

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*:
Bwyd Abertawe
Name and contact details of person/people leading on this application*:
Mary Duckett, Bwyd Abertawe Coordinator : bwydabertawe@gmail.com Dawn Lyle, Bwyd Abertawe Chairperson: dawn@4theregion.org.uk
Geographic region which this award will represent*:
City and County of Swansea
Award you are applying for*:
Bronze

List of Acronyms

BA Bwyd Abertawe - Sustainable Food Partnership and Network for Swansea

CSA Community Supported Agriculture

CYC Cyfoeth Y Coed (fruit gleaning project)

EC Environment Centre

EYST Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales

GC Gower College

GP General Practitioner

GVALP Growing Volunteers and Access to Local Produce (one of Bwyd Abertawe project's)

LDP2 Swansea Local Development Plan 2023-38

PSB Public Service Board

REDI Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

SBHUB Swansea Bay University Health Board

SC Swansea Council

SCVS Swansea Council for Voluntary Service

SFC Swansea Food Charter

SFP Sustainable Food Places

SFPN Swansea Food Poverty Network

UKSPF UK Shared Prosperity Fund

WG Welsh Government

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:

Bwyd Abertawe (BA) is the sustainable food partnership for Swansea. Covering the same geographical area as Swansea Local Authority, which includes Swansea City, Mawr and the Gower peninsular; rural and coastal Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Abertawe is the Welsh name for Swansea, Bwyd Abertawe is Welsh for Food Swansea.

Swansea covers an area of 379.7 square kilometres, almost 2% of the land area of Wales. Official rural-urban data notes Swansea's land area is 69.5% rural and 30.5% urban. Official estimate of the population is **241,282**, ranked second largest population within a Local Authority Area in Wales. With 88% of Swansea residents living in urban areas and only 12% in rural areas. Overall population density of 630 per Sq Km. In keeping with the rest of Wales, Swansea has an ageing population trend, with an age-range increase of 14.2% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 3.8% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 1.7% in children aged under 15 years. 91.4% of Swansea respondents in the census described their ethnicity as 'white', which indicates Swansea's population comparable to UK average is relatively ethnically diverse. (2021, Census, Office for National Statistics and 2022 ONS).

According to Wales Index for Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), indicators for % of population living in Income Deprivation, show Swansea Income Deprivation stands slightly higher (17%) than the Wales average (16%). However there is a stark population difference between Gower (11%) and Swansea East (22%) suffering Income Deprivation, and therefore the associated impacts of poverty.

Swansea broadly aligns with Wales average for Health Indicators (WIMD). Notable for Swansea in the table below is higher than the national average, with Swansea East considerably higher, recorded as suffering from limiting long-term illnesses.

WIMD 2019 Indicator Data:

Other geographies	Indicator: GP-recorded chronic condition (rate per 100) (1)	Indicator: Limiting long-term illness (rate per 100)	Indicator: Premature death (rate per 100,000)	Indicator: GP-recorded mental health condition (rate per 100) (1)	Indicator: Cancer incidence (rate per 100,000)	Indicator: Low birth weight (live single births less than 2.5kg) (%)	Indicator: Children aged 4-5 who are obese (%) (2)
Local authority area: Swansea	14.0	23.8	400.6	22.4	598.9	5.4	12
Constituency Area: Gower	12.4	21.2	329	22.1	569.2	4.7	11.3
Swansea East	16.5	26.9	450.9	24	630	5.5	13.3
Swansea West	13.5	23.6	433.5	21.2	603.9	6	11.1
WALES	14.3	22.7	382.4	23.2	611.9	5.5	11.8

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

ANSWER:

Bwyd Abertawe is a multi-agency meeting group governed by Terms Of Reference to ensure membership includes representation of the diverse communities of Swansea. The BA Steering Group are representatives of organisations, all of which work to equality, diversity and inclusion policy and practice. Including that of Bwyd Abertawe host organisation, The Environment Centre.

The natural approach of the network and project is one of inclusivity, engagement and participation. During 2023 we ran a small grant process for membership to deliver funded projects to meet our key sustainable food aims and objectives; funded by Welsh Government Sustainable food Partnerships award 2023-24. We received 36 expressions of interest to deliver the projects, out of 11 organisations and groups funded, 2 were for projects specifically engaging with Swansea's black and minority ethnic communities or marginalised due to other identifying characteristics. All 11 funded groups were required to supply due diligence checks to ensure transparency and good practice including equality, diversity and inclusion policy and practice.

Throughout 2023 BA Steering Group held monthly online meetings, which will continue. Recently agreeing to up-date the format to be Governance and Business Strategy on bi-monthly basis (as per

the current meeting group), with inclusion of bi-monthly BA Members Activity & Updates meetings to further engage the wider membership and other agencies. Also BA have held information stands at various public conferences and engagement events 2023-24, including Chinese In Wales Association Year of Dragon celebration February 2024.

BA's *Growing Volunteers and Access to Local Produce* project (funded by UK Shared Prosperity) is targeted with engaging low income urban communities within rural food growing activities. For example connecting and enabling Swansea Asylum Seekers Support Groups to access activities at Cae Felin CSA and EYST with Big Meadow CSA. See 2A below for participant quotes.

