

SFP Bronze and Silver Awards Application Form 2024

This form is for completing an SFP Bronze or Silver Award application. **If you are considering applying for a Gold Award, please contact the SFP team at sfpawards@soilassociation.org to discuss the process.**



Before starting your application, please fully read this form as well as the following documents:

- SFP Awards: Guidance for applicants: [SFP Awards - Guidance for applicants 2024](#).
- SFP Awards: Activity and Impact: [SFP Awards - Activity and Impact 2024](#)

Please do not alter the formatting of this form or redesign it and only return as a Word document not a PDF. This is essential for you application to pass the initial eligibility check.

SECTION 1: Information about your partnership and your place

Please complete the following (*= mandatory):

Name of your partnership*:
Food4Fife Partnership
Name and contact details of person/people leading on this application*:
Carolyn Bell Coordinator for Partnership and Strategy
Geographic region which this award will represent*:
Fife
Award you are applying for*:
Silver

Please provide us with background information about your place (not scored)*: Advisory word limit: 400 words

This is to help the panel understand the context in which you are working. *You may include (but not limited to): Population and demographic information, location/geography & economic and social challenges.*

ANSWER:

Fife is the 3rd largest of 32 local authorities by population, and the 13th largest by geographic size, covering 1,325 square kilometres of land. Bounded by the River Tay to the north, and River Forth to the south, Fife's coastline extends for around 185 kilometres.

Fife has a decentralised structure based around 7 Area Committees, which are the same as Health and Social Care Localities. Two-thirds of Fifers live in urban areas, mainly in or near the City of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes. Central and South Fife are characterised by a mainly urban and industrial landscape, while the southwest of Fife and most of the east of Fife, are more rural in nature.

Fife's population of 371,340 is starting to reduce, creating the following challenges: • a continued decrease in the number of children, • a diminishing supply of young people entering the workforce, • a considerable reduction in the number of overall working age people, and • a continuing increase in older people, particularly the over 85 age group, making up a larger proportion of the overall population.

Fife's overall employment rate is now higher than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic and in 2023 a larger proportion of its working age population (75.2%). Fife's unemployment rate

has fallen to a record low. There are fewer people claiming out-of-work benefits than before the pandemic.

The persistent and lifelong impact of poverty is a central and recurring theme of Fife. In 2024, cost of living was identified by local people as the top issue affecting life. Those in the most deprived areas are six times more likely to not manage well than those in the least deprived areas of Fife.

23.6% of children in Fife are now living in relative poverty (in households with an income of less than 60% of UK median income) compared to 21.3% for Scotland. As of February 2024, Fife has an estimated 31,285 low-income households.

The Scottish Welfare Fund provides community care grants. The amount they awarded for crisis grants peaked at more than £2.7 millions of crisis support over 2022/23. The amount awarded in 2023/24 has reduced but remains above pre-pandemic levels.

The difference in life expectancy between the 20% most and least deprived areas in Fife was 13.7 years for males and 10.5 years for females. Life expectancy has now dropped below the 2011-2013 figure, reflecting unprecedented changes in life expectancy trends.

How have you considered equity, diversity and inclusion in the structure and work of your partnership (not scored)*: ? Advisory word limit: 300 words

ANSWER:

The partnership coordinator is placed within Fife Council and the Partnership is chaired by NHS Fife. The following guidelines have been adopted by the Partnership around equalities and diversities.

- [Equality, diversity and human rights | Fife Council](#) and
- [Equality and Human Rights | NHS Fife](#)
- We are aware of the different cultural backgrounds within Fife's boundaries through the many pillars of work of antipoverty, healthy food for all, community food, food economy etc. The strategy highlights the importance of 'providing a dignified, fair, and just access to healthy, culturally appropriate, food for all.'
- Fife Centre of Equalities is working with partners Greener Kirkcaldy looking at gaps to develop and increase multicultural inclusivity.

SECTION 2: Local food activity and impact

Please read **SFP Awards: Guidance for applicants:** [SFP Awards - Guidance for applicants 2024](#) before completing this section.

Please describe the activity and impact of local food work delivered in your place within the last three years against the relevant key issues (1-6) and action areas (A and B) below.

We advise that you keep answers to within 600 words for each action area (i.e. for each A and B under the key issues). Whilst you won't be penalised for going over this limit, this will help the panel focus on your main achievements. For sections C, 250 words is the mandatory limit.

For Bronze and Silver awards, there are mandatory actions for some key issues. These are laid out in *SFP Awards - Activity and Impact*: [SFP Awards - Activity and Impact.docx](#). This document also provides a broad benchmark for each award, rationale for SFP's inclusion of each key issue, and example actions for each action area.

Only submit additional documents for food action plans and strategies related to Key Issue 1 mandatory criteria. All other additional documents will not be assessed. You may add links to online documents but always check the links and permissions as we will not be requesting changes from you after submission.

