



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Eden Foodservice joins LEAF and achieves Food for Life Silver**

Eden Foodservice, which provides catering services for 400 schools in the United Kingdom, has joined sustainable food and farming organisation LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming). Sourcing LEAF Marque produce has helped it to become the first catering company to achieve the Silver Food for Life Catering Mark for its 353 primary schools from the Food for Life Partnership.

The LEAF Marque is a leading environmental food label based on LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) principles. IFM uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver prosperous farming that enriches the environment and engages local communities. It covers energy and resource use, soil and water management and creating natural habitats for the benefit of plants and wildlife.

The Food for Life Partnership recognises schools for food leadership, food quality and provenance, food education and food culture and community involvement. It awards achievement at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. For each award there is a set of criteria which the schools must meet which includes sourcing ingredients from a selection of chosen food assurance schemes, of which LEAF Marque is one. Schools are allocated points based on their sourcing policy and the LEAF Marque enables schools to meet the ethical and environmentally friendly element of the criteria.

Rachael Venditti, Development Manager from Eden Foodservice said: "We are extremely proud to be the first caterer to have all of our 353 primary schools awarded the Silver Food for Life Catering Mark. Sourcing sustainably is extremely important to us as we strive to deliver great tasting, nutritious food that we can be confident has been produced in an environmentally and socially responsible way. Joining LEAF and sourcing LEAF Marque helps us to do just this."

Jeremy Boxall, LEAF Marque Director added: "The catering sector is increasingly looking to embed the principles of sustainability within their procurement activities. Consideration of the

social, ethical and environmental impact of their activities is paramount. The LEAF Marque offers catering companies assurance that they are sourcing ingredients produced to high environmental standards. All of our LEAF Marque farms are independently audited to ensure they reach stringent criteria covering areas such as soil and water management, conservation and energy.”

The LEAF Marque assurance system operates in some 40 different countries and here in the UK, a quarter of all UK horticulture is LEAF Marque certified. All British grown leeks are grown to LEAF Marque standards, 73 per cent of peppers and 71 per cent of lettuce. When it comes to fruit, a quarter of UK grown strawberries, 33 per cent of raspberries and 29 per cent of apples are grown to the standard.

Visit [www.leafmarque.com](http://www.leafmarque.com) for more information.

**Ends**

**For more information, an interview or images, please contact:**

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**LEAF Editors' Notes:**

- LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is the leading organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming. LEAF works with farmers, the food industry, scientists and consumers to inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities.
- LEAF promotes Integrated Farm Management (IFM), a whole farm business approach that delivers sustainable farming.
- The LEAF Marque is an assurance system recognising sustainably farmed products. It is based on LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) principles. Farms in 40 countries worldwide are producing to the LEAF Marque standard.
- All LEAF Marque certified farms are independently inspected to ensure they meet stringent criteria to demonstrate that food is being produced to high environmental standards. These criteria include soil management and fertility, crop health and protection, pollution control and by-products, energy and efficiency, wildlife and landscape management and animal husbandry and the environment.
- For more information about LEAF please visit: [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org), email: [enquiries@leafuk.org](mailto:enquiries@leafuk.org)  
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