

#Sustain2020

Annual Conference

How can good food and farming lead the
economic recovery?



9 December 2020
Online

Chair's Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to our 2020 Annual Conference. This event will focus on putting food and farming at the heart of our economic recovery post COVID19.

Food, farming, and fishing sectors have the potential to deliver more jobs and better livelihoods. Therefore, we believe that these sectors must be front and centre in the UK's plans for a 'green recovery', as underpinned by [our report](#) published in September of this year.



It is my pleasure to introduce a fantastic line-up of speakers from across the sector, who will be sharing their expert insights into this event.

I would like to thank you all for attending and your continued support to Sustain in the last year.

Ben Reynolds
Deputy Chief Executive,
Sustain

Housekeeping

The event will take place on Zoom and a link will be sent to delegates prior to the start. We encourage attendees to download the Zoom desktop app.

Please note that this event will be recorded and attendees will receive the recording link after the event. The chat box and Q&A will also be downloaded.

Chatbox

We ask that attendees use the chat box for introductions, discussion and networking.

All enquires that are not direct questions for the speakers, such as the raising of technical issues or interaction with other delegates, should be posted via the chat box.

Q&A

The Zoom Q&A feature, at the bottom of your Zoom window, allows attendees to ask questions to the speakers during the conference.

As time permits, the speakers will answer as many questions as they can live. Questions that are "liked" are automatically sorted by their number. You can "Like" any question by clicking on the thumb icon below it.

Please note that unanswered questions will be wiped from the Q&A box before the next session. All questions will then be anonymised and collated after the event.

Please keep your questions brief and indicate if your question is aimed at a particular speaker.

Please note that Sustain reserves the right to dismiss any questions that are deemed inappropriate or offensive.

Twitter

Let's get the discussion going!

Use the hashtag [#Sustain2020](#) and follow us on [@UKSustain](#).



Agenda

#Sustain2020

14 .00 - 14.05

Chair's welcome

Ben Reynolds, Deputy Chief Executive, Sustain

14 .05 - 14.20

Introducing Sustain

- Overview of last year and looking forward to the future
- Celebrating the achievements of Sustain

Kath Dalmeny, Chief Executive, Sustain

14 .20 -14.45

Ministerial Address – *please note this will now be pre-recorded*

- Unpacking Defra's environmental recovery and overarching objectives post COVID-19
- Mapping out key government initiatives next year and beyond: ELM, fisheries, and sustainable farming

Victoria Prentis MP, Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food

14 .45 - 14.50

Sustain's take on food and the Economic Recovery

Overview of issues, drawing on Sustain's economic recovery briefing: how businesses can build in more healthy and sustainable practices

Ben Reynolds, Deputy Chief Executive, Sustain

14 .50 - 15.20

10x 2min pitches on food & farming ideas to support an economic recovery

- Ruth Westcott– Fishing
- Ben Raskin – Agroforestry
- Vicki Hird – Infrastructure and Investment
- Jim Aplin and Andrew Burgess - Organic Farming
- Chris Young – Honest Crust Act
- Lynne Davis – Open Food Network
- Devi Clark – Social Food Enterprise
- Chrissie Storry– Dynamic Procurement
- Morven Oliver-Larkin– Meals on Wheels
- Karen Luyckx – Ecofeed



Agenda

#Sustain2020

15.20 - 15:30

Break

Keep the discussion going on Twitter via #Sustain2020

15.30 - 16.20

Panel discussion – How can we best put sustainable food and farming at the heart of plans for an economic recovery?

- Sheila Dillon, Food Journalist (Chair)
- Carolyn Steel, Author and Architect
- Fatima Ibrahim, Co-Executive Director, Green New Deal
- Geetie Singh Watson MBE, Organic Entrepreneur
- Luke Pollard MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Defra
- Henry Dimpleby MBE, National Food Strategy lead

16.20 -16.30

Chair's Closing Remarks



Speaker Biographies

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Victoria Prentis MP
Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food,
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Victoria has a lifelong interest in farming, having grown up on a farm in Aynho, near Banbury. For seventeen years she was a lawyer for the Treasury Solicitors' Department and ultimately headed the Government's Justice and Security team. Victoria Prentis has been the Member of Parliament for North Oxfordshire since May 2015.

In February 2020, she became Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.



Luke Pollard MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs

Luke Pollard was elected as the Labour and Co-operative Member of Parliament for Plymouth Sutton and Devonport in June 2017, and re-elected in 2019.

