



Making food fair and cultivating community: A year at Sutton Community Farm

Annual Report 2012-13

Sutton Community Farm is a not for profit social enterprise and London's largest community Farm.

We were established in 2010 in response to a community need, with the purpose to increase access to fresh, healthy, sustainable food and provide a shared space for people to cultivate practical and social skills, get exercise and make friends. We've had over 1,000 volunteers so far.

Our farm sits on a beautiful 7.1 acre smallholding, with a view towards the skyline of central London.

I am so happy I found you guys, it is wonderful to have real fresh food - the smell of them as I cut them is so wonderful. Please thank everyone for all their work.

Nicola, 2013

Not only did I learn a lot but I felt privileged to be part of such a fantastic project. I will definitely be keeping up with everyone's blogs and website entries and will visit when I'm back in London.

Francesca, 2013

The farm's veg have such flavour, I don't need to use a many stocks, spices and salts when I cook so it makes mealtimes easy!

Beata, 2013

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for making feel so welcome, coming here has gone a long way to helping me restore my sense of humour and make me feel valued at a particularly difficult time in my life.

Farm Volunteer, 2013

We love the vegetables - the taste is noticeably better than the supermarket and it's good to know it's all grown so nearby. Also, the leaflet is so useful - especially in identifying the more unusual items!

Sian, 2013

Thank you all so much for giving me such a great experience over the three months that I volunteered at the farm. The atmosphere was always fun and friendly and everyone was always happy to take the time to explain the hows and whys - from the wider sustainable farming ideals to the spotting of side shoots on tomatoes!

Fred, 2013

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Foreword



At Sutton Community Farm (SCF) we have a motto that guides us: *Make Food Fair and Cultivate Community*. To make food fair is to create a food system where everyone has access to fresh, nutritious food; a culture where we celebrate the diversity of food and feel confident in cooking healthy, delicious meals, with real food that's unprocessed and makes us feel alive and nourished. A fair food system is also fair to producers and fair to the environment: building rich, fertile soil, improving biodiversity and minimising pollution.

We want our Farm to demonstrate the food system we want to see. With food so central to our lives and the largest component of our ecological footprint, we see an important role for community food projects like ours to strengthen the local economy, boost sustainable, local food production and bring the community together. This is what we are passionate about at Sutton Community Farm.

Through our apprenticeship programme, we hope to equip young people with the skills to go out and set up their own community farms — supporting a much needed generation of new farmers that have the skills to succeed in a competitive marketplace.

As we cultivate community, we want to help people understand where their food comes from and to be able to participate in growing it. We want the farm to be a shared space where people can come to learn new skills, build their confidence and make friends.

Central to all that we do is growing food. That's been the focus of our first few years and we've learnt a lot along the way. In the coming years, we are looking forward to seeing our soil become more fertile, and our productivity increase.

Our food system has many serious and complex challenges and we recognise that we don't have all the solutions. However we have had a great year growing food and community together, and hope our work will continue to teach and inspire those around us to create a fairer food system.

Samuel Smith
General Manager



Funder acknowledgement

Sutton Community Farm is grateful to have support from the following:



Big Lottery: Local Food is part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme that helps communities enjoy and improve their local environments. The programme funds a range of activities from local food schemes and farmers markets, to education projects teaching people about the local environment.



Sutton Community Fund: a local fund that supports projects that benefit Sutton residents and meet the Council's priorities.



The Naturesave Trust: Naturesave is an insurance provider that has strong ethical and environmental standards. Naturesave Trust supports projects with a long term benefit which deal proactively with the root of a particular problem as opposed to merely reacting to the effects.



Ernest Cook Trust: Rooted in the conservation and management of the countryside, ECT actively encourages children and young people to learn from the land through hands-on educational opportunities on its estates and by offering grants. ECT are supporting the Farm to offer an accredited apprenticeship scheme, starting in 2014.

We are also grateful to the 241 individuals who donated to support the Farm through our Crowdfunding Campaign. We are encouraged and inspired by their support.



The Farm VegShed: with the names of all our individual supporters. A huge thank you to...

