

Our Vision Statement

Who Are We?

We are a start-up non-profit company made up of dedicated planet protectors seeking to pioneer sustainable and practical solutions which reduce greenhouse gas emissions through innovative community grow-projects and educational courses that encourage empathy and increased awareness of the consequences of our actions. We believe we are on the precipice of extinction level disasters that we can still tackle if we choose to change our ways and start considering cause and effect when it comes to our daily choices and actions. Our grandchildren's future depends on it.

Inspired by The Eden Movement (www.newedenism.org) EdenKind Ltd is dedicated to addressing the issues surrounding the climate crisis and the cognitive dissonance that is prohibiting the changes we urgently need to make to help save the planet and our species from mass extinction. By promoting kindness as the main directive in all our decision-making, we become more mindful of the impact our personal choices have on others and the planet. We believe that 'growing together' means a whole lot more than just farming and encourage a regenerative culture that focusses on well-being and self-awareness as well as how to grow your own seasonal food.

By connecting with nature and each other, we can foster more empathic relationships that lead to us collectively addressing the important issues around how we source our food, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and start living in harmony with each other.

We bring a wealth of experience and skill to the table and can offer many services from estate agency, permaculture education, life coaching, networking and vegan advocacy work.

What's our Vision?

To grow together; in all senses, from creating community farms, eco villages and urban grow projects to evolving into more empathic beings that become custodians of our planet seeking to protect it and end harmful practices that no longer serve us or our future generations.





To grow together; in all senses...

We believe it's a radical act to grow veg. And even more radical to operate our businesses on non-profit platforms that at as fundraisers for our flagship projects.

Growing, preserving, cooking and eating healthy, plant-based, organic wholefood together is a major part of our vision which also includes:

- Creating a flagship permaculture farm, giant edible forest and eco village at 'Cwm Caredig' with free food for members/volunteers and local food banks with a conservation based regenerative sanctuary for both humans and wildlife.

- Creating safe spaces for neurodiverse, empathic, damaged and isolated people to find healing connections to nature and each other. Offering opportunities for people who wish to heal and become better advocates for change to regenerate and network via our projects.
- Assisting with the creation of CSA (community supported agriculture) livestock-free farms that can offer FREE food for members, volunteers and local food banks; places where people can come together regardless of age, race, gender or background with the common goal to grow healthy organic food without the need to use any animals or their secretions. We are currently running Fferm Heulog in Ceredigion as a CSA. This micro-farm will be up for sale in Spring 2023 after we have finished the barn rebuild and established seasonal veg planting for Summer and August harvesting. All proceeds from the sale will go towards Cwm Caredig edible food forest and permaculture farm.
- Networking and co-ordinating growers and landowners to form food and eco-hubs aimed to shorten food chains and share seeds, skills, resources and the abundance that comes with successful growing food together.
- Matching land and property to environmentally aware buyers keen to adopt agroecological practices.
- Promoting plant-based food at all our events. Often free!
- Affordable consultation services for rural enterprises, eco-businesses and start-ups which would fund free advice services to non-profit organisations wishing to become more self-sustaining.
- Life coaching, Consultation, Counselling and trauma therapy on a 'pay what you can' basis. From personal one to one or online sessions for individuals or groups, to assisting with goal setting, team bonding and tribe building for organisations. 'Pay it forward' suggested rates for those that can afford to pay a little more would then fund free counselling and trauma therapy for those that need it most.
- Courses and educational events ranging from permaculture to barn building, self-development to cooking along with regular art, music, yoga, food prep, upcycling, nature, meditation, bush-craft, nutrition, poetry, well-being classes and more.

- The publishing of regular periodicals, articles and campaigns that further the Eden Movement and raise awareness about the climate crisis and human evolution.
- Regular events designed to bring people together to discuss matters of importance, create solutions and take part in 'Evolve' courses and activities, often with shared planet-conscious meals.
- Promoting radical honesty as a culture-shifting necessity to help save the planet and address the issues that are preventing our evolution. Encouraging people to welcome feedback and considering it an act of love to help each other evolve.
- Offering free downloadable guides, template contracts and agreements to help everyone overcome the obstacles pioneers face when putting together community projects.
- Edenist ministry (non-religious fellowship) including giving talks and sermons, hosting 'Groundations' and offering celebrant services for handfastings and weddings.

