



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

What is a community food initiative?

Community Food Initiatives foster communities where everyone has access to an equitable, inclusive, and thriving local food systems.

Here is an example...



Case Study

Community Food Initiatives

Project Background and Objectives:

Food Cardiff is a city-wide partnership of individuals and organisations which acts as a hub for connecting the people and projects working to promote healthy, environmentally sustainable and ethical food across the city. Acting as a voice for wider change, Food Cardiff believes that the food we eat has a huge impact on life in Cardiff and surrounding areas – not just on people's health, but on communities and businesses, farmers and food producers, and the environment too. Good food creates strong, healthy, resilient communities.

Since 2014, Food Cardiff's core funding has been provided by Sustainable Food Places with match funding from Cardiff & Vale Local Public Health Team and Cardiff Council. In 2021, Food Cardiff was awarded £150,000 from the Welsh Government EUT Food Poverty Grant to help develop, deliver and add capacity to a range of engaging food-based projects. This work is increasing access to affordable, healthy food and is better equipping people living in Cardiff with the skills, knowledge and confidence to lead healthy, sustainable lives.

During the last seven years, the initiative has developed and grown significantly, making a recognisable impact at a citywide level. In 2021, Cardiff achieved Silver Sustainable Food Places status, becoming the first place in Wales and one of only six places in the UK to achieve the prestigious accolade.

Food Cardiff is part of Food Sense Wales, which aims to influence how food is produced and consumed in Wales, ensuring that sustainable food, farming and fisheries are at the heart of a connected and prosperous food system. Food Sense Wales is Sustainable Food Place's national partner in Wales and supports Wales's five current members that include Food Cardiff, Food Vale, the Monmouthshire Food Partnership, RCT Food and the Blaenau Gwent Food Partnership. Food Cardiff now comprises over 200 individuals across more than 90 organisations and has a strategy board that includes a range of members.



By 2024 we want to see:

Goal 1:

A healthy Cardiff

Goal 2:

An environmentally sustainable Cardiff

Goal 3:

An empowering food movement

Goal 4:

A thriving local food economy

Goal 5:

A fair and connected food system

Project Challenges and Key Learnings:



[Veg Cities Video \(English Subtitles\)](#)

[Cardiff People's Food Assembly Outcomes](#)

[People's Food Assembly report](#)

The “food system” is a broad and often fragmented issue to tackle, with many people involved. For example Cardiff has almost 50 individuals, groups or organisations providing food aid, over 60 community growing projects and hundreds, if not thousands, of food businesses. There are at least 10 different Local Authority departments who are responsible for different parts of the food system.

It can be a challenge to know where to start, but Food Cardiff have found the Sustainable Food Places framework and resources really helpful to overcome this. Having a dedicated co-ordinator means they have been able to spend time developing relationships and building up the networks and infrastructure to work collaboratively. They take a co-ordinated and systematic approach to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where people live.

By building food networks and infrastructure through the Sustainable Food Places model, Food Cardiff can build a ‘good food movement’ and wider community food strategies that will benefit the health, economy, sustainability and social prosperity of communities across Wales.

Another challenge is that with the food system being so broad, there is a large diversity of opinion and priorities. For example, some neighbourhoods or organisations will be very interested in tackling food poverty, whereas others may focus more on supporting local ethical businesses.

By using co-design principles for the whole Good Food Strategy design process, Food Cardiff had over 90% consensus on the 12 proposed objectives and 5 Good Food Goals. The 5 Good Food Goals are open and flexible enough for everybody to engage with, no matter what background or interest. They are also piloting Good Food Neighbourhoods, where communities are developing their own good food plans to support the overall goals.

Future Plans:

Food Cardiff is now aiming for Cardiff to become one of the most sustainable food places in the UK – working towards the Gold Sustainable Food Places Award for 2024.

Food Cardiff and their partners will be delivering the ambitious Good Food Strategy 2021-24. They are launching a new website and campaign, to encourage individuals, groups and organisations to pledge action towards the 5 Good Food Goals. They want tens of thousands of people to be involved, to build a long-lasting good food movement.

Food Cardiff is also focusing on building further collaborations with other places in Wales. For example they are part of the Sustainable Food Places Wales cohort of 8 places, led by the Sustainable Food Places National Partner, Food Sense Wales. They are also working with Food Vale to co-ordinate a Cardiff and Vale Sustainable Food Procurement group across the two counties.

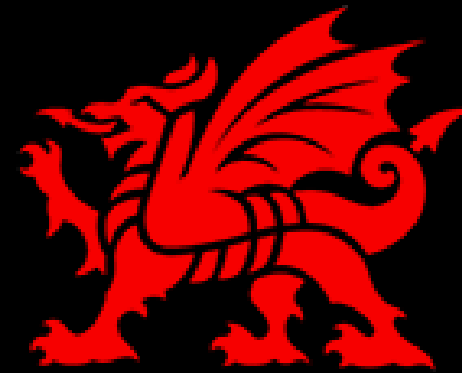
If you look at the work that's been done across the Food Cardiff partnership to change our food systems and deliver healthy, ethical and sustainable food for the people of Cardiff, it really is remarkable how much has been achieved since 2018, when we launched our commitment to achieving Silver, and ultimately Gold status for the city," says Cllr Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff Council.



foodcardiff.com



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*With thanks to Food Cardiff for
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