



# The Business of Food The Role of Social Enterprise



Championing business with a social purpose



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Social enterprises are businesses that trade to deliver social and environmental purposes. Instead of being driven to maximise profit for shareholders or owners, social enterprises exist to address market failure with profits or surpluses reinvested into social and environmental purposes. In recent years, Scotland has developed a critical mass of dynamic small and not so small social enterprises working in food cultivation, distribution, manufacture, preparation, education, catering and retail.

Many social enterprises are developed in response to specific need or as a result of genuine ‘bottom-up’ community regeneration. They have a level of insight of huge value to their local community, be it helping to reduce food miles, providing education in order to encourage people to improve their diet; and facilitating the unlocking of community cohesion.

Some are based in rural areas selling online to the general public, others are wholesalers while others serve their local communities.

While research has yet to scope the size of this contribution to Scotland’s food and drink industry, we do know there are resilient quality providers in all areas of Scotland delivering solid economic growth in community tourism, regeneration, employment and training. The economic benefits they generate stay within their local communities: a social enterprise pound continues to circulate within the community where it is generated.

If we are looking for areas of growth to help us out of the recession, then Food and Drink is one large sector that could have quite an important effect.

Wyn Morgan, Associate Professor in School of Economics, University of Nottingham

## FACTS

- Tourist spend on food and drink in Scotland: **20p out of every £1.**
- **Scotland’s Food and Drink sector** employs one in five people in manufacturing.
- **IPSOS MORI surveys in 2009/10:** 63% of Scots understood the term social enterprise and 66% of those believed that social enterprise should deliver public services, for example meals for schools and the elderly.

The £10 billion food and drink sector already employs 360,000 people in Scotland and the Scottish Government target is to further invest in the skills and innovation required to increase its value to the economy to £12.5 billion by 2017, starting by highlighting 2010 as a year focusing on Scotland’s food and drink. It is clear that our reputation as a land of food and drink is one of the factors in maintaining this position and the Coalition believes social enterprises (such as those identified overleaf) are well placed to capitalise on this and increase their value to the wider economy.



## Community Food Initiatives North East

CFINE supplies fruit, veg and other produce to a large number of organisations in public, private and third sector. They are poised to launch Larderbytes, an e-shopping site, where domestic customers can purchase their fruit/veg, meat, fish, dairy and bread with free home delivery. All profit from commercial trading is invested in health and community development work in disadvantaged and excluded communities through 100 Community Food outlets and 70 FareShare beneficiary organisations. CFINE employs 22 people and turnover is anticipated to be £1,200,000 in 2010/11.

[www.cfine.org](http://www.cfine.org)

## Aberdeen Foyer

The Foyer Restaurant & Gallery is acknowledged as one of the best restaurants in Aberdeen. Established in 1999, the professional team at the Foyer Restaurant consistently delivers high quality food and attentive, friendly service. The profit generated is used to support Aberdeen Foyer; a local charitable organisation working to prevent youth homelessness and unemployment. Turnover is just under £500,000 and they employ 13 members of staff.

[www.foyerrestaurant.com](http://www.foyerrestaurant.com)

## Dundee International Women's Centre

DIWC works with over 300 women per week, from 60 different countries of origin, speaking over 50 different languages. Wooden Spoon Catering Co, a social enterprise trading as part of DIWC, provide freshly prepared buffets for training, events, parties and weddings. The food is made using the finest ingredients and where possible is locally sourced.

[www.diwc.co.uk](http://www.diwc.co.uk)

Scotland's food and drink sector remains one of our key economic strengths.

Food Minister Richard Lochhead MSP

## You Can Cook

You Can Cook, a Borders based Community Interest Company, subsidises healthy eating programmes for low-income families and groups through running on-site corporate cooking classes/workshops and grants. Current clients include NHS Borders and community groups. They have recently been awarded a contract with Scottish Borders Housing Association to deliver healthy cooking classes for their tenants.

[www.onlineborders.org.uk/site/microsites/youcancook](http://www.onlineborders.org.uk/site/microsites/youcancook)

## The Engine Shed

The Engine Shed was established as an innovative training project for people with learning disabilities

to help them improve their confidence and learn transferable skills in a real work environment. The businesses operating at the Engine Shed include a vegetarian café, organic bakery, organic tofu production and conference/catering facilities. They have 30 trainees, 15 members of staff and a turnover of £567,000. [www.theengineshed.org](http://www.theengineshed.org)

Skills are at the heart of successful food, farming and fishing businesses.

