**: range of free online core skills training including many transferable skills.
[www.theskillsnetwork.com](http://www.theskillsnetwork.com)
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About Sustain

Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming, advocates food and agriculture policies and practices that enhance the health and welfare of people and animals, improve the living and working environment, enrich society and culture, and promote equity. It represents around 100 national public interest organisations working at international, national, regional and local level.

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About Roots to Work

Roots to Work is a platform to advertise and find sustainable food jobs in the UK. It provides information, support and signposting on careers in the sector for jobseekers and employers.

www.rootstowork.org