Additionally the BA coordinator will be part of the SFP Anti-racism co-development working group June 2024, and will include REDI for change as part of the BA Steering Group review of Terms of Reference this coming year.

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?

- Yes (See docs 1F, 1G and 1I)

2. How are you evidencing this action plan?

- o Attachment as a Word, PFF, Excel document? Yes (See docs 1F. 1G and 1I)
- o Link to an only document? No
- o If a link place here as well under Key Issue 1
- o Action Plan link:

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

- o No (1G BA Steering Group 2024-25 Action Plan, and, 1I BA Network 5yr Sustainable Food Plan)
- o If less than 6 months to run what is happening after the action plan expires? (NA)

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

Bwyd Abertawe (BA) has grown from a grassroots movement initiated by local citizens in 2019, to securing Sustainable Food Places funding for coordinator (1dayp/w) in 2022-23 as well as establishing a multi agency steering group.

During 2023 BA launched the Swansea Food Charter, gained Sustainable Food Places Membership, as well as securing Welsh Government’s Sustainable Food Partnerships Funding; to enable the funding of projects that progress Swansea’s sustainable food priorities.

Swansea’s Food Charter (SFC) was produced through workshops with the wider BA membership, is our shared vision and direction of travel. SFC recognises a thriving, inclusive, equitable and nutritious local food system is a key driver for moving Swansea towards the seven Wellbeing Goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales). Swansea Food Charter is bilingual, *Siater Fwyd Abertawe* in Welsh. (1A & 1B attached with application)

BA membership is currently over 500 groups, organisations, businesses and citizens across Swansea, including everyone interested in sustainable food for Swansea! We provide quarterly e-Newsletters and BA Network meetings with invites sent out to all members. Membership is free.

Bwyd Abertawe is governed by Terms of Reference (TOR, 1.C attached with application), and a cross-sector Bwyd Abertawe Steering Group of 13 representatives meet monthly to guide the project and deal with key decisions as they arise. Monthly minutes 2022-24 available on request. BA Steering Group TOR will be reviewed by the group this year, including applying REDI principles.

BA is hosted by The Environment Centre (EC, grant recipient for BA projects and activities). BA and EC are currently further developing the relationship and supporting documents of Hosting Agreement and BA Projects Memorandum of Understanding (1D attached with application).

BA Steering Group have recently updated the meeting pattern, to hold bi-monthly Governance and Business Strategy meetings as per Terms Of Reference membership, and bi-monthly BA Activity and Updates sharing meetings; for wider membership involved across the sustainable food system in Swansea. The first of these was held 22nd May 2024. Discussion topics for the Activity & Update meetings follow SFP sustainable food key issue framework, and support collaboration and multi-agency working to advance Swansea's sustainable movement. Summary of the meeting is promoted via BA social media following the meeting/s (1E attached with application).

Swansea Public Service Board have recently provided a new invite to the BA coordinator, to attend PSB Forum as an 'important contributor to Swansea's wellbeing'. Which indicates another step in establishing BA as an entity for partnership work and influence in Swansea.

Also note, Swansea Council hosts a Food Poverty Network and Sustainable Food (Businesses) Partnership. Bwyd Abertawe connects and collaborates with both. The Food Poverty Network is a bi-monthly/quarterly meeting group regarding small grants the Council administer such as the Direct Food Support Fund. Swansea sustainable food partnership is a network of food businesses (restaurants, cafes etc) that connect with Swansea Economic Regeneration Team for development support. Including access to UK Shared Prosperity Funding and other business grants. The economic development local food coordinator sits on BA Steering Group, as a representative and conduit for private sector food businesses.

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

BA Annual Action Plan 2023-24 (1F attached with application) was requested by Sustainable Food Places as an example of good practice to share with other areas. We use green, amber, red colour code system to monitor and track delivery of Bwyd Abertawe. Action Plan 2024-25 (1G attached with application). BA small grant projects submitted monitoring reports, engagement data, project photographs and participant quotes. BA small grant monitoring is available upon request. BA small grant application form, guidance and monitoring spreadsheet were requested by Food Sense Wales and SFP and provided as an example and template for other areas to use.

Bwyd Abertawe made the WG sustainable food partnership development grant 2023-24 available to wider membership, to deliver BA Objectives. We received 36 expressions of interest total requested was £183,184 far exceeding the budget available. BA small grant

funded 11 projects, allocating £48,562. Out of the 11 projects funded 4 CSAs were funded for a range of items such as growers trainees, growers support, community and school engagement session, veg storage, poly tunnel and start-up. Also funding an innovative goat CSA at Swansea Community farm, and poly tunnel at Gower College to expand the horticulture learning offered as well as increase college connections and engagement with a local food bank. BA also funded 2 pilots 2023-24 delivered by [4theRegion](#) focused on reducing supply chain and increasing public procurement with BA member 4theRegion 1. Gower Grown and 2. Local Food on Public Plate. More detail in sections below.

We recently published our Annual Report 2023-24 (1H attached with application). Please see this report for various photographs and participant quotes.

