



ORGANICLEA

Community • Food • Growing
Annual Review 2022-2023



About OrganicLea

OrganicLea grows and sells food in north-east London, and helps others to do the same. We're committed to transforming the lives of local people, including some of the most marginalised, by enabling them to take part in a better food system and connect with their natural environment. Based at Hawkwood Plant Nursery, our 12-acre organic market garden and wildlife haven in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, we help Londoners to connect, learn and build their skills and confidence for work and life. We work for change in the food system locally and globally, in solidarity with peasant farmers and campaigners, taking action for ecological and just farming systems.

We do this by:

Growing Food: we grow vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers on our 12 acre market garden site, Hawkwood Nursery, involving volunteers, trainees, apprentices and course students in the work. We sell produce and some processed goods to our own outlets and to restaurants, cafes and shops. We sell plants through our own outlets and to individuals and community groups. We operate a weekly box scheme and farm stall, selling our own produce and produce supplied by farmers in East Anglia, plus some UK-wide and European produce.

Growing People: we run a volunteer programme at our market garden, open to all but including referrals from a number of agencies and partners for people with higher support needs. We run a variety of training courses (including accredited Level 1 and Level 2 gardening courses), an apprenticeship, traineeships and programmes for newly arrived migrants and for young people with special educational needs.

Growing Community: we support a network of food growing groups on a range of sites around north-east London, including growing space development and design, volunteering programmes and training courses. We offer family activities and community engagement through workshops and activities and tours at our site and at other local community events.

The first soil was turned in OrganicLea's name in 2001...



...We celebrated our 21st birthday in September 2022. Thankyou to all the people and plants growing with us along the way.

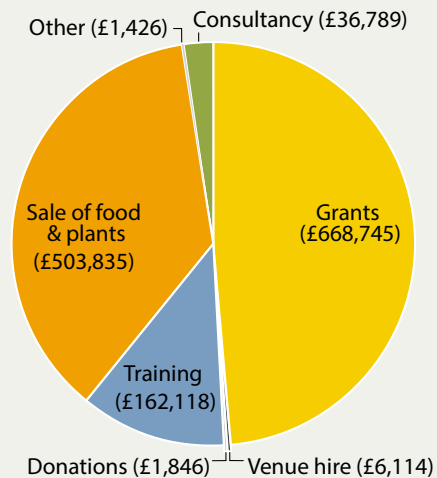
2022-23 Highlights

- We marked our **21st birthday** with a festival event at our Hawkwood growing site, bringing together 500 people to celebrate OrganicLea's work and their part in it.
- Launch of the **Waltham Forest Food Growing Network** in partnership with the Hornbeam Centre and community growing spaces across the borough.
- We enrolled **118 learners** onto our City and Guilds accredited courses and **23 learners** on our AQA courses.
- We grew **12,662kg** of organic produce with a value of **£73,689**.
- We worked with **304 volunteers** during the year.

Financial review

- Income: £1,380,873
- Expenditure: £1,373,068
- Net surplus: £7,805
- Total funds carried forward: £212,965, including £26,811 fixed assets
- Self-generated income: 51% of turnover
- Income: 11% higher than previous year due to increase in grant income

Our income (£1,380,873)



Thank you

to the many grant funders who supported our activities during the year.

Find out more

Box Scheme and Farm Stall

Fresh, sustainably-grown fruit and veg every week in your neighbourhood. Find out more on our website, email box@organiclea.org.uk or call 020 8524 4994.

Produce Distribution

We sell our mixed salad leaves to restaurants, cafes and shops in Hackney and Waltham Forest. We also offer a Kitchen Garden scheme for restaurants wanting to grow with us. For more information call 020 8524 4994 or email info@organiclea.org.uk.

Training

We offer a range of formal training courses, including accredited horticulture courses. Email courses@organiclea.org.uk for more information.

Volunteering

We have a vibrant and diverse volunteer community. Email volunteering@organiclea.org.uk if you would like to volunteer or do a placement with us; or if you would like to refer someone.

Community Food Growing

OrganicLea supports food growing and gardening projects in the community. Contact info@organiclea.org.uk to find out more.

Schools and young people

We can offer school visits, activities within schools, teacher training and programmes for young people. We also offer tailored programmes for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and in alternative provision at our site and within schools.

For more information email schools@organiclea.org.uk

Plants

Our main plant season is from April to June, with winter plants for sale in August and September. Contact plants@organiclea.org.uk or go to our website for more details.

Donations

If you'd like to support our work financially, please get in touch. Contact laura@organiclea.org.uk for more information.

OrganicLea CIC

Founded in February 2001 as a workers' co-operative. Not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee (Community Interest Company), Number 05135926, VAT Reg 161 391029

Registered office: Hornbeam Centre, 458 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London E17 9AH

Growing site: Hawkwood Plant Nursery, 115 Hawkwood Crescent, Chingford, London E4 7UH

X (formerly Twitter): [@organiclea](https://twitter.com/organiclea) Facebook: facebook.com/Organiclea

Instagram: [organicleacommunitygrowers](https://instagram.com/organicleacommunitygrowers)

www.organiclea.org.uk

