

JUST FACT

Just Food and Climate Transition 2021–2025

Creating the building blocks for an alternative food system that is environmentally sustainable, socially just and community led.





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FOREWORD



Cranbrook Community Food Garden

As MP for Poplar and Limehouse, I see every day the challenges that my constituents face with food. High housing costs, subsistence wages and the erosion of social security mean that many can't afford enough nutritious food to meet their needs. While the increase in food banks speaks to the strength of local action in response to local need, it also speaks to failures in the welfare safety net and the unfairness of the food systems we rely on.

Looking ahead, it's clear that new challenges are emerging for our communities. Housing that is unfit for extreme heat and cold, air pollution, flooding and vulnerable food supply chains are real threats to our health and stability in the coming decades.

Many Tower Hamlets residents have families in countries like Bangladesh, Somalia, Caribbean and Pakistan, where the devastating effects of global warming are already being felt.

In this context, it's vital to create a food system that is good for people and planet, and to rehearse organising together in our communities as we face these challenges.

Over the past five years, 26 local groups and organisations have demonstrated what life could look like if communities were to shape how their food is grown and accessed through the Just FACT programme.

With support from the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund, farms are now growing locally treasured food like khodu bottle gourds and uri beans, but without the air miles. Food Coops have

bloomed. Eco-civic hubs have been created powered by food waste. The next generation of climate leaders have been mentored. Local residents are calling for land to be owned by communities, a Right to Grow, and more and better employment for food workers. This year, we held our first Power of Food Festival, with hundreds coming together to celebrate our borough's food, community and activism, with a strong appetite to make this festival the first of many.

Food as a way to show care and solidarity is part of our culture in Tower Hamlets, as is our tradition of taking collective action as neighbours. I hope that colleagues in government, the Greater London Authority, and locally in Tower Hamlets can get behind the learning and recommendations in this report and the communities who are paving the way for a fairer, sustainable food system.

Apsana Begum

MP for Limehouse and Poplar





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ABOUT JUST FACT

Just FACT was a five-year partnership programme in Tower Hamlets, co-ordinated by Wen (Women’s Environmental Network) and funded by The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)’s Climate Action Fund. The programme has driven community-led research through Platform London, and delivered 26 projects – with local groups and organisations building and experimenting with ways to achieve a fairer food system in the face of our climate challenges.

Projects have created space for collective learning and action; building on the wisdom and skills that already exist in the borough’s gardens, community centres and kitchens. Some have also been building alternative models – that reimagine how food could be produced, sold and how waste could be managed locally.



Just FACT has explored the challenges and opportunities for change in an inner-city area like Tower Hamlets, and provides a wealth of case studies and examples about not only what can be achieved but how to get there in a way that is genuinely community-led.

We hope this report can provide inspiration and useful learnings to other groups and organisations across the UK working on community-driven food systems. The calls to action are intended to spark dialogue and mobilise responses from funders, policy makers, housing associations and developers. And most importantly we hope that this report conveys the incredible life force, creativity and strength of the people of Tower Hamlets.

 **Read our calls to action**
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 **Watch our video: 'Reclaiming our food system'**



Teviot estate residents join gardening session

WHY A JUST FOOD TRANSITION?



Veg is put into crates at Folx Farm

What would a world be like where everybody could access healthy, affordable food? How can we grow and eat food in ways that nourish us and the planet?

Food is at the heart of our lives. It's how we nourish ourselves and our families, how we connect with our communities and express our cultures. Whether it is through cooking, eating, buying or growing it, food affects everyone.

The current food system, including farming, transport and packaging, contributes to around 20% of global carbon emissions and is a major driver of biodiversity loss. We must transform our food system to meet climate goals and avoid catastrophic climate change.

At the same time it's an unjust system where far too many people – especially in Tower Hamlets – struggle to afford the healthy, affordable food they need. With climate change impacting food production, supply chains and food prices, this is likely to get worse. Residents are reliant on a centralised, profit-driven supermarket system, which benefits corporations not communities.

The key idea of a 'just' transition is that both the end goal, and the process to get there, must address economic and social inequalities. The Just FACT programme aims to centre the voices of those currently hit hardest by injustices in our food system to design solutions and take action.

What do we mean by a just transition in our food system?

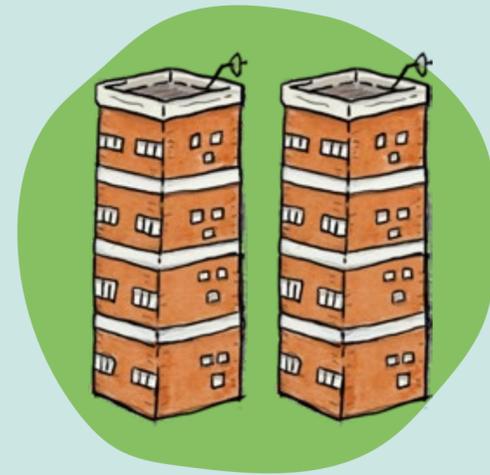
It means shifting to a low carbon, sustainable food system whilst at the same time:

- **Addressing inequalities** so everyone can access healthy, affordable sustainably-produced food
- **Listening to local and cultural perspectives and experiences**, especially those hardest hit by injustices in our food system
- **Giving communities a 'seat at the table'** and more decision-making power
- **Giving communities more control** over how food is produced, traded and consumed*
- **Community wealth building**, making sure the wealth in food systems benefits communities, rather than a few large corporations.

*Also known as 'food sovereignty'



ABOUT TOWER HAMLETS



Population

Significant Bangladeshi heritage community (35%)

Marginalised groups such as QTIBIPOC*

Disability present in one-quarter of households

Youngest average age of any English local authority

Strong Muslim community (39%)

High levels of poverty affecting 40% of residents

Lowest home ownership rate in England

Climate Challenges

Over 80% of households live in flats

Housing vulnerable to extreme heat/cold

Increased risk of flooding

Highest population density in England

10,907 overcrowded homes

“Urban heat island” effect

Amount of green space decreasing

High levels of air pollution

Disproportionate impact on low income, racialised, disabled people

Families abroad experiencing climate impacts

Culture and Heritage

Tradition of community organising, particularly anti-racist action

Place of refuge for Jewish and other communities through history

Docklands put borough at “ground zero of empire”

Heritage of art, performance and storytelling

Food Systems

Many residents live in “food deserts”

Strong restaurant culture, including Brick Lane

10 street markets including Petticoat Lane

Number of women-led food enterprises

Some areas highly gentrified like Shoreditch



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COMMUNITY FOOD AND ACTION HUBS



R-Urban Poplar

R-Urban Poplar is an **eco-civic hub** that is developing resilience in the face of climate change. They delivered a public programme of events, workshops and infrastructures, including localised **circular food systems**. [Learn more](#)



Teviot Peoples Kitchen

Teviot Peoples Kitchen, based at R-Urban, delivered **growing and cooking** education programmes, as well as **training and business support** for local people. [Learn more](#)



Limborough Food Hub

Limborough Food Hub is a **'grow, cook and eat'** community food and action hub, that helped people build relationships, learn about issues, share ideas and take practical action to tackle climate change through food. [Learn more](#)

COMMUNITY GARDENS AND ORCHARDS



Providence Row

Providence Row trained **people affected by homelessness** in its rooftop garden giving them the skills, confidence and positive mental health from growing fresh produce and a **horticulture accreditation**. [Learn more](#)



Cranbrook Community Food Garden

Cranbrook Community Food Garden is a flourishing community garden in the heart of Cranbrook Estate, in Bethnal Green. They installed a **rainwater harvesting** system and 'Berry Lane', an **alleyway of fruit bushes** to provide free fruit to estate residents. [Learn more](#)



Mile End Community Garden

Mile End Community Garden worked with [Compost Mentis](#) to co-design and construct a **compost toilet**, with the aim of enabling a wider range of groups and individuals to access the garden and stay for longer periods of time. [Learn more](#)

COMMUNITY GARDENS AND ORCHARDS



Seeds for Growth

Seeds for Growth worked with community gardens, a local school, and housing estates to create **new composting and growing spaces**. [Learn more](#)



The Maydwell Gardens

The Maydwell Gardens project saw the **development of a community garden**, stewarded by women from the local housing estate. [Learn more](#)



Swedenborg Orchard

Swedenborg Orchard re-used waste from the community for gardening projects and the community orchard through **composting, green waste and a wormery**. [Learn more](#)

FOOD TRADING



Stepney City Farm

Stepney City Farm explored whether **employing Sylheti-speaking food growers** would increase the amount of fruit and veg grown to the point of financial viability, as well as better meeting the needs of the local Bangladeshi community. [Learn more](#)



Folx Farm

Folx Farm explored how a commercial, **small scale, regenerative farm** could concentrate a percentage of its growing activity on foods that are predominantly imported in a way that is sustainable and affordable. [Learn more](#)



MAD LEAP

MAD LEAP partnered with a local school to explore the viability of installing **hydroponics towers**, testing business model assumptions with crops grown and sold. [Learn more](#)

FOOD TRADING



Oitijo-Collective

Oitijo-Collective's 'Bottling Futures' explored traditional practices which are vanishing, particularly those of **preserving, pickling and fermenting**, with the aim of creating a new local enterprise. [Learn more](#)



Food Coop Network

A Food Coop Network was set up to support residents **access to fresh, affordable food** while connecting people to their community. New Food Coops were set up at Limehouse Town Hall and the Teviot Centre, with St Hilda's East Food Coop providing training and mentorship. [Learn more](#)

PLASTIC REDUCTION



Plastic-free markets

Plastic-free markets was a research project led by Rice Marketing to explore how to **reduce plastic bag use** in Tower Hamlets celebrated markets. [Learn more](#)



