OrganicLea

- Workers coop (est. 2001) - 23 members
- NE London
- former council plant nursery
- Turnover £750K
Aims/Activities

• **We Grow:** Organic Market Garden & Plant Nursery

• **We Sell:** Box Scheme, Market Stalls, Restaurants

• **We Support Others to Do the Same:**
  - Volunteering Programme
  - Learning and skills
  - Outreach Gardening

• **We Work for Wider Change**
MARKET GARDEN CITY

PROJECT OVERVIEW

STAGE 2

An integrated proposal for two flagship projects leading London's future as a Market Garden City
OrganicLea’s Peri-Urban Horticulture Model

• Market Garden
Commercial fruit and veg production incorporating both trainees and volunteers alongside professional growers

• Horticulture Training Centre
Practical work based accredited learning
Training

• Volunteering Programme – 300+ / yr

• Horticulture Courses: City & Guilds Level 1 & 2
  - 108 trainees completing (2019)
  - 50% progressing onto employment or further learning

• Work Placements / Traineeships / Apprenticeship
OrganicLea Farm Start: Incubation & Support

- Access to Land
- Grower Mentoring
- Marketing Access & Support
- Some Capital
- Enterprise Support
Farm Start Challenges

- Access to Land & Capital
- Resources – For Farm Starters and Programme
- Tension between flexibility & structure
- Ensuring Progression/ Succession
- Generating Sustainable Livelihoods from “Real Farming”
Farm Start Successes / Triumphs

• Livelihoods, skills & enterprises
• Tonnes more local agroecological produce
• Sustained interest from all areas
• National Farm Start Network
Potential for Peri Urban Farming

- Huge demand – OrganicLea’s box scheme has grown from 350/wk to 750/wk in the last 3 years
- Local authority glasshouses and other suitable public land
- Partnership between London councils and county councils to support County Farms to supply London market
- Carbon sequestration and biodiversity through good land management
What next for OrganicLea?

• Expand our operation – find 30-50 acres of farmland
• Develop our vocational Training Centre for London supporting people into food growing livelihoods
• Work with others to pursue the Market Garden City vision