Key Issue 1 Mandatory Criteria Checklist

NB failure to provide Key Issue 1, Action area B mandatory criteria will result in rejection at the eligibility stage.

- Bronze applications require a one year action plan
- Silver applications require a three year action plan

1. Have you submitted a current food action plan or food strategy with an action plan?

X Yes

2. How are you evidencing this action plan?

- Attachment as a Word, PFF, Excel document? Yes
- Link to an only document? Yes
- If a link place here as well under Key Issue 1 [Food-4-Fife-strategy-2024-29-30apr.pdf](#)
- Action Plan link: action plan is within the strategy document

3. Has the action plan less than 6 months to run?

- No
- If less than 6 months to run what is happening after the action plan expires? (100 words)

Key Issue 1: Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action

Action area A: Establish a broad, representative, and dynamic local food partnership

In the summer of 2021 partners held a food visioning event and a food summit to create a food vision for Fife. In August 2021 the Food for Fife partnership was launched to decide how best to deliver the Food Vision and agree the Terms of Reference and Charter.

Since then, the partnership has developed 5 working groups representing the pillars of Economy, Procurement, Farming, Soils and climate, Community food and Healthy food for all. They based the pillars on the Sustainable Food Places model. The working groups represent a wider range of partners and partnerships who are working across the region. This allows the Food4Fife partnership knowledge and access to many linked and joined projects. Membership of Partnership is listed within the Strategy and on our website food4Fife

- The Partnership chair is Jo Anne Valentine. She was voted in by partners. The chair was chosen to represent NHS as both public bodies have a duty to deliver for the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022
- The Partnership has a Terms of Reference. This will be refreshed at the meeting in July 2024 https://our.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/593137/Final-draft-TOR-Food4Fife-July-2021.pdf
- Partnership meetings are bi-monthly, and minutes are taken
- Both NHS and Fife Council as institutions have given support to create the partnership and working groups and have supported the writing of the strategy

Fife Council and NHS Fife have provided funding for staff time and research projects.

- The strategy was passed by Fife Council on May 9th, 2024
- The strategy is going to the NHS Fife Public Health and Wellbeing Committee for approval on July 1st, 2024

Groups feeding into the partnership have members with lived experience We have 5 working groups to cover each of the main pillars with the Partnership group delivering governance for the 6th pillar. All have been actively engaged since the inception of the partnership in August 2021 to deliver the strategy and action plans.

Action area B: Develop, deliver, and monitor a food strategy/action plan

The strategy was passed on May 9th 2024. [Food-4-Fife-strategy-2024-29-30apr.pdf](#)

- The Partnership have 2 reporting schedules. Annually for the councillors and biannually for Scottish Government as part of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 requirements.
- Governance is via the Fife Partnership (community planning), Communities and wellbeing partnership subgroup. See governance image in the food strategy for clarification page 24
- The Partnership has a coordinator that is full time from April 2024 to support the strategy actions, working groups and partnership administration. The Partnership

will oversee the review process on an annual basis for councillors and biannual basis for Scottish Government. Different partners will manage each of their separate actions and projects

- The Food4Fife strategy includes the vision and commitments of the Partnerships charter.
- The partnership has a branded name for the Strategy, **Food4Fife** and a strap line of **Create a sustainable food culture for a healthy Fife**. This is for the Partnership and strategy work. It has not been adopted across the region as a regional brand.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

The strategy is a joint NHS and Fife Council food strategy that delivers on responsibilities to the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 22. The NHS is currently undertaking a health impact assessment on the new strategy. This is the first of its kind we believe in Scotland.

Key Issue 2: Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement

***NB at Silver** we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.*

Action area A: Inspire and engage the public about good food

Fife Community Climate action network (FCCAN) is a network of 57 action groups working on food and climate issues across Fife. The Climate hub with paid staff funded by Scottish government, coordinate, communicate, events, funding and advice, for FCCAN and attend partnership and environment meetings across the region. [About – Fife Climate Hub \(fccan.org.uk\)](https://our.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/593161/Fife_Climate_Hub_End_Of_Grant_Report-V3.pdf) People taking part in hub activities last year 3,762

- 948 events and training
- 1,930 Climate Festival
- 1,915 Community Climate Grants
- 400 Project support
- Impact report
https://our.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/593161/Fife_Climate_Hub_End_Of_Grant_Report-V3.pdf

Groups and organisations supported by the hub: 50

Greener Kirkcaldy, the largest member of the FCCAN network have a programme of food and growing projects and events. [Food & Growing - Greener Kirkcaldy](#)

Their Lang Spoon Community Kitchen offer cooking courses and programmes

- Smart Cooking - basic cooking skills, energy advice and household budgeting (100 participants)
- Smart Cooking Course for families (8 workshops annually):

- Families in the Kitchen (with Kirkcaldy YMCA, 30 families in Gallatown);
- Kids Cooking Clubs,
- Evening and weekend workshops and accredited REHIS courses on a social enterprise basis.

