



Common Cause
66 High Street
Lewes
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28/8/16

Lauren Simpson
Ecological Land Co-operative
Unit F7
The Waterside Centre
North Street
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Dear Lauren,

Common Cause is very excited to hear about your plans for a land trust site in East Sussex. Making organically managed land available for sustainable food production is something that Common Cause has worked towards for many years and as such we fully support your plans.

Over the last 20 years we have worked at a local, regional, national and European level with voluntary and statutory organisations which shared our aims and delivered a wide range of projects. This has given us a broad knowledge of different ventures developed to support the local economy and sustainable food production.

We previously carried out research into the benefits of land trusts and how they might be established to best provide access to affordable land managed to high environmental standards in the long term. Our work and other research showed the key role of working productive farms and businesses in a local rural economy. They help to support other small rural businesses and services which in turn provide jobs and keeps vital services available for people living in rural areas.

We support the Ecological Land Co-operative in their vision to secure affordable plots of land with accommodation for farming families where land is managed to high ecological standards. This is vital work in the face of an ageing population of farmers and high cost of land and housing in the South East making it ever harder for new entrants. The Ecological Land Co-operative have proved that they have the skills to make a success of this venture and the vision and determination to ensure that it is something truly remarkable.

We wish you every success,

Katharine Finnigan,
Common Cause Director