



SWANSEA SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLAN

2024 - 2029

**BWYD
ABERTAWE
FOOD**



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government



INTRODUCTION

Bwyd Iach, Fforddiadwy a Lleol ar Gael I Bawb, er Lles Pol a'r Blaned.

Healthy, Affordable and Local Food Available to All, for the Well-being of People and Planet.

Bwyd Abertawe is a member network of over 500 groups, organisations, businesses and citizens across the City and County of Swansea, uniting everyone who is interested in sustainable food for Swansea!

Built on localised knowledge and experience in response to climate change and social injustice, we seek and support collaborations both at grassroots and strategically, towards sustainable food in Swansea. There is so much happening, and still much more to do.

The Sustainable Food Plan is organised according to Sustainable Food Places 6 Key Issue pillars, to ensure a whole-systems approach to changing Swansea's food systems. This plan is intended to help coordinate and support our collective movement towards sustainable food.

This plan was formed via 8 workshops held with Bwyd Abertawe members and targeted interest groups. Over 100 people representing different organisations, businesses and community groups participated in the workshops to co-produce this document.

The topics under **Now** highlight work underway by Bwyd Abertawe and across our membership. The topics under **Next** highlight work next steps and stages that are soon to follow. The topics under **Then** outline what we want to see happen or further action to progress sustainable food for Swansea.

If you would like to know more or become a member of Bwyd Abertawe, please visit our website: www.bwydabertawe.org.uk

Any enquiries email Mary Duckett, Bwyd Abertawe coordinator: manager@bwydabertawe.org.uk



BWYD ABERTAWE FOOD



1

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Ensuring that Bwyd Abertawe is well resourced, fit-for-purpose and working inclusively and collaboratively to support Swansea's food system.

3

FOOD FAIRNESS

Ensuring everyone has access to healthy, local, sustainable and affordable food. Tackling food poverty, health inequality and diet related ill-health.

5

CATERING & PROCUREMENT

Ensuring local organisations like schools and hospitals are supporting local and sustainable food through their catering and procurement systems.

2

GOOD FOOD MOVEMENT

Building public awareness and support for sustainable food, helping people to become active food citizens and growing the local good food movement.

4

SUSTAINABLE FOOD ECONOMY

Creating a vibrant, prosperous, and diverse sustainable food economy in Swansea. Increasing local food supply and creating market opportunities for farmers, producers and businesses.

6

NATURE FRIENDLY FARMING

Tackling the climate and nature emergencies through sustainable food & farming and an end to food waste. Working together across Swansea to transform the way we produce.

Organisational
structure

Active steering
group

1

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Ensuring that Bwyd Abertawe is well resourced, fit-for-purpose and working inclusively and collaboratively to support Swansea's food system.

Strategic
relationships

Inclusive and
collaborative

NOW

Clarify the terms of Bwyd Abertawe's relationship with The Environment Centre as hosts of the Partnership.

Ensure we are well placed to apply for and access **appropriate funding** opportunities for our core costs and projects., including collaborative bids with the wider network

NEXT

Maintain an active and enthusiastic **management group** with a good mix of skills and experience.

Develop varied opportunities for the **wider network** to get involved according to their interests and availability.

Ensure broad **involvement and representation**, including diversity and harder-to-engage stakeholders such as farmers and deprived communities.

THEN

Develop strategic relationships with **key organisations** including the Public Services Board, the Health Board, the Council and others.

Our Vision:

Bwyd Abertawe is a trusted, collaborative vehicle through which collaboration can happen, with funding for projects that deliver on this 5-year plan.



Organisational
structure

1

GOOD GOVERNANCE

PROJECTS

Strategic
relationships

Active steering
group

Inclusive and
collaborative

Bwyd Abertawe bi-monthly members' activities and updates meeting, open for all members to attend and share project updates and opportunities to collaborate. Published BA Annual Report 2023-24. Bwyd Abertawe is hosted by The Environment Centre. Bwyd Abertawe Steering Group has Terms of Reference to govern meeting arrangements and decision making processes.



Public
engagement

Community
growing

2

GOOD FOOD MOVEMENT

Building public awareness and support for sustainable food, helping people to become active food citizens and growing the local good food movement.

Business
engagement

Education and
schools

NOW

Continued **social media** campaigning especially in relation to the Swansea Food Charter.

Encouraging more people, businesses, and organisations to sign up to the **Swansea Food Charter**.

Promoting and signposting to local food producers, farmers markets, food hubs, community growing.

Supporting **schools** to embed Sustainable Food into curriculum and extra-curricular activities, eg growing, cooking, farm visits

NEXT

Partner organisations **collaborating** on good food campaigns, raising awareness of the issues around food, promoting local and sustainable choices.

More **public events** linked to growing and cooking e.g. roadshows / come and try sessions / recipe competitions.

