
GrowGreen Scotland

Delivering practical solutions through connecting people, places
and nature.

People in Place Network 25 September, '25



Look out your window. Connect with a piece of land near you

People and place

Placemaker pioneers -The growing movement in towns, cities and settlements across Scotland

Every community site connects people to place and each other, improves health, restores nature, and builds resilience.

Where we stand: participation from every settlement. Advocate, promote, share knowledge and experience, support communities and partners across Scotland including LAs, NHS, landowners, develop pathways together.



Visionary, people leading through action on the ground.

Relatively low barriers, cost for entry.

Inclusive flexible models. Spaces of all sizes for a mix of uses. Verges to farms, allotments, communal growing spaces, market and school gardens, rewilding sites, pollinator trails.

Developing as the nucleus for local community led food action for a more secure and fair food system, and beacons for climate and nature action. Policy implementation powerhouse.

Approach based on sharing land with a range of landowners.



What is going on at a community site

Placemaking that is community led, collaboration with outcomes for all participants. Learning and Innovation by doing and practice

Fresh food choices, opportunities to grow and share food and eat together, food justice, with dignified access, food pantries. Good food nation.

Social connections, building local relationships, cohesion. Health and wellbeing promotion demonstration.

Connection, care and custodianship for nature and environment, climate adaptation and mitigation. Increased biodiversity, improved soil health.

Multicultural learning, sharing and understanding

Essential 'safe' spaces for people, stigma free

Enterprise and community wealth building

Active citizenship and democratic action extending to other local issues and opportunities

Collective endeavour, participation and knowledge growing resilience in communities

Skills and green jobs development .

Opportunities for activities for all ages from Citizen science, to screen free time

Multiple policies implemented and tested.

Demonstrate how common land well managed by the community can bring multiple benefits.



What's needed to flourish and grow

Planning that understands value and supports communities to secure and safeguard land for food growing and nature solutions. Consistency in local authority responses. Trust what communities can and already do on land across Scotland, proven benefits through a variety of models sizes and settings.

Ambition for local community led food growing and activities as important parts of a better, fairer, more secure food system. Recognising food growing is essential for all communities as it connects us to real food, and urgent for future food security.

Take up the ideas from the Scottish Parliament reviews of Part 9 of the CEA. Including resource to accelerate process to secure public land, LA charter to reduce dismiss planning charges, permitted development rights, site infrastructure on all new developments.

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- Right to Grow? UK government suggested amendment to the Planning and infrastructure bill, it would ensure 'Space to Grow' would always be a strategic priority for local planning authorities and considered in future development plans.
 - Support the visionary Pioneer placemakers and help grow them!
 - Suitable land for every community, recognising the pressure and sharing it.
 - Partnerships with equal status for community, investment and strategic and operational.
 - Collaborate with us, one off or longer term to make the positive change happen in places across Scotland. Everyone has a role. 5 people in the room to accelerate change.

Contact and Connect

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