Plastic-free Poplar

Plastic-free Poplar run by Sunny Jar Eco Hub focused on **reducing single use plastic**, including supporting the community to take action and come together to create a planet-friendly action plan and find practical solutions for the day to day reduction of plastic waste. [Learn more](#)

SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Leaders in Community

Leaders in Community developed a **youth climate leadership** programme, Be.Green, to educate and empower young people in Tower Hamlets. [Learn more](#)



Boil & Bubble

Boil & Bubble worked with Bowden Primary school to build a community garden, run family harvesting sessions, run **sensory cooking workshops** and community cafes. [Learn more](#)



Maya Productions

Maya Productions delivered a **family-friendly musical** 'Súper Chefs' to open up a wider conversation around food, food systems and sustainability, in particular among Latin American, Bangladeshi and Somali communities. [Learn more](#)

COMMUNITY ORGANISING AND NETWORKS



Community Food Growers Network

Community Food Growers Network created a Food and Land Justice Resource Centre, offering an **accessible organising space** in Tower Hamlets where resources, skills, support and learning could be shared. [Learn more](#)



House of Anetta

House of Anetta brought people together through **social eating** activities, and setting up local systems for **food waste redistribution**. [Learn more](#)

COMMUNITY ORGANISING AND NETWORKS



Misery

Misery provided **spaces for QTIBPOC*** to come together, connect with themselves and their feelings, and learn collectively about health, the natural world and food. [Learn more](#)

*Queer, Trans, Intersex People of Colour



Somos Semillas

Somos Semillas created **spaces for the South American diaspora**, to gather and learn about food system challenges through connecting with **culture and ancestral knowledge**. [Learn more](#)

COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Platform and the Blueprint Architects

Centring those who experience colonial, racial, gender and class violence, Platform regularly gathered a group of 36 local food organisers and residents – the Blueprint Architects – to reimagine the food system in Tower Hamlets.

The group produced two research publications:

- **‘Seeds for a Revolution’** told the individual stories of the Blueprint Architects, their relationship with Tower Hamlets, and their journeys into food justice organising.
- **‘Recipes for a Revolution’** explored the political history of Tower Hamlets, the interwoven realities of food, land and racial justice, local gentrification, and the composition of the current food system. It included policy recommendations under the categories of Food Insecurity, Advocacy and Agency, Resources and Funding, Knowledge and Training, and Land Use.

As the group developed their thinking, they concluded that at the heart of food justice must be land justice. The Blueprint Architects emphasised the urgent need for the council to release more land to communities for growing, gathering, and food-led initiatives.

In 2025, the Blueprint Architects began to tour their food justice trailer. The trailer allowed the team to build relationships with local people directly, gather stories and visions, and generate collective support for a community-powered land campaign. [Learn more](#)

“Tasked with creating a ‘blueprint’ for an alternative food system of the future, we ultimately discovered that the true blueprint is the strength of both the people that make up a community, and our movements that fight for a better world for us and those that will come after”

Radhika, Platform



A gathering of the Blueprint Architect group



Watch our video: ‘Meet the Blueprint Architects’

POWER OF FOOD FESTIVAL

To celebrate and galvanise the food movement building in Tower Hamlets, Wen brought together a wider network of 34 grassroots groups and organisations for the Power of Food Festival.

The festival celebrated community and food cultures, and showcased local projects building fairer, more sustainable food systems.

The festival had over 40 events over 10 days, with community meals, supper clubs, workshops, film screenings, photography exhibitions, kids' activities, panel discussions, and tours of gardens and food-growing spaces.

“It was inspiring to see so many people come together around food justice, the right to grow, and to share skills, knowledge, and even worries about the times we’re living in. The festival created a real sense of solidarity and possibility – showing that even in difficult moments, communities can come together to make things a little better”

Partner organisation

 **Watch our video: 'The Power of Food'**



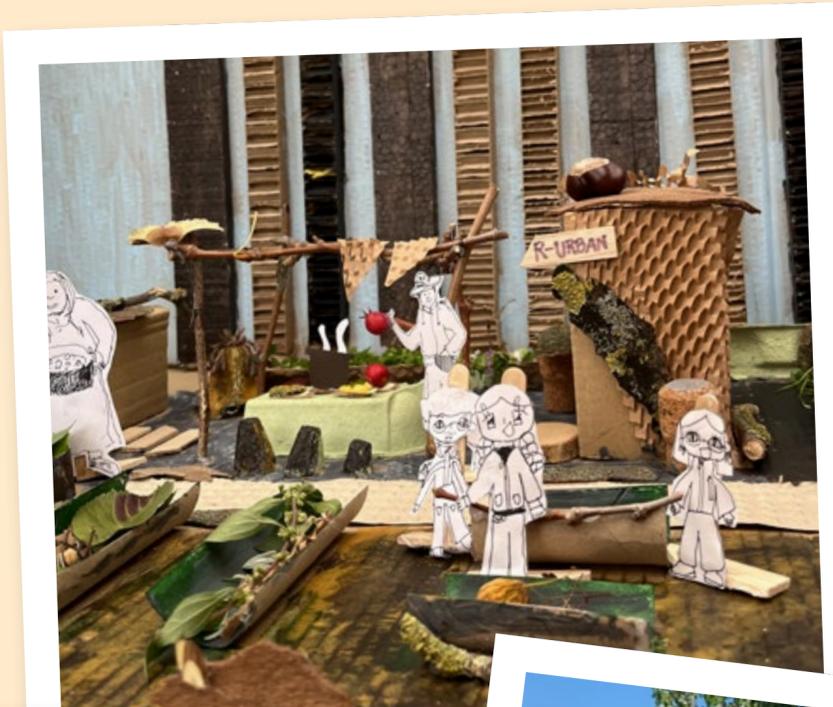
Workshop on 'Practicing community-led food justice' led by the Blueprint Architects

POWER OF FOOD FESTIVAL



'Recipes for Life' event where people shared recipes and stories

Stop-motion workshop at R-Urban



'Right to Grow' walking tour of community gardens



'Fermenting futures' workshop explored food sovereignty and climate organising



Harvest festival at Stepney City Farm

[See more festival highlights](#)



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DIG DEEPER

Read the full independent report: **'Impact Evaluation Report for Just FACT'**

Programme impacts were independently assessed by Lucy Harbor, the programme evaluator.

Lucy supported the development of an evaluation framework, delivered workshops and learning sessions, and helped partners develop evaluation plans. She also evaluated the challenges and barriers to action, and how the partnership has functioned.

The findings in this section are derived from an analysis of annual progress updates, project reports and interviews.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN SUCCESSES?



Women share the produce grown at Limborough Hub

1. Increased access to healthy, sustainably-produced, culturally-appropriate, affordable food

This has been made possible through establishing a network of Food Coops, piloting the impact of reducing financial barriers to organic produce, setting up projects that grow culturally-appropriate foods that are staples to Tower Hamlets communities but would otherwise be imported, and growing fresh and healthy produce across a variety of sites.

11,018 food coop visits

25,670kg of fruit and veg sold at St Hilda's over 2 years

£8 of Food Coop produce replaced with organic alternatives each week, thanks to a 45% discount

745kg of culturally-appropriate veg distributed by Folx Farm over 17 months



2. Widened and deepened community participation

There has been a range of approaches including listening to communities, meeting people where they already go, building trust and relationships, making activities practical and relevant, and ensuring inclusion across different groups. Spaces were created specifically for marginalised groups such as QTIBPOC*, youth, those in food poverty, refugees and people affected by homelessness. A range of co-design and participatory methods were used to increase community involvement and leadership.

20,412 people participated in projects

4,540 people volunteered

Approx 900 people attended the Power of Food Festival

6 estate-based projects

5 participating schools

“We’ve learned that change doesn’t happen overnight or through one-off interventions. It happens gradually, through consistency, trust building, and shared experiences.”

R-Urban Poplar



3. New knowledge, skills, and employability

The programme built individual capability through knowledge and skill-sharing workshops, practical training, and formal accreditation. For several residents their volunteer energy was transformed into paid roles with long-term pathways to employment. The programme has also built people’s confidence in speaking out publicly about climate issues for the first time.

1,292 workshops and events, where knowledge and skills exchanged

17 people affected by homelessness gained an OCN Horticulture Award

100% of young people in Be.Green increased their confidence on climate issues

“I started out at R-Urban as a volunteer. I now am a paid co-ordinator, I regularly manage the volunteer sessions and provide training as well. And it’s meant that I can apply for further funding for the horticultural level 2 course I’m now doing. You can only do that if you’re employed in a role where you are doing gardening / horticultural work.”

Katrina, R-Urban



4. A stronger local movement

The creation of a strong, highly collaborative network of people and projects is described by project partners as the “most powerful” and “biggest lasting impact” of Just FACT. This has been achieved by focussing on deep network building at the quarterly partner meetings, empowering local leadership, actively resourcing grassroots action, and supporting collaboration across groups.

“That network will be the big lasting impact of Just FACT. I don’t know of any other projects that are funded in a similar way, where lots of projects are funded simultaneously and with lots of partner meetings.”