More **food growing** in public spaces (edible beds set up in centre of town); more community growing sites across Swansea; support for more people to get involved.

THEN

Greater awareness and demand for local and sustainable food.

Swansea Food Charter signatories working together to build the good food movement in all organisations and communities.

Our Vision:

Many more people across Swansea take an interest in where their food comes from, support local producers, and are actively involved in food related projects.



*Public
engagement*

2

GOOD FOOD MOVEMENT

PROJECTS

*Business
engagement*

*Community
growing*

*Education and
schools*

Swansea Environmental Forum and Growing Volunteers and Access to Local Produce (GVALP) Promoting volunteer opportunities at community projects throughout Great Big Green Week 8-16 June. Swansea Community Farm jobs opportunities, check their website

ArtStation's "Natural Law" community growing project explores the effects of climate change on Bonymaen. Including solutions such as food growing and cooking skills. ArtStation are looking for ways to help foodbank users connect with locally grown, seasonal food, and increase seasonal food cookery.

The Orchard Project are working with Gower College Green Hwb to develop their food growing and education facilities, including edible hedges, a food forest, and orchard.

Swansea Climate Action Network members attended resilient Swansea workshops held by the council, and food was identified as a priority. Members also held a discussion panel after the showing of "Rooted" at The Environment Centre.

There is potential to use the Food Farming and Countryside Commission's (FFCC) Food Conversation toolkit to host a workshop in Swansea.

Cae Tan and Cae Felin are working with the sustainable schools programme, and running school visits to the sites. Connections are being developed with Craigfelen Primary, local to Cae Felin CSA



*Public
engagement*

2

GOOD FOOD MOVEMENT

PROJECTS

*Business
engagement*

*Community
growing*

*Education and
schools*

Bwyd Abertawe hosts quarterly in-person network events to explore topics within the plan. Bwyd Abertawe publishes a quarterly e-news, which includes articles about members sustainable food activities. They also have a presence on social media; @bwydabertawe #localfood #sustainablefood #swanseafoodcharter #bwydlleol #bwydcynaliadwy #siarterfwydabertawe and are planning campaigns to raise awareness of sustainable food, Swansea Food Charter, Sustainable Food Places Bronze Award 2024 and Swansea's 5 Year Sustainable Food Plan 2024-29



Co-production & empowerment

Access to healthy choices

3

FOOD FAIRNESS

Ensuring everyone has access to healthy, local, sustainable and affordable food. Tackling food poverty, health inequality and diet related ill-health.

Education and Schools

Connecting with food banks

NOW

Asking people who are struggling what we can do; co-production, empowerment through identifying needs of the community.

Working in **partnership** with local organisations with community links, eg Food Poverty Network; Matthews House; housing associations; Fare Share Cymru, Faith in Families and other charities.

Build links with Public Health Wales, Welsh Government and the health board.

NEXT

Increasing **access to locally grown food** in all communities, for example by identifying local partners to create food hubs, establishing or developing community growing projects, supporting local food businesses within the community, addressing transport barriers.

Improving access to **cooking skills**, knowledge, tools and resources, eg through events and information sharing.

Food related projects with **schools, families, and children.**

THEN

Communities coming together to grow, cook and eat good food.

Organisations collaborating across Swansea to increase access to healthy food choices.

Our vision:

Fresh local food is available in every community across Swansea, children understand the importance of what they eat, and there are many more community growing spaces.



3

FOOD FAIRNESS

PROJECTS

Co-production & empowerment

Access to healthy choices

Education and Schools

Connecting with food banks

Swansea Council Tackling Poverty Team supports Swansea Food Poverty Network and administers Direct Food Support Fund

Cae Felin CSA Providing opportunities to learn growing for Llangyfelach Primary School. Also Craig Felin Primary in collaboration with Cae Tan CSA. Offering therapeutic experiences for Morriston Hospital's brain injury unit, and lunch clubs for staff

Bwyd Abertawe's Growing Volunteers and Access to Local Produce (GVALP) project and SCVS have been running cooking courses in low income areas using CSA vegetables, including at Morriston and Townhill Primary Schools. Veg boxes have been donated by Big Meadow and Cae Tan to individuals and families without access to local produce.

SCVS Working with parents from local school groups to increase access to healthy food, and build cooking skills.

Good For You Ferments / Blackhills CSA teaching fermenting at Black Mountain College

Seaview Flying Start provides stew packs to parents - a bag of veg, cooking instructions and a breakdown of the cost. They would like to use surplus veg to save it from being wasted



Markets and
food hubs

Infrastructure

4

SUSTAINABLE FOOD ECONOMY

Creating a vibrant, prosperous, and diverse sustainable food economy in Swansea. Increasing local food supply and creating market opportunities for farmers, producers and businesses.

