

Edible Canterbury Charter **- an initiative of the Food Resilience Network**

We, the signatories to this Charter, believe that all people in the Canterbury region have the right to fresh, nutritious food that is grown and prepared locally in ways that are ecologically sustainable and culturally appropriate.

We support the Food Resilience Network's vision of 'a patchwork of food producing initiatives based around local hotspots and linked together like a ribbon woven into the fabric of our communities'.

As such, we commit to working collaboratively with the other signatories of this Charter to make this vision a reality.

Values and Principles:

Accessibility: access to nutritious food is the right of all people and is a basic determinant of health;

Mahinga kai: food gathering and food growing spaces that reflect the values of local iwi are integral to the vision of a food resilient region;

Cultural appropriateness: food and culture are intimately connected and the many different cultural groups that make up our region's population should all have access to food that is culturally appropriate to them within the boundaries of our climate;

Ecological sustainability: a resilient food system implies one in which food is grown in ways that regenerate the natural environment rather than harm it (for example using principles of organic agriculture, permaculture, agro-ecology etc);

Social enterprise and local economic development: we endorse the establishment of organisations and businesses that grow, process and distribute food locally, and the development of a local food economy;

Food education: education about nourishing food for all ages and in a variety of learning places is crucial;

Community empowerment: everyone has a role to play in creating a food resilient region and everyone's role is valued;

Collaboration: creating a food resilient region requires partnerships between many agencies and cannot be owned by any single group.