Food: the missing ingredient for tackling the climate and ecological emergency

**What’s going wrong?**

The food we eat contributes up to 30% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the UK. Agriculture and livestock farming are by far the biggest contributors to deforestation, biodiversity loss, and soil pollution, as well as land and water use. The UK wastes 10 million tonnes of food every year.

**And what can we do?**

1. **Include food! In...**
   - Climate Emergency action plans
   - Nature / biodiversity action plans
   - Planning, transport and economic policy

2. **Buy and eat better**
   - Both individuals and organisations such as restaurants and caterers adopt a climate friendly diet:
     - More plant – less meat
     - More seasonal – less processed
   - Lower carbon supply chains including:
     - Food depots
     - Markets
     - Direct buying
     - Tech solutions
     - Electric delivery
     - Dynamic procurement

3. **Care for land – and sea**
   - Climate friendly agriculture: Carbon capture – biodiversity – soil regeneration – new skills and jobs
   - Pesticide reduction: more pollinators – better food supply
   - Carbon leadership: City Council Whole Estate Plan, South Downs National Park Authority, The Living Coast UNESCO World Biosphere Region, Sussex IFCA, allotments and community gardens

4. **Think circular**
   - 25-30% of all food produced is lost or wasted – we have to halve that by 2030
   - Think food use not food waste: Reduce, Reuse, Redistribute, Recycle
   - Innovation e.g. Surplus Food Network, new repurposed products

5. **Act in partnership**
   - Support the Food Partnership!
   - Deliver the Food Strategy
   - Communication and connections
   - Build a movement

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1. Our Planet Our Health: House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee 2019
2. Consumption of fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes will have to double, and consumption of foods such as red meat and sugar will have to be reduced by more than 50%.” The EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health, 2019, which brought together 37 world-leading scientists from across the globe to answer this question: Can we feed a future population of 10 billion people a healthy diet within planetary boundaries?
3. In the UK, agriculture is the biggest driver of wildlife loss, with 67 percent decline in the abundance of priority species since 1970 and 13 percent of them now close to extinction.” Our Future in the Land, RSA Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
4. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land
5. UN sustainable development goal: 50% reduction in food waste by 2030