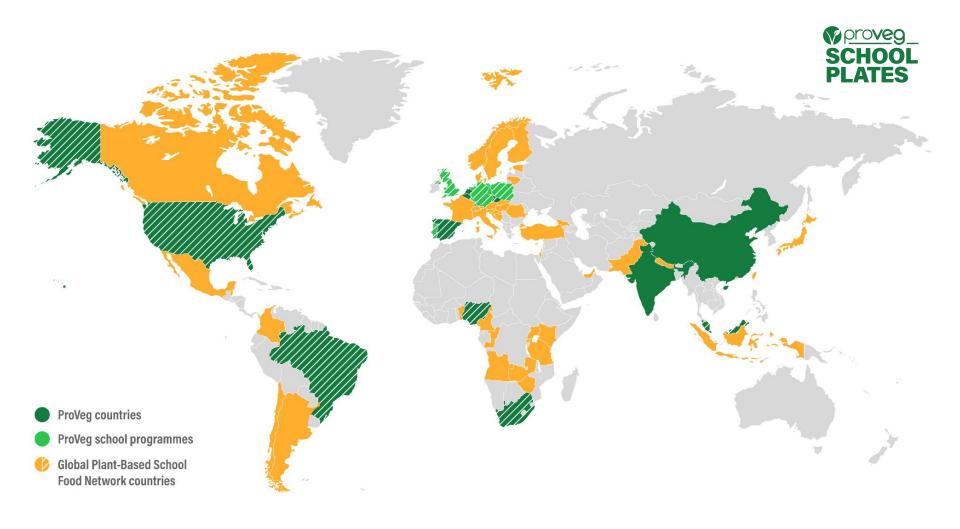
# Small Changes, Big Impact

Sustainable & Healthy School Menus









## WE AIM TO MAKE SCHOOL FOOD:

- healthier
- more sustainable
  - more inclusive
  - save money



## Evidence-based



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE



National Food Strategy







#### MENU CONSULTATION



RECIPE DEVELOPMENT



TRAINING FOR CATERERS



SCHOOL PLATES AWARDS



PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT



TEACHING MATERIALS



#### 95 major catering partners

We are currently working with or have worked with nearly a third of all UK local authorities

#### Over 8,000 schools

Are benefiting from healthier & more sustainable menus

#### Over 1.3 million children

Eat from these menus every day

### 47 million

Meals swapped







"...offer a fully plant-based option every day ...ensure staff are trained in vegan & vegetarian cooking..."

Climate Change Committee



## Health plant-based diet



 Eating a well-balanced, plant-based diet is associated with a reduced risk of many lifestyle diseases including:

 Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, gastrointestinal diseases and some forms of cancer

 Whole plant foods are rich in fibre, antioxidants and nutrients and contain low levels of saturated fat

 Whole plant foods such as beans, lentils and tofu are also good sources of protein. In combination with proteins from whole grains and nuts or seeds, they help to provide an optimal amino acid profile.





## Sustainability



Farming animals for food is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions (at least 20%) than the entire global transport sector



It is also a leading cause of deforestation, water use, biodiversity loss, and species extinction

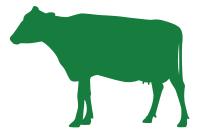


Beef emits 50 times more greenhouse gases per gram of protein than pulses such as beans and lentils

Waite, R., J. Zionts, and C. Cho (2024): Toward 'Better' Meat?
Aligning meat sourcing strategies with corporate climate and
sustainability goals. Report. Washington, DC: World
Resources Institute. Available online at
doi.org/10.46830/wrirpt.22.00006. [Accessed: 27.06.2024]

## Does locally-sourced food save carbon?

- Supporting local businesses is always best but don't expect it to significantly reduce emissions for meat
- Transport typically accounts for less than 1% of greenhouse gas emissions: eating locally-sourced beef has a minimal effect on its total footprint
- CO2 emissions from most plant-based products are
   between 10 and 50 times lower than animal based products





## CO2 footprint of a typical school meal



plant-based **0.43kg** 



vegetarian **0.8kg** 



meat-based **1.63kg** 

## Recipes plant-based & low carbon







#### SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE

Made with 50g beef mince per portion. Served with 55g wholewheat spaghetti.

Cost: 72p

Saturated fat: 4g

Fibre: 7.3g

Protein: 19.3g

CO2 emissions: 2.26kg



**VERY HIGH** carbon rating

VS.

#### **SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE (VE)**

Made with 30g lentils and 20g dried soya mince per portion.

Served with 55g wholewheat spaghetti.