Alec Leggat, Alex Jelly, Alex Jelly, Alice Thacker, Alistair Sutton, Amanda Edge, Amanda Ellen, Amanda Wilkins, Ania Wilk-Lawton, Anna Burton, Anna Francis, Annabelle Macfadyen, Anne Burgess, Annette Helliwell, Anthea Masey, Antonia Heath, Arturo Sanchez-Garcia, Badj Whipple, Barbara West, Beata Host, Beata Mazurek, Beth Stewart, Bridget McKenzie, Bryn Truscott, Caroline Aylard, Catherine Sweeney, Charlotte Gilhooly, Charlotte Patten, Chelsea-Anne Gell, Chloe Balharry, Chloe Nagle and Harry Hasson, Chris Lord, Chris Smith, Ciara Baxter, Claire Candelier, Claire Everett, Darren Miller, David Craddock, David Curtis, David Hoole, David Mackie, David Rickersby, Dean Claxton, Deborah Wolton, Donna Foster, Eileen Cooke, Elann Simpson, Eleanor Dowding, Elisabeth Laessing, Elizabeth Cooper, Elkanah Arthur, Emily Boxer, Emily Dent, Emily Mason, Emily Reed, Emma Coleman, Emma Coleman, Emma McGuire, Eva Lara, Evelyn McGregor, Faith Hutton, Feimatta Conteh, Felicity Bevell, Felzines, Frances Ellery, Frances Ryan, Francesca Sharpe, Fred Groom, Gabriel Gregory, Gav Edwards, Gavin McGregor, Gay McDonagh, Gay Whitwam, Gay Whitwam, Gemma Warnock, George Dow, George Ellison, Graham Dean, Hannah Burgon, Hannah Dwane, Hazel Selby, Heather Gordon, Hedevig Blakstad, Heenal Mistry, Helen Hamilton, Helen Heathfield, Helen Hill, Helen Simpson, Hetty Einzig, Ian Brice, Ian Steele, Irene Mezheritsky-Tsherit, Jackie Mackay, Jacob Rogers, Jan O'Highway, Jane Davies, Jane Foxon, Jem Turner, Jenny Forrest, Jessica Hall, Jessica Hodge, Jim Fielder, Joanne Tulloch, Jodie White, John Kinnear, Jon Stone, Jonathan Fagan, Joris Gunawardena, Josie Stapleton, Judy Groome, Juman Simaan, Justine Clement, Justine Gillen, Kate Hand, Kate Irwin, Kathy McGuinness, Katie Hardman, Kelly Parsons, Kenzo Fry, Kerry Makinson, Kevin Pope, Kevin Sargent, Kim Hallam, Kirsty Jerome, Kristin Sunde, Laura Daugherty, Laura Jackson, Laura Jean Sargent, Laura Nailor, Laurie Walsley, Lisa Unsworth, Lisa Webster, Liz Fisher, Louise Estelle Edwards, Lucie Galand, Lucy Jones, Lukasz Lakomy, Maggie Lyons, Majonne Bijl, Malcolm Sargent, Marcus Morrell, Marie Askin, Mark Kemmitt, Martin Zych, Matthew Burgon, Michael Condie, Michael Hazell, Michele Everard, Mike Morris, Mike O'Connor, Millie Darling, Miranda French, Miranda Lewis, Mithran Samuel, Mrs Honey, Muriel Boulland, Natalie Hough, Neil Ridulfa, Nicola Fagg, Niki Rosenbaum, Niki Rosenbaum, Nobuko Mura, Oz Bayldon, Pam Pereira, Paul Mackay, Paul Scholes, Paul Vesey-Wells, Paul Waller, Peggy, Phil Geraghty, Philip Andrews, Rachel Burgess, Rebecca Doyle, Renne Lacroix, Richard Simpson, Robin, Robin Grey, Romain Ley, Romanda Simpson, Ronan Gee, Rosie Chik, Rowan, Ruairi Rowan O'Connor, Ruth Jarman, Ruth Overton, Ruth Wong, Sameer Ghai, Samuel Smith, Samuel Smith, Samuel Smith, Samuel Smith, Sarah Bridger, Sarah Carver, Sarah Chubb, Sarah Moore, Saranne Woodcroft, Liam Bream, Scot Ohl, Selena Ellis, Sharon Dow, Shaun Derioz, Sheila Sargent, Shelley Latter, Simon Bacon, Simon Relph, Simon Wilcox, Simona Roberts, Simone Robinson, Skeels Family, Sophie Fisher, Stella Norcup, Stephanie Wong, Steve Sargent, Sula Thomas, Swadesh Poorun, Tanya Lee, Temujen, Thomas Bartels, Tim Croker, Tom, Tom Francis, Tony Pattison, Tony Ryan, Vera Brenner, Verity Wong, Westley Ingram, Zoe Davis, Zoe Sargent.