They also run

- The Lang Toun Larder which redistributed 13,500kgs of unsold food from April 2023 – March 2024,
- Weekly Community Meals (42 per year),
- Community Training Garden at Ravensraig Walled Garden is supported by a team of 40 Community Food Growing and Gardening volunteers with a programme of courses for growing fruit and vegetables, and climate friendly gardening.

Climate Action Fife [Home - Climate Action Fife](#) is funded by the National Lottery Community Funds Climate Action Fund to deliver a five-year Climate Action Plan. It is a partnership of 12 community and public sector organisations in Fife delivering a community-led movement. Projects include

- [‘A Fruit Tree for Every Garden in Fife’](#) is a campaign providing access to free or affordable trees, as well as good information about what to plant. 400 trees planted
- **Chefs of the Future** in partnership with Fife College with a focus on plant-based food and the need to offer lower-carbon menu choices. They work with 20 students per year (20 students, 7 staff in 2023/2024). [Climate Friendly Food | Climate Action Fife](#)

The Climate Festival is an annual event presented by Climate Action Fife and delivered with support from Fife Climate Hub. It’s funded by the National Lottery Community Fund’s Climate Action Fund. It celebrates community climate action across Fife. Last year they had 52 events attended by 1930 people. [Fife Climate Festival Information Session – Fife Climate Hub \(fccan.org.uk\)](#)

Impact report https://our.fife.scot/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/593160/Fife-Climate-Festival-Report.pdf

All groups are represented at the community food working group for the Partnership along with the Allotment and community growing team at Fife Council. The Allotment team lead the community food working group. They wrote, in collaboration, the new Allotment and Community growing strategy. This was passed by Fife Council in March 2024 [Allotments and Community Growing Strategy 2024 - 2029 \(fife.gov.uk\)](#)

All of the many partners have websites, newsletters and social media ensuring communication and awareness see [Join Us – Fife Climate Hub \(fccan.org.uk\)](#) for map of members and links to their websites.

Consultations

- The Food vision workshop June 2021
- Food summit July 21

- Food strategy workshop for feedback on draft strategy Feb 2022
- A Public consultation for the Allotment and community food growing strategy and the Food4Fife strategy was carried out over 6 weeks for each strategy during spring of 2023.
- Food summit June 2024 new Food4Fife strategy presented

Launch of the Foo4Fife strategy includes presentations 14 regional groups, the FCCAN network via the Climate Festival, the Go Falkland event and different departments within Fife Council including Planning on July 2nd. The planning workshop will look at how we can incorporate the aims of the food strategy into Fife;s Local Development Plan linked to National Planning framework 4.

Action Area B: Foster food citizenship and a local good food movement

An agreed action within the strategy is to increase access to land for communities to grow and access food. This includes market gardens; community gardens and allotments Partnership farmers have offered land. The recent NHS green space strategy [NHS Fife Greenspace strategy - Draft 2 May 23](#) . has listed land in Fife that also can be used. Fife council land from vacant and derelict land is being offered to increase allotment sites.

The new Temple Hall Community Hub will be constructed with works starting on site in April 2025. This integrated facility will provide outdoor community growing spaces whose produce can be used to facilitate community training sessions and classes for different target groups from the community within a dedicated teaching kitchen. This venue creates a green space destination facility. The facility is due for completion in Spring 2026.

St Monan allotment site is in partnership with the developer of the new housing estate. Over the last 6 months since completion St Monans project provides access to growing with 39 plots created accommodating 160 people including after school clubs and local community groups.

The Allotment capital development programme has invested over £150,000 in developing 3 live Allotment projects (including a community space). This is ongoing to complete the projects in near future creating 120 plots. Sites developed include Kirkcaldy, Inverkeithing and St Monans.

The Allotment and Community growing team have facilitated a grant scheme across the 7 Fife committee allocating £10,000 to each area (total £70,000). This has allowed third parties, community groups and allotment associations to bid for grants and come together to develop “community led initiatives”

The new Dunfermline campus has also allocated food growing and allotment spaces. This has opened the door for the Partnership to work further with Education in developing growing sites with schools

The Partnership has been involved in talks for pilot funding to create market gardens in areas of food deprivation using above mentioned potential areas of land. This project looks to link with SRUC horticulture students and community groups. These projects are

being taken forward as part for the Food4Fife strategy transformational projects but are dependent on funding yet to be sourced.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

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Key Issue 3: Tackling food poverty and diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food

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Action area A: Tackle food poverty

The Food strategy work in Fife has brought together agencies across the 'healthy food for all' space including anti-poverty groups, learning and development officers, NHS public health teams, community groups and charities. Food4Fife Partners have leads within these areas in Fife Council, NHS Fife and community groups.

