

14 Local food growing

KEY MESSAGES

We encourage food to be grown wherever possible and suitable
Rooftops and shared spaces such as gardens and parks provide opportunities for food growing

- 14.1 Local food growing in Camden encompasses a range of activities including back garden food growing, roof top gardening allotment cultivation, community gardening projects, bee keeping, planting orchards and fruit trees on public land, city farms, urban fringe farms and market gardens.
- 14.2 Cultivating land and growing food can help to improve the health of residents because it requires physical activity and promotes healthy eating. It can also help to improve air quality as people travel smaller distances to access fresh produce.
- 14.3 The Council encourages food growing where ever it is possible and suitable. This includes at ground level, on roofs in the form of green roofs and as part of green walls.
- 14.4 The Council is involved in a number of food growing initiatives. These are outlined in the Council's Food Growing Strategy.



Where is food growing appropriate?

- 14.5 The incorporation of infrastructure for growing food is particularly appropriate to the design of housing, developments providing food retail

and restaurant outlets, hospitals and schools either on roof tops or within surrounding space.

- 14.6 Roof tops provide a particular resource in respect of local food growing. Roof gardens for food growing offer the same benefits as other types of green roofs. Storm water and grey water recycling can be incorporated into the management and maintenance of these roofs. They also provide a means of direct recycling of a buildings food waste when composting systems are incorporated into their design. Roof tops for greenhouses and aquaponic systems – where plants are grown without soil, also provide a similar range of opportunities to integrate recycling water and food waste systems into the design they can incorporate recycled heat waste from buildings. Providing the infrastructure for food production on roof tops will depend on the relative priority of other objectives and benefits associated with green roofs. See section 9 in this guidance for more information on green roofs.



- 14.7 We will expect development proposals consider the opportunities for food growing. If food growing is appropriate, the necessary infrastructure should be successfully incorporated the into building and site design
- 14.8 The Council may use Section 106 agreements to secure space for food growing where appropriate. Contributions may also be sought where there are opportunities to fund local food growing initiatives.

Where are the food growing projects in Camden?

CASE STUDIES

A vineyard has been planted for commercial purposes by Alara Foods on wasteland close to its warehouses near Kings Cross. The company has also planted a Forest Garden behind its warehouses and installed three beehives.

Acorn House restaurant, in the Kings Cross area, has developed a roof garden growing herbs, vegetables and fruits to supply the restaurant with fresh seasonal produce.

Further information

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| Healthy and sustainable food strategy | <p>Good Food for Camden: the healthy and sustainable food strategy (2009-2012). It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve health and reduce health inequalities • achieve environmental sustainability • enhance community engagement • build the local economy • support cultural diversity |
| Capital Growth | <p>Capital Growth offers practical advice and support to communities that want to grow their own food, including getting access to land, and runs the Edible Estates competition to find the best community food growing projects on London's housing estates.</p> <p>www.capitalgrowth.org</p> |
| Other | <p>Images of multifunctional urban design and planning data associated with incorporating hydroponic green houses on the roof tops of residential and industrial buildings can be seen at www.brightfarmsystems.com</p> <p>There are many local and international examples of the different types of urban food production that can be seen via the Sustain and City Farmer websites:</p> <p>www.sustainweb.org www.cityfarmer.org</p> <p>An example of roof tops allotments incorporated into the design of an apartment block can be seen at www.onebrighton.co.uk</p> |

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