



# our shared plate

a neighbourhood network initiative

## Sustainable Food Policy for Our Shared Plate

Our Shared Plate is dedicated to fostering resilient, connected, and sustainable communities through shared food growing, cooking, and eating. This policy outlines our commitment to promoting food practices that benefit people, the planet, and local economies. It serves as a guiding framework for all Our Shared Plate activities, from garden development to workshops.

### Vision

To cultivate a local food system where every community member has access to nutritious, sustainably produced food, understands its origins, and actively participates in its creation and enjoyment. We work towards enhanced well-being, environmental stewardship, and community cohesion.

### Procurement

- **Objective:** To ethically and sustainably source any food or materials required for Our Shared Plate activities.
- **Actions:**
  - Prioritise sourcing in-season, healthy, appropriate foodstuffs from local and environmentally responsible suppliers where possible.
  - Regarding the above conditions, adopt a flexible approach in collaboration with our community partners, acknowledging that the most sustainable

decision depends on a hierarchy of considerations which in turn depends on each context.

- o Consider suppliers who demonstrate strong civic responsibility in their community.
- o Collaborate with local businesses, farmers, and organisations that align with our sustainable food vision.
- **Objective:** To continuously assess and improve the sustainability performance of Our Shared Plate activities.
- **Actions:**
  - o Review this policy annually to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness, adapting to new research, national and international best practices, and the community's needs.
  - o Regularly monitor indicators such as what food is grown in the participating community, workshop participation, and compost and waste reduction efforts.
  - o Gather feedback from participants and community members to inform our sustainable food policy updates and overall programme development.
  - o Share lessons learned and best practices with other organisations and initiatives who we work with.

### **Responsibilities**

All Our Shared Plate staff, facilitators, and participating community members are responsible for adhering to and promoting the objectives and actions outlined in this policy. The project manager and community liaison officers will oversee the implementation, monitoring, and review of this policy.

### **Communication**

This Our Shared Plate Sustainable Food Policy will be made accessible through our project reporting, facilitators handbook, workshops, event plans, and community engagement. We will actively communicate our commitment to sustainable food practices and encourage open dialogue and feedback at all of our events.

By implementing this Sustainable Food Policy, Our Shared Plate aims to create a thriving and resilient local food system that nourishes both people and the planet.

**Sources**

FAO Sustainable Food Systems 2018

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b620989c-407b-4caf-a152-f790f55fec71/content>

Safefood 2023

<https://www.safefood.net/professional/research/sustainable-eating-guidelines>