The Food insecurity group initially was the working group for the partnership in 2021. This group was disbanded this year and has been superseded by the antipoverty multiagency resilience group which includes those with lived experience. The main focus of this group is to reduce the need for free food provision and focus on a Cash first approach. This group feeds into the new healthy food for all working group.

The new working group for this healthy food for all pillar includes health professionals' anti-poverty staff from across the region and community groups and charities to ensure a strong infrastructure for the access of healthy food across the region.

Fife Council anti-poverty group work with Trussel Trust. 17,112 food parcels were delivered over the last 12 months from 11 distribution centres

Trussell Trust Food Banks along with partners Fife Council antipoverty team are working to reduce food bank use and are increasing benefit max work with CARF. Fife councils' partners champion a cash first approach. They were awarded the cash first pilot funding and are rolling out the project presently.

Scottish Welfare Fund via Fife Council partners spent £1.3 m on crisis food awards in 2023/24

Café Inc is a project across the region managed by partners delivering holiday food provision. Cafe Inc delivered 277,112 meals in 2023/24 [Café Inc | Fife Council](#)

Food4Fife Partnership members deliver free school meals to primary school children and breakfast clubs. Breakfast clubs are managed across Catering and Education teams. The partnership is working with these groups to ensure all clubs can offer similar nutritious breakfast options. Presently there are different ways the clubs are funded which reflects on the food available.

All food banks and pantries are listed to ensure Fifers know where to access food [Access to food - locations list | Fife Council](#) Some community food providers and Larders have membership schemes at a low-cost to build sustainable models and increase dignity.

Training for staff include

- anti-poverty training highlighting what benefits are available
- Ongoing training includes the following REHIS Food Hygiene Certification delivery For 23/24 financial year there was 300+ trained. Target of 250/275 community food provider staff/volunteers put through training in financial year 24-25
- REHIS Cooking Skills training target of supporting 25 programmes during financial year 24-25, encouraging courses across the area but not necessarily all REHIS certificated courses
- Fife Community Food Champions training - target of minimum of three courses across Fife during financial year 24-25, each course offering 12 places for volunteers and staff working with community food initiatives, and follow up mentoring and delivery support

A Community Kitchens Audit is underway linked to data mapping on food by Economic Development partners. This will enable the partnership to understand gaps for hot food offerings as well as training opportunities The partnerships work this year, as part of the 2 big transformations in the strategy is to build and strengthen the infrastructure across the region to enable access to hot and cold food.

Community Centres that are supported with their food provisions are encouraged to pay Minimum Wage in line with Council policies. They often follow the Council pay scales and employment policies and procedures.

Partner Community groups also offer a multitude of training for their staff and Fifers. Links to partner websites are in the Community food pillar section

Action Area B: Promote healthy eating

Each of the 7 regions across Fife have welfare and antipoverty groups and subgroups that link and connect with community and charity groups in Fife. All have different budgets and actions plans. They will all now have representational on Food4Fife Partnership through the Healthy Food for all pillar and Community food pillar. The Food Partnership has started to map them and understand scale of projects happening. There is a huge amount of work not all which can be captured here. Examples include

The feeding Fifers website promotes healthy eating and shares recipe cards and shared experiences around cooking. [\(8\) Facebook](#)

The map of food banks also has many recipes cards promoting healthy meals

[Foodbanks and Community Cafés | Fife Council](#)

Communities and learning courses include 'Step in training' with Fife College linking food skills with creativity and life skills [\(12\) Facebook](#)

Community Based Adult Learning teams offer [Cooking Skills courses](#) such as microwave cooking and family cooking. As well as numeracy and cooking courses [\(8\) Facebook](#)

English Speakers of Other Languages offer cooking projects [\(8\) Facebook](#) examples include the Family Growing Project with Romanians in Kirkcaldy North. [\(8\) Facebook](#)

Fife has an app Fife loves Life with a podcast with a nutritionist promoting healthy food. [Child Healthy Weight Service \(Fife Loves Life\) | NHS Fife](#)

Public health team partners are promoting healthy eating and breastfeeding advice alongside the standard health campaigns across the region linking with GP surgeries, dental practises and libraries

Early years staff have food champion training which covers health exercise and nutrition to disseminate knowledge within the community teacher early years workers. This training also includes staff from the voluntary sector eg Ginger bread

Festival [Tree in the Park | Our Fife - Creating a successful, confident and fairer Fife](#) brought together many partner groups including Dunfermline Food Forum and Dunfermline Green Space Scio to create a festival for SW Fife promoting healthy food and sustainability. Dunfermline Green Space formed in May 2023 and is a member of FCCAN They connect umbrella organisations in the Dunfermline area to share knowledge and resources. They have just received £200,000 funding and have 2 paid members of staff to support delivery of action plans,

The Take and Make vegetarian meals in the bag scheme funded by NHS delivered 300 bags in April. Fife Council and NHS Fife partners trailed 'the meal kits, for distribution through community food providers in the Cowdenbeath Area. The kits were purchased from Edinburgh Community Food Ltd. They developed the bags to be nutritionally balanced with fresh items supplied by local farms. Bags included full recipes (including freezing instructions,) https://our.fife.scot/data/assets/pdf_file/0021/593112/Evaluation-of-meals-in-a-bag-project.pdf

This is a follow-on idea from a similar partnership box scheme run by Eats Rosyth as part of the SW Fife project funded by LEADER in 2022. 22 households had a weekly meal to cook at home from local food for 6 weeks. Included a menu card plus a video link showing cooking steps. Families could order for 2 or 4 or 6 and mix and match vegetarian or meat dishes.

