

BRADFORD ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TRUST

Registered Office: Pit Hill Community Environment Centre
Holme Lane, Bradford, BD4 0QF

Growing Food In Cities

WHO WE ARE

Bradford Environmental Action Trust (BEAT) is an independent, membership organisation founded in 1992 to act as an all-embracing forum for environmental and community action in the Bradford District. Membership of BEAT is based on **open** and **equal** access for all. BEAT is an incorporated charity which is enrolled with ENTRUST as an Environmental Body. BEAT administers a local **project grant scheme** funded by **Landfill Tax**.

The simple goal of BEAT is to work towards a healthy environment, natural and built, which is sustainable and which improves the quality of life of all people in the Bradford District. BEAT believes effective action requires decisions to be made as close as possible to the communities they affect.

Therefore community initiatives, teamwork and partnerships are the key to success

A main purpose of BEAT is to give sustainable development and Local Agenda 21 a high profile in the Bradford District. We provide a forum for discussion between businesses, voluntary groups, the council and individuals. Discussion takes place at issue based Members meetings with invited speakers from all of the four sectors, and in the pages of the six issues a year of our newsletters, BEATroot and babyBEAT.

Growing Food in Cities is the name of a sub-group of BEAT formed in 1995 to actively promote food growing in the Bradford District, and to support the national research project of the National Food Alliance.

THE PROCESS

Identify the existing

- Get involved in local and national research on urban food growing – compile information leaflets giving identity and recognition to existing projects
- Distribute questionnaires with allotment rent demands – ask the right questions!
- Work with the Allotments Office to identify options and solutions

Give away control

- Allow autonomy
- Build trust
- Provide funding streams such as Landfill Tax
- Work in partnership with local authorities, health authorities (particularly health promotions) business links, and community regeneration companies so that they write food into **their** service plans
- Encourage allotment bands to become self-managing
- Get sustainable food growing, processing and distribution written into the Local Agenda process so that everyone can contribute

Create opportunity

- Set up subgroups as activists – Allotments Action Group, Growing Food in Cities, Permaculture
- Set up an Allotments Think Tank so that the Allotment Office have broad-based help
- Set up long-term land-based projects next to people (regeneration areas)
- Run courses on organic gardening and on Permaculture – build a critical mass of trained people
- Provide access to wholesale prices for tools, seeds, organic fertilisers, seed potatoes and onion sets
- Run one-day workshops on agriculture and food in the District and half-days on Developing the Local Food Economy – get a senior Councillor to open them
- Identify new sites with the Council for urban, community food production
- Fund and manage organic food growing in school grounds

Celebrate (have fun)

- Run a national conference on urban food growing and get the Peasants Collective to do the food!
- Run a Permaculture Association Convergence and AGM with food by the Peasants Collective
- Hold a public meeting on the Community Supply Chain where there is a celebration of the existing community food growing, catering and composting projects
- Run some small produce open-air markets in a town and city centre as Harvest Market Celebrations – get people used again to buying local produce

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