

growing in the community

a good practice guide for the management of allotments

Second edition



Local Government Association

This good practice guide for the management of allotments is an updated version of the best-selling 2001 edition. Particularly useful for allotment officers, it provides a policy framework, up-to-date legislation guidance and practice affecting allotment gardening.

More than ever, allotments are playing a vital role in connecting people to the process of food production and healthy eating, enabling them to grow fresh, cheap food whilst reducing food miles. They provide valuable urban green space and wildlife habitats. It is a century since the Allotments Acts were passed, but they continue to provide pleasure and benefits to their communities.

In recent years, government has strengthened the protection of allotments, thereby promoting good health through exercise, good food and a stronger sense of community, reflected in a rising demand for plots.

Who this will help

Those who are responsible for managing allotments, by giving examples of good practice.

Stakeholders in allotments, by supporting both associations and individual ploholders.

Managers of allotments, drawing on examples and the experience of the Allotments Regeneration Initiative mentor network.

Anyone looking for innovative and successful ideas which can be widely imitated.

The guide includes a practical summary of key aspects of allotments law, and signposts to further information.

Price, including postage: £25. £15 discounted rate for LGA member authorities and for not-for-profit organisations.

To place an order, fill in the form overleaf or contact LGconnect on 020 7664 3131 or email info@lga.gov.uk



“In recent years, the government has strengthened the protections around allotments within the wider planning framework, and within a wider policy of enhancing and protecting urban green spaces.

Everyone benefits from allotments and we are conscious that there is rising demand, as well as many different pressures on space in our communities.

I very much welcome the revision of this very comprehensive and inspiring good practice guide, which will help allotment officers and allotment holders alike to get the best out of their allotments.”

Baroness Kay Andrews, parliamentary under secretary of state, CLG

- 1 The second edition of this guide was commissioned by the LGA in September 2006, and substantially updates the original which was published in June 2001. The preparation of the guide has been managed by the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.
- 2 The objective of the guide is to assist those who are responsible for managing allotments, either within local authorities or under schemes for devolved management, to work efficiently and effectively by emulating examples of good practice.
- 3 The guide will also help other stakeholders in allotments, including local authority officers in other departments, support organisations, allotment associations and individual plotholders, to understand the opportunities which allotments present for achieving multiple and inter-related benefits, and the advantages of working together to attain common goals.
- 4 The guide acknowledges the widespread renaissance in allotment gardening that has taken place since the first edition was published, including demands for new sites in some areas and growing waiting lists in others.
- 5 The guide is based upon extensive research into current good practice in the management of allotments in England and Wales. This has drawn in particular on documentary evidence, information from the internet, correspondence with allotment officers in leading-edge authorities and allotment associations, and the shared experience of the Allotment Regeneration Initiative's Mentor Network.
- 6 While the guide makes no claim to document every example of good practice in allotment management in England and Wales, it does uncover a wealth of innovative and successful ideas, which can be widely imitated.
- 7 The guide is organised in three parts: the plot, the tools, and the seeds, dealing with objectives, strategies, and practical methods respectively. Each part is illustrated with examples and case studies of good practice.
- 8 The 'plot' sets out the exciting opportunities and challenges that allotments now provide to councils and local communities, and maps out a course for getting the most out of allotments.
- 9 The 'tools' identifies allotments as a key resource in achieving a wide range of local authority agendas, including wellbeing, health promotion, cohesive communities and quality green space. It also identifies some of the key partners with whom allotment managers should be working, for mutual benefit.
- 10 A model is presented for an allotments strategy that links in with other areas of local authority work and offers a fully reasoned and resourced path to achieving good practice. Key elements of the allotments strategy include: promotion; resourcing; devolved management; effective administration; monitoring performance; and the achievement of best value.
- 11 The 'seeds' is a compendium of practical means to achieve good practice in allotments management, including: ideas for promoting allotments to convert latent demand into real users; setting rents and raising capital resources; supporting devolved management; communicating effectively with other stakeholders; provision of facilities; management of tenancies; and measures to cope with hazards and nuisances before they arise.
- 12 The guide concludes with a practical summary of key aspects of allotments law and signposts to further information.

"The many benefits of allotments are now widely recognised and this revised guide coincides with a resurgence of interest in and enthusiasm and policy support for allotment provision at a local and central government level.

There are challenges facing allotment officers and societies, which are explored in this guide.

The LGA recognises the good work done by officers and societies and is very pleased to commend this guide as a valuable resource and inspiration for all those involved with allotments."

Clr Paul Bettison, chairman, LGA environment board

growing in the community

a good practice guide for the management of allotments order form

LGA code EN038 Price £25.00 (£15.00 to LGA members and not-for-profit organisations.)

This good practice guide for the management of allotments is an updated version of the best-selling 2001 edition. Particularly useful for allotment officers, it provides a policy framework, up-to-date legislation guidance and practice affecting allotment gardening.

Data Protection Act 1998

The LGA handles personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Sometimes we may pass on your contact details to third parties for marketing purposes or for making information about goods and services that we believe may be of interest to you.

If you do not wish this information to be used by third parties for these purposes, please indicate this by placing a cross in this box

If you do not wish to be notified about future LGA conferences, events and publications, please indicate by placing a cross in this box

Ordering

Copies can be obtain from LGconnect on 020 7664 3131, email info@lga.gov.uk or return this form to the LGA.

Member authorities can be invoiced if they include an official purchase order number on this or their own order form or online at www.lga.gov.uk

Other organisations must attach a cheque or postal order with their order, or by credit card (online only)

Payment methods: cheques or postal orders should be made payable to Local Government Association

Concessionary price applies to member authorities only

Please send me copy/ies of reference EN038 @ per copy Total £

My official order number is

I enclose a cheque made payable to Local Government Association to the value of £

Please send publication to:

Name	<input type="text"/>
Department	<input type="text"/>
Authority/organisation	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>

Please send invoice to (if different from delivery):

Name	<input type="text"/>
Department	<input type="text"/>
Authority/organisation	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>

Please send this order by post to LGconnect, Publication Sales, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ, by fax to 020 7664 3030 or online at www.lga.gov.uk