A Food summit created by partners was held Wednesday 5th of June 2024. 80 people attended from health, community and anti-poverty groups. Cllr Ross leader of Fife Council presented the new Food4Fife Strategy. Workshops included food procurement for pantries and food banks, Growing food opportunities and support for governance and collective positive action moving forward.

The [brain food volunteer development cookbook](#) is a booklet set out like a recipe book linked to different training courses. It looks to build capacity and enable people to understand what training is available for career opportunities within the food sector.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Key Issue 4: Creating a vibrant, prosperous, and diverse sustainable food economy

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Action area A: Put good food enterprise at the heart of local economic development

The Food Economy is a principal issue for Fife councillors and the agreed Food 4 Fife strategy This sector contributes significant socio-economic value with over 1,200 businesses and employing over 7,000 people. [FIFE-ECONOMIC-STRATEGY-2023-30-AUG.pdf \(investfife.co.uk\)](https://investfife.co.uk/FIFE-ECONOMIC-STRATEGY-2023-30-AUG.pdf)

Over the last 2 years food partnership members have joined up the different sectors of retail, tourism, planning and economic development to improve the Food offering in Fife. Members sit within Fife Councils Economic Development team and work with business support agencies such as Business Gateway Fife, Scotland Food and Drink and Scottish Enterprise. The Private sector is also represented.

A series of workshops in June with retailers, tourism and planning will integrate the newly passed Food4Fife strategy (May24) its actions and vision into the local development plan refresh in its next iteration.

Over the last 18 months partnership members, along with Food From Fife Network, were central to getting the abattoir survey for Fife undertaken. This report is now with Scottish Government. (Fife's Abattoir closed last year) <https://saos.coop/whats-new/news/abattoir-survey-results>

Food4Fife partners have agreed a 4-stage data information and modelling project. This is led by Economic Development partners and the Food4Fife coordinator. Stage one has started. Data for school's meals was collected over 19 months to understand demand. Other demand sectors include NHS Fife, Fife Colleges and University, tourism, hospitality and welfare.

Partnership is also collecting data on the supply of food across Fife. Stage 1 is with the Darcy Thompson Simulator at the University of St Andrews. Supply and demand will be shown in 3d, linking soils and blue infrastructure, biodiversity, infrastructure and processing needs. Stage 1 is funded by NHS Fife. The partnership has a meeting with SAFARI in June to discuss further support and funding to enable this work.

Partners are supporting SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprise) to new markets via the Supplier Development Programme, and "Meet the Buyer" events. Fifes Meet the Buyer event every November. [Regional Meet the Buyer Events | Supplier Development Programme \(sdpscotland.co.uk\)](https://sdpscotland.co.uk/Regional-Meet-the-Buyer-Events-Supplier-Development-Programme)

The Partnership developed a 5-year procurement pipeline to allow business to develop plans. This includes contracts from Fife council and NHS. Fife college and St Andrews contracts will be added this year.

Communications to support SME include
Fife Business Matters e-zine to 5,000 business. [Fife Business Matters](#)
Invest Fife directory. [InvestFife Business Directory](#)
Social media channels: <https://x.com/investfife>
Facebook [InvestFife | Glenrothes | Facebook](#)
LinkedIn [\(14\) InvestFife: Overview | LinkedIn](#)

The Food4Fife Partnership work across Local Authorities boundaries through the City Deals. This links the Partnership to Tayside and Perth and the Big Move 9 group of 6 councils down to the borders. Fife's data and modelling projects are acting as a pilot for the Big move 9 group of councils to understand gaps and opportunities for trade and procurement between council regions on the East coast of Scotland.

Partners offered grants in total of £290,000 for Food and Drinks business to transition to Net Zero in June 2024. Grants of between £3,000 and £20,000, up to a maximum of 90% of eligible project costs were offered. Advertised through Business gateway Fife advisor/ Ezine and Invest fife newsletter

The early survival scheme supports diverse SME (Small & Medium Enterprises), start-ups including the few examples below.