We are creating an ECO VILLAGE at the farmstead adjoining Cwm Caredig where there will be a mixture of freehold independent plots and properties and a chance to join a gated vegan community in a real garden of Eden.

As a first step in realising this vision, we are inviting people to come and help us barn building and have an informal guided tour of the valley with a talk on our vision and the next steps, as we could need to be ready to pool our resources at any time.

What is our Legal Structure?

We have created a non-profit company limited by guarantee. With all surplus funds generated from any of our fundraising efforts and eco-businesses going towards planting trees and sponsoring grow projects, we hope to progress to charitable status in time.

Who Do We Work With?

We have been working with volunteers and independent land-owners where land is loaned for the purposes of a community coming together to grow fruit, nuts and veg. We help people to find their 'good life' smallholdings. We are happy to advertise free land loans on our social media platforms and use our estate agency forums such as Zoopla to help other eco-warriors pass on their land or property to the right buyers that will continue the planting and land stewardship that has been established.

We regularly host volunteers who help us manage 'grow' projects and assist us with our conservation projects. Volunteers get to learn all about permaculture, the Eden Movement and of course connect with nature and the wonderful people who have already joined us. We are happy to work with individuals or organisations who share our ethics and wish to get everyone growing and evolving.

What Do We Need to Succeed?

Directors, investors and volunteers have been running grow projects as an aside to 'regular' jobs for many years, but since founding The Eden Movement and launching several networking platforms online with regular meet-ups, the projects now far exceed being just our personal lifestyle to becoming our life mission. We need others with the same altruistic heart to help create something that is bigger than us! This is our legacy, so it helps our cause immeasurably when fellow eco-warriors join us.

We need funds! We can offer a 3-5% return on all ethical investments into what we are trying to achieve!

We officially set up the legal entity overseeing the projects in 2021 but are still building the Edenkind website and creating the administrative hub which is currently being refurbished. We have had a strong online presence through Facebook pages and email circulars for a few years now. Our Vegan Eco Village Networking (https://www.facebook.com/groups/1056144514576274) page has thousands of members. There is a rudimentary website for The Eden Movement but the associated Facebook Page here (https://www.facebook.com/groups/1140249032986568) is updated far more regularly, as is the Edenkind Page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/2419528078356957,

We not only need money but we could really do with some help applying for grants! We

rely heavily on van dwelling and camping volunteers to help us seasonally at both our free food grow sites to help plant trees, fruit and veg. At the moment we are welcoming extra hands to build barns; one being a strawbale build, and the other a roundwood carbon zero barn. We always need help with eco-landscaping, farming and conservation

Any help installing solar power, equipment, new covering for polytunnel frame and groundwork would also be most welcome!

We hope to support and sponsor further projects; creating more sustainable food chains and a more cohesive society that will benefit future generations long beyond our time here.



We have job opportunities and a full itinerary of events, courses and opportunities coming soon!

We need investors ready with provable finances to help us buy the adjoining farmstead at Cwm Caredig. Check out all our listings on ZOOPLA here

https://www.zoopla.co.uk/find-agents/branch/eden-estates-llandysul-149793/

How Do We Plan to Reduce Our Greenhouse Gas Emmissions?



By becoming more sustainable in our farming methods, including small scale perennial forest farms that do not require chemicals, large machinery or fossil fuels, we can shorten the food supply chain by growing or buying produce locally, lowering our carbon footprint and encouraging people to join local grow projects in their home towns and villages.

By making more mindful choices in all areas of our lives!

There is some great evidence here of the impact of local food production:

<u>Sustainable Food Trust True Cost</u> (https://sustainablefoodtrust.org/key-issues/true-cost-accounting/)

<u>Sustainable Food Trust - Quantifying Environmental Costs</u> (https://sustainablefoodtrust.org/articles/catalysing-action-trucost-quantifies-environmental-costs-of-food-production/)

We would like to research, produce and fund similar papers but remove animal agriculture from the equation completely so we can show people how nutritionally complete and sustainable veganic lifestyles can be, and of course, the positive impact on the environment should farmers adopt just *some* of our practices. We hope to inspire people to copy our successes and learn from our mistakes.

By encouraging a plant-based diet and ending animal agriculture we can dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. There's an interesting video here (here) that gives all the statistics on our CO2 emissions and which food sources and farming techniques are best for the environment. We need more organisations and food industries to realise that we have to change our eating habits if we are to survive as species.