Project partner



20 partner network meetings

26 grassroots organisations delivered projects

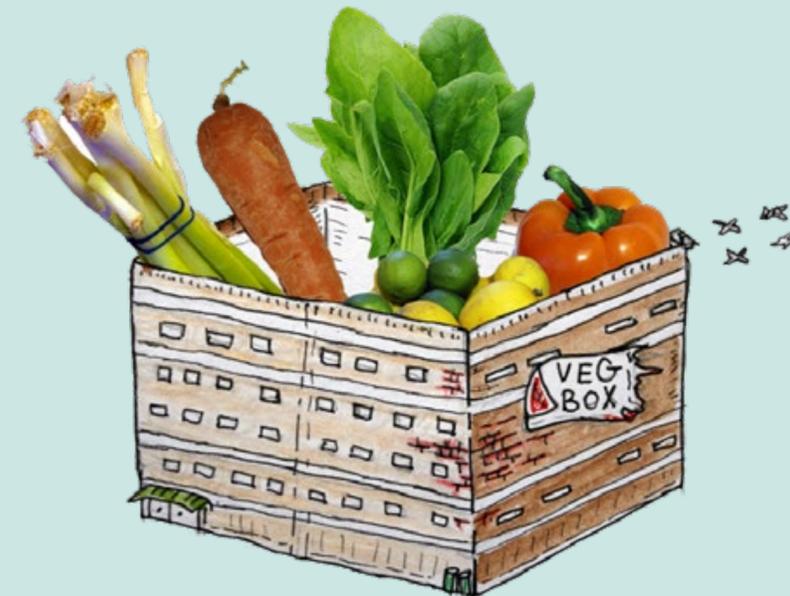
10 new collaborations within the partnership

34 groups participated in the Power of Food Festival

299 individuals and groups are part of the Tower Hamlets Food Partnership

5. Trialled ways to reduce the climate impacts of Tower Hamlets food system

Reducing carbon emissions from food was trialled through local food production, composting and avoiding food waste (e.g. food re-distribution) – and several projects were able to demonstrate what the impact could be if these projects were scaled up. The biggest reductions in emissions came from the Plastic Free Markets project, working with traders in three markets to reduce the amount of plastic bags they use when selling fruit and vegetables to customers.



364,000 fewer plastic bags per year at the market, which results in just over 5tonnesCO₂e/year

6,175kg food waste composted in 3 projects, with emissions savings of 76kgCO₂e

Emissions savings of 29kCO₂e from the redistribution of 1,362kg food, which otherwise would have been incinerated

Folx Farm calculated emissions savings of 9.4kg CO₂e from growing produce that would otherwise be imported, of which 3.2kgCO₂e was saved from growing coriander, 3.6kgCO₂e was from growing amaranth, and 2.6kgCO₂e from growing mooli (radish).

6. More power and decision-making in the hands of the local community

The programme enabled local groups and individuals to step into leadership roles, co-design projects, and establish self-governing structures. Through the participatory grants programme, community representatives were able to decide where funding should go. Putting local people in the driving seat is crucial because, as one project lead noted, the answers to a just transition are often already present within communities.

“Local communities already have the answers. They already have the wisdom. When charities come into these spaces we can come in with moralistic /top-down approaches. And that’s not the way to do it. Centre local voices as much as you can. Invest in what’s already here.”

Platform

15 projects used participatory methods

4 projects established self-governing structures

51 people voted for where Just FACT grants went

8 community representatives participated in a Just FACT grants panel



7. Wellbeing, happiness, health, reduced isolation

“Wellbeing and community cohesion benefits” were intended outcomes of the programme, and valued as a vital part of building a food system that works for people as well as the planet. ‘Joy and friendship’ was one of the core values of the programme, as agreed by all partners at the outset.

13 projects reported wellbeing outcomes, sharing quotes and stories

90% of volunteers at St Hilda’s experienced improvements in mental wellbeing and community connection

“I feel much better (after being outside in the orchard), and relaxed. It all improves my circulation, lungs, and wellbeing.”

Local resident

“I love coming to the garden – we chat, we laugh, and we work hard. But I always go away feeling happy.”

Limborough community gardener



8. Influenced and inspired wider change

This has been done through demonstrating replicable community-led models, building a strong local network, engaging with the council-led 'Climate Partnership', influencing local government strategy (ongoing) and establishing a reputation for community-led climate action far beyond Tower Hamlets.

The programme has directly influenced the direction of the Tower Hamlets Council's Public Health Team. Their new five-year Transforming Food Systems strategy was a response to Just FACT and will be developed with input from the network.

5 alternative trading models tested

61 resources shared publicly

6 knowledge exchange trips involving 9 project partners

35 council officers and councillors are part of Tower Hamlets Food Partnership, and have engaged with Just FACT learnings



Food and flowers grow in the borough's gardens

WHAT WERE THE MAIN CHALLENGES?

1. Difficulties in community participation

- Some projects found that initial high levels of interest from residents in a project did not always translate into participation.
- Residents often had limited time due to work, caring responsibilities, or neighbourhood pressures.
- Projects had to adapt with flexible timings, travel support, bursaries, childcare and language support – which often came at an extra cost that hadn't always been budgeted for.

2. Bureaucratic, supply chain and logistical hurdles

- Obtaining approvals for infrastructure and land permissions often significantly slowed progress.
- Small grassroots groups lacked the administrative capacity to navigate complex processes.

- Rising costs and supply-chain instability made it hard for food co-ops to offer affordable prices. Wholesale access was unreliable and difficult to navigate, with sudden supplier losses, inaccessible markets and transport issues.
- Some crop yields underperformed due to poor weather, pests, and late planting.

3. Staffing and capacity challenges

- Many projects operated with part-time or stretched teams. Staff working one or two days a week struggled to attend support sessions, network meetings, and align schedules with other partners.
- Staff being on long term sick leave meant that people working on some projects and in the Wen coordinating team often felt stretched and overburdened, which on occasions created major setbacks.
- Temporary, grant-funded roles make it difficult for organisations to provide consistent care for staff and job security.

4. Partnership and movement building

- Coordinating a partnership of 26 projects was sometimes challenging, particularly around power dynamics, community-led approaches and collective decision-making.

5. Accessing wider climate-related funding

- Groups new to climate justice work found it difficult to access external funding but Just FACT funding provided a helpful entry point.

6. Future funding uncertainty

- The uncertainty around future project funding can create stress, pressure, and can take over as a focus – over the delivery of the day-to-day work.
- Partners reflected that there is high competition for charitable funds in general, which can lead to projects over-promising outcomes, risking under-delivery.

7. Political and systemic context

- Partners felt food systems are not prioritised in local and national decision making, limiting systemic support and investment of time, attention and funds.

- Departures or shuffles of local civil servants, councillors and even administrations as a whole, led to a lack of follow through and accountability on commitments.
- Some partners felt that bringing about the necessary just food and climate transition would ultimately require “transformational policy” at the national level, arguing that it is impossible to bring about from a bottom-up grassroots structure alone.

8. The climate context

- Climate change is already affecting the food system. The growth and supply of food is less predictable as weather becomes more extreme and variable.



IMPACT ON PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

“This programme has been one of the most significant achievements in my time in terms of really taking our charitable impact to the next level. In my first few years here, we were mostly just focused on struggling to pay the bills. Now it feels so important to maintain this momentum and continue to progress.”

Stepney City Farm



Partners have said that being part of Just FACT has been a transformative and enabling experience, providing them with crucial resources, training, network support, and a collective platform to deepen their organisational missions.

Participation provided partners with a platform to advocate for their community-led visions and influence wider policy, and provided proof of the need to invest in working with the local community to create a fairer food system.

Being part of the programme also raised the profile of the partners' work, and in some cases, enabled projects to reach more people.



Just FACT network meeting at Limborough Hub



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COOKING AND EATING

We have learnt that sharing food nourishes us, not only with taste and nutrition, but through the connections and conversations we have when we commune and eat together. Collective eating is also cost effective for individuals and reduces the energy emissions associated with cooking.

R-Urban noticed that community meals are a great informal way of getting feedback and ideas from residents. Every week Green Skills volunteers and the wider community gather for a shared meal, and this has become an important part of building their community.

Shared meals also support structured conversations and organising. 'Breakkkfssssts' and 'Perpetual Stew' at House of Annetta were event series that invited participants, organisers and researchers to learn together, over shared meals.

Residents hold a lot of knowledge and skills around cooking and preserving food that they can exchange with their community. Sessions hosted and led by local people have been popular, with their family, friends, and neighbours keen to join in.

The act of hosting can be a powerful source of confidence and connection, as discovered when children took the lead in hosting community cafes at Bowden Primary School, as part of the Boil & Bubble project. They welcomed guests, explained what they had grown and cooked, and served food with pride.

We've also learnt that conversations exploring what people eat need to take into consideration cultural and religious traditions, health needs, and financial situations.

Bangla feast →



"These [community meals] have been a great success with highlights include Aleya's enormously popular Bangla Feasts, Eka and Noore's wonderful ferment and pickle making workshops, and recent sessions cooking in our DIY tandoor oven"

Cameron, R-Urban



→
Cooking session at R-Urban



FOOD GROWING

Food growing in Tower Hamlets has extensive social, health and environmental benefits. It's also a way for communities to take ownership of their access to fresh fruit and vegetables and to care for the land.

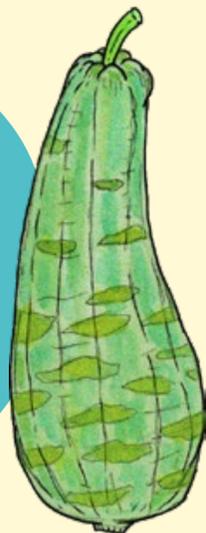
Right now, not enough land is available to meet the demand to grow. Just FACT has demonstrated there is under-used space that could be unlocked for food growing; from school playgrounds, disused car parks, alleyways, garages, to rooftops.

When growing spaces are created, we've learnt that further work is needed to create a welcoming space, build trust and relationships and overcome any access barriers.

