



# HARMONIZING SUSTAINABILITY

## THE IMPACT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY GARDENS ON THE UN SDGs



Focus on local community and the connection with Douglas College. Environmental sustainability, community wellbeing and economic growth. Research aimed at the importance of fostering sustainability and resilience at a local level.

**Douglas College Strategic Plan 2020-2025**  
**Coquitlam features five greenspace courtyards with green rooftop decks reducing stormwater runoff into the city overflow to slow surges of rainwater to reduce the risk of flooding sewer systems and pollution. In addition, the green roof in New Westminster is planted with sedum which is drought tolerant for those hot dry months in Vancouver.**

- Community engagement to provide a space for faculty and students to engage in gardening activities. This is an ideal to foster a sense of community and interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- The garden offers an educational platform for students to get hands-on experience which can create environmental awareness and education in the wider Burnaby area.
- The garden supports biodiversity and reduces the carbon footprint through local food production. Community gardens provide access to fresh local food. This has an overall effect on environmental health and self-sufficiency.
  - Participation in community partnerships and collaboration with local government agencies like the City of Burnaby Community Gardens.

**Recommendation's**

Allocate resources and provide support for the establishment and maintenance of community gardens through policies, funding, and technical assistance.

Foster partnerships between community organizations, schools, and businesses to expand access to community gardening spaces, especially in underserved urban areas.

Integrate community gardening initiatives into educational curricula

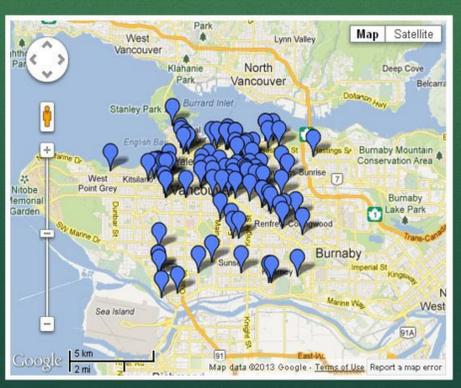
Prioritize inclusivity and diversity in community gardening programs

Invest in research and monitoring efforts to evaluate the socio-economic, environmental, and health impacts of community gardens over time and to identify best practices for maximizing their contributions to sustainable development.

- How do community gardens contribute to sustainable urban and campus development? (SDG 11)
- To what extent can community gardens serve as a platform for local entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic growth? (SDG 8)
  - How do community gardens promote biodiversity and environmental sustainability? (SDG 15)

### Vancouver's Community Gardens

Vancouver has over 85 community gardens!



**SDG #8 ~**  
Decent Work And Economic Growth

**SDG # 11~**  
Sustainable Cities And Communities

**SDG # 15~**  
Life on Land

The need for more green and public spaces as identified by the UN SDGs for creating sustainable and inclusive communities. Wallis, A. K., Westerveld, M.F. & Burton, P. (2023). Ensuring communication-friendly green and public spaces for sustainable cities International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 25(1), 27-31.

<https://www.douglascollege.ca/programs-courses/explore-programs-courses/faculties/science-and-technology/institute-of-urban-ecology/unibug/free-workshops>  
<https://blog.douglascollege.ca/2017/11/28/indigenous-garden-takes-root-at-the-new-west-campus/>