

Community food movement builder (1 day / week)



OrganicLea is a local food cooperative in North East London. By linking production and retail with training and supporting others to grow, OrganicLea is reimagining an equitable food system. We operate with a 17 strong workers' cooperative at our core, provide another 20 people with sessional work and paid training opportunities, and involve over 100 volunteers each week in our work. At a local level, we all work towards changing the current food system towards a more socially and environmental just system, and this role helps to support these efforts and to ensure that they have an impact at a regional, national and international level.

The role of community food movement builder involves maximising OrganicLea's potential to inspire wider social change towards social and environmental justice. The focus of the role is on building skills, knowledge and passion for grassroots change in the food system through awareness raising, movement building and facilitating connections between people involved in the community food movement at local, regional, national and international levels. This role is also responsible for supporting OrganicLea co-workers to communicate their work around alternative and sustainable livelihoods, food growing practices and local economies, as well as build awareness around food sovereignty, capturing outcomes and maintaining effective records of our System Change work. This role started in 2012 and has continued to develop since then; and there is funding for the next two years through a grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. We are interested in recruiting someone who is flexible and brings a diversity of skills to the role, as it may change or shift after reviewing and adapting the role (to be led by the successful applicant). The community food movement builder facilitates and is supported by the "System Change Spoke", which is one of the subgroups of OrganicLea workers. Although the role sits within an established and experienced team and network which will provide a supportive framework to a certain extent, a high level of organisational skills, initiative and passion for the role are essential.

Part time: 1 day per week

Salary: £22,964 pro rata, based on a 35 hour week

Based at: Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery / Hornbeam Centre

Responsible to: OrganicLea Workers' Cooperative

Start date: Week commencing 25 April

Contract term: 6 months initially, with 3 month review.

How to Apply

Please write a brief cover letter explaining:

- Why you are interested in the post
- How your experience and skills relate to the post
- Your work and training history (preferably attached as a CV)
- Please also provide information on any unspent convictions

Application Deadline: **Wednesday 13 April**, 5pm

Application Feedback: Friday 15 April

Interviews at Hawkwood Community Plant Nursery: **Wednesday 20 April**, 9am-1pm

We hope that interviewees will also be available to join us on **Saturday 16 April** for the People's Food Fair at the Hornbeam Centre (www.hornbeam.org.uk).

Please email applications / enquiries to elizabeth@organiclea.org.uk

Job responsibilities specific to this post

Communicate how OrganicLea creates alternative and sustainable livelihoods, encourages ecological food growing practices, builds local economies & supports food sovereignty movement nationally and internationally (average 2 hrs / wk)

- Publish information about related news, events and opinions through OrganicLea's newsletter, website, social media, wider publications, and via networks that OrganicLea are already tapped into.
- Support colleagues to communicate these values as part of their work.
- Keep OrganicLea and our community up to date with system change events and news, supporting others to participate actively.
- Maintain efficient records of OrganicLea's overall system change work.
- A strategic review of this post and responsibilities held by this post holder, involving (and with support of) the System Change spoke.

Organize local events that raise awareness about alternative and sustainable livelihoods, food growing practices and local economies as well as food sovereignty (average 2 hrs / wk)

- Organise and participate in local and regional events that link local and global food issues
- Raise local awareness about social and environmental issues with the industrial food system, and build skills, knowledge and passion for change.
- Participate in and support the creation of a local People's Food Forum
- Work sensitively and effectively with the diverse members of our local community

Strengthen and support community food movements at local, regional, national and international levels (average 3 hrs / wk)

- Co-ordinate and facilitate Organiclea's involvement with the Community Food Growers Network and the Landworkers' Alliance, thereby supporting the strategic development of these organisations in their work to challenge injustices in the food system.
- Maintain relationships with NGOs, campaigners and activists working on food sovereignty issues.
- Maintain and build links with farmers, growers, campaigners and activists internationally, hosting visits to Hawkwood and the Hornbeam where possible.

Other responsibilities:

- Hold the budget for this aspect of the funded work.
- Support OrganicLea's Farm Start Coordinator to monitor and evaluate this funded work.
- Play an active role in Organiclea's fundraising strategy.
- Tasks associated with being a member of OrganicLea workers cooperative.
- Ensure Systems Change spoke meetings occur in line with OrganicLea processes and facilitate spoke members' activity in Systems Change work. (Please note that System Change meetings occur more or less monthly outside of normal working hours, usually on a Wednesday evening).

Person specification

Essential

- Knowledge and one year's recent experience of participating in radical community food networks.
- Understanding of the social and environmental problems associated with the industrial food system today and an analysis of how community food systems can best challenge this system.
- Knowledge of community food networks in general – national and international.
- Experience of organic horticulture on commercial scale, or willingness to learn through volunteering and home study.
- Good communication skills – ability to enthuse food growers (urban and rural) about the importance of sharing experiences and struggles; ability to communicate verbally and in writing – promoting events and networking experiences.
- Strong organisational skills – event and meeting planning and coordination.
- Experience of working with diverse groups of people and supporting communities as they empower themselves to create change.
- Experience of facilitation – including consensus building processes.
- Commitment to strengthening the small-scale food growers' movement through the promotion of strategic cooperation
- Commitment to the empowering role that food growing communities can play within movement for wider social change.
- Commitment to cooperative ways of working.
- Willingness to participate in a reasonable amount of unpaid coop work, e.g. governance meetings and training days.

Desirable

- Experience of working in a cooperative structure, particularly in decision-making and facilitation.
- Experience of working or volunteering with OrganicLea, or willingness and availability to commit time (a minimum of 8 hours per month, paid or unpaid) beyond this role to OrganicLea's work.
- Experience of fundraising.