

Sustain annual conference

Making food and farming a priority in the Local and General Elections

#sustain23



Kath Dalmeny

Chief Executive, Sustain



Sustain conference | #sustain23

sustain

Fiona Harvey
Environment Editor,
The Guardian

Craig Bennett
Chief Executive Officer of
The Wildlife Trusts

Dee Woods
Food and Farming Actionist

**In conversation
with...**

(Chair) Orla Delargy, Head of Public Affairs, Sustain

Richard Sloggett, Founder, Future Health & former special advisor, Secretary of State for Health and Social care

Dev Sharma, Youth MP for Winchester and award-winning activist

Ali Plummer, Head of External Affairs and Advocacy, RSPB

Sarah Williams, Head of Greener UK Unit, Green Alliance

Panel

How to talk about food, farming and climate in an election year

Next year we
celebrate
25 years
of impact
and influence
in the food and
farming sector



Sofia Parente (Chair)
Head of Local Action, Sustain

Denise Bentley
Co-Founder & CEO, First Love Foundation

Ellen Pearce
**Farm-Start Coordinator,
Food Futures Network**

Kathy Lee
Senior Officer, Birmingham City Council

Andy Gold
**Head of Food Strategy, London
Borough of Newham**

Sustain conference | #sustain23

Panel

Making a difference locally

sustain

Healthy Start

Kathy Lee

kathy.lee@birmingham.gov.uk







Eat for Free (EFF)

In Newham, pre-Covid data showed 91% of KS2 pupils having a school meal, compared to 60% in comparable boroughs without a scheme and 49% before the scheme began. Today around 50% children are estimated to be in poverty but only around 30% qualify for a free school meal (FSM).

What are the benefits of EFF to our community?

1. HEALTH AND WELLBEING 2. EDUCATION 3. LOCAL JOBS AND ECONOMY (COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING)

On the curriculum
 Universal participation in meals normalises healthy eating as a core part of the school day – key as we face challenges such as obesity, oral health and food poverty

Less packed lunches
 Only 1.6% (nationally) of packed lunches meet the government's school meals nutritional standard. More cooked lunches eaten equals more children getting a healthier diet

Higher quality meals
 EFF schools all serve meals at the higher Food For Life Bronze standard – an independently certified standard

Every school 50 Steps
 EFF grant principles require all schools to participate in certified whole school accredited programmes on food and health. These are important tools driving engagement and investment in a healthier Newham

Disadvantaged pupils
 EFF has a marked difference amongst disadvantaged pupils

Concentration
 Pupils who eat a nutritious and filling daily meal have better levels of concentration

Performance & Attainment
 Most recent data indicates that the average primary attainment score (70.75) for all pupils in boroughs with a universal free school meal scheme is higher compared to neighbouring boroughs without the scheme (69). This trend is also prevalent in disadvantaged pupils in boroughs with a universal scheme (65.5) in comparison to boroughs without (61).

More time
 Time spent by parents preparing packed lunches can be better spent with children (e.g. with homework)

Local jobs
 86% of those who work in school meals are Newham residents

Benefits to Newham workers
 EFF schools are required to pay London Living Wage and local government pension. Grant conditions have successfully shaped schools' tenders this year

Benefits to the Newham economy
 Without EFF, providers can push for lower wages to generate corporate profits – less money for Newham residents, money leaving the borough

Rewarding careers
 A certified higher standard for meals makes it difficult for companies to squeeze down on working conditions and jobs which results in more working hours for Newham residents

Expanded grant conditions
 Work so far provides a platform for more innovation with schools co-producing work on community wealth building, food and health that benefits the whole borough

Re-investment potential
 Juniper Ventures is the school catering company that is 100% owned by the council. EFF requires schools to go out to tender on employment terms and conditions that creates a level playing field for all companies. Focus is on quality of offer when choosing a caterer. Any surplus made by Juniper is reinvested in school food or returned to the council

OTHER BENEFITS: ENVIRONMENT

Climate Now
 The grant requires schools to enrol in the Mayor of London Healthy Schools Programme Bronze and the Soil Association Whole School Food for Life accredited programme. In addition to health work, these programmes promote action on climate and environment

AT RISK

Over £2m in wages
 if schools are not required to pay London Living Wage and local government pension

384 hours of employment lost every day
 if school meal take up drops back to pre-EFF levels (over £1m of lost employment a year)

Anchored spend

We invest £5.889m*, but this keeps anchored all £14m** that our primary schools spend on meals.

* £3m Public Health Grant and £2.889m General Fund
 ** Our investment plus £8.5m Central government money (FSM at KS2 and UIFSM at KS1)

What's next?

There are 66 participating schools in the EFF programme. Continuing to evolve the grant conditions enables us to increase outputs that advance our agenda on children's health, education, climate and environment and community wealth building.



Whole Systems Approach To Food



Just Transition Plan for the London Borough of Newham

3-6-5: a plan towards 2030

Newham London ARUP Dm



Newham London

Community Wealth Building

For a fair and inclusive Newham

WHAT'S YOUR STEP?



