



Purpose of the charter

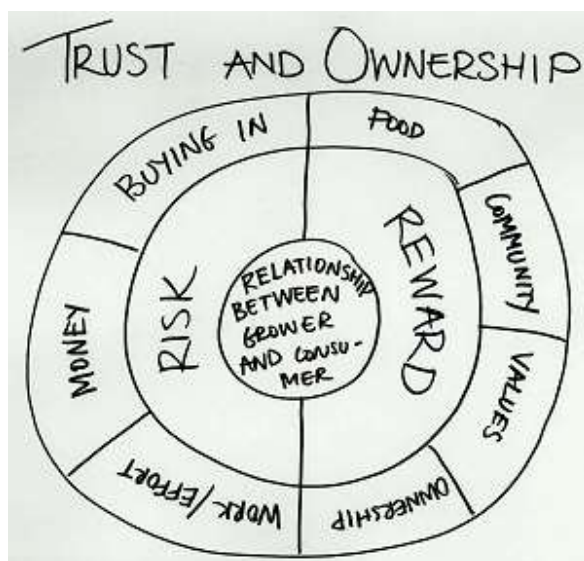
This CSA charter sets out the defining values of principles of community supported agriculture schemes in the UK. It is not laying down rules but states what we are striving to achieve. Each CSA is on their own journey within that context.

This is also the binding document which enables CSA projects and enterprises to come together to form the CSA Network UK under a clear statement of our common values and working principles.

It is intended to be inclusive of all types of CSA while maintaining a clear understanding of what community supported agriculture means.

CSA in the UK - models for social, nutritional and environmental equity

CSA has been defined in the UK as meaning ‘any food, fuel or fibre producing initiative where the community shares the responsibilities and rewards of production in a spirit of mutual trust and openness. Whether through ownership, investment, sharing the costs of production, or provision of labour.’



This partnership between producer and consumer supports three pillars which represent our core values:

- People Care** A fair and steady income for the producer and a relationship based on trust with the consumers/members. Access to healthy food at affordable prices.
- Earth Care** A chance for the land and biodiversity to flourish due to ecological farming methods and shared interest in these methods of production.
- Fair Share** A share in the harvest of healthy (mostly organic or biodynamic), local and low carbon produce; a connection with the producer, the land and each other. This includes a commitment to support the farmer through both good and poor harvests.

Common working practices

However a CSA initiative is structured, there are certain common working practices (although different initiatives may demonstrate all or only some of these characteristic). These include:

Direct distribution

Members have a relationship with the producer and the production. CSA initiatives are not food hubs or shops; although they may buy some produce or supplementary items in to bulk up their share; or CSA may make up only part of the whole farm enterprise.

Shared risk

There is a pre-arranged agreement between members and the producer (for instance on the crops to be grown and fair price to be paid), investment in the farm (whether financial or through time commitment).

Connection to the farm

Members have the opportunity to understand the extraordinary commitment a farmer demonstrates to produce our food, and an opportunity to be connected to the working life of a farm and what's produced there.

The CSA model is quite diverse in the UK, ranging from the purist model, where the farm is self-sufficient and receives regular support from the members with farm work and with administration, to models where the bulk of the work and organisation is by the farmer, with some supplementary produce bought in, during the hungry gap for instance. It's up to the farmer and community to build a model which suits them best.

Classifications of CSA

For more detail about the types of CSA please refer to the ['Sharing the Harvest' document](#)

Membership of the CSA Network UK

By becoming member of the CSA Network UK, CSA's are agreeing to manage their projects based on the common values identified in this charter.

If a CSA initiative decides to depart from these common values entirely, they forfeit their membership of the CSA Network UK.

Contact

For information about the form and function of the CSA Network UK, please use the contact details below.

This charter is written based on the feedback of many people involved in the UK CSA movement, including many types and geographically diverse CSA projects and enterprises. Many thanks to those who have shaped it.

If you have questions about this charter contact
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This is a living document and we welcome your feedback.

