

Food Growing on Housing Estates: a resource sheet

March 2023

Sustain is the alliance for better food and farming. We represent over 100 food and farming organisations. This resource sheet was compiled by London's food growing network, Capital Growth, to support more community gardens across London to donate their surplus produce successfully.

Food growing and community gardening initiatives on London's housing estates achieve multiple benefits for local residents and their communities from promoting health, wellbeing and community cohesion to creating greener spaces and increasing local biodiversity.

Capital Growth hosted a **Community Food Growing Convo** on Tuesday 24 March 2023 to discuss challenges and opportunities around resident-led food growing projects on London's housing estates. We've compiled this resource sheet to make it easier for more community and resident groups to know how to access land for growing their own food.

Best Practice examples of food growing on estates in London

- **Southwark Council** is supporting residents on Southwark housing estates who would like to grow food in new growing spaces or community gardens. Southwark's Community Gardening Coordinators will help groups of 5 residents or more to look at potential sites and develop projects. [More information about how to apply can be found here](#) and by contacting communitygardening@southwark.gov.uk.
- **Hackney Council** Housing team is providing estate residents with materials and support to access land for setting up food growing project on estates. Contact Alice McCreadie for more information on: alice.mccreadie@hackney.gov.uk
- **Incredible Edible Lambeth** led the Grow Back Greener Estates project 2020-2022 with six local housing estates. Contact Orsetta for more info: orsetta.horquet@incredibleediblelambeth.org
- **Arbor**, a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisation, supports resident groups create food gardens on their housing estates, and links these

resident groups with housing associations for funding and further support. Contact founder Ellie Pritchard on: ellie@arborprojects.co.uk

- **The Love Garden, N17**, an estate food growing project initiated by local resident and parent Sandra Salazar behind the project [Go Grow With Love](#). Contact Sandra on info@gg-grow.org.uk

Publications and resources

Sustain's publication [Growing Round the Houses](#) – Food Production on Housing Estates.

[Incredible Edible Lambeth's template of engagement](#), a toolkit proposing a transformative way of considering land on our estates and enabling residents to engage more fully with their space.

[Food Growing Toolkit for Councils](#) by Capital Growth and [Council Briefing](#) involving signposting and resources relating to food growing on housing estates.

[Free Digital Storytelling open access course about community food growing](#) with Open University to help document your growing project's social and environmental value.

Funding

Search for Community Funds and [Social Value](#) funding opportunities that may be available from your local council.

Check out the [Greater London Authority's Green and Resilient Spaces Fund](#).

Campaigns

Do you know about [Incredible Edible's Right to Grow](#) campaign? Find out more about this great campaign to change the rules and give people the right to grow food on suitable public sector land. [Join the campaign supporting the new Community Right to Grow bill here](#).