DEFRA Food Strategy, FOOD 2030:  
How we get there

## Hebridean Chocolates

Established in April 2009, Hebridean Chocolates is a Community Interest Company based in Stornoway that produces handmade chocolate bars and truffles, sourcing the best local produce and using premium Venezuelan couverture.

[www.hebrideanchocolates.co.uk](http://www.hebrideanchocolates.co.uk)

# Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition

The Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition is the national collective campaigning voice for social enterprise in Scotland. It represents the needs and interests of social enterprise to politicians, policy makers and opinion formers through its members. Each April, the Coalition runs the S2S Social Enterprise Fair which attracts more than 600 delegates from across the UK. [www.s2sfair.com](http://www.s2sfair.com)

Contact us for more information and for details on how to join to make YOUR voice heard: [www.scottishsocialenterprise.org.uk](http://www.scottishsocialenterprise.org.uk)

## Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition Members & Associates

### Members

Aberdeen Day Project Ltd  
(The Bread Maker)  
Aberdeen Foyer  
Aberlour Child Care Trust  
ACE Credit Union Services  
Action for Change  
Age Concern Enterprises  
Albyn Housing Society  
Alloa Community Enterprises  
Argyll & Bute Social Enterprise Network  
Association of British Credit Unions Ltd  
Autism Initiatives  
Bookdonors  
BRAG Enterprises  
Buchan Dial-a-Community Bus  
Calman Trust  
Camphill Scotland  
CBS Network  
CDA (Scotland) Ltd  
CEiS  
CEMVO Scotland  
Centre of Health & Wellbeing  
Churches Action for the Homeless  
Claverhouse Group  
Common Strategy  
Community Care Providers Scotland  
Community Energy Scotland  
Community Enterprise  
Community Food Initiatives North East  
Community Recycling Network  
for Scotland  
Community Retailing Network  
Community Transport Association  
Community Woodlands Association  
Compassion 'n Action  
Co-operation & Mutuality Scotland  
Co-operative Development Scotland  
Co-operative Education Trust Scotland  
Cornerstone  
Crescent Kitchen  
Cunninghame Housing Association  
Development Trusts  
Association Scotland  
Dunedin Canmore Housing Association  
Eeksie Peeksie Publications  
Elite Linguists  
Employers for Childcare  
Firstport

Fly Right Dance Company  
Forth Sector  
Furniture Plus  
Govanhill Housing Association  
Grampian Housing Association  
GREC Graphics  
Haven Products  
Highlands & Islands Social  
Enterprise Zone  
Impact Arts  
Inspire Ventures  
Institute of Local Television  
Institute of Occupational Medicine  
Inverclyde Association for Mental Health  
Link Group  
Linked Work & Training Trust  
McSence  
Mediaco-op  
Moray Social Enterprise Network  
Mull & Iona Community Trust  
North Glasgow Housing Association  
Port of Leith Housing Association  
Princess Royal Sports  
& Community Trust  
Real Work Skills  
Scottish Borders Social Enterprise  
Chamber  
Scottish Churches Housing Action  
Scottish Federation of Housing  
Associations  
Scottish League of Credit Unions  
Senscot  
SKSScotland  
Social Enterprise Academy  
Social Enterprise Clydebank  
Social Firms Scotland  
Social Investment Scotland  
Speyside Trust (Badaguish  
Outdoor Centre)  
Spruce Carpets  
The African & Caribbean Network Ltd  
The Big Issue Scotland  
The Clean Close Company  
The Engine Shed  
The Factory Skatepark  
The Kibble Centre  
The Melting Pot  
The Wise Group

Unity Enterprise  
With People  
You Can Cook

### Associates

ACOSVO  
Creation Ltd  
Fife Social Economy Partnership  
Glasgow Caledonian University  
Glasgow East Regeneration Agency  
Glasgow South West  
Regeneration Agency  
Keegan & Pennykid  
MacRoberts  
R.I.E.R. Social Economy Partnership  
Royal Bank of Scotland  
Scottish Chambers of Commerce  
Scottish Council for Development  
& Industry  
Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum  
Shell UK  
Social Enterprise Alliance Midlothian  
Standard Life  
The Faculty of Advocates Free Legal  
Services Unit  
The Scottish Parliament  
& Business Exchange  
Triodos Bank  
Unity Trust Bank  
Volunteer Centre West Lothian

### Individual Associates

Janet Barnes  
John Cairns  
Isobel d'Inverno  
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