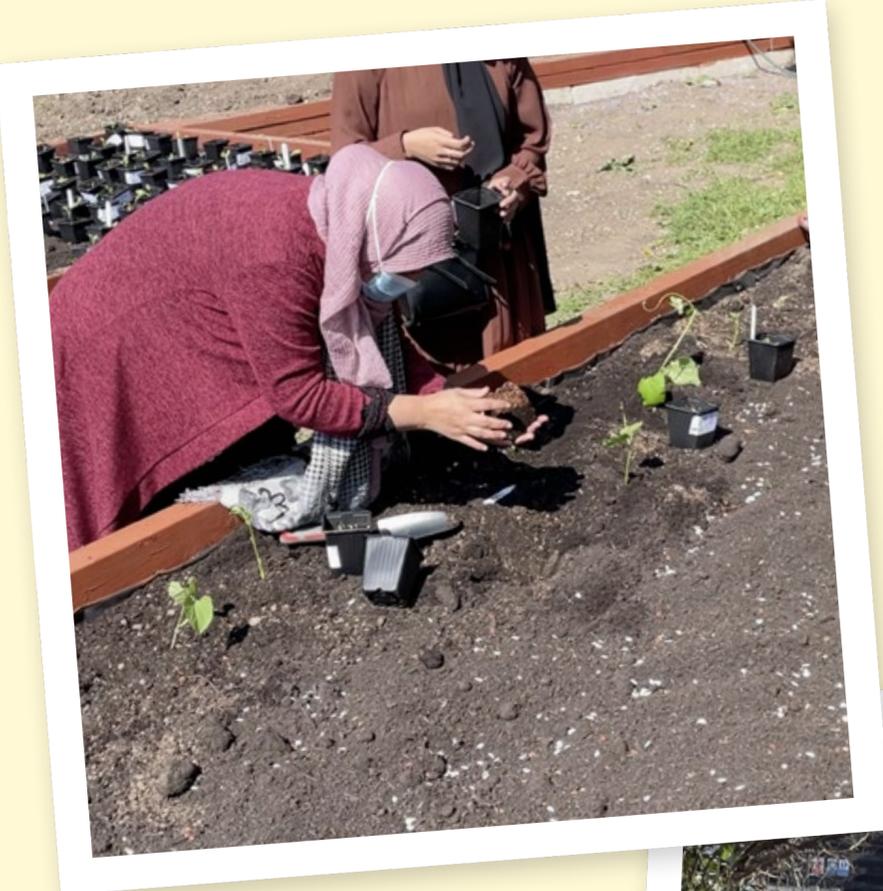
When it comes to meeting the challenges of future food and climate crises, there is an abundance of knowledge and skills within the local community to meet these problems. Residents from diaspora communities bring particularly useful knowledge of growing fruit and vegetables in warmer or wetter climates.

Culturally-relevant food that would otherwise be imported can be grown in the borough's gardens, enabling access to 'fresher' food with less carbon impact (from transportation). Bangladeshi staples such as khodu, coriander, squash, okra, bottle gourd, spinach, amaranth and uri beans – are being grown in local farms and gardens, and are thriving in the UK climate.

Khodu, is a vegetable that is difficult to grow, but highly prized (it can cost up to £10 to purchase in local shops). When it grows to a large size, it is shared between three to four families.



"These crops are not only nutritious but carry deep emotional and ancestral value, allowing residents to keep traditions alive and share stories across generations."
Project lead, Limborough Hub



Drop in gardening session at the Teviot Centre.



Stepney City Farm team employed two Bangladeshi-heritage growers to learn from people with experience of traditional farming techniques.

DIG DEEPER
Read the full learning report: ['The potential of local food growing in creating just and sustainable food systems'](#)

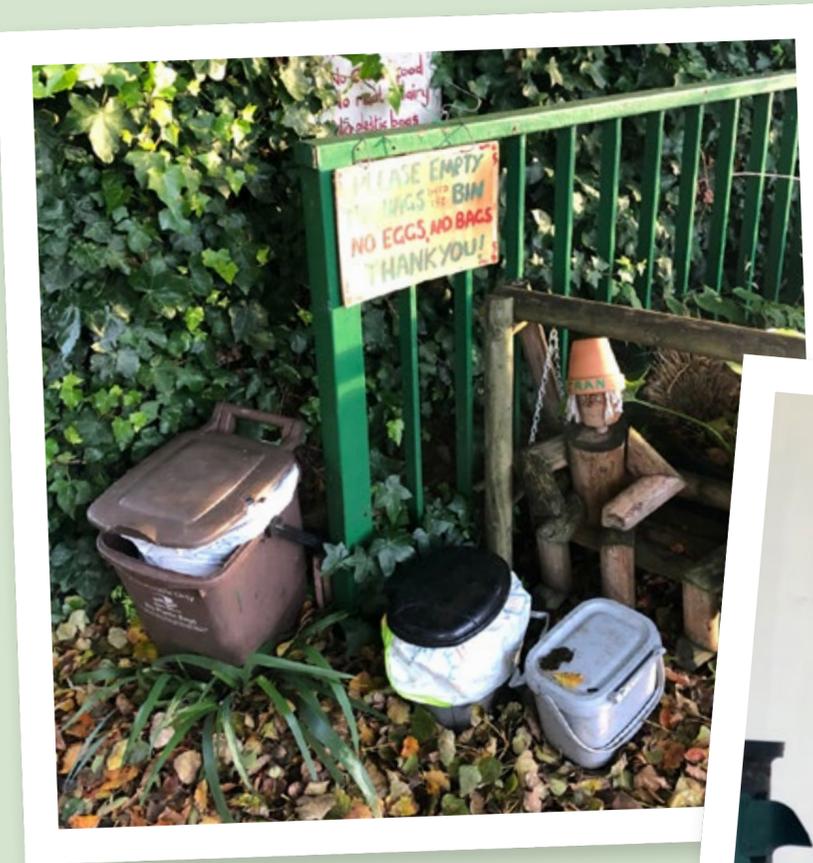
FOOD WASTE

There is a lot of insight within our communities about how to avoid food waste at home, in community settings, and in local retail. There is also great potential to repurpose food waste into compost, fertiliser or bioenergy.

New community composting infrastructure means many residents can compost their food locally rather than putting it in the bin.

Cooking, eating and preserving workshops can bring communities together to collectively prevent food waste. OITIJ-JO Collective's Bottling Futures encouraged residents to share traditional practices of fermenting, pickling and preserving. Residents learned how to make Somali aanjero, Chinese pickles and Eastern European sauerkraut.

R-Urban Poplar and MAD LEAP CIC are exploring how to scale up community composting efforts using technology like Ridan composters and an Anaerobic Digester. There are 535 homes on the Teviot Estate where R-Urban Poplar is based, producing an estimated 109 tonnes of food waste annually. If all of this food waste was processed using an Anaerobic Digester, it would yield 15,571m³ biogas (93,428 kWh) and 98T biofertiliser.

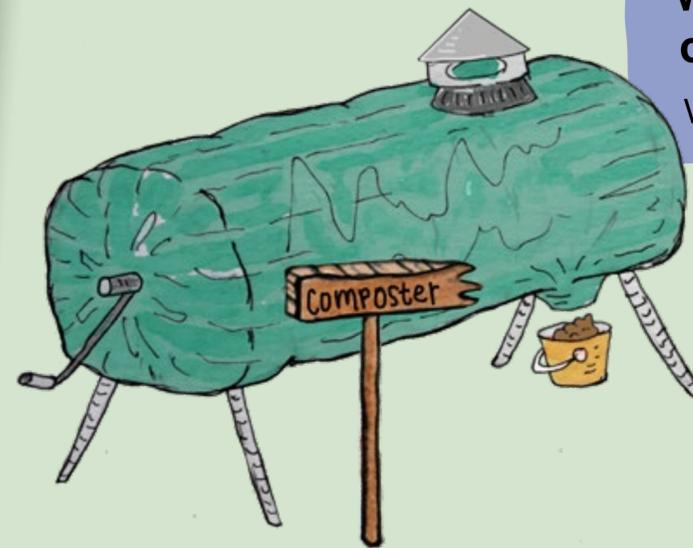


← Adding a compost bin outside of Cranbrook Community Food Garden increased the volume of food waste donated by local residents to the garden



→ Recording the amount of food waste collected for the Ridan composter at R-Urban

"We have learnt so much about food waste, trying different parts of plants – such as rhubarb, vegetable peel seasoning, alternative ways with leftover fruits and of course pickling."
Workshop participant



DIG DEEPER
Read the full learning report: **The potential of circular food waste systems in tackling the climate crisis**

FOOD ENTERPRISE

Projects have been experimenting with alternative, not-for-profit models that are less reliant on charitable grants and tackle key issues in the local food system.

Food Coops have been an effective way of building community whilst enabling residents to access healthy affordable food. A local pilot at the Teviot Food Coop also showed that people will choose organic food if it's made more affordable.

Low income residents used 'Rose Vouchers' to replace an average of £8 of non-organic produce with organic alternatives each week. The initiative also supported local organic farmers, with 84% of sales revenue going directly to farmers via the Better Food Shed.

However in Tower Hamlets it has been a challenge to make the 'pop-up shop' style of Food Coop sustainable without ongoing funding. An alternative is local buying groups, which are collectively run by residents. These are expanding across the borough with the support of Cooperation Town, creating savings of around £2080 per household each year.

Folx Farm has been exploring ways to produce affordable, locally grown, culturally relevant fruit and veg for Tower Hamlets communities. The farm in Sussex partnered with businesses to pay part of a food grower salary, focusing on growing fresh produce that is usually imported. Produce grown through this scheme reached 50 households through veg box sales and many more through food coops.

Stepney City Farm has been exploring food growing as a social enterprise, and began to grow vegetables in demand by the Bangladeshi community, like uri and khodu. This increased market sales by £2,000 over the course of a year. The expertise of two Bangladeshi-heritage growers made this possible.

Mad LEAP are exploring ways that community-focused growing enterprises can earn income through the byproducts of anaerobic digestion and composting. They are also offering accredited traineeships in sustainable gardening, mushroom growing and hydroponics to generate income.



