

# DEMAND FOR LAND SURVEY SUMMARY

Food and Climate Action, a project delivered in partnership by 6 organisations across Glasgow, has been working together to create conversation around what a more sustainable and fairer food system in Glasgow could look like.

During COP26, the array of different events worked on by members of our Food and Climate Action project looked at land ownership issues in the context of food growing and the climate emergency. The learning from these events fed into our **#DemandForLand campaign** which took place throughout the Summer of 2022 and resulted in a number of publicly accessible resources for understanding the lay of Glasgow's land and how to use it.

The purpose of the campaign was to inspire the people of Glasgow to think about our city's land differently, seeing the possibilities that so much of it has for food production; as well as to look at the barriers to accessing land and where changes could help lessen those obstacles.

We began our Campaign with a **public survey** to get an insight into what Glaswegians are saying about food growing and land access - after all, there would be no point in running the Campaign if people didn't agree that land is needed! At the time of writing (November 2022) we have received **approx 61 responses** from people and organisations across Glasgow.

You can still respond to the survey at [www.bit.ly/DemandForLandSurvey](http://www.bit.ly/DemandForLandSurvey)

Below, we've outlined a summary of the responses we received. If these look similar to conversations or thoughts you're having, then be sure to have a look at our **resources** on how to continue these conversations and make change at our **Demand for Land Campaign webpage**.

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Demand for Land was made possible thanks to Food for the Planet, and funders Esmée Fairbairn Foundation & The National Lottery Community Fund.

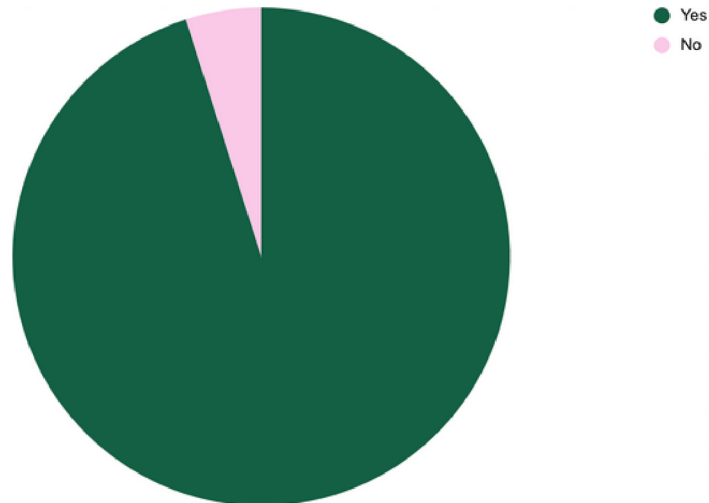
The campaign is part of #FoodClimateAction, a project delivered in partnership by 6 organisations in Glasgow and funded by The National Lottery Climate Action Fund.



# QUESTION 1

Are you looking for a site for food production/growing, or already have a site in mind, or in the process of obtaining land for food production/growing? (61 responses)

Overwhelmingly, the response to the above question was that, yes, Glaswegians are seeking land for food production.

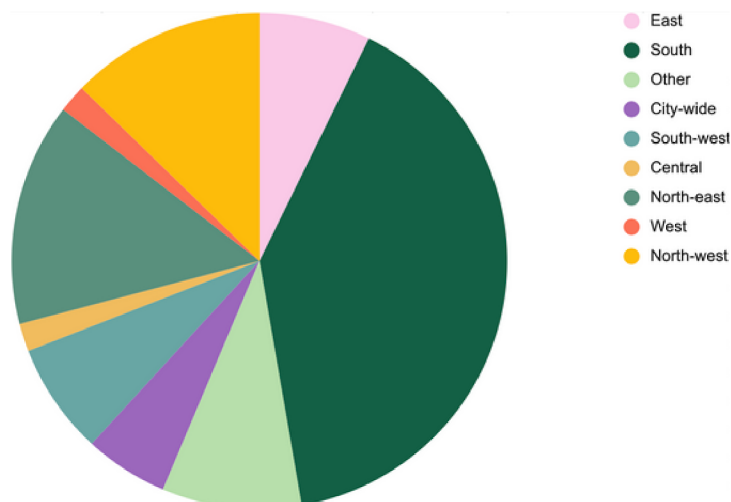


# QUESTION 2

If possible, please provide the general location, postcode or address for the area you are looking in / or for the site you have identified. (55 responses)

We received responses with calls for land all across Glasgow as well as outwith the city. Glasgow's Southside seemed to have the highest demand but the North (encompassing the North-east and North-west) also ranked highly.