Networks and
collaboration

Creating new
food businesses

NOW

Mapping and building a directory of local food producers, growers, farm shops and food hubs, eg southwalesfoodanddrink.co.uk

Building networks with **local farmers** to better understand their challenges, barriers and opportunities; Initiating collaborative projects to support sustainable food and keep young farmers on the land.

Projects to engage **public sector organisations** in ensuring they are supporting local and sustainable food through their supply chains.

NEXT

Collaborating with local partners to create **more outlets** for local and sustainable food in urban and deprived communities, eg markets, food hubs, shops.

Events, eg Local Food Day, to engage small suppliers and promote local producers.

Supporting small suppliers and new businesses, eg market gardens, with training, funding, grant application support.

Collaborative **publicity campaigns** around the real value of real food, and the true cost of “cheap” food.

THEN

Building better infrastructure for local and sustainable food, eg abattoirs, distribution.

Swansea food producers and customers better connected.

Our vision:

A network of local markets and food hubs provides a reliable route to market for local produce. There is shared infrastructure to support farmers and producers.



Markets and food hubs

Infrastructure

4

SUSTAINABLE FOOD ECONOMY

PROJECTS

Networks and collaboration

Creating new food businesses

4theRegion and Bwyd Abertawe Gower Grown project looking into challenges Gower famers face accessing supply chains. Cae Tan secured funding to bring land into community ownership

4theRegion's Green Economy Conference and Exhibition 2024 has dedicated food zone

Bwyd Abertawe, Swansea Council's food partnership, and Cywain organise local food days, for small food businesses to network and discuss topics.



Collaboration by
public bodies

Growing the
supply of local
food

5

CATERING & PROCUREMENT

Ensuring local organisations like schools and hospitals are supporting local and sustainable food through their catering and procurement systems.

Pilots and
case studies

Education and
campaigns

NOW

A collaborative learning journey to **understand and address barriers** to shortening food supply chains, and create more demand for local and sustainable food.

Mapping organisations' existing supply chains, aggregating demand data and **identifying opportunities for relocalisation** of specific products.

Partnering with regional wholesalers and distributors such as **Castell Howell**, to increase the amount of local produce in their public sector supply chains.

NEXT

Scaling up the supply of local produce, eg locally grown vegetables, in readiness for increased demand. Eg. making land available for growing, supporting market gardens, training more growers, engaging with (and supporting) farmers.

A systems approach to **scaling up the demand** within organisations such as schools and hospitals, to raise awareness and put “local and sustainable food” high on the agenda; initiatives involving everyone from senior leadership to staff, patients, children and families.

THEN

Shifting our procurement practices to ensure there is much more local and sustainable food on the public plate, providing a reliable market for local produce.

Our vision:

We produce much more of the food we eat, locally. Organisations are working together to strengthen local supply chains and procure food from local suppliers.



Collaboration by
public bodies

Growing the
supply of local
food

5

CATERING & PROCUREMENT

PROJECTS

Pilots and
case studies

Education and
campaigns

4theRegion, Bwyd Abertawe and Public Service Board Procurement Learning Journey, looking at overcoming barriers to local procurement for public bodies

Bwyd Abertawe strengthening connections with Morriston Hospital to improve their food provisions. Proposal for a future in-person network to explore this in 2025

Swansea becoming part of Welsh Veg in Schools - local farmers to provide produce to school kitchens

Paediatric wards would like to see fresh fruit provided for children, are looking for surplus options. This topic proposed to be included at a future in-person network, 2025



*Working WITH
farmers*

*Awareness and
education*

6

NATURE FRIENDLY FARMING

Tackling the climate and nature emergencies through sustainable food & farming and an end to food waste. Working together across Swansea to transform the way we produce.

*Access to land
for food growing*

*A resilient local
food system*

NOW

Strengthen relationships and trust with local farmers in order to support the move towards nature-friendly / regenerative farming practices.

Support Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms to develop, involve more people, share their knowledge and distribute their produce.

Engage and educate people across Swansea about the issues relating to our global food system, through events and campaigns.

NEXT

Make land available for food growing in every community.

Create career pathways into sustainable food growing so that we have the skills needed to support and transform our food system.

Projects that create **greater awareness of the intersecting issues** relating to food and farming, and which promote/enable behaviour change. Support schools to embed sustainable food education throughout the **primary and secondary school** experience.

THEN

Reduce dependence on the globalised, industrialised food system by taking a collaborative, integrated approach to developing a resilient local food and farming sector.

Our vision:

The decarbonisation agenda is driving investment into sustainable food and farming. Local farmers are embracing nature-friendly approaches and are well supported.



