The food and farming systems which provide most of that food face a number of critical challenges in the years ahead:

- The ever more urgent problem of climate change. Worldwide, food and farming accounts for at least 30% of greenhouse gas emissions (and possibly much more than that).
- A food system that is highly reliant on cheap fossil fuels and extremely vulnerable to a number of economic "shocks" including peak oil.
- Food and farming systems that have become disconnected from most people, so that many lack basic skills or understanding of growing, preparing and cooking food. This adds to people's dependency on our fragile food system.
- Increasing diet-related health problems experienced by a growing proportion of the UK population.
A SUSTAINABLE RE-LOCALISED FOOD SYSTEM FOR SUPPLING AN URBAN AREA?

PRODUCE AND LAND

• 40 SMALL SCALE ORGANIC FARMERS IN ESSEX, KENT AND EAST ANGLIA
• URBAN MARKET GARDENS - 0.5 acre
- organically certified
- apprentice scheme
- volunteer programme

COMMUNITY LED FOOD TRADING SYSTEMS

BOX (BAG) Scheme
- Collection
- Community pick ups
- Strict buying policy (including wholesalers)

FARMER'S MARKET - only organic weekly market in UK

LOCAL COMMUNITY

• MEMBERS
• CUSTOMERS
• PARTICIPANTS
• VOLUNTEERS
• URBAN APPRENTICES
• STAFF
• MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
• PROCESSORS
• FARMERS (URBAN AND RURAL)

Our Key Principles

• The food traded should be:
  – Farmed and produced ecologically.
  – As local as practicable
  – Seasonal
  – Mainly plant based
  – Mainly fresh and minimally processed
  – From small scale operations

• And it should be distributed in a way which:
  – Supports fair trade
  – Involves environmentally friendly and low-carbon resource use
  – Fosters community
  – Promotes knowledge
  – Strives to be economically viable and independent
  – Is transparent and promotes trust throughout the food chain
WHY GROW SALADS AND LEAFY GREENS?

- Perishable/micro-nutrients/contrary position
- Labour intensive/use of machinery/small spaces
- Diversity of crops but uniformity of product
- High value
HOW MIGHT HACKNEY FEED ITSELF COME 2040?

LIVESTOCK SLOTTED IN WHERE IT MAKES SENSE IN ECOLOGICAL AND EFFICIENCY TERMS
Some of this year’s results are:

- The box scheme provided a key outlet for 25 small-scale organic producers and fruit and veg to over 450 households.
- 71% of veg and 21% of fruit came direct from local farms while 54% of fruit and 71% of vegetables were fairly traded.
- 780 bags of fruit and vegetables are packed each week – over 70 tonnes annually.
- The farmers’ market supported a further 18 producers and another 220 more acres of land were put into organic conversion.
- The average distance travelled by producers to the market is 56 miles and over 1,500 people shop there every Saturday.
- Annual turnover of producers at the market is £600,000.
- Salad production from our sites reached 230 bags per week this year.
• Yields were the equivalent of 21.6 tonnes per hectare per year and we generated just over £7000 from sales of Hackney grown produce.
• The turnover of the organisation as a whole for last year was around £290,000.
• 100% of that income was self-generated.
• We employ 17 part-time members of staff.
• 48 volunteers worked with us on a regular basis along with 2 Apprentice Growers.
• Apple Day attracted over 2,000 people while the Good Food Swap involved a further 250.
• Our last survey of Box Scheme members carried out last year showed that 89% of members either walk or cycle to pick up their bags while 93% are supplied with all, most or half (13%/56%/24%) of their weekly fruit and veg needs.