During 2023 BA held 8 workshops engaging 120+ members, targeting engagement across the 6 key issue themes. The workshops and results were managed under the SFP 6 key issues, to form BA's Sustainable Food Plan 2024-29 (1I attached with application). This plan is available on BA's webpage, as a *live document* to support and guide BA Membership in coordinated delivery according with Swansea's sustainable food objectives across the 6 key issues. The document will be added to during the coming year, as BA Members take objectives forward through their respective projects and activities. Through further development this year, the document will acknowledge BA Members contributions and collaborations for a whole systems and systems change approach.

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

Bwyd Abertawe received 2 UK Shared Prosperity Grants 2024. 1. Growing Volunteers and Access to Local Produce (GVALP) - to increase urban volunteering at rural growing sites. 2. Mawr agriculture and farmer engagement and needs analysis. More detail in sections below.

Sustainable food topics are of increasing strategic interest, and Bwyd Abertawe is gaining identity, positive reputation and connections as a bridge between grass-roots and strategic bodies in Swansea regarding sustainable food topics. For examples BA coordinator submitted responses 2023-24, as requested by:

- Swansea PSB: Climate Change and Nature Action Charter Signatories Group and the Swansea Public Services Board.
- Food Sense Wales: Building a picture of food activities in public bodies in Wales.
- Swansea Cabinet Members for Community Services and Wellbeing Community Growing Scrutiny Working Group: [Community Growing Report](#).
- Food Sense Wales Report to the Welsh Government: Overview of Food Partnership links with Farmers and Agri-Sector.

Swansea's Local Development Plan (LDP2) is currently open for consultation by Swansea Council, and BA's coordinator is preparing to submit a response on behalf of the network. With emphasis to increase food growing and land available for food production.

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

BA launched Swansea Food Charter (SFC) at Swansea City Conference 2023. SFC is our shared vision and direction of travel for sustainable food in Swansea. As of May 2024; 206 members signed-up in support of SFC including 27 pledges of sustainable food action and change. SFC includes suggested *Pledges* for action and change citizens and organisations can make. SFC bilingual copies attached, section 1 above.

During 2023-24 Bwyd Abertawe hosted 3 in-person Bwyd Abertawe Network events with regular attendance of 25 to 30+ BA Members per event. As well as information stands at 9 different Swansea based public events and conferences. Also attending 12 different meetings providing workshops and talks on sustainable food, including BA coordinator taking part in the Sustainable Food Places discussion panel at the Royal Welsh Show 2023.

As a result, during 2023 we saw BA membership increase from 353 to 592 members: organisations, groups, businesses and citizens.

We also launched [BA webpage](#) and resources promoted via social media, including:

- Swansea Food Charter (bilingual copies to down-load)
- BA small grant 2023, summary of 11 projects
- BA e-News, back copies: [Spring 2024](#) [Winter 2023-24](#) [Autumn 2023](#) [Summer 2023](#) [Spring 2023](#) [Winter 2022](#)
- Summary of two Bwyd Abertawe projects, UK SPF funded: GVALP and Mawr Farmer Engagement
- Swansea relevant sustainable food maps, asset map links
- [Calender](#) of collated food awards and event dates
- [List of Swansea farmers markets](#)
- BA [Food Waste Quiz](#)
- Various listed sustainable food training and learning opportunities with links to training providers, as well as a link to careers in growing [video](#)
- [BA Annual Report 2023-24](#)

- BA Network [5yr Sustainable Food Plan](#)

We also provided content for [SFP members](#) map and [Food Sense Wales](#).

Growing Volunteers and Access to Local Produce (GVALP)

Since the project started mid-January 2024, GVALP has engaged with 80 individuals. Assisting local residents to access hands-on growing activities across 7 community supported agriculture (CSA) or other growing sites in Swansea. Our efforts have included organising short work promos and volunteering opportunities in the field, engaging in tasks such as planting seeds, fruit trees and hedgerow plants, preparing vegetable beds, and processing compost and manure. We are dedicated to working exclusively to build public awareness of a local good food movement. By providing hands-on opportunities and theoretical training, GVALP has empowered individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to cultivate their own food, leading to greater food resilience and access to local produce. Participants in GVALP's activities have shared personal benefits from volunteering, such as reduced isolation and increased mental wellbeing from being outdoors and connecting with nature and other people. Feed-back from participants includes:

"I enjoyed it (volunteering) because I love growing organic veg. I did try a couple of years ago growing kale, spinach, cucumber etc, but I haven't done it since." - Sharon

"Working voluntarily makes me happy." - Sami

"I moved to Wales from Yorkshire in October and have experience of growing. I had my own allotment in Leeds for 21 years. I'm committed to helping out!" - Angela

Through GVALP, we have been able to support participants to attend workshops and volunteer days, by covering travel costs and offering shared community transportation options. This aspect of the project is essential for generating urban - rural connections. We are organising several cooking workshops this Spring and Summer. These workshops will give the participants opportunity to learn and share recipe ideas, and build confidence in cooking with fresh local produce and surplus foods. Through these workshops in the community we have the opportunity to promote healthy eating, local sustainably grown food and ways to reduce food waste. These workshops will be run in collaboration with food poverty organisations, community groups and local CSA's.

BA has a growing number of committed volunteers, which we acknowledge and give thanks via BA social media and e-News.

