**Taste a Better Future**

**Responses to questions about Lauriston Farm, Edinburgh and the Scottish context, August 2023**

This document sets out responses to the questions from Jason Jones, Portfolio Officer for the Climate Action Fund, relating to Local Partner Lauriston Farm (Edinburgh) and the Scottish context, including climate-related initiatives from the Scottish Executive and Edinburgh City Council. The following response has been provided by Lauriston Farm. This relates to the Taste a Better Future bid (20220295), led by Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming.

**In July 2023, BBC Radio 4 did a feature on Lauriston Farm as part of the On Your Farm series: *Feeding the city – and its dreams*. With on-site interviews with a range of people involved in the initiative, it describes Lauriston community farm’s land, vision, food-growing, afforestation, climate and nature commitments, community involvement and more:** [**https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001p6mg**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001p6mg)**.**

“The Taste a Better Future programme would offer Lauriston Farm the exciting chance to deliver new and expanded community engagement on nature and climate alongside a consortium of other peri-urban farms across the country. Delivering this project alongside similar organisations would offer important peer-to-peer learning opportunities to better enhance what we do and bring solidarity and connections in the food and farming sphere. The targeted focus of Taste a Better Future on the food and farming system, and the powerful ways in which we can communicate and engage on nature and climate issues using our land-based enterprises and food production as a collective platform is at the heart of what is important to us. The impact of Taste a Better Future would be transformational for Lauriston Farm enabling us to take our engagement to the next level and particularly deliver more outreach - going out into our community to train, educate and inspire.”

“The Scottish Executive have funding for a national network of Climate Action Hubs. Lauriston Farm have not directly applied to this fund but are one of 46 named organisations in a forthcoming bid by Scottish Communities Climate Action Network – a peer-to-peer support network established to support community-led action to address the climate and nature emergencies. The bid seeks to establish a hub in Edinburgh. The bid will offer support, public engagement and training on topics such as carbon literacy, it will host events and get-togethers, and establish shared resources such as e-bikes, 3D printers, e-vehicles, etc. Although Lauriston Farm is very supportive of this bid, our involvement will be peripheral and we are unlikely to receive support for our community-based climate and nature engagement activities beyond *ad hoc* funding for hosting trainings, and perhaps providing fresh produce for events.”

“In relation to Edinburgh Council's Community Climate Fund, we were awarded £20,000 in March 2023 to build an outdoor community kitchen and oven. The funding is paying for capital construction costs as well as facilitated workshop time for community engagement activities including: earthen building techniques to construct the kitchen and oven; cooking sessions and communal meal get togethers. These sessions will all be delivered in 2023 and we do not have funding to continue activities beyond this time.”

**If further information is needed, contact: Kath Dalmeny, Chief Executive of Sustain (****kath@sustainweb.org****); Charlotte Steel, Coordinating Group of Landworkers Alliance (****charlotte.steel@landworkersalliance.org.uk****).**