Luke has been Labour's Shadow Environment Secretary since January 2020. Luke is an energetic fighter for Plymouth and the far south west to get its fair share of funding from Westminster - as well as fighting for fishing and farming, and tackling food poverty across the country.

Speaker Biographies

#Sustain2020

Henry Dimbleby MBE **National Food Strategy lead**

Henry Dimbleby was given the role of lead non-executive board member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in March 2018. In June 2019 the Environment Secretary appointed Henry Dimbleby to lead the National Food Strategy. Co-founder of the Leon restaurant chain and Sustainable Restaurant Association, he also co-authored The School Food Plan (2013), which set out actions to transform what children eat in schools and how they learn about food.



Geetie Singh Watson MBE **Organic Entrepreneur**

Founder of organic pubs and inns, Geetie has led the charge of sustainable hospitality, banning plastic water bottles, packaged bar snacks and air-freighted food back in the 1990s. Geetie's fourth organic pub, The Bull Inn, Totnes, opened in November 2019. In 2009, she was awarded an MBE for 'Services to the Organic Pub Trade', and has also been named Business Woman of the Year, Asian Woman of Achievement and Entrepreneur of the Year.

Speaker Biographies

Carolyn Steel **Author and Architect**

Carolyn Steel is a leading thinker on food and cities. A London-based architect and academic, she is the author of *Hungry City: How Food Shapes Our Lives* (2008) and *Sitopia: How Food Can Save the World* (2020).

Her concept of sitopia, or food-place (from the Greek sitos, food + topos, place) has gained international recognition across a broad range of fields in design, ecology, academia and the arts.



Fatima Ibrahim **Co-Executive Director, Green New Deal UK**

Fatima is a climate activist and social justice campaigner, the Co-Executive Director of Green New Deal UK and one of the commissioners on IPPR's Environmental Justice Commission.

Much of her previous work has been spent campaigning and building solidarity with international movements. She has worked for the global NGO Avaaz, EU citizens movement WeMove.eu and was one of the lead organisers of the People's Climate March.

Speaker Biographies

#Sustain2020

Kath Dalmeny
Chief Executive, Sustain

Kath is Chief Executive of Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming, since 2016 leading the alliance's response to Brexit and its profound implications for healthy and sustainable food, farming and fishing and developing the Campaign for a Better Food Britain.

During the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Kath has been the alliance lead on Food and Vulnerability, serving on numerous liaison and coordination groups to support the emergency food response at local and national level. She was instrumental with the Good Law Project and Doughty Street Chambers in launching a judicial review of the government's approach to children's holiday hunger during Covid-19.



Ben Reynolds
Deputy Chief Executive, Sustain

Since joining Sustain in 2004, Ben has helped launch the Food Power network and was a founding member of the Sustainable Food Cities network. Most recently he came up with the 50 Fountains Challenge (run in partnership with Refill), born out of the Sugar Smart campaign which he developed with the Jamie Oliver Food Foundation. He worked with Jamie Oliver's team to get the government to adopt a sugary drinks tax, and set up the award winning Children's Health Fund which piloted the levy with restaurants.

Speaker Biographies

#Sustain2020

Sheila Dillon **Food Journalist**

Sheila Dillon has been a food journalist for more than three decades. From New York, where she was an editor at Food Monitor magazine, she came to work on BBC Radio 4's The Food Programme, first as a reporter, then producer and now presenter. She has won numerous awards for her journalism, including the Glaxo science journalism prize, and honorary doctorates from City University of London, Harper Adams University, and the University of Chester. The City citation says the degree is awarded for her work, which "has changed the way in which we think about food."



Ruth Westcott **Campaign Coordinator, Sustainable Fish and the Climate and Nature Emergency, Sustain**

Ruth co-ordinates Sustain's work on Fishing and the Climate and Nature Emergency. She has run the Sustainable Food Cities campaign for six years, which has seen businesses serving about a billion meals per year sign up to a sustainable fish buying policy. Ruth was awarded the Fishmongers Company scholarship as part of her Masters at Imperial College.

Speaker Biographies

#Sustain2020

Ben Raskin
Head of Horticulture and Agroforestry, Soil Association

Ben Raskin has worked in horticulture for more than 25 years and has a wide range of practical commercial growing experience. For the Soil Association, he leads on their horticultural and agroforestry work. Ben is an author of gardening books for children and grownups. He is also currently implementing a 200-acre agroforestry planting in Wiltshire.



Vicki Hird
Head of Sustainable Farming, Sustain

Vicki Hird is an award winning author, expert, strategist and senior manager who has been working on environment, food and farming issues for over 25 years. As part-time Sustainable Farm Campaign Coordinator at Sustain, Vicki manages the farm policy and related campaigning and provides comment and guidance on these issues.