Introduction

In 2010, a small team of staff and a large group of volunteers started the process of nurturing 7.1 acres of unused land overlooking the London skyline back to life. The result of all this hard work is Sutton Community Farm (SCF), a shared space for the community to come and learn about where their food comes from, what it takes to grow food and to cultivate their own food growing skills.

The last year was an important year for the Farm. In August 2012, we benefited from a Big Lottery grant that enabled us to have the capacity to start producing food across all 7.1 acres of the site, as well as helping formalise some of the educational activities that happen on the Farm.

SCF has become an important asset to the local community. Using organic methods to grow vegetables, the farm is also an integrated food hub, operating a local vegetable box scheme and linking with other producers to increase access to healthy and affordable food in Sutton and beyond. More than just growing and distributing produce, SCF is becoming a thriving space for social and educational activities, for children, adults and groups.

As this report shows, we have achieved a huge amount this year and this is thanks to some very dedicated staff, volunteers and support from our wider community. It's valuable to look back and reflect on what we have achieved. Doing so gives us better clarity as we look forward to the years ahead. As a young enterprise, there will be many challenges as we build both our farm and our community.

Key Achievements 2012-13

Our Key Achievements for 2012-13 are listed against the four components of our mission:

To increase local food supply, grown sustainably	Production and distribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Increased active bed under cultivation and set up a rotation that uses all the land.✓ Procured new equipment to support supply and distribution: a delivery van, grow lights, polytunnel, fridge and cold frames.✓ Increased our distribution network by launching 23 new pickup points since Aug-12 (an increase from 11 to 34).✓ Improved communications by moving the office and setting up a new computer system, and launching a new website that has a new customer management system designed for scalability. Sustainability: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Established a One Planet Action Plan that guides our sustainability actions.
To create inclusive, shared spaces for the community to cultivate skills	Volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Introduced a volunteer induction process and curriculum for Sustainable Farming Assistants, helping volunteers be better supported.✓ Increased the number of regular volunteers from 10-15 per week to 20-40 volunteers per week.✓ Made the Farm safer place: All staff completed Emergency First Aid at Work training. Two employees completed Adult Safeguarding Training, and two additional employees passed Level II Food Safety and Hygiene training (50% of staff now have this).

	<p>Children's activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Launched a weekly Parent and Toddler session called the <i>Little Bugs Club</i> in February 2012. ✓ Secured funding to improve kitchen facilities and set up grow-cook-eat sessions with local schools. ✓ Secured funding to set up a formal apprenticeship scheme and support a new apprentice for 2014-15. <p>Courses and events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organised 5 community days: The Big Dig, Harvest Celebration, Easter Celebration, Pizza Party and a Thank you volunteers day. ✓ Organised courses: <i>How to build a cob oven</i>, <i>Bread Making</i> and <i>How to make green tomato chutney</i>. ✓ Worked with Grow South to hold three successful Introduction to Permaculture Courses.
To be community-led and not-for-profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Secured support from the Plunkett Foundation and Community Enterprise Hub to obtain advice on choosing a legal structure. ✓ Changed legal structure from a Company Limited by Guarantee to an Industrial and Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community.
To achieve economic stability, supporting land-based employment	<p>Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Created a more detailed business plan, marketing strategy and financial forecast for the enterprise, helping us track our progress in greater detail. ✓ Increased monthly income from £3,384 (Aug-12) to £15,172 (Aug-13). ✓ Secured £10,000 from the Ernest Cook Trust to set up a formal apprenticeship scheme and support a new apprenticeship position for 2014-15. ✓ Our crowdfunding campaign raised £17,145 from our supporting community to support the VegBox distribution scheme.