Seaweed Enterprises are seaweed harvesting business. Products include seaweed butter and an innovative biodegradable replacement plastic. [Scottish seaweed start-up sets sights on new facility - Business Insider](#)

CaunTec - create compostable packaging from prawn shells. [Compostable Packaging from the World's Purest Chitin | CuanTec | Scotland](#)

Rosslyn gardens in Kirkcaldy vertical farming of microgreens in a chemical free environment. [Rosslyn gardens – Rosslyn Gardens](#)

GreenHeart growers a market garden and local veg box scheme [Greenheart Growers - Eco-friendly veg boxes produced in Fife](#)

Action Area B: Promote healthy, sustainable, and independent food businesses to consumers

Promotion of local food business is through the Food from Fife network [Home - Food from Fife](#) funded by partners and Scotland Food and Drink.

Food trails are being promoted across the region highlighting Fife food producers. [Food Trails - Food from Fife](#) & [Welcome to Fife : Fife Coastal Path Foodie Gems](#)

The Welcome to Fife team promotes local food producers . [Fife Icons | Welcome to Fife.](#)

Fifes food and drinks business are also promoted on [Fife - Holidays & Breaks | VisitScotland](#)

Promotion of local food and drinks business also comes via a network of farm shops veg box schemes and markets like partners

- Bowhouse market. [Market Weekends - Bowhouse \(bowhousefife.com\)](http://MarketWeekends-Bowhouse(bowhousefife.com)) and
- Scotland the bread [Scotland The Bread - Scotland The Bread](http://ScotlandTheBread-ScotlandTheBread),
- Ardross Farm, [Ardross Farm Shop, Elie](http://ArdrossFarmShop,Elie)
- Pillars of hercules [Farm shop | Pillars of Hercules](http://Farmshop|PillarsofHercules)
- 5 acres Cafe [Five Acres: A Review on the New Quick-Bite Spot in Town \(hercampus.com\)](http://FiveAcres:AReviewontheNewQuick-BiteSpotinTown(hercampus.com))

Promotion and showcasing local producers includes Partners InvestFife sponsoring the sustainability category of The Courier Food and Drink awards over the last 2 years. [The Courier Food & Drink Awards - DC Thomson Events \(dctevents.com\)](http://TheCourierFood&DrinkAwards-DCThomsonEvents(dctevents.com))

Fife is developing a Fife “Love local” card designed to support businesses and community wealth building. It's been piloted and will be launched late 2024.

<https://townandcitygiftcards.com/product/fife-gift-card/>

The 3D map data collection project, already mention in section A, will have an accompanying directory booklet. This will be promoted on tourism, food and food business websites, Food from Fife, Food4Fife and Welcome to Fife and Partner websites and social media including Fife Councils face book pages.

Partnership members are key in the “meet the producer” events 4 times a year The latest one in April was at Kingsbarns Distillery. Promoted through the Local Food Groups across the Tayside and Fife area <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tasting-tayside-fife-2024-tickets-828337909987?aff=oddtcreator>

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Key Issue 5: Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising local and sustainable food supply chains

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Action area A: Change policy and practice to put good food on people’s plates

The partnership set up a Fife wide procurement group to work together across the region and support local food contracts and distribution, monitoring and risk assessment. The group include Fife Council, NHS, Fife College and St Andrews University. This group wrote the procurement section in the Food4Fife strategy with an agreement to increase the procurement of local produce. Pilot projects are underway to understand opportunities of cost and supply implication.

- Testing out use of Scotland the bread flour a more nutritious organic flour grown locally, in schools and hospitals.
- Listing the dirty dozens of fruits and veg so we can have guidance on what to purchase if possible organic.
- Working with suppliers and producers to cost organic produce and look to help grow the organic supply by increasing the market through public procurement.
- Fife Council used to have a Food for Life bronze award, but budget cuts meant that we could no longer deliver to that standard. We are pleased conversations with Food for Life have resumed, and a meeting is planned in June to discuss how best they can continue to help with procuring local food and balancing costs within the new menus.

Fife Council has agreed the Food4Fife 5-year strategy with a procurement pillar that promotes healthy and planet friendly diets and the increase of locally public procured climate and nature friendly food. The Council is reviewing its procurement strategy presently and it will go to the Council's committee in October for approval.

Sustainable food procurement will be a key driver in the new procurement strategy as well as within new contracts. Existing contracts with new call for representation meet frame works at a national level.

NHS Fife uses national sustainable procurement tools from Scottish government.

St Andrews University has a sustainable food policy 2018 and an award for fair trade and sustainability [Food - Sustainability - University of St Andrews \(st-andrews.ac.uk\)](https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/food-sustainability/)

Fife Council menus include ethically sourced products, and this data has now been tracked. Fish is Marine Stewardship Council accredited with Care homes fish sourced locally. Meat is Red tractor accredited and UK sourced. Fife council school meals won a school plates bronze award 2024

NHS Fife have a fair-trade policy and ethical procurement policy as part of tender process. NHS Fife work with Seafood Scotland and their fish are sourced from Peterhead and are Marine Stewardship Council accredited They are trialling several projects including utilizing local veg grown at Stratheden for their local kitchen and dining room and a pop-up market at Victoria Hospital, Kirkaldy, in dining room showcasing local produce for staff members. Tap water available in all dining rooms

University of St Andrews have a Fair-trade accreditation

- Menus are 70% plant based
- They are signed up to menus of change and use local supplies for meat from Buffalo farm and Balgove farm as well as East Neuk's cauliflowers and broccoli.
- Deliveries are by electric vehicles.

