



Regather Membership

**Join our mission to improve food
for Sheffield**

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You are invited to join Regather's membership

Who are we?

Regather is a co-operative of local people working to improve food and build community in Sheffield. We run an organic farm, veg box scheme, and many other community projects.

Our goals

In our organisation, we centre our work around care for our environment and the people in our community. Our priorities are:

1. More sustainably sourced food
2. More locally based economics
3. More democratically controlled systems

What are we offering?

We are inviting you to become a member and have an active role in our decision making processes. You are eligible to purchase a £1 share in our cooperative if you are at least 16 years old and support our values and goals.

Why join us?

Membership with us means you are part of our community. You will be entitled to voting rights on our strategic directions. You will have access to all membership events and first hand information about all of our community projects. Your support will mean that our work has broader reach and more impact.

To apply for membership fill out the Membership Application form at <https://regather.net/you-are-invited-to-join-regathers-membership/> & send us £1 to purchase a share.

Once your application is approved by our board of directors you will receive a membership number and certificate.

Our Story

Just over a decade ago, Regather started as a group of individuals with a common interest in seeing their local community in Sheffield flourish. As a cooperative we embarked on many endeavours such as event production, education, baking, catering, music recording, and vegetable boxes. We've gone through several evolutions. For more than 4 years now, we've narrowed our focus on the goal of **improving food for Sheffield**.

Our veg box enables us to join forces with other local growers and independent businesses across the region to make it easy to shop local and provide the best quality, values driven products. Meanwhile, we've been growing our own locally sourced food for Sheffield via our **Organic certified farm**. We strive to work with the land around us to produce food in a way that provides habitat for wildlife and restores biodiversity while employing local community members at a real living wage.

We've gotten to know so many knowledgeable, enthusiastic and passionate people while running our projects. And we want to continue developing our relationships with our community members and steer Regather on a **truly collaborative path**.

That is why we are recruiting members and you are invited. Box customers, supporters, employees, and Sheffield residents are all invited to join us in shaping our future. We want you to be involved in focussing our work to benefit the wider community. We can **work together** to build sustainable, democratic and local food systems here in Sheffield.

We hope you will join us on our journey to improve what we do, help us better represent the needs of our local community and build them into the heart of Regather.



What do we do?

Organic Farm

The Regather Farm is a 15-acre site on the edge of Sheffield in the beautiful Moss Valley. We are continually developing the Farm to produce food whilst protecting biodiversity and land repair by using organic farming practices. This includes our market garden and agroforestry developments. Our Farm represents an important part of our mission to improve food for Sheffield, taking the supply of seasonal produce to the next logical step: growing it. Our certified Organic produce is supplied to the Regather Box each week.

Fruit and Veg Box

Through our organic fruit & veg box scheme, we source fresh produce directly from local growers and independent businesses across the region, and deliver to doorsteps across Sheffield. By using the purchasing power of the whole community, we invest in products that are more sustainable, while establishing meaningful relationships and connections with our suppliers. Our philosophy is making ethically sourced food accessible. The Regather box lets us deliver that food from local farms to local forks.

Kitchen

From cakes, bread, apple juice pressing and catering, Regather's certified kitchen is taking raw local ingredients and adding value through our talented in house kitchen team. Each autumn we provide apple pressing services to the people of Sheffield. The UK produces excellent crops of a wide variety of apples each autumn. But with so many apples ready in one go, we make sure Sheffield's urban apples don't go to waste. We work with the people of Sheffield to harvest apples from across the city, and make a wonderful juice rich with the diverse flavours of local fruit varieties. It's fast becoming a highlight of our annual calendar.

Garden

Regather's garden design service brings ecological planting and practical approaches to food production together. We support households, community groups and institutions to combine the elements that create a vibrant and biodiverse garden or green space. Our gardening club works alongside our neighbours at Lansdowne Estate to help communities learn to grow their own fruits and vegetables, while improving the quality of the green spaces. Additionally we have host an annual harvest celebration called the Little Sheffield Feast, we collaborate with the ShefFood partnership and work with other institutions such as the University of Sheffield.

Why Organic?

Organic is a method of food production that delivers a wide range of benefits across our whole food system: from people to planet, plant health to animal welfare. Being certified organic producers means: we take a more natural approach, in harmony with our shared environment. Organic farming can be viewed as a fundamental way to practise regenerative agriculture.

- No artificial fertilisers or pesticides that harm wildlife and wash into watercourses
- Healthier soil that stores more carbon
- No genetic modification (GM)
- No artificial colours and preservatives
- Much higher standards of animal welfare

What do members do?

