

Street & District Allotments Association

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Our approach to biodiversity loss & climate change

Our allotment association recognises the urgent need to respond to biodiversity loss and climate change at the community level. As caretakers of shared green spaces, we are committed to adopting and promoting environmentally sustainable practices that enhance local biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.

Current actions:

Promotion of pollinator-friendly planting: We encourage plot holders to grow a diverse range of flowers, herbs and vegetables that support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Many members already incorporate companion planting and native species to attract beneficial insects.

Composting and waste reduction: Composting organic waste on-site reduces landfill contribution and enriches soil health. We promote composting best practices among our members and minimise the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

Ban on tyres: We have introduced a site-wide ban on the use of old tyres for planting or landscaping. This decision was made to prevent potential soil contamination from chemical leaching and to protect long-term soil health and biodiversity.

Community education: Through informal conversation and shared practice, we promote awareness of sustainable gardening methods, including crop rotation, reduced tillage and natural pest control.

Future plans:

Biodiversity mapping and wildlife habitats: We aim to map and monitor wildlife activity on our sites and introduce dedicated habitats such as bug hotels, bird boxes and small wildflower areas to increase species diversity.

Carbon reduction strategy: We plan to encourage low-carbon gardening practices such as use of peat-free compost, reduced plastic consumption and shared tool use to lower individual carbon footprints.

Formal sustainability guidelines: We intend to adopt a written sustainability policy that will guide plot holders in climate and biodiversity friendly approaches, including expectations around pesticide use, water management and planting diversity.

Workshops and engagement: We hope to forge partnerships with local environmental groups or other organisations to offer seasonal workshops on sustainable gardening, composting and climate resilience.

Our allotments serve as a microcosm of sustainable living – demonstrating how everyday community actions can contribute to climate adaptation, ecological restoration and environmental stewardship. As we grow, we are committed to embedding these values into the core of our organisation's identity and practices.