Key Business Developments

A fresh business plan

In April 2013, we completed a review of our business plan, detailing our strategy for developing SCF as a successful social enterprise. This exercise was valuable in understanding how we can balance our motivations to be a viable food growing business, while demonstrating exemplary environmental and social practice. Our current business plan is a publicly viewable here:

<http://bit.ly/scfbusinessplan>.

Creating the growing plan

In September 2012, the growing team spent a few intensive days to design the growing and rotation plan for 2012-13. The outcome of this was a detailed cropping calendar, seed order list and an approximation of yield and income. This has shaped the layout of the site so we have 16 beds, with a majority following a 6-year rotation. As part of our education and engagement with the community, many of these plans are made public on our website.



Farm layout: Illustration by farm volunteer Matt Bannister

Legal structural changes

After 12 months exploring legal structures and receiving advice, SCF transitioned from a Company Limited by Guarantee to an Industrial & Provident Society for the benefit of the community on 16th September 2013. This is an exciting step towards enabling the community to have greater involvement in shaping the Farm. We are now preparing a package to issue not-for-profit community shares. Part of this involves setting up a larger steering committee that will oversee the strategic direction of the Farm. Further details on this transition are available in in this document:

<http://bit.ly/SCF-IPS-INFO>.

Sustainability: Our One Planet Action Plan

This year we established a One Planet Action Plan. This uses the 10 One Planet Principles to guide our sustainability at the Farm. These principles were developed by BioRegional Development Group, a local environmental charity that helped start the Farm. Using the framework enables us to take a holistic and deep approach to sustainability, and share a common language with One Planet Sutton - a borough-wide initiative that includes its own action plan. To view the Farm's One Planet Action Plan, please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/SCF-OPAP>.

Staffing

Big Lottery Funding enabled the Farm to support a larger staff team in 2012-13. Over the year, we settled on the staffing structure as summarised below. We aim to hold this structure for 2013-14 and income permitting, establish a Community Coordinator, and increase staff time for the positions of General Manager, VegBox Project Assistant and Sales & Marketing Manager.

General Manager 3 days/wk Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business development - Budget management - Financial and legal compliance - HR: recruitment, line management and development - Health & Safety, insurance, lease management, - Communications incl. website - Delivery of sales and other targets - Funder and partner relationship management - Reporting to directors and stakeholders - Supporting volunteers incl. processes for recruitment 	Production and Training Manager 5 days/wk Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing and implementing farm production plan - Management of growing team - Developing training programme linked to production plan - Coordinating volunteers and group visits - Infrastructure planning and implementation - Site security - Maintenance and storage of materials and equipment - First Aid Box Checks - Purchasing equipment necessary to support activities
Growing apprentice 2-4 days/wk Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growing activities - Working collaboratively with Production Manager - Helping implement the farm's production plan - Obtaining a recognised horticultural qualification - Supporting volunteers 	Production and Training Manager 5 days/wk Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Book keeping - Authorising payments - Supporting financial management of the farm - Reporting to Directors and stakeholders
Growing apprentice 2-4 days/wk Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing customer orders - Coordinate packing of bags and distribution - Supporting customers: dealing with enquires and managing orders - Maintaining relationships with pickup points - Supporting marketing activities 	Sales & Marketing Manager 3 days/wk Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing marketing strategy - Increasing sales and implementing marketing strategy - Reporting to Farm Directors and Farm community - Helping shape and development the VegBag service - Work with the VegBag Project Assistant to ensure a high standard of customer service

Table: Current staff team at SCF

Positions that existed in 2012-13 but have been recently phased out include Volunteer Coordinator and Site Manager. This was due to the end of Big Lottery funding and a strategy to integrate the job roles into existing positions. Volunteer coordination is now shared between the Project Coordinator, Production and Training Manager and Growing Apprentice. Site management is the responsibility of the Production and Training Manager.