Speaker Biographies

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Andrew Burgess
Agricultural Director, RB Organic & Burgess Farms

Director and owner of Produce World & Founder of RB Organic, born and raised in vegetable farming, a strategic agronomist by profession. Andrew went to Shuttleworth Ag College and has since done 'every role you can think of in Fresh Produce'. He is a big fan of Environmental Farming, especially organic. Currently a Trustee of the Soil Association and Chair of NFU Organic Forum; he has served full terms on the NFU Horticulture Board, LEAF board, AHDB & British Carrot Growers.



Jim Aplin
Hotchpotch Organics

Jim has been a grower since 2000. He runs Hotchpotch Organics near Pershore with his partner, growing 1 Ha of mixed veg and flowers on a larger mixed organic farm, and selling mainly through Stroud Farmers' market. He is preparing to establish 40 acres of agroforestry on a new site, and is interested in different ways that growers and farmers can work together, including providing opportunities and support for new entrants.

Speaker Biographies

#Sustain2020

Chris Young
Campaign Coordinator, Real Bread Campaign,
Sustain

Chris Young has coordinated the Real Bread Campaign since March 2009. His work involves running the Campaign's international supporter network, creating and running initiatives including Sourdough September, Real Bread Week, Together We Rise (therapeutic/social baking), calling for an Honest Crust Act of better loaf labelling and marketing laws, and No Loaf Lost (surplus and waste reduction), as well as the Lessons in Loaf and Bake Your Lawn programmes for schools.



Lynne Davis
Chief Executive, Open Food Network (UK)

Lynne has a background in software, regenerative agriculture and food system policy. Following a career in software engineering in commercial and research sectors Lynne made building global food sovereignty her purpose and passion. She trained in biodynamic agriculture and has worked on a number of commercial livestock and vegetable holdings. She is the founder member and former manager of Dean Forest Food Hub – 2016 Finalist for the BBC Food and Farming Awards. She founded Street Goat in Bristol. Lynne has worked on agricultural policy with the Landworker's Alliance, La Via Campesina and the RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Commission. She is on the board of the Ecological Land Cooperative. Lynne has a BE in Software Engineering and an MSc in Agricultural Economics.

Speaker Biographies

#Sustain2020

Devi Clark
Managing Director, Impact Hub King's Cross

Devi Clark is Managing Director at Impact Hub King's Cross (IHKX), part of a global network of 100+ Impact Hubs. She has grown IHKX business start-up and growth activity five-fold, working to ensure that ethics is at the heart of our society and economy and welcoming a radically inclusive community by supporting under-represented entrepreneurs.

Devi is founder of the Outsiders' Network, ran TEDxAylesbury and has blogged at Huffington Post, Brazen Careerist and Third Sector. Her book, People, Planet, Passion, reached #2 for Amazon Kindle Nonprofit Organisations and Charities. Devi has an MA(Hons) from Edinburgh University and a PGC in Careers Guidance from UEL.



Chrissie Storry
Co-ordinator, Dynamic Food Procurement
National Advisory Board

Chrissie has a background in sustainable public sector procurement and more latterly in food procurement. She is the Co-ordinator of the Dynamic Food Procurement National Advisory Board which aims to promote and deliver a dynamic approach to food procurement enabling shorter and more agile supply chains into the public sector, thus enabling more SME providers into the procurement process with all the benefits that brings. She is also currently working with the South West Food Hub on the supplier and procurer engagement activities for CCS's Future Food Framework.

Speaker Biographies

#Sustain2020

Morven Oliver-Larkin
Campaign Coordinator, Food Poverty, Sustain

Morven coordinates Sustain's London Food Poverty Campaign which highlights and encourages sustainable responses to food poverty, particularly where they address the root causes of food poverty.

Prior to working at Sustain Morven's background was in the New Economy Movement, housing activism and environmental campaigning. She has organised grassroots campaigns with renters rights group the Tenants Union, worked on strategy development with the international student led movement Rethinking Economics, and has done community organising with Extinction Rebellion.



Dr Karen Luyckx
Head of Research, Feedback

Karen leads Feedback's investigative work on the environmental impact of conventional animal feed, such as soya, fish meal and fish oil, and alternatives, such as heat-treated surplus food. Karen also supports colleagues in ensuring they underpin Feedback's campaigns with the latest available scientific research, for example regarding the impact on soils of British sugar production and the true niche role for anaerobic digestion in a future where we have optimised renewable energy and food waste reduction.