Best Practices
Community garden

A community garden is a green space established, maintained and managed collectively by citizens according to ecological principles. Reserved for residents of the neighbourhood, village, town or municipality where it is located, it allows people who do not have a garden space to grow vegetables and flowers close to their homes, without having to use a car.

Community gardens also encourage interaction and socialising between neighbours, friends and gardening enthusiasts. Each participant can cultivate a small individual plot, while a large part of the land is often collective and relies on shared commitment and maintenance.

Objectives

- To create a space where members of your community can meet and learn from each other.
- To create a space for intercultural dialogue and learning in an ecological way.
- To learn gardening skills and grow food ecologically.

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gemengen.zesummeliewen.lu

Methods

Methods – implementation by the municipality

- Organise a participatory activity to identify the best location for such a garden (workshop, walk, call for proposals, etc.).
- Set aside a budget for the basic installation of the garden.
- Decide on the conceptual framework with the local authority representatives (communal garden or individual plots, a mixture of both, installation of sheds, etc.). .
- Launch a call for applications for the distribution of plots (consider a rotation system if there is a lot of interest).
- Support groups of people and individuals in the context of permanent community garden projects.
- Clearly identify the channels of communication between the local authority and those involved in the garden (meetings, email communication, etc.). The local authority's contact person will need to invest time (liaising between members and the local authority, managing the budget, membership, technical details, etc.).
- Organise the establishment of the garden with its infrastructure and facilities.

Methods – implementation by those involved in setting up the garden (citizens, associations, local council, etc.)

- Plan the installation of the garden.
- Draw up a budget for installation and equipment.
- Plan the crops.
- Plan and carry out activities in the garden.
- Integrate concepts of sustainable development at local and global levels into educational support (environmental, economic and social issues).
- Integrate permaculture concepts into educational support.
- Promote and apply ecological concepts of crop protection in garden management.
- Support projects involving special crops (seeds, perennial crops, permaculture and agroforestry, etc.) to address the issue of food sovereignty.

Support projects for the storage and processing of products from community gardens.

Budget

The community garden is based on annual membership fees and a financial/technical contribution from the local authority. The following also need to be taken into account: equipment, fittings, waste management, access to water, shed, tools, etc.

Materials

- Equipment: soil, gardening tools (garden shed), tables and benches watering system, rubbish removal system
- Location: outdoor space

Periodicity

- Ongoing development throughout the year.

Evaluation indicators

- Number of members
- Number of plots occupied
- Number of annual meetings
- Number of events open to the community

Practical advice - DO's

- Appoint a contact person responsible for liaising between the garden community and the municipality.
- Organise regular meetings and clear communication between the municipality and the gardeners.
- Create a charter with clear rules for the use of communal/individual plots
- Offer training in ecological gardening.
- Ensure monitoring by a moderator.
- Support the project (if necessary) with technical assistance for the initial landscaping work.
- Organise an open house for other residents once a year, to promote living together.

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Practical advice - DONT's

- Take decisions unilaterally (e.g. on increasing/decreasing plots, on the facilities available in the garden).

Contact person/Possible partners

Local associations, CELL (Transition Movement)

Additional information

Portal of the community gardens (CELL) :

https://eisegaart.cell.lu/

Community garden in Bonnevoie :

https://www.vdl.lu/fr/visiter/loisirs-et-nature/jardiner-en-ville/jardins-communautaires

Community garden in Sanem :

https://www.suessem.lu/fr/services-pour-residents/environnement-ecologie/jardin-communautaire-sanem/

Community garden in Steinsel :

https://www.steinsel.lu/environnement-mobilite/jardin-communautaire/

Community garden in Lorentzweiler :

https://tuzd.lu/blog/topic-page/community-garden/

Community garden in Esch-Alzette :

https://www.transition-minett.lu/quartiersgaart-breedewee-esch/

Community garden in Niederanven :

https://aanwensgaart.lu/