During Big Green Week 2024 Bwyd Abertawe helped coordinate 8 volunteering sessions at different CSA and community growing initiatives across Swansea. Many



volunteers took part and were particularly welcomed assisting the CSAs planting-out for the growing season, since a very wet start to the year had significantly delayed the process.

During 2024 BA and Swansea Environment Centre have been co-screening a programme of sustainable food related films, particularly raising awareness of the significance of soil health. So far the 3 films screened have been: Symbiotic Earth, Regenerative life and Six Inches of Soil. Between 25-40 people have attended each screening.

Primary Schools

There is an increasing range and diversity of sustainable food activities happening at Swansea Primary Schools. The foremost being the [Schools & Community](#) work of Cae Tan CSA at Clas Primary, which includes seed to plate projects and grow from home with families. However other lovely examples include the installation of a new learning kitchen at Penclawdd Primary School, which is used for classroom curriculum learning with children as well as extra-curricular learning opportunities with families, the school also plan to develop their growing space to connect the 'seed-to-plate' principles and learning with the children. Oystermouth Primary School was one of BA small grant 2023 recipients, building a greenhouse and learning garden for the children, engaging them throughout the process and already producing a decent crop of greens during their first harvest. Also, Big Meadow CSA regularly arranges school visits for children and family growing days, particularly with their most local school Llanrhidian Primary.

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

Bwyd Abertawe Steering Group met online 13 times 2023-24, also holding 14 Subgroups to discuss and plan for Events, Funding and Staff Recruitment. We produced 4 quarterly e-Newsletters sharing with all members, to celebrate Swansea sustainable food activities including promoting Swansea food businesses and community sustainable food growing and cooking activities. Back-copies are available to view or download on our [webpage](#).

BA Steering Group also hosts quarterly in-person BA Network meetings, average attendance between 30-50. During 2023-24 these meetings were used to co-produce the [5 year sustainable food plan](#). This year BA Network meetings will focus on topics such as: Access to Land for Growing Food, Sustainable Food Celebration and Education and Training. BA Steering Group meets monthly online, recently opening bi-monthly online Activity and Update meetings for wider BA members.

The Welsh Government Sustainable Food Partnerships Fund enabled Bwyd Abertawe to make small grants available for our members to deliver sustainable food projects in Swansea. Bwyd Abertawe Steering Group had the difficult task of allocating the funding, 36 expressions of interest were received for wonderful sustainable food projects, far

exceeding the budget available. BA small grant 2023-24 projects enabled more than 30 sustainable food activities with over 580 participants in sustainable food activities.

“Creating the vegetable garden, planting and harvesting crops with individuals, community groups and school children, and observing the mutual achievement and satisfaction from working together (and with nature) as well as seeing the direct benefits on people's wellbeing that eco-therapy provides.” Cae Felin CSA

In addition to practical growing activities:

GVALP project worker has also shared written information on locally grown food, tips for reducing food waste, and promoting food sustainability through visual presentations on social media platforms and at promotional events such as: It's Your Swansea Conference at Swansea Arena, Green Fairs at Swansea University and Gower College, and visits to community organisations such as Swansea Asylum Seekers Support, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS) Outreach Chai and Chat group and more. The project has also helped forge relationships between urban based agencies and the rural CSAs, for example between Gower College and Cae Tan CSA for student placements. This connection is now informing more strategic discussions about Gower College increasing their Horticulture Level 2 offer to include Horticulture Level 3 and other developments. Also between EYST and Big Meadow CSA to collaborate for additional activities such as family growing days, including children and families.

The Environment Centre runs a project called Green Spaces, which supports community groups to create green spaces and food-growing gardens. They also run a [Veg-Hub](#) Carmarthenshire grown vegetable box collection point in the city centre.

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

BA e-News is produced on a quarterly basis, promoting and celebrating BA members projects, activities and businesses. As well as promoting strategic sustainable food updates, such as from the Welsh Government, Food Sense Wales, Social Farms & Gardens, and funding opportunities (such as SCVS, Swansea Council and Big Lottery). Back-copies are available of [BA webpage](#).

BA e-News:

Date	11.11.22	13.03.23	06.06.23	28.09.23	30.01.24	09.05.24
Recipients	305	378	464	510	537	567

BA social media @bwydabertawe ([Facebook Page](#) and [Facebook Group](#), X, Instagram) enabled promotion (example for 2023) of :

68 Funding opportunities and 189 of relevant Sustainable Food information, including strategic information. Also 134 Social media re-share of our members sustainable food activities to encourage local engagement.

During 2023 BA launched a [YouTube channel](#) to promote videos created of BA small grant 2023 project activities. The production and uploading of videos of BA small grant projects 2023 is ongoing, with 5 of the 11 project videos uploaded and 3 more at the editing stage. Bwyd Abertawe is particularly thankful to one of our volunteers for assisting with editing our videos.

