

Draft Nature and Climate Emergency Strategy

Theme: Food, Farming and Land Use

The food and land-use system is a primary lever for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience, where agriculture accounts for 35% of district emissions. The food system (through distribution, processing, storage and waste) is also responsible for significant transport, domestic, commercial & industrial and waste emissions.

In the Forest of Dean, we benefit from a natural environment which sequesters (captures and stores) greenhouse gases, reducing our overall district emissions by 20%.

The [national food strategy](#) published summer 2021 is clear that ‘without addressing the emissions of the food system, it will not be possible to meet those climate change obligations [laid out by law] and to contribute to mitigating climate change.’

Community derived evidence has highlighted a clear mandate: work with local farmers and producers, scale up ecological and nature-based land management, protect and plan for space to grow food (e.g. allotments, community plots) and invest in skills for growing, cooking, preserving and logistics to shorten supply chains, cut waste and strengthen health.

Recent progress under this theme has included highly productive community conversations within [Forest Food Forum](#) and [Climathon](#) events, development of the [Forest Food Network](#), the [Wye Adapt To Climate Change](#) project, water company [support to farmers](#), a growing network of [community growing projects](#) and the continued success of the [Forest Showcase Food Festival](#) and [Dean Forest Food Hub](#).

Proposed aims and actions within this theme will connect carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation, community wellbeing and support for nature whilst creating local green jobs and a fair, resilient food future for our district.

Aim/Action	Priority
Aim FL01: The district is recognised nationally as a leader in sustainable land use practices due to the extent and innovative nature of practices.	
FL01-01: FoDDC ensures the Local Plan 2025-2045 places strategic priority on nature recovery, net zero and climate change adaptation, supported by robust policies and planning guidance such as Sustainable Urban Drainage and space for food growing.	1
FL01-02: FoDDC promotes and supports the 'Wye Adapt to Climate Change' programme, using insights from the programme to inform similar work across the rest of the district.	1

FL01-03: FoDDC ensures Council planning policy considers and responds appropriately to planning applications for carbon intensive or highly environmentally impactful developments.	2
FL01-04: FoDDC collaborates with relevant agencies to produce guidance on land management practices that support drought and flood risk management (such as through Natural Flood Management) and deliver associated training for landowners and businesses.	2
FL01-05: FoDDC considers the new 'Land Use Framework for England' and how it could apply to Council policies/practices.	4
Aim FL02: Deliver resilient and net zero carbon food systems.	
FL02-01: FoDDC collaborates with Climate Leadership Gloucestershire to deliver the 'Gloucestershire Food and Farming for Net Zero' recommendations and plans for sustainable local food systems.	1
FL02-02: FoDDC collaborates with Climate Leadership Gloucestershire and landowners/tenants to promote and develop projects in support of ecological /regenerative, food production, farming and forestry.	1
FL02-03: FoDDC works with the Forest Food Network to support Local Growing, Food Equity & Inclusion and Sustainable Agriculture to promote ecological growing practices, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a resilient food system which adapts to climate change.	1
FL02-04: FoDDC supports an increase in local capacity, improved accessibility, knowledge and skills for community growing, cooking (including the 'Five Dinners App') and Community Supported Agriculture .	1