

Sheffield Organic Food Initiative is a charitable trust, dedicated to

1. the promotion of health and wellbeing
 - and 2. the alleviation of poverty
- for all people in the region of the City of Sheffield,
- by 3. developing the capacity of the locally-grown, organic industry
 - and 4. providing educational information and resources
- designed to improve the provision and practice of organic gardening and food-growing
(i.e. sustainable, organic, ecological, biodynamic, biological and permacultural techniques)

The Trust will fulfill these aims and objectives by:

- * developing relevant information
- * presenting and distributing information to the public in relevant media and forums (networks / meetings / press / radio / television)
- * participating in processes designed to increase organic food-growing capacity at all levels,
from individual-domestic through organised-group-community sector up to and including broadscale-commercial.
- * delivering educational services (training / workshops / advice / consultancy)
- * developing opportunities for relevant training and qualifications
- * developing infrastructure
- * demonstrating organic practices and techniques
- * conducting research

During the winter of 1997-8, members of SOFI compiled a large document, consisting of a combination of innovative practical information and descriptions of the projects and activities they were involved in. Printing and distribution costs for 200 copies was met as a one-off payment by Sheffield Community Economic Development Unit. The document also addressed the strategic development of the locally-grown organic sector. scedu letters

Sheffield Organic Food Initiative represents a network of individuals committed to developing the provision of locally grown organic food. We have been active for the last ten years developing our own productive capacity and attempting to promote organics wherever possible. SOFI comprises a dozen regularly active individuals and several dozen more passive supporters. We have been members of the Henry Doubleday Research Association for many years and have organised displays, tours and open-days in co-operation with Sheffield Organic Gardeners.

SOFI provides working examples of urban, organic self-sufficiency and can demonstrate the tangible benefits arising out of the application of such techniques. We have developed our own productive capacity to a reasonable state of competence and hope to be able to help others achieve the same. As practitioners, we are well-placed to fully understand the complexities and demands involved, ranging from the personal challenges to more general lack of support from society at large. SOFI's constituent projects received minimal funding during 1997, a total of £500 from six sources. Total expenditure was about £1000 more than funding, which was met by investments by the individuals involved. Ref:

/ U.G.Trust accounts / CCC a/cs?

SOFI will fulfil the requirements of an educational trust by evolving materials useful in improving the performance of locally-grown organic capacity in Sheffield and its environs. SOFI will build on its existing track record, compiling relevant information and conducting practical research. The Trust will also promote the profile of the local organic food sector in the media and other relevant forums.