

“Urban Green” Project

Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare
Association
Social Service Centre

Objectives

With the support of the Sustainable Development Fund, Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre has launched an “Urban Green” Project since June 2004, which aims to turn trash-filled lots into a Community Gardens. This project also aims to mobilize local residents and interested parties to learn and build community gardens in their neighbourhoods, through which physical and mental health could be improved, community image and environmental awareness raised, and social capital and resources accumulated. We hope that this project would leave a significant legacy for our future generations.

Background

The “Urban Green” Project has adopted a community work approach, focusing on community participation. Through recruitment of volunteers, tapping of various talents as well as training and practice, the volunteers’ sense of belonging towards the community can be enhanced. The community gardens also serve as a communication platform for local residents, whose interpersonal relationships improve through sharing of gardening skills and knowledge. They eventually help build a community of harmony, friendship and integration.

青年互相分享對可
持續發展概念的看法
Young people
sharing their views
on Sustainable
Development

Activities and Development

With the support of Housing Department and relevant government bodies, the Project has turned three vacant or trash-filled areas in the Southern District into community gardens. They are Aberdeen Community Garden, Ap Lei Chau Community Garden and Wah Fu Community Garden. We have actively recruited people with interest in gardening to join the Green Warrior Volunteer Programme. In December 2005, we held the Green Warrior Gardening Volunteers Training cum Award Ceremony. So far, over 50 volunteers have been recruited and the total number of hours of voluntary service has reached 3,200 during the period from September 2004 to February 2006.



In promoting the concept of sustainable development to the youth, we organised a “Practising Sustainable Development in the Community” project in June 2005 and a sharing session entitled “Our Future on Sustainable Development” in October 2005.

In February 2006, over 40 governmental, non-governmental and commercial bodies supported and participated in our “Love and Care – Kum Quat” collection campaign. Our volunteers collected and preserved the kum quats with salt and then distributed them to the disadvantaged in the community. Some were also used for fund raising in the Green Saturday Market. This activity manifests the economic benefit, cultural and environmental conservation, as well as the spirit of mutual help and community participation embedded in the concept of sustainable development.

The Project has also invited people with knowledge in environmental protection and other professionals to be members of our advisory board, which was set up in March 2006 to offer professional advice and support to our Project.

Future Work

The Project has been well received in the local community. We will carry out a survey on the effectiveness of this Project and announce the results in 2007, in order to encourage other organisations to carry out similar projects in their districts, with a view to further promoting the concept and practice of sustainable development at the district level.