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

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: Tackle food poverty

The Swansea Food Poverty Network (SFPN) was established during the Covid-19 pandemic to provide the opportunity for projects involved in tackling food poverty and food insecurity to network, share good practice and address issues. The network meets bi-monthly and is facilitated by the Tackling Poverty Team in Swansea Council. The Network also provides the opportunity for the co-design of various grant schemes in order to meet local needs. Food Poverty Grants such as the Direct Food Support Grant and SFP Development Grant are utilised to secure good quality food such as through Fareshare, provide small capital items such as fridges and freezers, tools and equipment for community growing projects and building community cooking skills. As well as mitigating the impacts of food poverty and food insecurity, projects are developing ways to tackle the root causes. Some successes have already been made, for example, through the introduction of a Welfare Benefits Advisor employed by Swansea Foodbank. A representative of Swansea Foodbank is one of the Commissioners in the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, the first commission in Wales bringing together people with lived experience with those that have influence. In the school summer holiday 2023, Swansea Council responded to the withdrawal of Welsh Government's FSM Holiday Payments by launching a Holiday Food Grant which supported a wide range of organisations to provide food or vouchers to those with school aged children. Food is also an integral part of the Swansea Spaces (Warm Hubs) scheme, which has demonstrated a significant impact on tackling social isolation in a dignified way in communities across Swansea.

At present Swansea has over 60 projects/organisations that are directly supporting/tackling food poverty through a range of interventions from foodbanks and to community shops, to cooking classes and growing projects. Many have links to local supermarkets to redistribute food that would be wasted and others connect with local CSA's to make use of any local surplus supply.

BA assisted Green Spaces to connect with Food Poverty Network, for specific development work around increasing food growing at and with Food Bank venues and customers

Matthews House is very different to a food bank and offers a wide range of services and support to homeless people in the city, including access to regular hot nutritious meals. Their core aim is to provide a 'home' in the heart of Swansea for those who are most vulnerable. See section 6B below.

Action Area B: Promote healthy eating

Along with the above, SFPN also promotes healthy eating through grants that can provide food supplies of good quality, encouraging and supporting community growing projects and building on projects that raise nutritional knowledge and cooking skills.

Over the last twelve months BA partner Swansea Council for Voluntary Service (SCVS) has been involved in promoting healthy and sustainable food in a number of ways. Several cookery workshops have been delivered in some of the more economically deprived areas of Swansea, with a focus on low cost sustainable and healthy food. The aim of these workshops is to teach 'cooking on a budget' skills primarily, but also to demonstrate that locally produced vegetables can form part of a cost effective diet. Further cooking skills sessions have been delivered to parents of pupils through four local schools, with a focus on affordable healthy meals. These are now being supported to establish as ongoing sustainable healthy cooking groups. In March 2024 SCVS completed a coproduction exercise on behalf the GP Cluster area for North East Swansea looking at how best to support Weight Management In the area. A key finding from this was the difficulty people have in physically accessing healthy produce and the ease of access to unhealthy options. Additionally, key barriers people face were perceived cost of healthier eating and lack of skills to cook healthy meals as well s a strong need for increased social interaction to support motivation. As such SCVS are now in the process of working with local organisations and individuals to set up social cookery groups with the potential to pilot funded local veg box deliveries and linking with the Bwyd Abertawe GVALP project to further promote local produce and growing. The Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) BAME Outreach project (hosted by SCVS in Swansea) facilitates a Health Information WhatsApp group where health information including promoting healthy eating based on NHS guidelines.

Furthermore, the project offers regulars Community Food and Nutrition Skills training several times a year (accredited at level 1) to project users. SCVS also delivers a hospital discharge support service for patients who need support on leaving hospital. It has been found people can struggle to cook for themselves in these situations and a new volunteer project is being developed that will promote healthy eating and support people to cook healthy meals for themselves following discharge.




SCVS worked closely with the City Health GP Cluster (covering the Swansea City Centre area) to facilitate a grant fund that enabled projects to deliver cooking and nutrition classes with primary schools in the city. Delivered by the Swans Foundation the project delivers 5 week courses involving parents and children, teaching how to cook healthy cost effective meals whilst education about nutrition/healthy eating. The Swans foundation also delivers a programme called Fit-Jacks in several areas of Swansea. It offers a free healthy lifestyles programme for

adults with a strong emphasis on healthy food choices.

The following shows the activities of the Deictics department of Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB). Whilst most of the activity mentioned is in Swansea, where stated some statistics are across the health board area that included Neath Port Talbot.

Course	Date	Outcome
A. Level 2 Community Food and Nutrition skills Staff trained from Swansea.	Jan 2022 – March 2024 11 Courses 102 Attended (96 gained accreditation) Most recent January 2024 Trained 1 Fit Jacks project staff and 1 Primary Care support worker 2 school staff (pre-emptive of Food and Fun Summer scheme 24)	Fit Jacks project in Swansea schools Dissemination of consistent nutrition messages to practice population Food and Fun Summer scheme
B. Level 2 Community Food and Nutrition Skills for EARLY YEARS Staff trained from Swansea	Jan 2022 – March 2024 Level 2 CFNS for Early Years (Swansea and NPT staff) 8 Courses	Staff equipped with skills and knowledge to implement the Healthy Snack award in EY settings