Cost: 41p

Saturated fat: 0.5g

Fibre: 9.5g

Protein: 22g

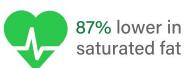
CO2 emissions: 0.75kg

LOW

carbon rating









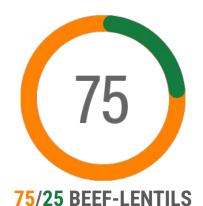




### Meat reduction - steak pie



- £1.12 per portion
- 1.9g fibre
- 17g protein
- 2.76kg CO2



#### /3/23 BEEF-LENTIL

- 94p per portion
- 2.6g fibre
- 14g protein
- 2.13kg CO2

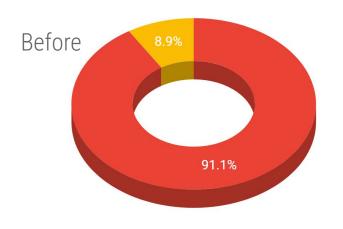


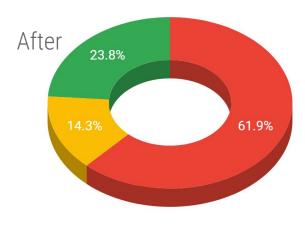
- 75p per portion
- 3.3g fibre
- 11g protein
- 1.5kg CO2

#### Real Data - Before & After: types of meals served

Carbon emissions saved: 26%

Cost saving: 20%









#### Plant-based Cooking in Schools Online Training

Online workshops
 Previous online workshops



Plant-based Cooking In Schools February Online Workshop 2024

77 views • 1 month ago





Plant-based Cooking in Schools March Online Workshop -...

90 views · 5 days ago

\*NEW\* Online training course - to launch in the New Year 2025



### **Menu Inspiration**



- Rainbow Dips with Toasted Pitta Bread (ve)
- Planet-Friendly Spaghetti Bolognese (ve)
- Sweet Potato and Coconut Curry (ve)
- Creamy Broccoli Pesto Pasta (ve)
- Shredded Tofu Tacos (ve)
- Loaded Mexican-style Wedges (ve)
- Peach Melba Crunch (ve)
- Sticky Chocolate Brownie (ve)



## **School Plates Awards**

Nudging positive behaviours, meat-reduction & plant-based promotion









## traffic-light STICKY MONSTER smoky MARVELLOUS chunky **CRISPY plant-powered BBQ**

Italian

American-style RAINBOW SPICY

sweet and sour creamy

### **How to Achieve a Bronze Award**



- Descriptive (and / or child-friendly) language
- Avoid using meat-free, meatless, fish-free, fishless, dairy-free, vegetarian or vegan when describing any plant-rich dish or day.
- Use (v) and (ve) or other symbols as identifiers
- Avoid separating 'Main' & 'Vegetarian' into categories
- One **plant-rich** (meat and fish-free) day each week
- Blend any chosen plants into a minimum of 1 sauce a week
- Complete the rainbow plants checklist and Awards Survey
- Have a daily plant-based or plant-rich option, with at least 50% hot meal options
- Download a resource from the Canteen to Classroom Education Programme

## Canteen to Classroom



## What?

A brand-new educational programme to teach children about the food they eat: where it comes from, how it is made, and its impact on our health and the planet.

- Developed specifically for primary schools
- 24 custom-designed lessons
- Every lesson is 'ready to go' meaning it comes provided with a high-quality evidence-based lesson plan, engaging lesson presentation, and additional resources – saving teachers and education providers precious time and effort.





#### Learn + Connect



Download our recipes to try



Attend a School Plates network meeting or webinar



Invite us to present at your climate, health or school food webinar



Join a Plant-Based Cooking in Schools Workshop live online or watch a previous recording



Book a meeting with the School Plates team



Choose 1+ options

#### More Plants + Meat Reduction



Introduce a planet-friendly day on menus (meat-free and fish-free) once a week.



Blend 25+% plant proteins (e.g. lentils, beans, tofu, plant-based mince) into a popular meat-based dish.



Introduce plant-based options on your main menu.



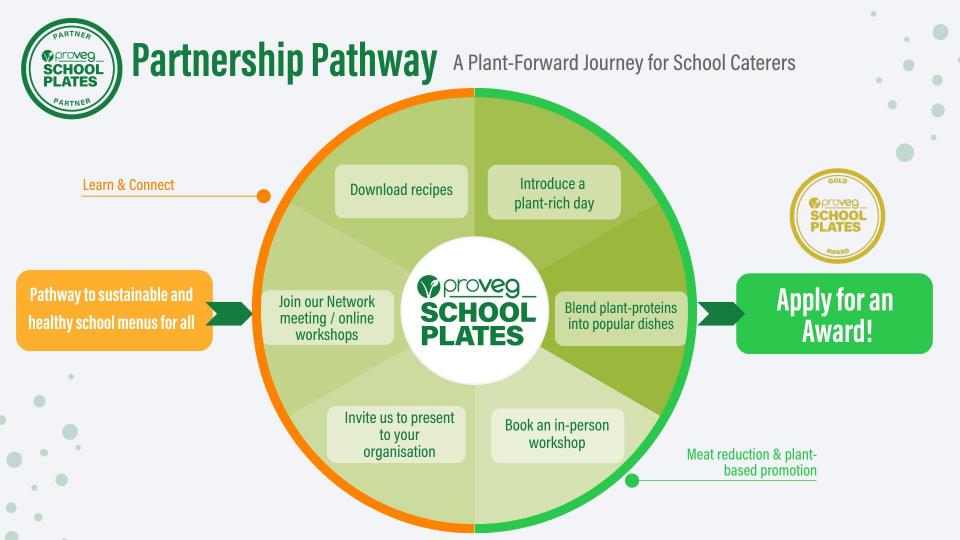
Key staff have taken part in an In-Person Plant-Based Cooking in Schools Workshop



Send us a pdf of your current or new menu to see if it qualifies for an Award!



Choose 1+ options





## Canteen to Classroom







