Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND DRINK GROUP (SFADG)

Update – April 2026

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1. **SFADG 2026-7 ACTION PLAN -** see **here.**

2. **BETTER MEASURES NEEDED TO IDENTIFY THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF FOOD PRODUCTION**

Our first point on our Action Plan identifies the need to:

• Continue to raise awareness that the dominant carbon footprinting metric, based on emissions per kg of product, is a "driver" of intensive production and dietary exclusions, and is not a measure of environmental sustainability

• Support the World Farming Organisation (WFO) call for better metrics (see **here** for explanation of 'split gas' coalition)

See the Action Plan for more links + paragraph starting 'Professor Michael Lee ' in the SFADG January newsletter **here** for more background to this. Professor Lee was one of our expert speakers at the SFADG 2022 webinar 'Green Eating and the Land', which you can watch again on YouTube **here**.

Better measures which reflect the positive environmental aspects of sustainable farming approaches could help move us away from the stultifying focus on what we should/or should not eat, and the demonisation of meat and other animal-sourced products: a narrative which is fuelled by inadequate metrics.

The proposals by the WFO could, I think, address the current problems with the metrics, and enable a much more positive dialogue and narrative about food, farming and the environment to develop, embracing complexity. It would enable a much greater focus on all our food being better produced with sustainably managed soils; nature-friendly farming; high animal welfare; nutritious and varied diets; and, also, on reducing pollution and contamination of air, soil and water; restoring the health and abundance of marine and freshwater life; reducing waste, transport, energy; and, working towards best management of short (methane) and long lasting (carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide) greenhouse gases in the system... and much more.

3. **AFFIRMATION FOR OUR GROUP**

See below some greatly appreciated feedback:

- Having contacted Professor Lee recently to get more clarity about the World Farming Organisation petition, it was good to receive this positive feedback from him for our group: *Great to hear from you and congratulations on the excellent work Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon continues to deliver for the farming sector. If we had more organisations like this across the breadth of the UK we would be so much further on in realising our support for Sustainable Agriculture and the Healthy food nation, we so desperately need.*
- It was wonderful also to receive the following feedback from David Robinson, Head Gardener at the Walled Garden, Woolley Grange Hotel: *What you & the team achieve is absolutely outstanding &*

what every town, village & city needs across the country. Not only to delve into the local critical detail of issues, or to explain complex issues often dumbed down by ill-intentioned populist politicians, or smoke screened by institutions, but bringing the community together & empowering them to design a better future for us all.

4. **LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY (LNRS) ANIMATION**

The Environment Agency Local Nature Recovery Strategy team have created a short animation to raise awareness that Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are now in place across England. It provides a nice summary of how LNRS can drive action to reverse nature's decline. The EA will play our part by supporting the LNRS responsible authorities who are leading delivery of the LNRS and by embedding LNRS into our own activities.

Watch the animation on YouTube: https://youtu.be/OwhZnONtzFE (4minutes 10 seconds)

5. **WHAT FRUIT AND VEG CAN YOU GROW YOURSELF THIS YEAR?**

In 2021, Richard Cripps, retired lecturer from Lackham College, gave a lively and inspiring talk to the SFADG on fruit tree pruning. He said that the art of pruning had been lost. Not so long ago, people's nutrition and health depended on them having a good crop of home-grown fruit.

Two years ago, we bought the small area of garden in front of our living room from a neighbour. The pear tree had been pruned into a tidy bun for the last 30 years and had not produced a pear since their aunt had died and left the cottage to them. We employed Richard to summer prune the tree for us in 2024 and advise on future pruning. Last year the tree was covered in flower and, later, pears. They seemed like 'iron pears' in the dry summer – rock hard. However, as they ripened, they quite suddenly became wonderful, sweet and delicious.



Can you see the flower on the tree this year, with our new living roof over garden store in the foreground?

ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND DRINK

If you wish to be on the SFADG circulation list, please contact Ros Edwards at climatechampions@gmail.com