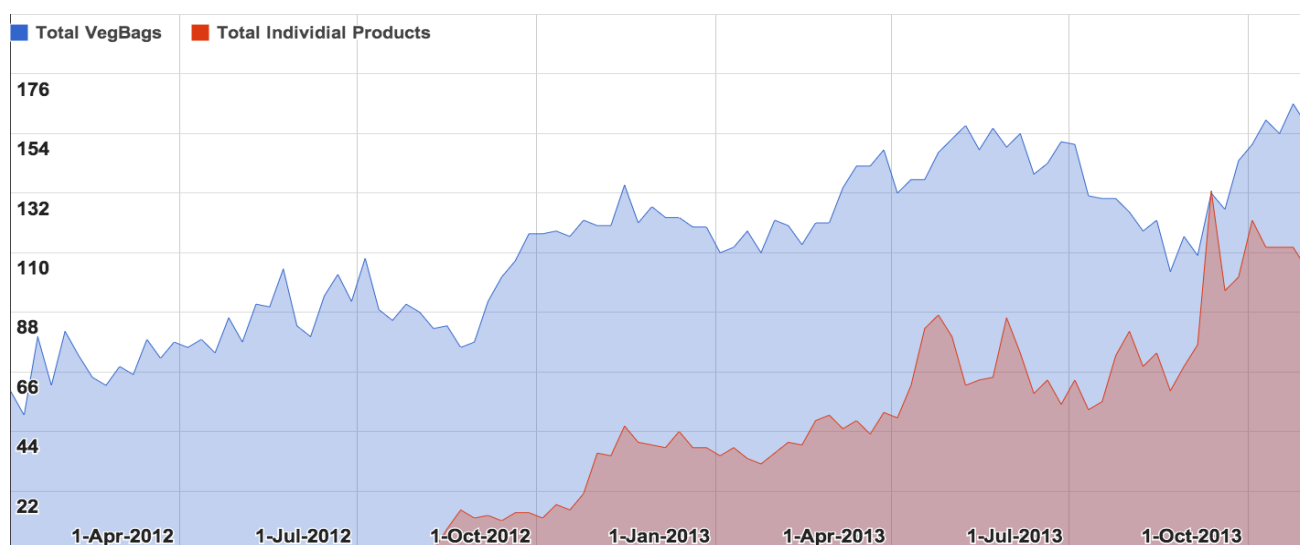
Project progress

The VegBag Scheme

The VegBag scheme is projected to be a regular and secure source of income for the Farm. As such, we invested a significant amount of time and energy into developing our VegBag scheme this year. The investment has been two fold:

1. **Improving systems:** redesigning our customer management systems and website to enable us to have more flexibility, sell a greater range of products, better web presence, and minimise increases in administration as our customer numbers increase.
2. **Creating the right team:** For the first time, we hired staff specifically to work on developing the VegBag scheme and to manage Sales & Marketing. With this focus, we have been able to increase the number of pickup points, form stronger partnerships and increase sales.

In October 2013 we completed a crowdfunding campaign to raise the profile of the scheme and secure additional finances to enable us to keep it running while customer numbers increase. This campaign successfully raised £17,172 from over 241 people.



Volunteering

Volunteers are at the heart of our Farm and our surveys show that volunteers come to learn new skills, share knowledge, meet people and be inspired about local food. Everyone on the staff team works closely with a wide range of volunteers and we are grateful for their commitment and enthusiasm for the Farm. There has been an increase in volunteers this year, with the farm having an average of 30 volunteers per week, 50 percent more than in 2011-12. In the last 12 months, we have improved our volunteer management by establishing:

- An Introduction to Volunteering Handbook;
- Volunteer application and agreement form;
- Volunteer induction checklist;
- Improved volunteer resources on our website and a dedicated email account.

These processes have helped us to better understand the needs and experience of volunteers as well as managing expectations. This year, the Farm also ran a Sustainable Farming Assistant programme, giving additional structure and guidance to 7 committed volunteers over a period of 6 months.

Volunteer case study: Martin



"I found out about the farm from a local leaflet and came along to learn some new skills, for enjoyment and to help a local community project. I like to be helpful where I can see community life and creative care for local people. I get a lot of satisfaction from volunteering. I can relax while working in nature with friendly people. The food system I would like to see has healthy lifestyles, more local production, within an economically sustainable system. I hope for Sutton Community Farm to have more customers, be well known and used by all the local people."