Mad Leap's mushroom growing

Alexandra Rose Charity and Sustain piloted a scheme to increase access to organic fruit and vegetables




DIG DEEPER
Read the full learning report: **How to create more resilient community-led local food systems**

PLASTICS AND PACKAGING



Making beeswax food wraps at a Plastic-free Poplar workshop

Thousands of plastic pieces are tied onto large nets to represent the amount of plastic choking the oceans.



Market traders can be supported to drastically reduce their business' plastic use. The Plastic Free Markets pilot led to a 33% reduction in plastic carrier bags across three markets within weeks, and provided clear recommendations to the Council, including the need for consistent implementation of the 10p carrier bag charge.

The pilot also showed that selling loose or in bowls takes the same amount of time and labour as setting up pre-packaged produce.

We learnt that a borough-wide approach and trader support is needed in order to create a level playing field, so going plastic-free doesn't have a detrimental business impact by customers just going elsewhere.

Low income customers must also be supported to access reusable bags.

An art exhibition led by Sunny Jar Eco Hub was an effective way of bringing conversations about plastic to the local market, 200 school children and 80 community members.

When delivering practical workshops as part of 'Plastic free Poplar', they discovered a wealth of the knowledge and skills already exists within Tower Hamlets communities – residents shared more than 20 different skills, and 50 ideas at their plastic-free meet ups.

Sunny Jar Eco Hub showed the power of Participatory Action Research in achieving local change, through surveys and workshops with traders and local residents to develop a Community Action Plan. 100 local people and businesses signed the plan, which resulted in the Bring Your Own Bag campaign.

"Now I use 500 bags per week compared to 7000 bags before. This has helped me reduce costs and that's really important right now as all other costs are going up"
Market trader

"I enjoyed this workshop. It was creative, relaxing and good for the planet! No need to buy Tesco plastic bags anymore!"
Esol student's feedback after a T-shirt bag making workshop

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP



Platform employed local resident-researchers to support the development of an arts installation



“I wonder how often charities ‘working with’ affected communities genuinely step back and allow communities to shape or lead the work? How often are communities ‘engaged’ once the parameters of a project have already been defined? This speaks to the way in which knowledge has been hierarchised through colonialism”

Blueprint Architect

We’ve learned a lot about what helps people to get involved in projects like meeting people in places they already go, asking them what would make a project accessible, and ringfencing budget to overcome financial barriers to participation.

Leaders in Community found offering a bursary improved young people’s ability to commit to the Be.Green leaders programme, and Platform London developed a system for resourcing Blueprint Architects researching the food system.

Participation was greater when resonated with people’s interests and priorities. This included activities that were social, practical, family-friendly and centered arts and culture.

We found that creating dedicated spaces for marginalised communities to connect was essential. Offering information and workshops in people’s own languages also proved vital in breaking down barriers.

Relationships are at the heart of this work, and investing in this built community and kept people involved. We learned the value of delivering projects with people rather than to them.

This approach took many forms: involving community members in shaping project design, making decisions collectively, and creating pathways for people to take on paid organising and leadership roles.

Community leadership models tested out in Just FACT include:

- **Initiator models:** Staff collaborate with community members and gradually hand over stewardship of space and resources.
- **Community organising models:** Members collaborate as a non-hierarchical group to take collective action on an issue.
- **Employment models:** People from the local community are employed on projects.
- **Resource delegation models:** Community representatives make decisions about where funding goes.

DIG DEEPER

Read the full learning report: [Community participation and leadership in food and climate action](#)



WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people in Tower Hamlets are inheriting a world shaped by global warming. They can take the lead in shaping responses to climate issues, but they need support and resources.

It's hard to take part in climate action if other needs aren't being met. Leaders in Community found providing travel costs, bursaries, work experience and skills that they could put on their CV supported young people's involvement in the Be.Green programme.

They also found:

- A key motivation for young people's participation was improving social skills, meeting new people, and building confidence.
- Creative or conversational approaches to learning worked better than a 'teach to' style
- Taking local action can feel more achievable for young people than tackling systemic issues.
- Local action can provide purpose and roles for young people within the wider community like volunteering at a food coop or running a community cafe.
- Role models are powerful with young people drawing inspiration from people and organisations making a practical difference within their community

Several projects found that schools hold huge potential to engage the next generation on climate issues. Children's climate literacy improved through projects within schools, with theatre, growing and recycling programmes also helping increase confidence and wellbeing.

Children at Bowden Primary take part in sensory cooking workshop with Boil & Bubble.



Young people in Be.Green worked together to create a 'tasting heritage' recipe book with climate-friendly cultural recipes.



"This project has been very stimulating and has immensely broadened my knowledge of campaigning for the environment. It's allowed me to branch out and meet many new people"
Aparajita, Be.Green participant

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS THAT BUILD COMMUNITY POWER



Celebrating heritage through cultural cooking workshops at Limborough



“The young people involved had various discussions around what their campaign should be focussed on and this often involved talking about the morality of asking individuals to make lifestyle changes when larger companies are some of the worst offenders.”

Be.Green

We have learnt that local climate initiatives should focus on systems change and collective empowerment, as opposed to individual behaviour change. This is particularly vital in areas like Tower Hamlets, where certain types of behaviour change are simply out of reach due to the cost or time required.

At the same time, low-impact lifestyle choices already adopted by low income, racialised and marginalised communities often go unrecognised.

Communities with migrant backgrounds or global family ties are often already motivated by climate struggles, as many have relatives living in countries where the impacts of climate change are severe. Alongside these global connections, faith traditions also play a powerful role in inspiring communities to take collective action.

Centre culture, art and storytelling are further ways climate change can be made meaningful to people’s lives.

Just FACT has found that there is so much knowledge within communities about how to live sustainably. Creating places where communities can gather, feel belonging, build confidence, take up opportunities and access resources is critical to supporting them to share these skills.

We’ve learnt that community centres or ‘hubs’ are vital spaces for building local resilience and fostering climate initiatives. The location, permanence and variety of activities at these sites means attendance becomes part of local people’s routine. People criss-cross between climate-focused initiatives and projects that meet other needs.

“From a Muslim perspective, the entire earth was given to us as a blessing – we are each given the responsibility of stewardship over all of the earth. The way the earth is organised, by borders and by ownership, it’s un-Islamic. All land is for everyone, and it cannot be given out to people to own or restricted using arbitrary and violent borders.”

Sumayyah, Blueprint Architect

DIG DEEPER
Read the full learning report: [Climate conversations that build community power](#)

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

As a partnership project, Just FACT provided the opportunity for groups and organisations in Tower Hamlet to come together in a structured way to achieve change.

Wen (Women's Environmental Network) was agreed as the lead partner during the application process. Wen created ways for partners to work together and held accountability to the Climate Action Fund for the progress of the programme and use of funds. Platform London was also agreed as the research partner, bringing learning from the programme together into a 'Blueprint' for food systems change.

Regular partner gatherings which involved breaking bread together, have been at the heart of the work and have been the key to strong partnership working. The meetings have included time for people to share learnings and ideas, and have led to new friendships and collaborations.

People at times found it difficult to attend gatherings and training when in part time or unpaid roles. Paying for partners to attend was not in the original budget.

Two 'mobilisers' from the Wen team provided support for projects to develop, problem-solve and link with the broader movement. When the partnership was smaller, they provided much more 1-1 support, but they were stretched more thinly as newer grantees joined.

Early in our partnership, we established a Theory of Change, and each partner needed to evaluate their project according to the goals identified. Many partners found evaluation overwhelming, partly because of already pressured workloads but also because the process could feel intimidating. Wen began to encourage more creative approaches to evaluation with training and a Creative Evaluation Toolkit, focusing on stories, art and expression.

The full [impact evaluation report](#) takes a deep dive into our ways of working, and is recommended reading for other partnership programmes.

"When we started the project we found the language around evaluation daunting and out of reach. It's very full of jargon and felt confusing. I wasted a lot of time worrying about not being able to evaluate right."

Just FACT partner



Partner meeting at Limborough Hub.



"The partner gatherings are amongst the strongest points of Wen's facilitation. Creating spaces for people to come together and share in spacious, supportive environments, is what will create a legacy and meaningful change beyond Just FACT. Collaborations occurred here in the most natural and sustaining ways."

Just FACT partner

PARTICIPATORY GRANT MAKING

The 'Just FACT Action Learning Grants' was set up by the Wen to facilitate the distribution of programme funds to new projects in 2023. The grant programme was co-designed with project partners and the Blueprint Architect group. The process supported a shift in power to communities with local people both shaping the grant process and guidance, and helping decide what projects should be allocated a grant.

For larger grants, residents and 'strategic' partners assessed applications together via a discussion panel, combining lived experience with learned knowledge. This process led to richer and more well-rounded assessments, as community representatives were able to give important insights on what would work locally, and helped the panel consider the experiences of racialised, migrant and or low-income groups.

For the smaller grants, a community voting process allowed a wider group of people to decide the outcome. This led to people feeling and experiencing a genuine shift in power from funders to communities. A more accessible process for these grants also enabled a wider range of groups applying, including unconstituted groups who could be supported by 'host' organisations.



Workshop where Blueprint Architect Group help shape grant criteria.

DIG DEEPER
Read the full learning report: [Participatory Grant Making: Just FACT Action Learning Grants](#)

"It was useful to see a wide variety of opinions, which showed the range of perspectives of the people in the panel which made the assessment even richer. It was good to find out what some organisations are doing and what exciting ideas they have."
Panel member

"The diversity of people in room helped to really reflect the community and where money should go, instead of decisions being made in a vacuum"
Panel member





INSPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE

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This section shows inspiring examples of what’s possible – at a singular site, on a neighbourhood level and borough-wide.

These examples are rooted in what’s happened in Just FACT, and with the right support all have potential to be replicated or scaled up.