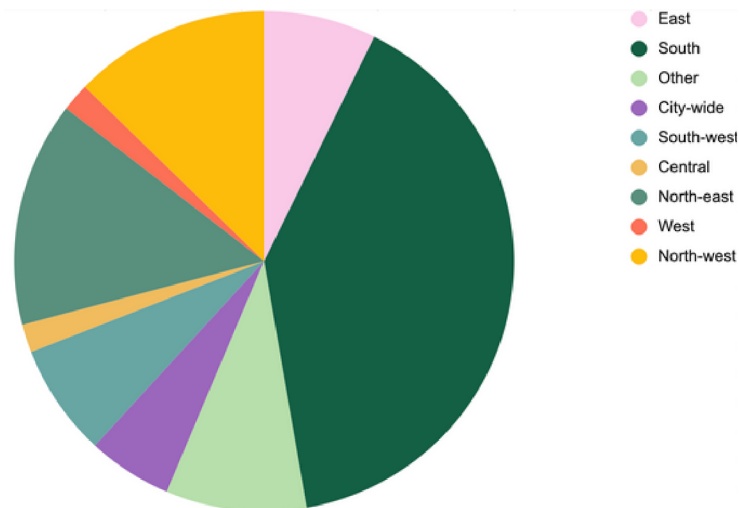
Areas outwith Glasgow that were listed included East Renfrewshire, East Dumbartonshire and North Lanarkshire.



## QUESTION 3

Please provide a rough estimate of the size of the site you have identified or are looking to take on (hectares, acreage or metres squared). If you don't know the size, a rough estimate compared to a football pitch would do. (56 responses)

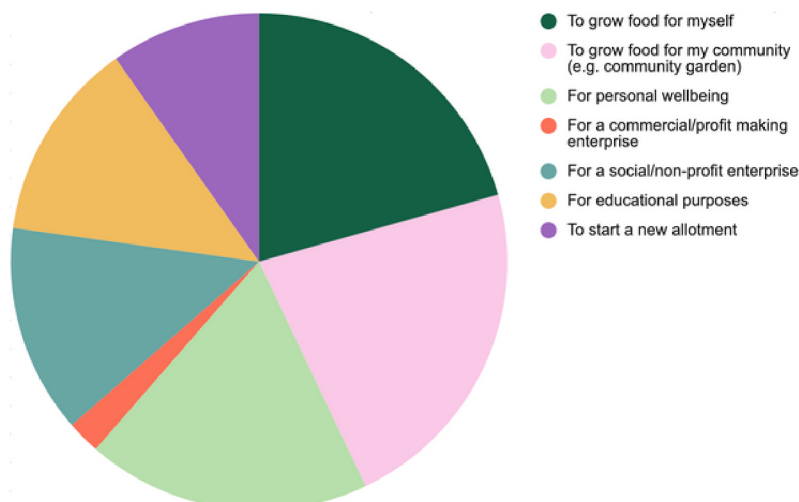
The survey resulted in an extremely varied response for Question 3, ranging from a few metres in a back garden to 50 acres. We've groups and translated these responses into UK football fields (= 1 acre) and UK allotments (250 square metres). It's clear to see that the most sought after amount of land is equivalent to 1 allotment or less. However, over 50% of respondents wanted more land than this, to varying degrees.



## QUESTION 4

Please tick the most appropriate desires for use of the space. (60 responses)