Priority 6: Create a healthier food environment



JUNIPER VENTURES

Catering

Bringing more to the table

Learn More

newham.gov.uk



A vision for local food production in north Lancashire: our journey, challenges, opportunities and next steps

November 2023

The journey and visions:

LANCASTER FARMSTART 10 YEAR VISION

YEARS

1 Set-up and establish a 'sustainable farming business' to take forward the actions of the FarmStart feasibility study, including:
 - define an overall programme of short consultation visits to build local expertise and begin to network potential FarmStarters
 - create a local production/retailer cooperative to act in close coordination as a pilot programme for a better local 'wholesaler/distributor' system for small scale farmers
 - continue to work collaboratively and practically to gain access to land within the District to locate FarmStart sites

2 Further raise and set for funding to set up a full Lancaster FarmStart programme. Link with the Lancaster Sustainable Food Cities work to build a stronger local food economy.
 - convene a stakeholder group to plan local growing and ensure complementary

3 Set-up and establish a FarmStart training programme which:
 - provides access to training, development and mentoring on how to set up commercial food growing businesses
 - provides a flexible programme of resources, including individual sites for growing, shared tools/equipment, and a shared commercial growing plot
 - puts in place a formal mentoring system, building on local expertise
 - develops an 'on-call' mechanism to support FarmStarters to transition to set up individual or cooperative/commercial growing businesses

4 Is integrated with the local production/retailer organisations (mentioned above) which matches small scale producers to local markets
 - works synergistically with the stakeholder group (mentioned above) to crop plan and ensure complementary local growing
 - provide marketing support on behalf of the FarmStart programme

5 Establish an exemplar farm as a collaboration of the FarmStart programme, providing employment and acting as an exemplar for local sustainable farming.
 This will:
 - build up local production, to complement other local food producers and work in collaboration with the local stakeholder group
 - act as a training facility for future FarmStarters with diverse fulfilling mentoring and other roles
 - provide space for other complementary micro-businesses with access to commercial kitchens and other facilities
 - provide a 'home' for the FarmStart programme and continue to build the local food economy

6-10

Throughout, work closely with local stakeholders, including the Universities and local colleges, the existing local organic producers and sellers, the community growing projects and local potential producers including cafes, restaurants and large institutions and work within the Lancaster Sustainable City strategy and framework.

A strategic and practical approach to growing more local food and getting it to market



A tale of two counties
 Strengthening local food cultures through mapping supply chains in East Sussex and Lancashire

OUR FOOD FUTURES
 A COMMUNITY FOOD STRATEGY FOR NORTH LANCASTSHIRE

Challenges, opportunities and next steps

LANCASTER GUARDIAN News you can trust since 1837

News Submit Your Story Your Area Sport What's On Retro Lifestyle

BREAKING ies with toxic painkiller levels in system • November 2023 a secret s

News

22 projects in Lancaster and Morecambe celebrate getting share of £2.7m Government cash

A total of 22 local projects are celebrating receiving their share of Government cash totalling £2.7 million.

Funded by UK Government

Lancaster District Allotment Review

LESS Promoting Sustainable Living

FOOD FUTURES NORTH LANCASTER'S SUSTAINABLE FOOD NETWORK

Funded by UK Government

Food Hub feasibility work

FOOD FUTURES | CLOSING Loops

LESS Promoting Sustainable Living



AVIVA Community Fund About Explore Successes Resources Powered by Crowdfunder Apply

Where the Wildings Are! Let's get schools growing!

by Where the Wildings Are! in Lancaster, England, United Kingdom

Project Facebook X FoodFuturesLane @ foodfutures.northlancashire

Help us transform schools into hubs for food growing, wildlife.

We are transforming schools across Lancaster District into hubs that reverse climate change, biodiversity loss and food insecurity.

£4,060

£50,000 target 19 days left

8% 34 supporters

Follow Support

Lucia Monje-Jelfs
**Senior Policy Officer, Soil
Association**

Will White
**Sustainable Farming Coordinator,
Sustain**

Sam Hayward
**Food for the Planet Campaign
Officer, Sustain**

Kate Howard
**Children's Food Campaign
Coordinator, Sustain**

Sustain conference | #sustain23

Pitches

**What policy
solutions do we
have to help fix
the food system?**

**Supporting the UK's
production and consumption
of agroecologically grown
fruit and veg**

Enviromental Land Management (ELM) Schemes



Fairness in the Food Supply Chain



Planning for the Planet: Harnessing the planning system to save our rivers



www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk



sustain
the alliance for better food and farming

RECIPE FOR CHANGE

Calling for a new industry levy to help make our food healthier

Our call to action:

1. For government to build on the success of the SDIL by introducing a new levy on unhealthy food
2. For businesses to change the recipes of the food and drink that they sell to make them healthier for all of us
3. To invest revenue raised from the levy in children's health and access to good food

sustain



Impact
on **Urban**
Health



Contact: kate@sustainweb.org

Thank you

We hope you found
the event inspiring.

Please take a moment
to complete our event
feedback survey.