<p>For those who work in Early Years settings</p>	<p>62 Attended 60 Gained accreditation March 2023 – March 2024 'Snapshot' training: 15 Sessions 132 Participants</p>	
<p>C. Level 1 Community Food and Nutrition Skills courses</p>	<p>SBUHB Key Partners at present; SCVS & NCVS – Diverse Community Outreach projects</p>	<p>From Jan 2022- Dec 2023 7 courses 62 community members 49 gained accreditation 2 courses just starting – 20 community members</p>
<p>D. Foodwise for Life Weight Management courses</p>	<p>Scripted 8 week weight management programme Run in leisure centres, schools, community centres. To provide a standardised approach for accredited weight management, promoting consistent messages and methods to support sustained lifestyle behaviour change</p>	<p>NERS / ELP – about to run x 3 programmes at Penlan, Cefn Hengoed and LC2 Healthy Living hub, Kingsway Swansea – 2 programmes run in May and June 2023 (Facilitators required to complete accredited L2 Community Food & Nutrition Skills & attend Facilitating Foodwise session).</p>
<p>E. Gold standard Healthy snack award</p> 	<p>Currently have 16 Trained Verifiers/ partners 77 Childcare providers engaged - either achieved, working towards or being re-accredited (Swansea and NPT staff)</p>	
<p>F. Food and Fun Summer scheme</p>	<p>Summer 2023 x 6 schools Clase Primary, Terrace Road, Tre Uchaf, Penyrheol Primary Clwyd Primary, Hafod</p>	<p>Summer 2024 x 6 schools and 8 cohorts of 40 with potential reach of 320 pupils. Clase Primary, Tre Uchaf, Penyrheol Primary, Clwyd Primary, Hafod Terrace Road – not taking part this year.</p>
<p>G. Other work</p>	<p>Advisory Group</p>	<p>6-month project, based at Barod's Swansea site,</p>

Barod Cooking and Eating Project (Feeding Recovery Project)	Possible training of staff and support to deliver practical cooking sessions.	anticipating around 30 participants.
<p>Across Health Board (Swansea and NPT) Health Visiting Team – CNN’s L2, Get Cooking & Annual training (in partnership with Paeds Dietitians) Established Resources for Development checks, TEAMS Channel</p> <p>Wellbeing Champions Training</p> <p>Midwifery Staff – COMPACT Training & Level 2 CFNS Training, University courses input</p> <p>School Nursing Team</p>		
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

***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: Put good food enterprise at the heart of local economic development

As well as the 11 projects mentioned section 2 above, we commissioned 2 pilots from 4theRegion to progress sustainable food objectives otherwise not met by the 11 projects.

Gower Grown Winter Veg : BA pilot delivered by 4theRegion

This project builds upon [Gower Fields to Local Forks](#), 4theRegion’s award winning project that received a Yummy, Children's Food Award 2023. Gower Grown Winter Veg continues to lay our pathway towards resilience in our food system. In partnership with Bwyd Abertawe and Castell Howell Foods, 4theRegion is coordinating a project to support more vegetable growing on Gower and surrounding areas; connecting local growers with Castell Howell, to get more locally grown vegetables into their supply chain. A key outcome of

this project is S.Gower Farmer now trained to undertake 'small supplier audits' to enable more farmers to meet the criteria and supply their produce direct to Castell Howell. Significantly shortening the supply chain, in readiness we hope, for anticipated increased demand via Swansea Public Procurement in the medium term.

November 2023, BA co-hosted a Local Food Day in partnership with Swansea Council [Food Partnership](#) and [Cywain, Menter a Business](#); for Swansea's food businesses to meet and discuss topics including key actions towards shortening the supply chain. A number of presentations were shared by local businesses, and CSA's and discussions about local food supply informed elements of [BA 5yr Sustainable Food Plan](#), as well as topics for future similar events.

Swansea Council, Economic Development and External Funding Team coordinate a Swansea [Food Partnership](#) for food businesses. Providing support and networking opportunities for food and drink businesses in Swansea and Gower. Swansea Council commissioned the *Feasibility Study Mapping local produce and shortening supply chains report* publically available on SC website. Following this, the Economic Development Team are currently recruiting consultants to deliver a Feasibility Study (funded by UK Shared Prosperity Funding) : Cooperatives and Collaborative Working for Food Businesses in Swansea. Outcome the study is to lead to formation of a Food Guild and *foster collective collaboration within the industry*.

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

As described in section 2C above, BA social media is very active promoting local food business. For example featuring [Urban Kitchen](#), [Mochyn Mawr](#), [Farm.Co](#) online Swansea produce market, and others with BA e-News articles. Back copies linked within section 2 above. Also promoting (social media and BA e-News) the recent launch of [Petallica's new Eco-Markets](#), as well as creating and widely sharing [BA flyer promoting](#) 12 Swansea Farmers and Producers Markets, organised by various different organisations and groups. These flyers are also shared at BA information stands at various public events.

Unfortunately we do not have data to prove or disprove increased take-up or engagement with local businesses. In general the engagement and purchasing of 'sustainable food' from local retail and supply has a long way to improve. However, there is some very good engagement with locally owned small business cafes and restaurants in Swansea.

Gower Winter Veg project included a small consumer survey. When asked if the consumers find it easy to access local products, 36% said that they do, but 64% highlighted

the difficulties in sourcing local produce. The issues varied from not having transport to not knowing where to start.

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

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: Change policy and practice to put good food on people's plates

As well as the 11 projects mentioned section 2 above, we commissioned 2 pilots from 4theRegion to progress sustainable food objectives otherwise not met by the 11 projects.