ECO-CIVIC HUB



Rainwater harvesting as part of closed loop greywater system

Level access compost toilet

Anaerobic digester processes food waste and produces gas, compost and fertiliser

At the heart of the project are the kitchen and classroom, which offer a welcoming space

Local young people visit to learn about closed loop systems

Accredited training offered on green skills

Built on a disused carpark leased by housing provider

A converted row of garages creates workspace for local businesses. One has been converted into a mushroom farm.

The site supports families to grow fresh food, that celebrates their culturally identities

Every week neighbours share a free meal on a volunteering day

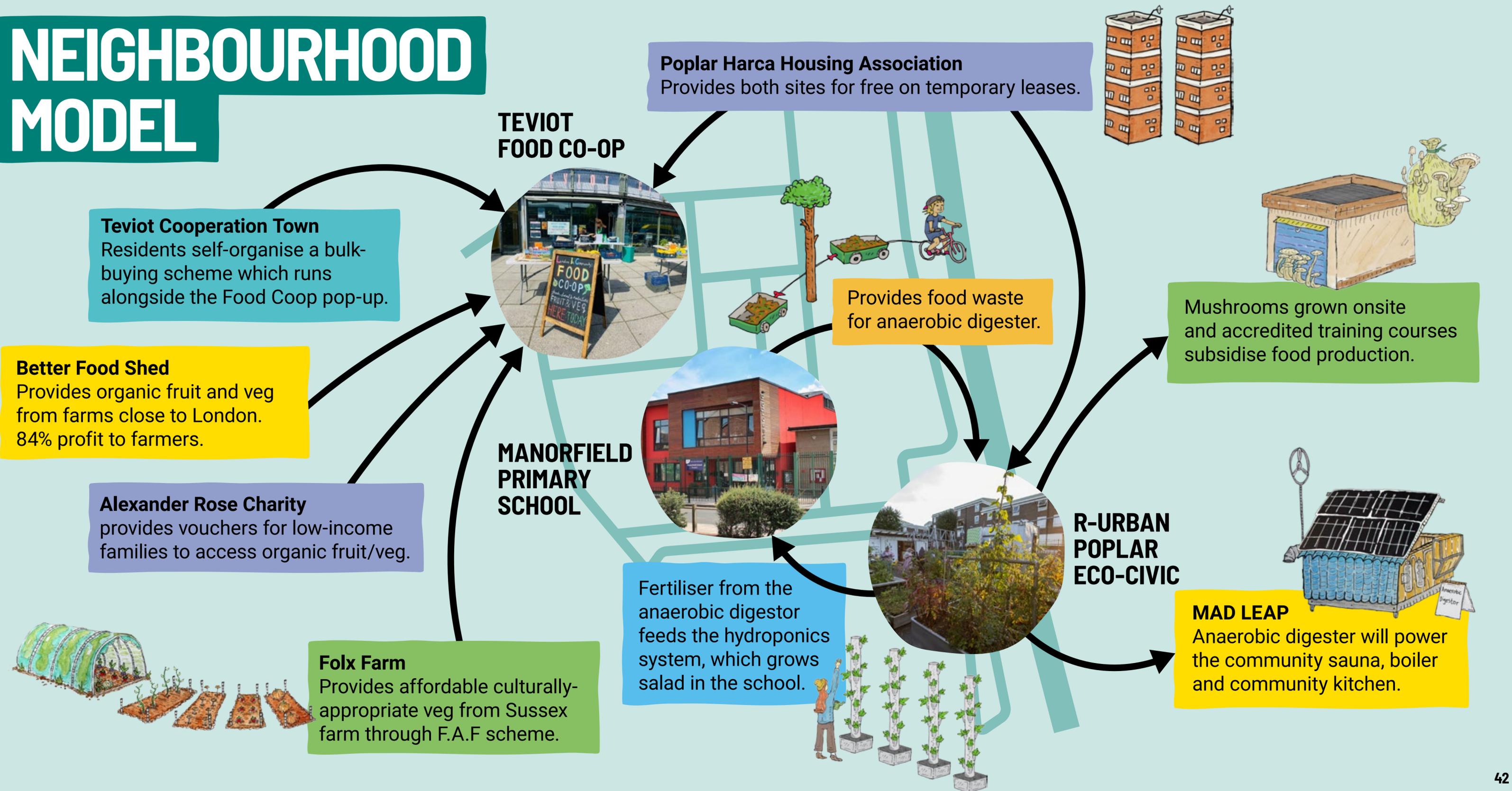
Regular repair and skill sessions, and space to fabricate and share tools.

Workshops on sustainable living run by local people drawing on their own lived experiences

Specialists run workshops bringing new skills to communities

R-Urban Poplar, by Cameron Bray ↻

NEIGHBOURHOOD MODEL





CALLS TO ACTION

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Drawing on five years of learning from Just FACT, we have set out clear calls to action to create the conditions in which a sustainable, equitable local food system can thrive.

These actions are aimed at **delivery organisations, funders, policymakers, housing associations and developers** who have a role, and a responsibility, in shaping local food systems that work for people and the planet.

NGO'S AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS



Families upcycling with Sunny Jar Eco Hub

What you can do:

1. Shift the focus from individual behaviour to systems change

Design climate and food campaigns, communications and projects that challenge and transform the structures shaping access to food, land and resources – not just individual choices.

2. Listen first, then act. Move beyond “educating” communities

Invest time in listening, relationship-building and co-creation, and create spaces for genuine learning exchange rooted in lived experience.

3. Recognise and build on community expertise

There is a wealth of knowledge, skills and sustainable practices that already exists that should be recognised and built on. Employing people from local communities in projects improves trust, communication and participation.

4. Connect climate action to everyday needs

Engagement is stronger and more sustainable when climate action also meets other needs such as social connection, wellbeing, skills development or work experience

5. Address structural barriers to meaningful participation

This includes cost, time, language, discrimination and access to safe spaces.

6. Pay people for their expertise

Resource participation in decision-making and collaboration by paying community members, residents and partners for their time. Removing financial barriers is essential if participation is to be meaningful, equitable and inclusive.



LOCAL POLICY AND HOUSING PARTNERS



Limborough Hub is provided rent-free by the housing association Poplar Harca

What you can do:

1. Put communities in the driving seat

Give communities a real say over decisions about food, land and resources. Commit to approaches such as community-led research, public-commons partnerships, deliberative democracy and participatory grantmaking.

2. Skill up communities to lead food growing

Invest in training for residents in project management, facilitation, and conflict resolution so communities can self-organise and govern shared spaces fairly. Support local networks where growers know where to turn for advice and practical support.

3. Use procurement to strengthen local economies

Actively procure produce from local growers and services from local food businesses to keep wealth circulating locally and support resilient food systems.

4. Secure the future of community food spaces

Offer long leases and genuinely affordable peppercorn rents to community hubs, farms and growing sites, enabling long-term planning and sustained impact.

5. Unlock land for growing and fund it properly

Councils need to adopt a [Right to Grow](#) and open up underused spaces such as rooftops, disused car parks and alleyways. Ensure funding and access to land are developed together, not in isolation.

6. Remove bureaucratic barriers

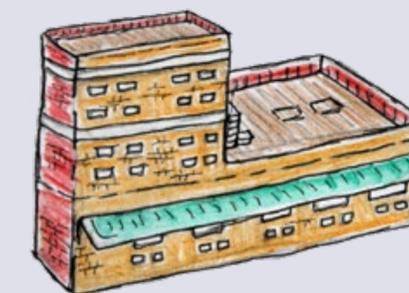
Simplify, clarify and communicate processes for community groups seeking to implement environmental improvements on public land – from rainwater harvesting to composting – reducing delays that drain time and resources.

7. Partner with local innovators

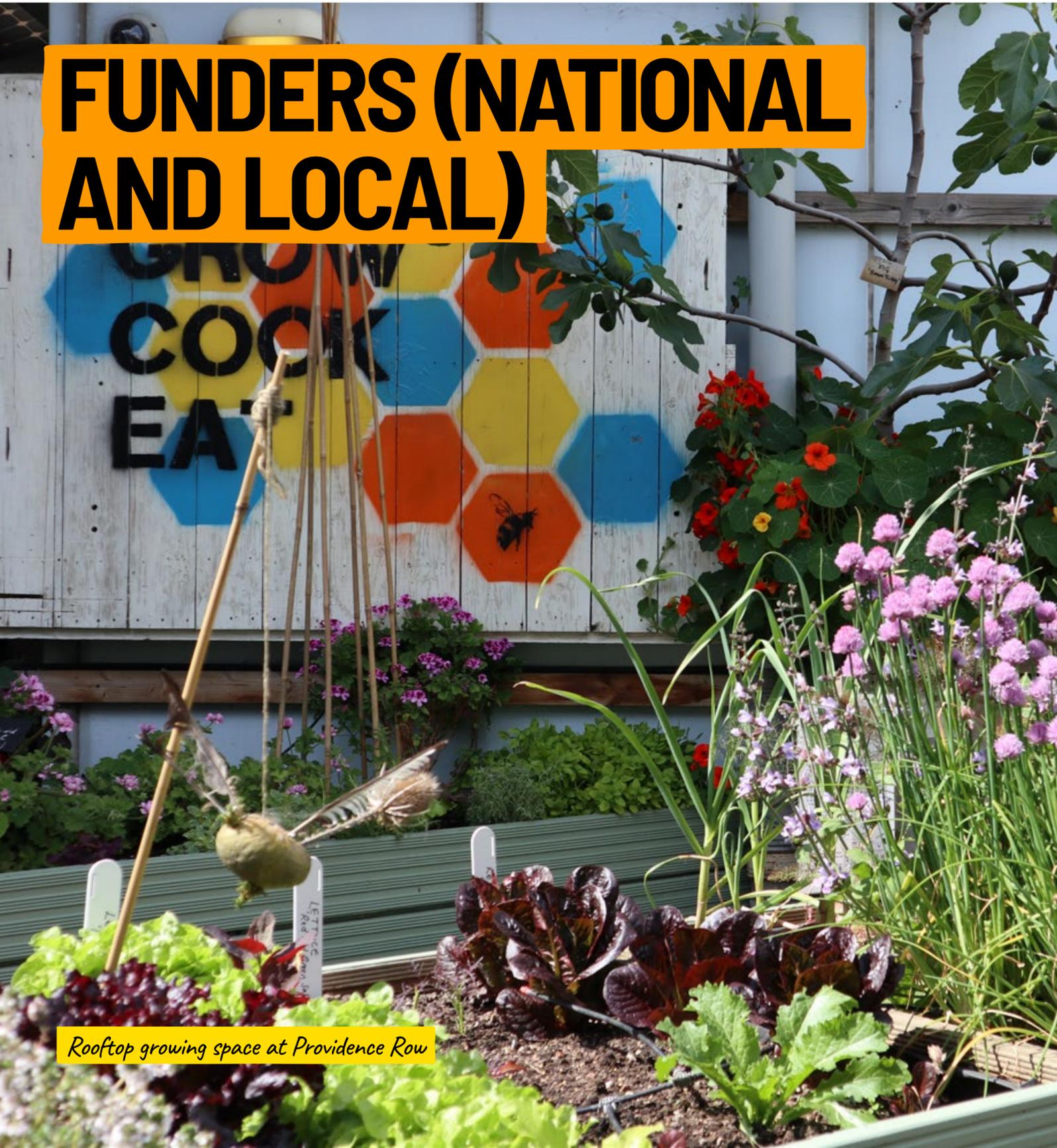
Work alongside community-driven food systems innovators to understand the barriers they face and provide long-term, meaningful support rather than short-term pilots.

