OrganicLea C.I.C

JOB PACK

WALTHAM FOREST FOOD GROWERS NETWORK COMMUNITY ORGANISER

ORGANICLEA

Waltham Forest Food Growers Network

Key Information

Waltham Forest Food Growers Network

Community Organiser

Location: Combination of Hawkwood Nursery, Chingford, London, the Hornbeam, Walthamstow, London and home working
Hours: 3 days/week, with flexible working hours and occasional evenings and weekend working
Start date: April 2026
Salary: £30,503 pro rata (based on 35 hour week)
Contract: 8-month contract with the possibility to extend based on funding
Responsible to: Community Learning and Inclusion team

Closing date for applications: 5pm 26th March
Interviewing: w/c 30th March
Start date: As soon as possible after interviews

For us, experience of working with people is more important than formal education. So if you do not meet all the skills and experience listed in this job pack, but feel you are the right person for this work, you are encouraged to apply. We particularly welcome applications from people who are from Black and Minoritised communities, disabled, LGBTQIA+, or don't have university degrees, so as to better reflect the communities in which we live and work.

About OrganicLea

Who are we?

OrganicLea is a workers' cooperative growing food, plants and community in the Lea Valley. We produce and distribute food locally, support people to learn about sustainable growing and cooking, and work towards a socially and environmentally just food system.

OrganicLea was set up in 2001 in the belief that more food can and should be grown in London; and bringing people together to do this grows more than food. Together we can grow healthier, connected communities that are working with nature and not against it. We work in partnership with local organisations and take part in national networks of support.

The Waltham Forest Food Growers Network (WFFGN)

We have been supporting the WFFGN to form over the last 5 years. The network provides a range of support to community growers in the borough and is working towards building a strong, inclusive and empowered agroecological movement in the borough. You can find out more about the network here: https://www.wffgn.org.uk/.

The CLI Team

The WFFGN Community Organiser will work alongside an existing worker with the same role, and be part of the Community Learning and Inclusion (CLI) team at OrganicLea, which puts people at the centre of all we do. The team works closely together, sharing responsibilities to bring people and plants together, and reimagine a socially and environmentally just food system.

WFFGN Community Organiser
About the role

WF FGN is now at a crucial stage in its development. The network includes school growing sites, small plots outside people's homes, community plots on allotments, groups growing in private gardens to support food banks, organisations such as Organiclea, and community herbalists. And what began as a loose network of growers sharing knowledge and support is transitioning into a more formal, membership-based organisation that can be sustainable over the long term. This shift will enable the network to better support the movement of community growers in the borough by identifying gaps, connecting people and projects, and strengthening collaboration.

This role will work alongside the existing WF FGN Community Organiser to help guide the network through this transition and move toward a vision of a member-led organisation. Through building relationships with growers, supporting participation and collective decision-making, and strengthening communication and coordination across the network, the role will help ensure that community growers are at the centre of shaping the network's future. Ultimately, the position will contribute to building a stronger and more connected community growing movement in the borough: one that improves the lives of existing growers while making it easier for more people to get involved in growing food in their communities.

Role Responsibilities

- Create and carry out a plan to communicate and promote the launch of the WF FGN's membership portal
- Hold one-to-one conversations with all community growing projects in the borough about their needs and desires from the WF FGN
- Support the improvement of network membership participation and decision making in the organisation, including helping run deliberative conversations with members, and summarising outputs
- Help run regular drop in spaces to facilitate members to support one another through the challenges that face community growers
- Help organise the 2026 WF FGN Harvest Fair, an annual event which celebrates the work of community food growers in the borough
- This role can also include practically supporting new community growers in the borough, supporting the development of an action plan, supporting BPOC community growers in the borough, and supporting the strategic development of the WF FGN

Who we are looking for

We are looking for the following experience, skills and commitment. It is unlikely that anyone will meet all the skills and experience listed here. If you think you are the right person for the work, you are encouraged to apply.

Experience and Skills (E=Essential, D=Desirable)

- Experience of developing, coordinating and delivering community-based projects - E
- Gardening and garden planning skills - D
- Experience of organising, hosting and facilitating meetings and/or events in a welcoming, empowering and inclusive way - E
- Experience using digital tools like Mailchimp, Google's Office Suite, Canva and Whatsapp - E
- Strong communication skills written, in-person, and visual - E
- Strong organisation skills including time and project management, an ability to prioritise and financial literacy - E

Ability and Commitment

- Ability and willingness to be 'out-and-about' building relationships with residents and community groups, ideally informed by a knowledge and understanding of communities in Waltham Forest - E
- An understanding of, and commitment to, organic food growing in urban environments and an ability to translate this into communication relevant to a range of cultures and educational needs - D
- Ability to develop the work strategically and take initiative - D
- Commitment to working in a cooperative way and to decision making rooted in consensus - E
- A flexible attitude with an ability to work within constraints, including financial, and commitment to practical problem solving - D
- An ability to work under own supervision, to manage and prioritise own workload and to meet deadlines, but also work as part of a team in a cooperative and sensitive manner - E
- Commitment to community empowerment, especially in diverse urban communities - E
- Commitment to environmental sustainability in all aspects of the work - E
- Clear vision and excitement about the opportunities to develop aspects of this work - D

How to Apply

Please send answers to the questions below to greg@organiclea.org.uk

1. Write a brief statement explaining why you are interested in this role, including your relevant experience and how you meet the person specification (max 600 words).
2. Provide details of your paid and unpaid work history, including the month/year you started and finished each role, and the key responsibilities in it.
3. Provide details of any relevant training or education including dates and qualifications achieved.
(2&3 can be submitted as a CV if preferred)
4. Please complete our equal opportunity monitoring form

You can also answer these questions via video or audio if this is more accessible to you, please contact us on the above email to arrange this.

We are a Disability Confident Committed employer. We are happy to make appropriate reasonable adjustments during the interview stage and to our workplace if selected. Please let us know if this is relevant to you and any adjustments you may need at interview (you do not need to share any details about your conditions or impairments at this stage). If you meet the minimum requirements for the role we will offer a guaranteed interview.

If you have any more questions, or need any support to apply, please reach out to Greg on the email above.