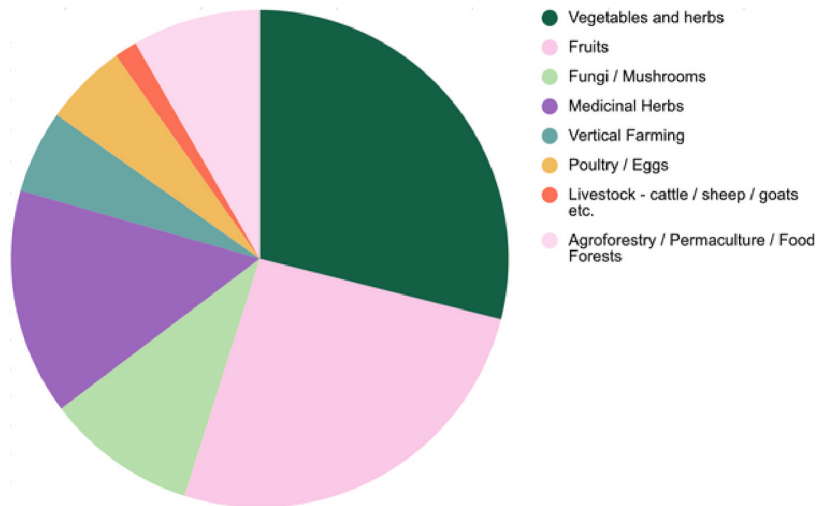
In addition to the options provided by us (as displayed below), other responses included: "We would love a space to grow fruit and vegetables for our school community. We would use the food grow in our community cafe as well as food bank [sic] for pupils"; "To grow food for friends and family", "I would also like to grow different bee friendly flowers" and, "It is an excellent opportunity to overcome the mental health and well-being of the Community." Wildlife was also mentioned as a motivating factor for wanting to acquire land.



## QUESTION 5

Please tick the types of food production you would be looking to use your site(s) for. (60 responses)

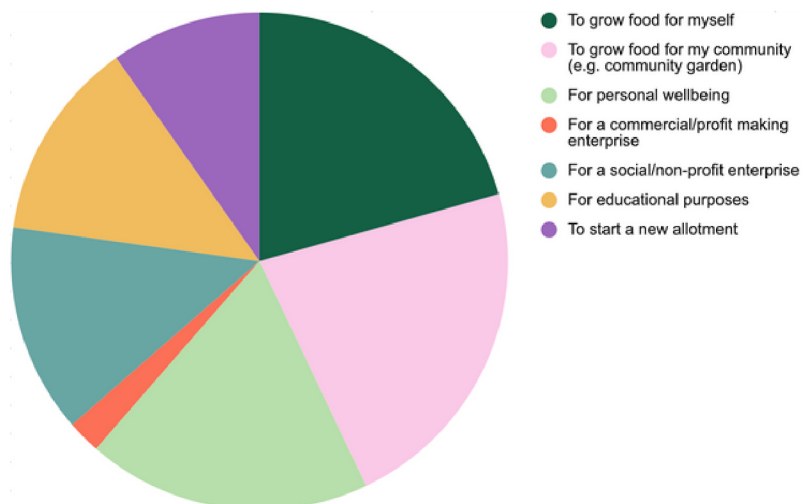
In addition to the options provided by us (as displayed below), other options presented were: "grain - wheat, rye, oats, barley"; "olive trees"; "beekeeping" and; "vegan organic" food production.



## QUESTION 6

Please tick any of the following organisations you are working with in accessing land for growing. (33 responses)

In addition to responding to the options provided by us, some people used this question to express challenges and hopes for working to acquire land: "...using other family members garden space as no allotments available"; "Really like idea of public buy out or that land is owned by residents" and; "I wouldn't [sic] know who" to approach for support in access land.



## QUESTION 7

Is there anything that would help you in accessing land for food production in the city? (45 responses)

"It would be amazing if there was a project that would help communities use their backyards. The 'maintenance' of those gardens is often externally managed and so communities don't feel like it's theirs, so gardens just become a space for waste disposal."

"Council making it easier to access derelict land (for free ideally). More start up funding from government to buy/ lease land. Generally more government/ council support for social enterprises wanting to grow food for the local community (e.g. help with setting up infrastructure like irrigation systems/ polytunnels). More centralised info on who owns what land and how to contact them. Free public transport to get to the land!"

"More land for growing closer to people's homes. Make use of unused urban green spaces and encourage growing in back courts. I was once told off for growing veg in the back court because the "gardeners" who were cutting the grass didn't want the layout of the garden to change!"

