

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership Launches the 'Food Use Places Project' with Support from The National Lottery Community Fund

Over 50 people attended the launch of the Food use Places Project which took place on 17th September at [The Fitzherbert Community Hub](#).

The "Food Use Places Project," is a new initiative made possible by a four-year grant from The National Lottery's Climate Action Fund. This project aims to build 'Food Use Confidence' across communities in Brighton, Hove, and East Sussex, empowering residents to take action on food use and its impact on climate change.

Partnership working

The 16 groups funded are already deeply involved in work with their communities reaching people of different ages, ethnicities and social backgrounds.

A youth project, a sports club, an older-persons cafe, 3 community centres, a cookery school, a community owned pub, 3 surplus food projects and 3 community gardens.* This is a diverse partnership bringing together an unusual combination of community-rooted groups with a common cause. To engage people in everyday actions around food to help climate and nature.

Key activities include:

- **Increasing Composting at Community Venues:** Expanding the number of locations where groups can compost food waste by installing insulated compost tumblers at community venues. This will divert 135,000 tonnes or 1,800 wheelie bins of waste per year from disposal and instead create nutrient-rich compost to support biodiversity and local food growing.
- **Cooking with Surplus Food:** Teaching practical and money saving skills for preventing food waste through making creative and delicious meals including after-school cookery sessions and in shared eating spaces that bring people together to combat loneliness.

- **Community Workshops:** covering topics such as how to reduce food waste, to lead cookery sessions and shared meals, upcycling, recycling, and understanding food's impact on the climate.
- **Inspiring Young Food Use Activists:** Partnering with students, to run waste audits in schools producing recommendations for change within schools.
- **Shifting Focus: From 'Manage the problem of Waste' to Prevent Waste:** Unlike many initiatives that focus on recycling, the Food Use Places Project shifts the emphasis to preventing food waste in the first place. For example, it will create new products to extend the shelf-life of food such as turning fruit and veg that needs using up into frozen meals for people on low incomes to take home and food scraps into nutrient rich compost.

Everyday Activism:

"It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the climate crisis, but this project is about harnessing the power of everyday actions. We want people to have the knowledge and confidence to reduce food waste, turning everyday choices into collective impact. The launch event will show a 'hot-off-the-press' short film about the work of Moulsecoomb Forest Garden demonstrating how this project partner engages their local community in action on food and climate" Vanessa O'Shea Project Manager, Food Use Places.

[LINK](#) to B&H Food Partnership's latest video about the Food Use Places project at Moulsecoomb Forest Garden's 30th year celebration.

"Working together to turn food scraps into compost for our community garden has become a rewarding routine. Initially daunting, it's now a natural part of our day. Partnering provides comfort; we have a network for support and sharing knowledge as we continue to learn." Reyna Kothari, Old Boat Community Centre

"Thank you to the National Lottery Climate Action Fund for supporting Food Use places. BHCC look forward to working with the partnership of 15 community rooted organisations. In particular, we welcome the focus on engaging people that are currently under-represented in climate action." Cllr Bella Sankey, Leader Brighton & Hove City Council

Mel Eaglesfield, Deputy Director at The National Lottery Community Fund, said: *"We're delighted to support the Food Use Places project through our Climate Action Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, this terrific initiative will help address food waste across East Sussex, and both engage and educate the community in sustainable food practices."*

*For a list of all 14 partners, see www.bhfood.org

About Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership is a non-profit organisation dedicated to creating a healthy, sustainable food system for all. Through a range of initiatives, the Partnership engages with local communities to promote food education, reduce food waste, and support access to healthy food.

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