

Edible Cities **Network:** Integrating Edible City Solutions for socially resilient & sustainably productive cities

**Social cohesion and
Climate resilience
in Urban dense areas**

BRIGHTON AND HOVE



Founded by local residents in 2003, the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership (BHFP) is a non-profit organisation helping people learn to cook, eat a healthy diet, grow their own food and waste less. They connect and inspire individuals, community groups and organisations. They believe food is more than just fuel, it brings people together and changes lives.



What They Do

BHFP take a cross sector, place- based approach to improving access to healthy and sustainable food. They work in partnership with community organisations, the local authority, health services, schools and businesses. The joint vision and approach are set out in a food strategy and action plan, **Spade to Spoon 2018-2023**, which has 200 actions and 100 partners. This includes aims and actions around key climate change topics including food waste and packaging, land use and dietary choices.

Practical Examples: Working with Community Groups and Individuals

- *Community Kitchen* – a cookery school whose social enterprise model ensures that those on a lower income can benefit from cooking and sharing food
- *Community Gardens* – helping people start, run and get involved with community fruit and veg gardens
- *Tackling Waste* - co-ordinating the surplus food network. In 2018 the network distributed 1090 tonnes of food that would otherwise have gone to waste. Running a community composting scheme with 1200 households.

Citywide Achievements

- 70+ community gardens, planted 200 orchards across Sussex and have over 3000 allotment plots in use
- Transformed the lives of over 2,000 people with mental health or other wellbeing issues through community gardening
- Addressed social isolation through 1,265 shared meals every day
- Established 170 volunteer-led community food projects across the city
- The first city in the UK to achieve a silver Sustainable Food City award in 2015 and on track to achieve Gold in 2020 www.sustainablefoodcities.org



#goldfoodcitybid

Role in EdiCitNet

The Brighton and Hove Food Partnership demonstrate what can be achieved by developing strong relationships between businesses, residents and community projects across the city.

Their role in this project is to offer advice on producing and implementing Edible City Solutions by taking a sustainable systemic approach (the framework of a citywide, collaborative food strategy). They offer examples of establishing and encouraging community projects which increase social cohesion, promote a vibrant food economy and help meet climate change targets. They can organise visits, respond to questions via email / phone and have case studies they can share.

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