Action Area B: Improving connections and collaboration across the local supply chain

As part of the partnership and strategy work Fife public bodies created a Fife wide procurement working group which includes Fife Council's procurement and facilities staff, NHS Fife national and local staff, Fife College and the University of St Andrews .Each public body is at different stages in their procurement journey, but all are united to work

together to improve sustainable procurement across Fife. The procurement working group meet 4 times a year to share best practise as well as bimonthly for the partnership meetings.

There are several 'meet the buyer' events, in Fife and across Scotland, that the Fife wide procurement teams attend along with taste sessions with producers mentioned in the food economy sector. Presently, the best way for our procurement teams to ensure greater local and more varied produce is to work with our already contracted whole sellers. This is what is happening with University of St Andrews, Fife Council and NHS Fife. Other ways are through pilot projects. Pilot projects include the trailing of local coffee within NHS Fife cafes

Fife Council Economic development have created a support programme with training for local business to help them into the procurement process through the supplier development programme A 5-year pipeline of contracts has been established from NHS Fife and Fife Council and there's an officer dedicated to supporting local business grow so local business have options to bid individually or as co-operatives.

Presently dynamic purchasing is not an option in Fife Council due to lack of officer capacity to enable it. The Food4Fife Partnership have flagged it up at meetings with Scotland Excel to see if they can be the back office for this, but they recently said they did not have the capacity either. Fife wide procurement group are supportive of each other's new purchases and have stated support in using their buying power together and sharing distribution of goods.

Fife Council partners have undertaken a large amount of analysis work on the food they purchase for schools, care homes and cafes to understand their demand and where the food comes from. For the last 19 months partners have collated data on a quarterly basis from their suppliers. This enables the Partnership to understand how many kg of produce is needed and how that relates to hectares of land and planting programmes.

The new menus for schools have been prepared with the use of seasonal vegetables to make it easier to procure from local sources. The list of all fresh fruit and veg for the menus starting in autumn 2024 will be shared with local producers to understand the size of the local supply. Meetings have been set up in June 2024 to discuss options and compare costs for organic, regenerative and standard food supplies. Partners will then work with contracted suppliers to take forward findings.

The Partnership have also sourced funding for research and modelling projects to further understand the supply of food across the region, what food is grown where, the sustainability of those companies and the gaps and opportunities in the food infrastructure across the region. This is a 4-stage project with stage one already started with the Darcy Thompson simulator at the University of St Andrews. The partnership has meetings with SAFARI in June to discuss further support for stage 2-3 of the data and modelling collection project.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

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Key Issue 6: Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food & farming and an end to food waste

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Promote sustainable food production and consumption and resource efficiency

In 2019 Fife Council declared a climate emergency and in March 2020 launched Climate Fife. This included an action plan to create a food strategy.

- A dedicated officer was appointed part time in Oct 2020 to coordinate a food partnership, working groups and the Food4Fife strategy.
- The Food4Fife Partnership was launched in August 2021.
- September 2021, Fife Council signed the Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity.
- The climate action plan was refreshed March 2024 [Climate Fife 2024 Strategy and Action Plan](#) .
- The Food4Fife strategy was approved by Fife Council in May 2024 [Food-4-Fife-strategy-2024-29-30apr.pdf](#).

The Partnership are presenting the Food4Fife strategy at a workshop with Fife Councils planning department on July 2nd to understand how best planning can protect and increase land for food growing, reduce industrialised farming and its pollution of soils, air and rivers and support a local food infrastructure to develop local food markets. The recommendations from this workshop will be developed as part of the Food4Fife strategy action plan and link National Planning 4 framework with Fife's refreshed Local Development Plan

The Food4Fife Partnership has been growing the farm clusters across Fife. Initial support was from Nourish Scotland to set up the Fork to Farm dialogues. A film was made of the main discussion points and concerns and premiered at COP 26. [Fork2Farm | Food for Fife](#) Farmers from the Fork to farm dialogues are part of the Food4Fife Partnership and have advised on developing the food strategy.

The Food4Fife Partnership has undertaken continuous engagement of farmers via local branch meetings of the National Farmers Union Scotland and local annual events put on by Farmers. This includes supporting and encouraging the growth of a network of farmers across the region to share knowledge and understanding around sustainable food production.