Local Food On Public Plate Procurement Journey : BA pilot delivered by 4theRegion

In partnership with Swansea PSB and Bwyd Abertawe, 4theRegion are bringing together procurement and catering professionals from public bodies across Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, for a shared learning journey around getting more locally produced food into council, health, education and other public settings. Hosting a series of 5 workshops for Public Service Board Officers to navigate direction of travel towards increasing localisation of Public sustainable food procurement. The next steps are currently being formed including via meetings between 4theRegion and Swansea Council, Swansea PSB.

Bwyd Abertawe is in the process of collating 'Sustainable Food Policy' templates, to promote within the resource area of our website. Adopting a sustainable food policy is a key 'pledge' and action for change, organisations can make when signing-up to Swansea Food Charter. Some of the BA small grant 2023 projects also included this within their project objectives.

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

BA has commissioned a small project UK Shared Prosperity funded called, Mawr Agriculture and Farmer Engagement and Needs Analysis. Known as the Mawr Project, for initial engagement and consultation with farmers and those working in agriculture North West Swansea areas, to improve and strengthen connections with Bwyd Abertawe. To assist collaborations for shared aims and support in food production, including small scale

family and community growing. To identify opportunities in using agroecological techniques for 'future-proofing' agri-businesses with emphasis on food production and assess need/s to support food production.

The Mawr project is underway and will culminate with a joint event with the farmers engaged via the Gower Grown Winter Veg pilot. We anticipate connecting Swansea farmers and agriculture with Public Food Procurement - following the Local Food on Public Plate Public Procurement workshops noted above - for specific tasks such as: Estimating yields and cost that might supply public menus, transition of public menus to seasonal pattern, long term costing of benefits of sustainable food, share of risks particularly for the 3-5 year period of transition required for cost benefit to be realised.

Other key topics for dialogue and opportunities we are actively and will be supporting farmers to access are:

- Site visits for farmers and connection with [Castell Howell](#) food processing, distribution infrastructure and supplier
- Castell Howell's small supplier audit to increase opportunities to supply to Private Catering via Castell Howell
- Connections between Public Food Procurement and Castell Howell for local food onto public (hopefully Swansea schools)
- Connecting with [Lantra](#) for young Farmer workshops to explore agro ecological and organic practices
- Dialogue and support to explore development of Market Gardens (and seed sovereignty)
- Dialogue, information and support from [Food Sense Wales](#) for Swansea Farmers to consider joining [Welsh Veg in Schools](#) 2025 cohort (process key steps in Nov 2024)
- Workshop/s with [Farming Connect](#)

BA links and promotes 10 Swansea relevant sustainable food asset maps via our [webpage](#) (scroll down to the resources area), as well as regularly sharing via social media and BA e-News; Swansea farmers and local produce markets and outlets. As above, unfortunately we do not have any data to prove or disprove increased take-up over the past 12 months, and we acknowledge there is a long way to go. Working towards this Bronze application is a key step in the right direction championing sustainable food for Swansea.

As mentioned in section 4A above, in November 2023 Local Food Day was held in partnership between BA, Swansea Council and Cywain, Menter a Busnes. It was very clear participants welcomed the support to connect and network, and future events will continue this work.

BA will also continue to convene quarterly in-person network meetings (with topics aligned with the 6 key issues), as well as the new online BA Member Activity & Update meetings to further support connections and collaborations across the local supply chain.

4theRegion recently hosted 2 online webinars May 2024. The first welcoming Jane Davidson, architect of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, for a session on how Wales could lead the world in tackling climate change. The five Wales Net Zero Challenges include:

- How could Wales feed itself by 2035
- How could Wales meet energy needs by 2035 whilst phasing out fossil fuels
- How could Wales heat and build homes and workplaces by 2035
- How could people and places be connected across Wales by 2035
- What could education, jobs and work, look like across Wales by 2035

Following this 4theRegion hosted an online Regional Sustainable Food event including a presentation made by BA coordinator. These events are part of a collaborative network, including Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea essential for progressing systems change towards sustainable food for the South West Wales Region.

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

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

Natural Resources Wales are a key member of BA Steering Group and support strategically as well as support for practical action, for example sitting on the Management Group for the Mawr project, project outline within section 5B above.

Two key examples are 1) 'Gower Grown' projects lead by 4th Region - connecting Gower Farmers for supply to local schools / public plate via Castell Howell. 2) Mawr Agriculture and Farmers engagement and needs analysis (Lead by BA, Mawr in reference to various wards across NW Swansea).

The medium term aim is to bring both groups of farmers above together - initially via an event Sept / Oct 2024 - for items such as 1) small supplier audit to supply Castell Howell (and therefore hopefully local schools), 2) connections with Farming Connect, especially for sustainable food farming workshops (also Gower College and other learning providers) 3) explore opportunities for creation of market gardens with young farmers (and potentially Swansea horticulture students, the latter a longer term aim) 4) ongoing increased connection with Bwyd Abertawe including membership of BA Steering Group - a key objective of the 'Mawr farmer engagement project'

We have promoted [Farming Connect](#) 'mentors' programme, with an imminent meeting plan to connect directly with Swansea Farmers (Gower and Mawr / NW Swansea) mentioned above. Event to happen in Sept / Oct 2024 and to include the support, advice and learning opportunities Farming Connect offer farmers. This event will spring-board various outcomes with farmers round 1) shortening supply chain and new routes to market for farms eg via small supplier audit and Castell Howell 2) learning workshops and opportunities for young farmers 3) workshop for dialogue re opportunities for new market gardens 4) attendance within BA Steering Group 5) further influence BA 5yr sustainable food plan.