Our membership is the centre of the Regather Community. A group of people that not only believe in our mission to 'improve food for Sheffield and contribute to a better, sustainable, shared future', but actively want to participate in making that happen.

Behind the scenes at Regather

We'll keep you up to date on what's going on so you can grow your understanding of the whole project. That will include:

- New proposals; we want your input on what we do next
- Invites to all of our events; join the team in person
- Updates about Regather's latest activities; you will be in the 'know'
- Financial and Impact Reports and Accounts; transparency is key

Members Meetings

We host a calendar of member meetings and socials. This is your chance to:

- Connect with the other members of Regather.
- Ask questions and get answers.
- Share ideas and explore our collective potential. We can't wait to hear your ideas.
- Vote on a variety of issues that help direct Regather's activity and efforts.





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People Power

We want the membership to facilitate a thriving community of people who meet up, help each other, and help the community.

What might that look like? We want your opinions on the types of activities you would like to be involved in. This might mean:

- Volunteering at the farm
- Food growing workshops in Sheffield
- Community meals and celebrations
- Community apple pressing
- Events featuring educational and entertaining speakers
- Wildlife walks
- Crowdfunding for new projects
- Campaigning for change

We want our members to influence the kinds of activities we organise so that Regather can be a hub to connect and make change.

Our Ethos and Values

For us it's not just about growing and delivering food. We are dynamic, adaptable and continually trying to improve the work we do. Below is a brief outline of some of the things we think are important and why together we believe we can make a lasting difference.

International Co-operative Principles

Co-operatives throughout the world share a set of values that connect us with a global movement promoting land health, social justice and economic equality. Thus we strive to adhere to the seven internationally used principles of Co-operatives.





Our Ethos and Values

Environmental Sustainability

The world is undergoing unprecedented environmental challenges; we are facing global climate change, habitat loss, and biodiversity loss. At Regather we strive to align our projects with low emissions, land conservation and land restoration practises. No one can solve these issues alone, but collectively reimagining a better local food system is part of the solution.

Local and Independent

Research from the New Economics Foundation has shown that spending locally keeps more money in the Sheffield economy, creating additional income for local people which is then spent locally, contributing to a multiplier effect that benefits all our city's residents. When money is spent elsewhere it tends to stay elsewhere. Regather prioritises local businesses when purchasing food, making sure that your money is reinvested in local people and local quality products.

Diversity and Inclusion

We believe everyone deserves equal access to healthy and sustainable foods. We are honoured to serve and be part of a diverse community. We strive for inclusivity and representation in our members, workers and board of directors. This is a work in progress, but we've made a commitment to hold ourselves accountable.

Membership at Regather

All co-operative members hold certain rights and responsibilities. As a member of Regather co-operative you become an owner and are expected to support our values. The most important part of this is participating in Regather's decision-making by voting at the Annual General Meeting every spring.

Member Rights

- One person one vote - at meetings and on structural changes
- Right to attend meetings of the membership
- Right to vote for the Board of Directors at the AGM
- Right to view and approve accounts and reports
- All members have the opportunity to stand for a position as a Director

Member Responsibilities

- All Members agree to participate in the Annual General Meeting and take an active interest in the operation and development of the co-operative and its business.
- Members have a duty to respect the confidential nature of the business decisions of the co-operative.
- Members have a responsibility to hold the Board of Directors accountable to uphold the values and principles of the co-operative.
- As a Member you will influence the future of Regather and will be involved in the democratic process of shaping our food system.

A photograph of a fennel plant with its characteristic green stalks and feathery leaves, topped with large, spherical seed heads. The plant is set against a light blue sky. The right half of the page features a dark teal background with a faint, repeating pattern of the fennel plant's leaves and seed heads.

Membership at Regather

Membership Structure

Regather has a flat membership structure meaning every member has an equal vote and all members have the same rights and responsibilities.

No one is required to be a member, but everyone over the age of 16 who supports the values of Regather is eligible for membership. We listen and are accountable to the concerns and interests of all of our members.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors represents the membership in strategic decisions of the organisation. Directors hold responsibility to enact the will of the members and ensure the success of the cooperative. We are currently looking for new directors who have skills to contribute to the running of our organization. If you are interested in becoming a director please indicate this on your application form!

Objects of the Society

The objects of the Society shall be to carry on any business for the benefit of the community, in particular but not exclusively, by fostering community development and understanding around the importance of the local food system in Sheffield and how it works, in order to enable everyone to work together to democratically change their food system for the better. The Society shall be owned and controlled by its Members on a fair and equitable basis.

Welcome to your community

