Food Links UK Summary

Food Links UK was established in 2002 as a network of organisations active in supporting the local food sector and working towards fairer, healthier more sustainable local food systems.

The aims of Food Links UK are:

- To act as lead advocate and influencer for the local food sector and its members at a national and European level
- To develop innovative policy linked to locally delivered action to enable the growth of the local food sector and its capacity to deliver effective change in local food systems
- To be an effective, practical and active link between members through information exchange
- To develop coordinated projects at national and regional levels
- To act as a focal point for fundraising for local food projects

Membership

There are currently 18 full member organisations of Food Links UK and 4 Associate Members.

Full Membership is open to organisations that typically work in a ‘particular place (usually county) that are taking practical action to make the food system of that place more sustainable. An important part of the definition is that sustainability includes environmental, economic and social sustainability.

Food Links organizations work on a wide range of projects with aims including reducing food miles, encouraging organic production, supporting small producers and small retailers, improving sustainability and quality of school meals, improving access to healthy diets for people on low incomes. A list of projects is available on our website.

Some of the longest standing Food Links have existed for 10 – 12 years and have built up an excellent reputation for innovation in the food system. Food Links are very much grass roots organizations and have emerged in particular places as a result of local initiatives.

Associate Membership is open to a limited number of National organisations that support local food initiatives. Current national members are F3 – the local food consultants, Soil Association, Sustain and Food Matters.