The next Bwyd Abertawe Network (in person). The topics will be Access to Land for Growing Food; identifying locations / availability for community access and market gardens, accessing planning and other formal processes, and benefits of green infrastructure. Due to summer break of various agencies, date w/c 9th Sept 2024.

Swansea and Gower hold 5 Community Supported Agriculture's, listed below. The highest number of any Local Authority Area in Wales, and the UK. The [CSA Evaluation 2020 Report](#) noted 10 CSAs established in Wales and 11 in development at the time. [CSA Network](#) recently produced a [video about Swansea CSAs](#). BA coordinator plans to also undertake a CSA report 2024 to champion Swansea CSAs in more detail.

Big Meadow - supply weekly veg boxes direct to almost 100 customers. Also arranging regular school visits and family growing days (see section 2C above).

Blackhills - has opened its doors to customers for the first time this season.

Cae Felin - are based at SBUHB land and work in partnership with Morriston Hospital, with specific interest in low income community connections to improve nutrition available to low income families.

Cae Tan - CSA trailblazer and now key training hub for CSA, horticulture and food growing activities. Specialising in school engagement. Also hosting annual Trainee Programme to train our next generation of sustainable food growers, and offering [Grow Your Own CSA training and consultancy](#).

Summit Good - supply weekly veg boxes to customers, and hold an on-site innovative businesses hub. Petallica has recently launched monthly Eco-fares for local produce on site.

As a result of BA Network Meetings and GVALP project connecting Gower College with Cae Tan CSA, BA, Gower College (GC) and Cae Tan are in discussions about further developing the horticulture and training offered via GC. BA small grant 2023 investment in a large polytunnel catalysed food increasing food growing training and GC are now planning to increase Horticulture Level 2 to Level 3. Cae Tan CSA offers [training and mentoring](#), and we would like to increase the range of workshops and lectures offered at GC, including 'young farmer' workshops to support them to remain in the food system and explore nature friendly practices in particular, mentioned in section 5B above.

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

Matthews House is a key member of Bwyd Abertawe - Bwyd Abertawe Network 21.03.24 was held at [Matt's Cafe](#). Their core aim is to provide a 'home' in the heart of Swansea for those who are most vulnerable, while providing a lifeline of hot food and support such as health and housing advice information for the homeless and others who need it. Mathews House actively and significantly reduces food waste in Swansea: Matt's Cafe intercepts food destined for landfill, using it to feed people who need hot meals on a pay-as-you feel basis. Matt's Cafe is open 3 times a week, is equipped with first-class facilities and was the first cafe in Swansea registered on the The Real Junk Food project (national and international network of cafes). Also see section 3A above.

Cyfoeth Y Coed is a community group and key member of BA, that maps fruit trees and harvests surplus fruit, mainly apples, for local food sharing projects like food banks, Matt's Cafe and the Community Fridge. Engaging local communities in picking and juicing sessions, as well as supplying a number of food banks with fresh produce. CYC started in 2021, harvesting 600 kg of fruit but this rose to 2.7 tonnes in 2023, partly because it was such an excellent year for fruit, but also because more people signed up to have their

trees harvested. We expanded the crops we picked from apples and pears to include red currants, plums and chillies!

Swansea Council declared Climate Emergency in December 2020, which includes suggested action and pledges. BA signed-up and promotes and highlights activities that align with both SFC and [Swansea Climate Pledge](#), such as:

- Shop locally and consume locally produced food
- Reduce food waste
- Create space for nature in my garden and grow food
- Grow food using nature friendly practices
- Plant tree, especially fruit and nut trees
- Connect with fruit gleaning projects to reduce fruit waste.

During October 2023 BA created and shared a Reduce Food Waste campaign and pop quiz. This was shared via BA social media at the time, and has been adapted into a [Food Waste information pack](#) for discussions with GVALP volunteers. Both the Food Waste quiz and information pack are available to download on [BA webpage](#).

Bwyd Abertawe is keeping connected with Food Sense Wales, to support [Wales Net Zero, How Can Wales Feed Itself by 2035](#).

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

Bwyd Abertawe is instrumental in connecting Cae Tan with Gower College regarding further development of horticulture studies at Gower College. Our aim is to further increase the learning and training offered at Gower College and in connection with Cae Tan.

With a longer term aim for developed learning, training and workshop opportunities to be offered and available to next-generation Swansea farmers, including via Lantra and Farming Connect. For example the need for young farmer workshops, including for sustainable food farming knowledge that is not currently passed-down, has been identified within the [Gower Grown Winter Project](#) and project Report 2024.

As mentioned above, Bwyd Abertawe's GVALP project has provided training sessions on growing skills and shared written information on locally grown food, tips for reducing food waste, and promoting food sustainability through visual presentations on social media platforms and at promotional events, as well as Sauerkraut reduce food waste workshops for GVALP volunteers.