Examples of events include:

- GO Falkland in the summer [GO Falkland - Falkland Estate](#) part funded by the partnership via NHS Fife. Around 600 attendees for the 1-day event in 2023
- Ceilidh for Nature in the winter. Over 200 attended in 2023. [Ceilidh For Nature | Kinkell Byre](#).

Go Falkland is a 2-day event with an expectation of 1200 people attending. It brings together vital voices and hands-on practitioners in the fields of Regenerative Farming,

Forestry and Food. Ceilidh for Nature brings together farmers and those interested in supporting a sustainable approach to food.

Farmers from the Food4Fife Partnership network have offered to run workshops on soil health and regenerative practises. Presentations and farm visits happen throughout the year. All promote sustainable food production across the region. Examples include

- East Neuk Estates, [Farming and the Natural Environment - East Neuk Estates](#)
- Bowhouse at Balcaskie Estate [Bowhouse - Replacing the missing link in the local food chain \(bowhousefife.com\)](#),
- Ardross farm, [Ardross Farm Shop, Elie](#)
- Scotland the bread's fermenter project, [Scotland The Bread - Scotland The Bread](#)
- Balgove larder, [Balgove Larder Farm Shop, Butchery & Cafe – Balgove Larder Farm Shop, Butchery & Cafe](#)
- Falkland kitchen Farm, [Falkland Kitchen Farm](#)
- Pillars of Hercules, [Pillars of Hercules - Organic Food, Wholefood](#) Balbirnie home farms [Balbirnie Home Farms - Home](#).
- Kilburns Farm, Balmerina a sustainable sheep farm and
- Toll farm a regenerative farm that integrate animals with no chemical use and as part of the health status regime for the soil, make composts following Dr Elain Ingham's Soil Food Web approach.

Food and drinks business are supported via the food from Fife network [Home - Food from Fife](#) which is funded by partners and Scotland Food and Drink.

Action Area B: Reduce, redirect, and recycle food, packaging, and related waste

Partners Fife Councils resources strategy and action plan [Microsoft Word - Strategy draft word F \(fife.gov.uk\)](#) 2018 -28 has minimising food waste as one of its main targets and promotes the food waste hierarchy.

Its refresh is being delayed until main changes, regarding circular economy and deposit scheme along from Scottish government are decided. Partner officers are available for recycling talks and presentations including food waste reduction across the region. Up to 20 a year.

Fife collects food and garden waste from households and delivers it to the anaerobic digester in Dunfermline [Fife Lochhead Biogas - Jones Engineering Group](#) It takes the waste and uses the methane gas from it to create green electricity and heat.

The heat is used in partners Fife Council' Dunfermline Community Energy Scheme district heating system. This provides hot water to public and private buildings such as housing including blocks of flats, a large leisure centre, a large supermarket, and other buildings. Farmers make use the of the other byproduct Compost.

The social housing is not only receiving green heat but will also have a food waste trail for flats starting this June. The pilot for collection of food waste from flats was trailed in Ravenraig in 2023 and won a national recycling award and an APSE award in 2024 [2024 WINNERS - Awards for Excellence 2024 \(cvent.com\)](#) The success has enabled it to be rolled out to further schemes.

Other partners food waste work includes a research project with Zero waste Scotland on behaviour change in the home with regards to Food waste. Results were published in Feb 2024. The partnership are looking at how we can use this behaviour change information to inform campaigns. https://our.fife.scot/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/593110/6004-Fife-Report-Final-SENT-02022024.pdf

The Food4Fife Partnership have had meetings with the Gleaning project in Dunfermline [Gleaning | Transition Dundee | Climate Change | Social Enterprise](#) and Fare share with regards to reusing the surplus food left in fields from supermarket contracts. Food4Fife Partnership members have also attended national workshops with Rural Food Insecurity Network, sharing knowledge and projects to redistribute surplus food to organisations providing for people in need.

Community composting training and knowhow is delivered by the many Fife partners involved in community food working group. See community food section for further group names and website addresses.

A couple of projects to highlight here to highlight are

- Climate Ready Gardens Project under Climate Action Fife [Home - Climate Action Fife](#). The next composting workshop is on June 15th
- **Climate-friendly food** - <https://www.climateactionfife.org.uk/projects/climate-friendly-food/> AS part of Plate up for Fife + Training for Trainers – a 2-part programme of workshops (working in partnership with CLEAR Buckhaven and EATS Rosyth) looking at how we can make more climate-friendly food choices in our daily lives. Workshop 1 focusses on reducing food waste looking at common foods that get thrown away and exploring ways to change that. Workshop 2 look at eating locally and seasonally looking at the benefits of eating with the seasons and ways to access local ingredients. The programme also explores how to reduce meat and dairy consumption, packaging and eating healthily. In Year 3 (June 2024 – May 2025 Greener Kirkcaldy are developing a train the trainers programme to encourage and support more groups and organisations to deliver this programme across Fife. 30 participants per year

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

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