*Working WITH
farmers*

6

NATURE FRIENDLY FARMING

PROJECTS

*Access to land
for food growing*

*Awareness and
education*

*A resilient local
food system*

Bwyd Abertawe GVALP Project, Swansea Community Fridge and Big Meadow CSA Using surplus veg to deliver cookery courses, and sharing advice on reducing food waste. Blackhills CSA new website and open for veg box orders!

Cae Felin has a full-time grower, and are looking to expand their veg box provision as well as biodiversity and well-being uses of the site.

Black Mountains college and The Apricot Centre are offering a course in regenerative farming and agro-ecology.

The Orchard Project and Cae Tan are looking into the benefits of agro-forestry, and hoping to make it a more standard growing practise on Gower.

Bwyd Abertawe's Mawr project facilitated a farmers visit to Castell Howell to talk about accessing their supply chain and building relationships, with aims to support farmers to move towards using more regenerative farming techniques

Bwyd Abertawe to continue to develop engagement with farmers and take the Mawr project's recommendations forward

SWANSEA FOOD CHARTER

**Healthy, Affordable and Local Food
Available to All,
for the Wellbeing of People
and Planet.**



The food we consume has a huge impact, not only on our health, but also our economy and environment.

A thriving, inclusive, equitable and nutritious local food system is a key driver for moving Swansea towards the seven Wellbeing Goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales).

We invite citizens, businesses and organisations to pledge support for the Swansea Food vision and objectives.

Sign up via the website:
www.bwydabertawe.org.uk

As the citizens, businesses and organisations of Swansea, we are committed to:

Inclusive Collaboration

-  Working together, involving everyone and reaching out.
-  An inclusive approach that celebrates cultural diversity.
-  A united effort and a strong voice for Swansea food.

Healthy Food Fairness for All

-  Food and nutrition security for everyone.
-  Tackling poverty and improving wellbeing through food.
-  Land for food growing in every community.

A Flourishing Food Economy

-  Growing demand for locally produced food.
-  More local markets and effective distribution.
-  Supporting local growers and producers to succeed.

Food, Land and Environment

-  Cherishing our soil, water, nature and biodiversity.
-  Increasing access to land for new farmers and local growing.
-  Supporting regenerative and sustainable approaches.

Food Skills and Awareness

-  Empowering everyone to grow, cook and eat better food.
-  Learning how health, soil, food and climate interconnect.
-  Building skills in organic and regenerative growing.



SWANSEA FOOD CHARTER



How can you help? What can you do?

Listed below are some ways you can take action, to help make healthy, affordable and local food available to all.

As a citizen:

-  Sign up to the Swansea Food Charter.
-  Shop local, and buy Swansea (or Welsh) produce, when you can.
-  Ask shops, cafes and supermarkets what their local options are. Encourage them to stock local produce.
-  Reduce your food waste, buy and use smaller portions and compost at home.
-  Do what you can afford. Invest in the social, environmental, health and quality benefits of locally produced food (which is often reflected in the price).
-  Volunteer at your local community garden or community farm.
-  Learn about the importance of healthy soil.
-  Make a Sustainable Food Pledge.
-  Get involved in Bwyd Abertawe projects and events!

Inclusive Collaboration

-  Sign up to the Swansea Food Charter.
-  Display the charter to show your commitment.
-  Share it with your team and encourage them to sign up.
-  Nominate a Sustainable Food Champion for your organisation, to attend Bwyd Abertawe meetings and promote the Charter.
-  Buy and serve local, healthy, and sustainably produced food.
-  Work to amend your procurement policy to prioritise sustainably produced food and shorter supply chains.
-  Take innovative and creative steps to increase the demand for, and availability of, healthy, affordable and local food for all.
-  Identify land that you could make available for local growing and farming.
-  Make a Sustainable Food Pledge.
-  Get involved in Bwyd Abertawe projects and events!

Sign up via the website:
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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Enabling and Empowering Collaboration Across Swansea's Sustainable Food System

Bwyd Abertawe is a network for everyone with an interest in sustainable food for Swansea. As such, this Five Year Plan belongs to us all. It is intended to provide a framework for people, organisations and businesses to take action in different ways, with confidence that we are all aligned and pulling in the same direction.

If you are running projects or leading on activities related to sustainable food, we hope that you will keep Bwyd Abertawe updated so that we can maintain a coordinating function, avoid duplication and identify opportunities for collaboration.

We warmly invite you to reference this plan in your own funding applications and project proposals, and to use it as evidence for the work that you are seeking to deliver. And if you see opportunities for collaboration, please reach out to us so that we may connect you with likeminded partners.



Thank you for your support and partnership as we work to make healthy, affordable and local food available to all!

If you would like to know more or become a member of Bwyd Abertawe, please visit our website:

www.bwydabertawe.org.uk

Any enquiries email Mary Duckett, Bwyd Abertawe coordinator: **manager@bwydabertawe.org.uk**