Martin regularly volunteers as a grower at the Farm - coming 1-2 days per week. He has recently found employment in a local restaurant, but is still hoping to come regularly.

Team Away Days

This year we formalised our volunteering package to organisations that want to bring their staff to the Farm. As such, we have gained more experience in facilitating groups and integrating teams into the Farm's work plan. Groups that have visited this year include: Lloyds Bank, Farmers' Weekly, Reed Business, AIG and Sutton Council. The feedback from groups is very positive, with groups enjoying the fresh air, teamwork and the experience of learning about growing food.



Working with young people

In the first two years, SCF has largely been a place for adults but this year we started activities that enable children to be involved. In February we started a weekly parent and toddler group called the Little Bugs Club - these popular sessions are run by a volunteer and trained Forest School leader. In November, we also launched a school programme that enables children to come to the farm and learn how to grow and use local food.

We have continued our partnership with Orchard Hill College, who bring a weekly cohort of students to the Farm. We have also developed better links with the food programmes at Carshalton Boys Sports College and Carshalton College - who have teamed up with the Farm to make chutneys out of our surplus vegetables.



School group exploring the Farm

Community Payback

Community Payback requires offenders to do unpaid work for the community and the Farm acts as a host for these offenders. The Farm has two supervised groups per week, hosting approximately 14 offenders per week to support infrastructural work around the Farm.

Financial position

SCF is a not-for-profit enterprise that became fully independent from its founding charity, BioRegional Development Group, in November 2012. Ultimately, SCF aims to be self-sufficient financially and move away from dependency on the charitable grants which enabled the formerly derelict land to be brought back to productive use. We are making good progress towards meeting this aim, but funding is still needed to help us navigate these early years as we create a thriving example of peri-urban agriculture.

SCF is becoming less reliant on grant funding and moving closer to financial self-sufficiency. In the period between Aug-12 to Aug-13, the Farm has:

- Increased its monthly income from £3,384 to £15,172;
- Reduced its monthly loss (profit excluding grant funding) from minus £14,515 to minus £6,196.

Our income and expenditure position for the previous two financial years are summarised below:

	13.3.13	£	13.3.12	£
TURNOVER	191,216		80,813	
Cost of sales	40,624		14,015	
GROSS SURPLUS	150,592		66,798	
Administrative expenses	156,813		56,670	
	(6,221)		10,128	
Other operating income	4,959		603	
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS and (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	(1,262)		10,731	
Tax on (deficit)/surplus on ordinary activities	(2,150)		2,150	
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	888		8,581	

SCF Income and Expenditure from End of Year Financial Statements

Although we have made strong progress in the last year, the future is challenging. With income from vegetable sales, we have built some financial reserves to have security in managing our cash flow, but running a small farm carries numerous expenses and margins on food sales are small. Since Aug-12, the farm has fundraised £89,606 to support its activities, as summarised below:

Funder	Amount	Timeframe and allocation
Big Lottery Fund	£28,340	For capital items to support setting up the Farm incl. polytunnel, tractor, refrigeration, irrigation equipment. (Completed Aug-13)
Ernest Cook Trust	£10,000	To support the set up a formal apprenticeship scheme and a new apprenticeship position for 2014-15.
Anonymous Trust	£20,000	Supporting core activities of community engagement and training.
Sutton Community Fund	£9,094	Improved kitchen facilities in Zone 1 and establishing a school programme incl. funded sessions for 6 local school groups. £4,524 restricted to capital items, £4,570 to delivering school programme.
Veolia Environmental Trust	£5,000	Support installation of raised beds in Zone 1, 10 fruit trees, improved paths, 5x micro ponds and various habitats to promote biodiversity. £3,076 is restricted to capital items, £1,924 to supporting implementation.
Naturesave	£1,000	To support scale up of VegBag project: restricted to capital items.
Individuals via Crowdfunder Campaign	£16,172	To support scale up of VegBag project: restricted to capital items, marketing materials and salary of the Sales & Marketing Manager and VegBag Project Assistant.
Total grants:	£89,606	Awarded since Aug-12. Of which £37,840 is restricted to capital expenditure.