8. Set clear standards for businesses

Roll out borough-wide policies that require businesses to adopt lower-impact ways of working, building on proven measures such as plastic bag charges.



FUNDERS (NATIONAL AND LOCAL)



Rooftop growing space at Providence Row

What you can do:

1. Scale what works to make sustainable food affordable

Invest in proven models that improve access to sustainable food, including expanding subsidy pilots and supporting local food co-ops that prioritise affordability and culturally relevant produce.

2. Invest in food education from the ground up

Fund schools to inspire the next generation of growers and chefs through food-growing infrastructure and on-site cooking facilities.

3. Back community-led food enterprises

Support local start-ups and community food businesses to build resilient local food economies that return power, wealth and decision-making to communities.

4. Keep resources in community hands

Fund initiatives such as community composting that recycle household food waste locally and strengthen circular, place-based food systems.

5. Invest in people, skills and leadership

Fund employment in the community food sector – from catering to growing – with a focus on resourcing the skills, knowledge and leadership of local women from diaspora communities.

6. Commit to long-term funding

Within the current system, sustained charitable and local authority funding remains essential. Move away from short-term project cycles and provide the stability community food projects need to thrive.

7. Fund emergent approaches

Recognise that community-led projects evolve through experimentation and learning. Provide flexible funding that allows initiatives to adapt, respond to local needs, and grow organically rather than being constrained by rigid outputs.



A FINAL CALL

We hope you enjoyed reading this report.

Please do not allow this work to end here. Instead, use whatever resources you have to progress this work – in Tower Hamlets and beyond, because ultimately a just and sustainable food system serves us all.

You could join a [Right to Grow campaign](#), start a local food co-op (check out the support provided by [Cooperation Town](#)), get involved in your local community garden or volunteer at a community food project near you.

For those who have more power to exercise, whether you're a community organisation, policy-maker, housing association, developer, funder – consider how you can respond to the calls to action in this report. And remember that a sustainable and just food system cannot be built without the knowledge, experience, creativity of the community it serves.

Finally, we cannot achieve food justice without social justice. Racism, sexism, ableism and other forms of structural oppression in employment, housing and land continue to obstruct communities' right to food. And there can be no food justice in Tower Hamlets without confronting the global inequalities embedded in food systems, access to land, politics and economies.

Decolonising food systems is not optional – it is essential.

The next phase of work must be rooted in solidarity, redistribution of power and resources, and a commitment to justice locally and globally.



Inside the polytunnels at Spitalfields City Farm



APPENDIX

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TIMELINE

2021

2022

2023

2024-2025

Just FACT

Original Just FACT partnership

- R-Urban Poplar
 - Cranbrook Community Food Garden
 - Limborough Community Food Hub
 - Leaders in Community
 - Sunny Jar Eco Hub
 - St Hilda’s East Community Centre
- (One partner withdrew in 2022)*

- Limehouse and Teviot Centre Food Cooperatives funded

Participatory grantmaking

Spring

- Stepney City Farm
- MAD LEAP
- Seeds for Growth
- Oitij-jo Collective
- Misery
- House of Annetta

Autumn

- Teviot People’s Kitchen
- Community Food Growers’ Network
- Folx Farm
- Society Links
- Providence Row
- Maydwell Community Garden
- Boil & Bubble
- Somos Semillas
- Mile End Community Garden

- Tower Hamlets Food Partnership relaunched (2024)
- Just FACT podcast (2024)
- Learning reports released (2025)
- ‘Right to Grow’ campaign (2025)
- Power of Food Festival (2025)

Women’s Environmental Network Partnership coordination / continuous learning and evaluation

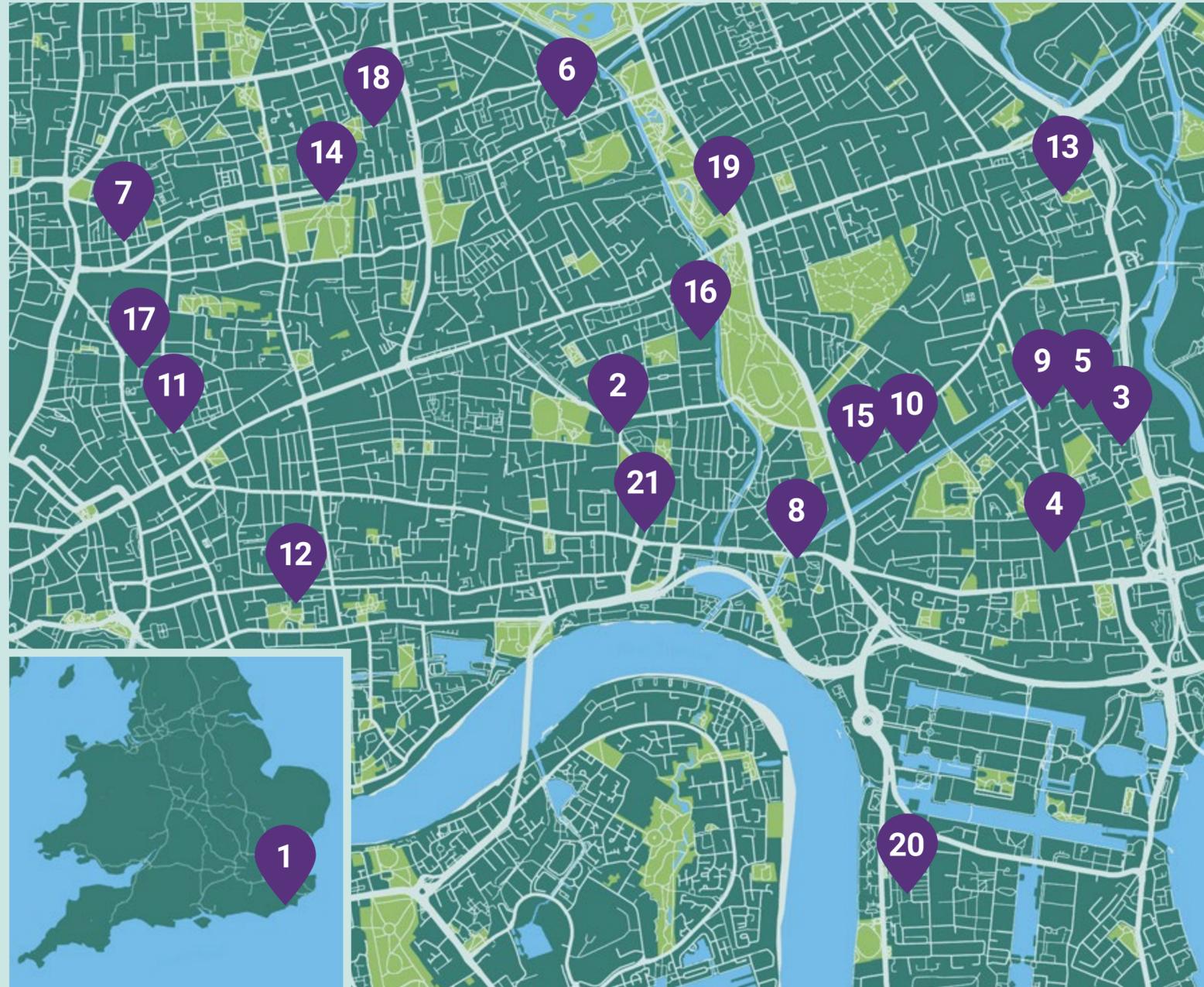
Platform and the Blueprint Architect group Community-generated research

- “Seeds for a Revolution” published (Feb 2023)

- “Recipes for a Revolution” published (Sep 2023)

