

EXETER FOOD ACTION [EFA]

Sharing food, Stopping Waste.
NEWS SHEET - Autumn/ Winter 2016



DCFA in EXETER

Welcome to some recent news about our work in Exeter, where we rescue good food that would otherwise be destroyed and redistribute it to community organisations!

October's News **The first 'Devon Food Forum DFF' successfully stimulated further discussions about the importance of the EFA's work**

The 13th of October proved to be a rewarding and informative day for community food groups and food banks across Devon.

The conference included the sharing of ideas and talks by guests such as the Rt. Revd. Nick McKinnell (Bishop of Plymouth), members of the DFCA and other valued and committed enthusiasts from emergency food action groups across Plymouth and Torbay.

A summary of the most pressing issues from the DFF preventing food justice are:

- Families make difficult decisions between **healthy living environments** or **food shops** due to changes in government assistance.
- an increasingly fractured and uncertain relationship between local farmers/ and consumer's is reducing knowledges of local and healthy food options.
- Schools need further support facilitating healthy food campaigns in Devon.
- Social and geographic isolation is preventing the elderly and less mobile from reaching healthy food options regularly.



The DCFA and the EFA can continue to help. Since they began in 2010 they have fed 50,000 vulnerable people while addressing the issue of food waste in Devon (up to 30% of food produced is wasted!).

This month/ seasons news from the EFA

Currently the EFA volunteers are working hard to continue securing surplus food from several waste conscious supermarkets and businesses around Exeter that have built good relationships with the EFA including:

The **co-operative**



Waitrose



YOUR **M&S**

This month/ season alone the efforts of the EFA has resulting in saving 2 tonnes of food that would have otherwise gone to waste in and around Exeter!! Plans are to keep expanding and lowering that figure of 30% food wastage.

*DCFA would like to thank South West Water and all its other funding partners for 2015/16
Registered Charity no : 1155313, Company registration no : 07419679*

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Recipients

Volunteers work hard to collect surplus food weekly or even daily. The quality of the food is then ensured through the EFAs excellent storage facilities and is cycled back in to deserving projects in and around Exeter that are working to address the issues mentioned in the DFF.

Here are some of the creative ways these projects that are helping the EFA STOP waste:



Continued support of the Exeter Foodbank of which the EFA are very proud and happy to be a part of.

Providing produce for Exeter University's students to use in the Exeter Food Cycle programme.

Supplying schools with fresh and high quality produce to help them continue breakfast clubs which are proven to aid childrens' concentration in school!

An inventive and talented EFA volunteer started utilising fruit and vegetable contributions to create delicious jams!

Finally any produce that fails to meet the standards of the team, or simply has not found a purpose, is then sent on and utilised by local allotment users as compost!

Moving forward plans for the EFAs next season

We're very proud of all the work the EFA has achieved this month/ season and are hoping to expand our efforts. To achieve this there are several ideas we want to put into action:

Firstly we are always looking for energetic **volunteers**. All budding environmentalists, social entrepreneurs or locals looking to get involved in an excellent community enhancing project then please contact the EFA.

Secondly we are always looking to build more relationships with innovative Exeter based businesses and people. Anyone looking to utilise their waste produce or anyone with some creative flare that would like utilise some of our collections please contact the EFA and help us reduce Exeter's!

Finally, we now have a "Friends of Exeter Food Action" to encourage more local support. The continuation of the EFAs hard work funding and energy from the local area. If you would be interested in supporting our cause please head to our **crowd funding** page.

(<http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/exeterfoodaction>)



[All contact details and further information are featured at the top of the Newsletter]

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