For the shocking truth of how animal agriculture amounts to 51% of our greenhouse gas emissions, click here: Cowspiracy Greenhouse Emissions (https://www.cowspiracy.com/facts) and to see the fantastic work already happening with promoting kinder ways of living, check out Surge Activism (https://www.surgeactivism.org/)

By encouraging people to consider how the consequences of their choices affect greenhouse gas emissions such as fossil fuel use, consumerism, flying, going paperless, make-do-and-mend, sharing resources and finding green alternatives wherever possible, we hope to help alert people to the crisis whilst also empowering them to do something about it. For the full manifesto on the Eden Movement and what you can do, click here (www.newedenism.org)) and to see how you can lower your carbon footprint, please visit the Carbon Trust here https://www.carbontrust.com/

1) What makes our proposed projects innovative?

By combining heritage farming wisdom (indigenous tribal, pilgrim, medieval peasant farming) with modern technology, we can find solutions to grow more nutritious organic wholefood without fossil fuels or chemicals. Our online communities enable us to share our findings with other grow communities and eco-villages on well established platforms online (including ones we founded).

By making kindness the main priority in our choices, personal growth becomes ranked above economic growth so that 'growing together' means far more than just growing our own food. By challenging people to reflect on the true consequences of their actions and to make kinder choices, we hope to increase empathy and people's willingness to do what it takes to lower our carbon footprints and make the world a place where we can all thrive and not just survive.

By offering personal development courses and life coaching that prepare the individual to overcome the cognitive dissonance that often hinders them from holding themselves accountable for their choices we can empower individuals to choose better for the planet, for themselves and for others. We believe it is an innovative approach designed to tackle the psychological obstacles such as apathy, dissociation, and a general feeling of helplessness currently preventing humankind from evolving into conscious beings that want to change in order to prevent mass extinction.

By having an actual community permaculture farm and eco-village, we can demonstrate how our innovations and infrastructures work and show first-hand how to create small scale permaculture farms. Courses can be held onsite with free downloadable resource packs that include template forms, contracts and guidance on how to replicate our successes (and avoid our mistakes!).

By not focussing on profit! All our ventures are non-profit and for sales or services that leave us with a surplus fund, every penny goes towards our flagship projects and sponsoring others to join us in our cause.

2) Beyond greenhouse gas reduction, what other environmental benefits would our projects create?

We seek to grow food in innovative ways that increase biodiversity and protect the local flora and fauna. By adopting permaculture philosophies of understanding and observing what nature wishes to bring to the environment and working with the eco-system and not against it, the benefits are numerous to all life.

The impact of winding-down animal agriculture along with its crimes against nature like dumping slurry in rivers, ocean deadzones, badger culling etc would be clear and

measurable. Encouraging the repurposing of intensive crop growing areas currently used for animal feed and allowing grazing/sileage fields to be rewilded would have a huge impact on the environment.

Our projects also provide education to help reduce food waste and packaging, encourage composting, teach where food comes from, soil regeneration and tree planting to maximise carbon sequestration. We consider irrigation, water saving, recycling, upcycling, and always try to 'womble' all materials before resorting to buying anything new

As we are conservational ecologists, our projects all focus on how to encourage more wildlife, in particular, pollinators and natural eco-systems. We encourage people to question the need to 'own' pets, in particular those that can have devastating impacts on local bird populations.

We have found that by inviting people to come and connect with nature, they start to advocate for it, and when that happens, the benefits to the environment keep growing.

Because all our projects are so heavily conservational with planting devised to attract insects and increase biodiversity and wildlife, we discourage people visiting who bring predatory pets such as cats. We will also have large areas entirely pet free so as to encourage ground nesting birds.

3) What wider social or community benefits do our projects bring?

We are a community-based organisation, offering a sense of belonging and purpose to all, including neurodiverse people and those suffering from burnout, loneliness or isolation, particularly in our post-pandemic culture. Well-being, inclusivity and a warm welcome is made to all at our regular volunteer days and events.

We share what we have with those around us, be it food we have grown, jams we have made or plants we are giving away at our 'Plant Station' outside the village centre house, we like to share our success with the wider community.

Our networking platforms online (we admin several online platforms with thousands of members) mean that our community is not confined to our local area; we have lots of supporters regionally, UK based and from around the globe. With so many followers watching what we're doing and ready to replicate our successes, our ripples could be very far reaching!