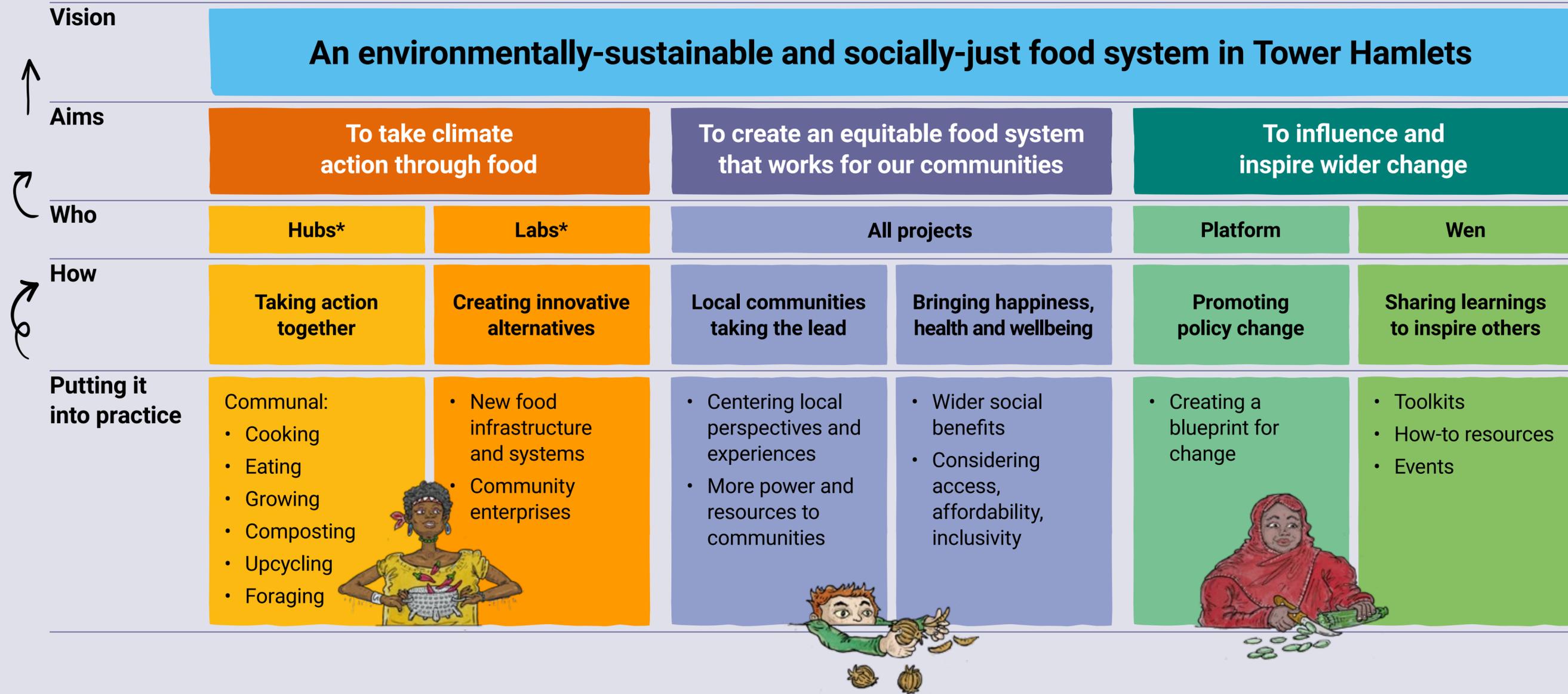
- Land campaign launched with mobile trailer of dreams (Sep 2024)

MAP OF PROJECTS



1. Folx Farm (Food Access Fund)
2. Stepney City Farm
3. R-Urban Poplar (home to Public Works, Teviot People's Kitchen, Mad Leap and Sunny Jar Eco Hub)
4. Crisp Street Market (Plastic-free Poplar)
5. Teviot Centre (Be.Green and Food Coop)
6. Cranbrook Community Food Garden
7. St Hildas Community Centre (Food Coop)
8. Limehouse Town Hall (Food Coop)
9. Manorfield Primary (Hydroponics project with Mad Leap)
10. Maydwell Gardens
11. Providence Row (Urban Gardening Programme)
12. Swedenborg Orchard (Eat not waste not)
13. Kingsley Hall (Food and Land Justice Resource Centre)
14. Oxford House (Platform and Blueprint Architects)
15. Limborough Community Food Hub
16. Bowden Primary School (Boil & Bowden)
17. House of Annetta
18. Bethnal Green Nature Reserve (misery medicine: plant magic)
19. Mile End Community Garden (Compost Toilet project)
20. Half moon Theatre (Super Chefs' musical)
21. Barkantine Estate (Seeds for growth)

THEORY OF CHANGE



*Projects were categorised into Hubs and Labs. Hubs were projects focused on creating spaces for communities to take action together on food and climate issues. Labs were larger scale projects that aimed to demonstrate that a new system is possible, presenting an alternative to what exists at the moment.

REPORTS AND RESOURCES



Project reports

- [Boil & Bubble – Boil & Bowden](#)
- [CFGN – Food & Land Resource Centre](#)
- [Cranbrook Community Food Garden – Berry Lane and Project Raindrop](#)
- [Folx Farm – F.A.F \(Food Access Fund\)](#)
- [Leaders in Community – ‘Be.Green’ youth programme](#)
- [Burdett Foundation – Maydwell Gardens](#)
- [Maya Productions – Super Chefs](#)
- [Mile End Community Garden – Compost Toilet project](#)
- [misery – misery medicine: plant magic](#)
- [Oitij-jo Collective – Bottling Futures](#)
- [Platform – The Blueprint Architects](#)
- [Providence Row – Urban Gardening Programme](#)
- [Public Works – ‘Recipes of R-Urban’](#)
- [Public Works – Teviot People’s Kitchen](#)
- [Rice Marketing – Plastic Free Markets Report](#)
- [Seeds for Growth – Community engagement on the Barkentine Estate](#)
- [Society Links – Eat not waste not](#)
- [Somos Semillas – Learning Hub ‘Semilla Sisay’](#)
- [St Hildas East Community Centre – Food Coop](#)
- [Stepney City Farm – Sustainable Urban Growing](#)
- [Sunny Jar Eco Hub – Plastic Free Poplar](#)
- [Teviot & Limehouse Food Coops’ – Appetite For Organic](#)
- [Wen – Limbrough Community Food Hub](#)

Blogs

- [In conversation with Dee Woods and Rokiah Yaman](#)
- [In conversation with Anieta and Fatima](#)
- [In conversation with Keke](#)
- [Why we need climate justice](#)
- [What’s in a low carbon lunch](#)
- [What are the ingredients of a successful food coop](#)
- [A cafe with food justice at its heart](#)
- [Curry club: the donation-based dining experience for everyone](#)
- [Food justice: reshaping the narrative around food insecurity](#)
- [Bow Brew: healthy affordable food for local people](#)
- [Behaviour change: to do or not to do that is the question](#)
- [Human rights iftar: celebrating the power of community](#)
- [Navigating the climate sector: from an intern’s perspective](#)
- [Sacred solitude: creating a safe space for people of colour to connect with nature](#)
- [Community gardens: the joy, the challenges and the future potential](#)
- [Folx farm experiment: could mustard, khodu, coriander and uri sold in Tower Hamlets markets be grown within two hours of London?](#)
- [Sustainable urban growing at Stepney City Farm](#)
- [Tackling homelessness through urban agriculture](#)
- [Rooting disability justice in green spaces](#)
- [Dreaming into land justice at the land skills fair](#)
- [Power of Food Festival portrait series](#)



REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Toolkits and zines

- [Just FACT Comms Toolkit](#)
- [Just FACT Creative Evaluation Toolkit](#)
- [Be.Green Eco East Zine](#)
- [Be.Green Tasting Heritage Cookbook](#)
- [House of Annetta Food Zine](#)
- [Plastic Free Community Toolkit](#)
- [Plastic-Free Recipes](#)

Media

- [Just FACT film](#)
- [Blueprint Architect film](#)
- [Power of Food film](#)
- [Just FACT podcasts](#)

Independent programme evaluation

- [Just FACT Impact evaluation report](#)

Learning reports

- [How to create more resilient community-led local food systems](#)
- [The potential of circular food systems in tackling the climate crisis](#)
- [The potential of local growing in creating just and sustainable food systems](#)
- [Community participation and leadership in food and climate action](#)
- [Climate conversations that build community power](#)
- [Participatory Grant Making – Just FACT Action Learning Grants](#)

Research publications

- [Seeds for Revolution](#)
- [Recipes for Revolutions](#)

Knowledge exchange reports

- [Lambeth Knowledge Exchange](#)
- [Scotland Knowledge Exchange](#)



A huge thank you to all staff, community organisers, and residents who in a shifting, often challenging world have dedicated so much of their energy to growing a fairer food system in Tower Hamlets.

Thank you to all the project partners St Hildas East Community Centre, Sunny Jar Eco Hub, Public Works, Limehouse Town Hall, Leaders in Community/ the Teviot Centre, Cranbrook Community Food Garden, Compost Mentis, Mile End Community Garden, Maya Productions, Folx Farm, misery medicine, Community Food Growers Network, Burdett Foundation, Providence Row, Society Links, Boil & Bubble, Stepney City Farm, Seeds for Growth, Oitij-jo Collective, Somos Semilias and Rice Marketing.

A special thanks to Platform London and the Blueprint Architect group for their dedication to centering those people in Tower Hamlets with the most to gain by improving how we grow and access food.

Thanks to Poplar Harca for unlocking a significant amount of space for Just FACT projects, and the support of your teams who were never scared to get their hands dirty.

Thanks to Wen (Women's Environmental Network) for holding the partnership over five years, especially Elle McAll and Bethan Mobey (Just FACT Programme Management), Hussina Raja, Joshua Virasami and Han Smith (Just FACT mobilisers), and to Beth Summers, Julia Minnear and Zarina Ahmad for continued advice and support.

Thanks to Lucy Harbor for five years of rigorous, thoughtful independent evaluation of the programme, and Mita Pujara who supported the creative evaluation workshops.

Finally, thank you to the Big Lottery Climate Action Fund for supporting the ambition of this work.



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