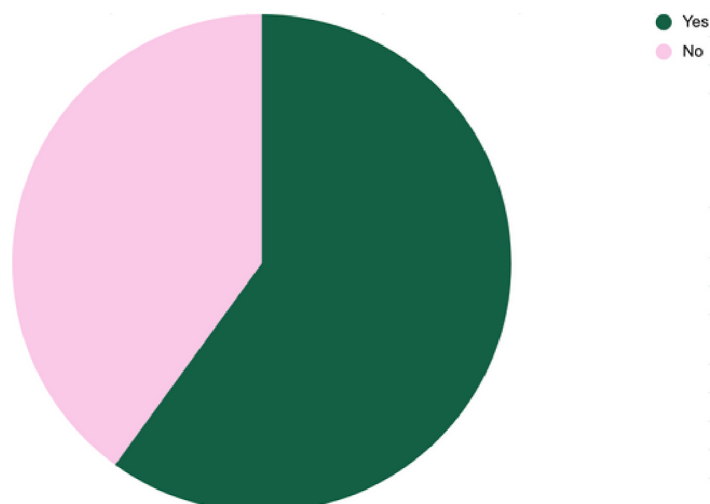
"More spaces for growing - current waiting list is 5 years for an allotment"

"Transparent data bank of available land"

## QUESTION 8

Do you currently have a space to grow food? If yes - please specify. For example: back garden, community space, allotment etc. (60 responses)

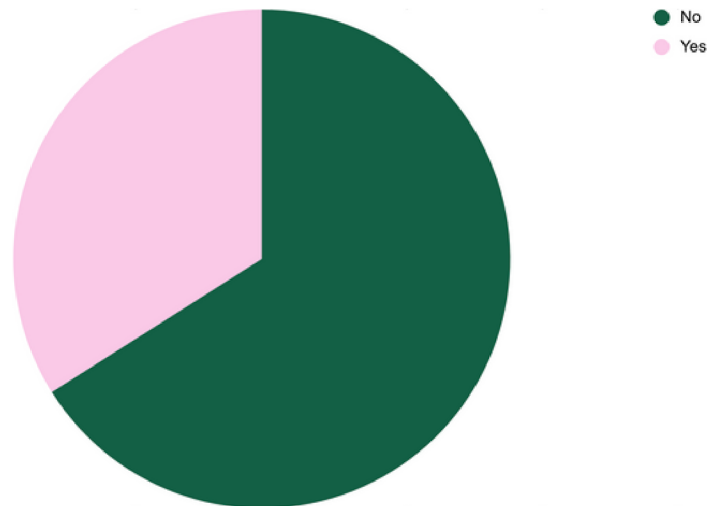
Although the majority (36 of 60 responses to this question) indicates that people do have land to grow, it is apparent from the survey respondents that much of this land is not on the scale that the respondents are seeking. Much of the land people already have access to is within back gardens, plant pots and raised beds, however in answer to Question 3, around 1 quarter said they would like land equivalent to the size of between 1-9 allotments and over half said they would land equivalent to the size of over 1 allotment.



## QUESTION 9

Are you on an allotment waiting list? If yes - how long for? (55 responses)

It is worth noting that many people who responded 'yes' also indicated how long they have currently been waiting on an allotment list; current waits ranged from 1 week to 11 years. Furthermore, many people who responded 'no' expressed this was because waiting times were too long e.g.: "No it's too long to try" and "No (I've heard the waiting time is about 8 years!)".



## LASTLY...

Any other comments are welcome. Thank you! (18 responses)

The following useful comments were also kindly provided:

"Was on a waiting list for Hamiltonhill allotment previously for about 2.5 years, but was pleasantly surprised not to be much longer before I got a place. Sadly I had to give it up as it was too large a space to cope with by myself. Smaller beds might be better for individuals or those with less time, and allow more people to grow in one area."

"Growing spaces support human connection, developing resilient communities - we need more communal spaces to help us face challenges ahead!"

"I know so many people that would be interested in this but they aren't aware that there are ways of acquiring land and think allotments are the only option and all allotments are oversubscribed."

"I'm currently looking to purchase a suitable plot of land for farming. However, the price and lack of residence on farm lands has been a great obstacle since I'm interested in relocating for farming purposes."

"Suitable funding sources would be ideal as we know there is a demand for allotment spaces."

If these results have struck a chord with you, or you are interested in taking further any of the ideas or conversations raised via this survey, please take a look at the **other resources** available within our Demand For Land Campaign pack, available on our website: **[www.glasgowfood.net](http://www.glasgowfood.net)**

You can still respond to the survey at **[www.bit.ly/DemandForLandSurvey](http://www.bit.ly/DemandForLandSurvey)**

Please email **[hello@glasgowfood.net](mailto:hello@glasgowfood.net)** with any questions.

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