Table: Grant funding during 2012-13

To date, the majority of the team's energy has gone into the physical work of reviving the land and establishing income streams associated the sale of the produce. Consequently, we now have a

VegBag scheme and wholesale links with local restaurants. This has left little time for the team to focus on income streams that allow us to realise the community and social aims of the farm in a self-financing way.

The Farm is therefore still seeking contributions towards core costs which will allow the team to navigate this transition period and support the development and stabilisation of new income generation streams which keeps the Farm open as a shared community space for all.

Key challenges

Starting a farm from scratch is a big undertaking and we've faced a number of challenges this year, with more expected in the coming year. The main challenges include:

An under resourced team	With limited funds and a delicate cash flow, the Farm has a limited budget for salaries and we have had to work within these constraints and accept that we may not be able to take advantage of all business development opportunities that arise. The fundraising strategy for 2013-14 is focusing on funding core positions.
Slow customer growth	Customer growth has been slow and dipped significantly during the school summer holiday. We are now updating our marketing strategy for the coming 6 months to ensure it's up-to-date, based on our experience of what works.
Less than hoped for production	Despite the Farm growing significantly more produce than previous years, the predicted production yield for 2012-13 was valued at £40,00-60,000, however the actual production value was approximately £25,000-30,000. The Head of Production is conducting a review of the growing activity to understand improvements for next year. We expect soil fertility to improve on the Farm in the coming years as our growing rotation is implemented, and we had more organic matter to the land.
Storm damage	Recent storm damage destroyed one of our large polytunnels and this has set back our production, as well as having other financial repercussions.

What next?



Business development

New projects and services are often suggested by local partners and members of the Farm community. Although we value innovation and entrepreneurship, we are also balancing a delicate business model with limited staff capacity. Therefore we take a risk-averse attitude to developing new projects, making a judgement based on the investment of staff time, financial risk and community-will for the project.



The Farm has a [Project and Funding Pipeline](#) that describes the key projects it is seeking to develop or fund. This project pipeline is shaped by the Farm's Steering Committee. The most significant opportunity being assessed by the Farm is the business case for taking on additional land. At present, the farm is surrounded by large areas of vacant land that Surrey County Council (the owners) has said will invite lease holders to bid for. Our growing capacity, experience and a basic analysis suggests there is an good financial opportunity for the Farm to scale its growing.



Issuing Shares and building a Steering Committee

With our new legal structure and our ambition to be community-led farm, we are preparing a package so that the community can buy not-for-profit shares. As part of implementing this structure, we are taking steps to establish a steering committee that oversees the strategic direction of SCF. The General Manager will report to this committee on a quarterly basis.



Activities scheduling

In order to work better with volunteers and groups, we want to create a more comprehensive activities schedule, so volunteers more aware of upcoming jobs in advance and get more out of their experience. This will also help us manage large groups that come to the Farm. Examples of scheduled activities include scheduling successional planting of beds, pond building, infrastructure maintenance, and setting up irrigation.



Site improvements

Working farms often appear disordered and untidy. Although we accept this occurs, as a public space, we do want to move towards having a tidier and more accessible space. We are particularly focusing our efforts in the area around our VegShed - we call this Zone 1 and would like it to be welcoming, accessible space for visitors when they arrive. This year we have plans to create raised accessible beds, a pond and seating around this area.



In general, we are using the principles of permaculture to guide our efforts to become a more productive, inclusive and biodiverse space. Permaculture is an approach to design that helps us work with nature to create integrated, productive spaces that promote multiple uses. It encompasses not only agriculture, horticulture, architecture and ecology, but also economic systems and land access strategies for businesses and communities.

Getting in touch

Please feel free to contact us:

Farm phone. [077 2215 6097](tel:07722156097)

Email. info@suttoncommunityfarm.org.uk

On the web

Web. www.suttoncommunityfarm.org.uk

Twitter. [@suttonfarm](https://twitter.com/suttonfarm)

Facebook. facebook.com/suttonfarm

Getting to the Farm

The Farm is a short bus ride or a 25 minute walk from Wallington Station, that has regular connections from central London. Please visit our website for detailed instructions and a map.

Our supporters

Sutton Community Farm was set up by entrepreneurial charity BioRegional and is proud to have support from the Big Lottery Fund, Ernest Cook Trust and the Naturesave Trust.

