

# Westray Circular Economy Growers

## Area – Westray

### Summary

Westray sits at the end of a very long wholesale supply chain of fruit and vegetables. This pilot scheme aims to erect two greenhouses, built specifically to withstand the local weather and grow a small but experimental range of produce in each of the systems, one being traditional soil, the other hydroponics, giving the opportunity to measure the success of each space.

Taking advantage of the long summer daylight hours and complimented with a heating and lighting system, the aim will be to push the boundaries of the growing season, aiming towards developing a reliable and sustainable crop.

To stimulate the local market demand of fresh fruit and vegetables and inspire volunteer engagement a series of outreach events and workshops will be established. New varieties and alternative uses of the produce will be offered to all, whilst the school and local care home will be encouraged to participate.

This pilot project will create further employment on the island and if it proves to be successful the staff team could grow from 2 part-time posts during the trial and with support from Westray Development Trust, to a minimum of 4 posts operating as a Trading Subsidiary.

### A summary of project aims are:

The aim of this project is to grow affordable, fresh fruit and vegetables, whilst gathering gather information on crop varieties and their behaviour in different growing mediums/structures over extended growing seasons using combinations of heat and light through renewable energy sources. The information gathered during the study will be used to determine the physical structure and scale of a potential commercial operation.

The project objectives are to:

- Reduce the carbon footprint of Westray and Orkney by reducing the food miles of perishable food stuffs such as tomatoes, cucumbers and raspberries.
- Increase the variety, freshness and affordability of fruit and vegetables available to the community of Westray.
- Compete with the traditional wholesale provision of fruit and vegetables in Westray, for the benefit of the Community.
- Increase the turnover of the local retail outlets, through increasing their market share of the sale of fruit and vegetables.

Financial Information	£	%
Total Project Costs	137,013.75	
Total Eligible Costs	92,827.90	
LEADER	45,995.66	49.54
Good Food Nation	12,920.70	13.92
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	25,000	26.93
Westray Development Trust Contribution	8911.54	9.61