The Eden Movement website generates regular enquiries from around the world so we have a growing list of international contacts ready to further the cause and help people to make kinder choices.

4) How does our proposed project support people who are most impacted by the effects of climate change?

By lowering our greenhouse gas emissions here in the West we can halt global warming and help prevent further climate disasters in other parts of the globe most affected by climate change.

With campaigning to show people how unsustainable our current way of living really is, we speed up the 'joining of the dots'. We will continue to share news of actual events happening right now (like entire cities having to relocate due to rising sea levels) together in the same forums that have courses designed to highlight how our personal choices impact others, near and far.

By using social media, publishing online quizzes and offering free courses on selfdevelopment, we hope to make people more environmentally aware and more willing to reflect on their own personal choices. All our quizzes will have links for people keen to know more

5) How do we plan to share and inspire others?

It is our mission is to share! With free resource packs, seeds, courses and template contracts for people to set up their own projects, we love to inspire and enable people to copy our successes and learn from our mistakes.

We share all our news online and host regular events to share our land, time, knowledge and even our guitar and singing skills around a campfire from time to time. We love feedback so our plans are inherently co-operative in nature as we seek to meet the needs of our community.

Our volunteer and visitor programmes will enable people to not only learn all about more resilient food growing systems, they get to share in our abundance. All our events come with delicious wholefood planet-conscious banquets, as we find the best way to deliver the message that eating plant-based food is fabulous is to feed people.

The process of how to leave the rat race, create planet-conscious communities and eco villages will form part of our literature and will be available here and via other marketing

platforms. We will be documenting of the progress of the new community as it develops, which will all be shared via youtube and soon to be available in book form.

6) Why now?

We are facing a climate emergency and if we don't make radical changes very soon, we face mass extinction, not just of the many species already dying-out due to the crimes against nature we keep committing like deforestation and commercial trawling, but of our own species. The choices we currently make as a species are simply not sustainable.

We started the Facebook page '<u>Vegan Eco Village Networking</u>' a few years ago. It boomed in popularity attracting thousands of people all having the same idealism. And the same obstacles to creating an intentional community. Having found innovative ways to navigate around these obstacles, we found a way to secure the land and planting a giant edible forest has begun in earnest.

With a multitude of smaller grow projects already running, we have found dedicated people who share our passion for veganic growing and running businesses on a non-profit basis.

By focussing on food growing, preservation, and cooking with the produce from our farms, alongside allowing things to develop organically in all senses of the word, we find we now have a resilient community of pioneers all over the globe supporting the Eden Movement. Despite our lack of chasing economic growth, there is a living to be made being sustainable and sharing what we have!

7) What next?

Founders Shelley and Paul have been refurbishing properties since they met in 2017 and have managed to turn their homes into realisable assets that have so far been the entire source of funding for all Edenkind projects. This has developed into a property business and Eden Estates is now operating as a growing division of what we do.

The farmstead that adjoins Cwm Caredig are now available for sale so Shelley and Paul are welcoming applications to buy property and land freehold which in turn will help fund an affordable housing co-operative with tiny homes, satellite ancillary accommodation and converted stables and barns.

Ty Bliss is a mixed use building and is set to become an eco-hub with a therapy/sensory room, administrative centre and upcycling workshop in Llandysul. As focus has had to

shift towards barn building at both our off-grid sites, the eco-hub may now not open until after harvest/autumn time 2023, however we will have disabled bathroom facilities, laundry and charging space for van dwellers who come to help us grow veg in peak season. And a place to gather as a community even if we haven't painted the walls yet. Should we need to fundraise, we may well be offering the eco hub as a going concern, either as a mixed use building or selling off the apartment and ground floor separately.

We would love the next chapter to include some external funding or sponsorship to create the CLT (community land trust) at Cwm Caredig and bring it into community ownership but for now, we are planting 1000s of trees, building barns, hosting volunteers and prepping for the coming grow season while we put together the co-buying group to secure Cwm Caredig eco-hamlet. This year we are going to add a large variety of squashes to the crops we usually grow and creating raised beds has begun at Fferm Heulog.

We would love skilled people that can help us with barn building, landscaping, permaculture farming, setting up solar and unskilled people happy to make campfires and learn to come and join us. Together we can create something very special; a garden of Eden for future generations to thrive, nut just survive.