

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce *inequality*, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Greening Communities addresses thirteen out of seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and this project is contributing direct and indirectly through its actions:

### **GOAL 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere**



*1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters.*

*1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.*

Greening communities foresee empowering disadvantaged communities to address environmental, social, economic, and health issues. As a result, the project generates numerous positive outcomes such as mitigation of climate change, improvement of health and wellbeing and creation of jobs. Therefore, creating benefits in all the 3Ps of the triple bottom line for sustainability: planet, people, and profit.

Furthermore, Greening communities focus on reducing the poverty gap through the introduction of green space is aligned with regional and national policies from the UK and can therefore accelerate investments in this area.

### **GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.**



*2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round.*

The community gardens aim to increase the awareness of nature and provide places to grow healthy food. By creating their own food, the community can benefit from growing fresh and healthy food at a minimal cost. In addition to the health and mental benefits of being in contact with nature, it can improve their consumption of fresh food. Finally, the consumption of local food can enhance people's perception of the environmental impact of unsustainable agriculture.

### **GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.**



*3.4 By 2030, promote mental health and well-being.*

*3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.*

There are numerous positive outcomes related to gardening and being in closer contact with nature. More specifically, the direct include nutrition from eating plants grown in the garden, physical exercise, sedentary relief, and reduction of allergy sensitisation. Additionally, indirect benefits include the passive reception of nature through, for example, simply having a view of or walking through a garden. Furthermore, this has positive impacts on mental health problems including the reduction of anxiety and depression. Overall, people who spend more time in nature have a greater sense of well-being.

The creation of new green areas on underused or neglected land in social housing estates can enhance the carbon emission sequester of the areas and therefore reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the air.

### **GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**



*4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.*

Greening Communities creates new volunteer-led community gardens in areas with a high percentage of BAME and disadvantages groups, therefore creating a more inclusive environment for those who are socially marginalised. From an educational perspective, community engagement can be promoted through sharing gardening tips and techniques, getting more volunteers involved locally, and market research to improve projects. In addition, community gardens can be used to provide youths, especially those from lower-income families, with constructive activities outside of school.

Moreover, Greening Communities provides the opportunity to create collaborations with charities and organisations to combat social and ecological issues, such as: mental health, healthy eating, ecology and gardening organisations, climate educational and activist organisations, nature and wildlife organisations, nature schools and educational programs.

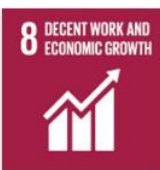
**GOAL 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.**



*7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.*

The increase of green areas and trees can cool down the temperature of the surrounding area by providing shade and through the evaporation mechanism of plants. In a bigger perspective, green areas can mitigate the heat island effect and therefore reduce the need for air conditioning. Generally, increasing green areas can lead to a reduction in energy consumption.

**GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.**



*8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.*

The possibility to grow local food such as organic fruit and vegetables with zero food miles can further help reduce the carbon footprint of the estate residents. Furthermore, the production and consumption of local food in addition to workshops can enhance people's perception on the environmental impact of the linear economic system the follows the take-make-waste principle.

Moreover, the skills acquired via membership of the local Community Garden steering group and gardening can enhance self-confidence, skills and thus improve employment opportunities. Finally, being outdoors can increase physical activity, the consumption of healthier fresh food, enhance mental and physical health and thereby increasing the opportunities to access vocational training, work experience and employment.

**GOAL 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.**



*10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.*

Greening communities foresee empowering disadvantaged communities to address environmental, social, economic, and health issues. Community Gardens are social hubs and bring people together from different walks of life. This is beneficial for those who feel isolated, for newcomers to the area and for refugees seeking to settle in a new community.

**GOAL 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.**



*11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.*

*11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.*

*11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green, and public spaces, for women and children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.*

*11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels*

Greening Communities aim is to increase the number of people who have access to green areas and therefore increase the positive benefits inherent to human interaction with nature. By creating new green areas on neglected land in social housing estates, the project creates a more inclusive environment for those who are socially marginalised. In addition to social benefits, this new area can provide a safe place for children to play and for women to exercise. Furthermore, among other environmental benefits, the 2,750 new community gardens targeted to be produced nationwide in the five-year plan, also has the objective to sequester a relevant amount of carbon dioxide in the air.

#### **GOAL 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.**



*12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including postharvest losses.*

*12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.*

*12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.*

Consumption of fresh healthy food grown in the garden will provide positive health benefits and encourage many to increase their consumption of fresh foods. Also, the possibility to grow local food such as organic fruit and vegetables with zero food miles can further help reduce the carbon footprint of the estate residents. Furthermore, the production and consumption of local food in addition to workshops can enhance people's perception on the environmental impact of the linear economic system the follows the take-make-waste principle.

#### **GOAL 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.**



*13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.*

*13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.*

Greening Communities' strategy of focusing community garden development on urban social housing land would reduce the negative impacts of climate change on low-income communities by mitigating the heat island effect and reducing the need for air conditioning. In addition, the nationwide vegetation produced by greening communities can generate approximately 100,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of carbon offsetting by carbon sequestration.

**GOAL 15: Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.**



*15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.*

In addition to social positive outcomes, Greening Communities can also produce several benefits to the ecosystem of cities. For example, the creation of green corridors for wildlife across the urban area can improve the reintroduction of flora and fauna in these areas, therefore improving pollination and encouraging ecosystems to thrive.

Furthermore, the creation of gardens and green areas on underused or neglected land can improve rainwater absorption and therefore reduce flooding propensity. This is because planted land areas have a better performance in holding water for longer than bare soil or concrete.

**GOAL 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development**



*17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.*

*17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.*

The purpose of Greening Communities is to promote the development of green spaces and to increase accessibility to local communities, prioritising disadvantaged housing estates throughout the United Kingdom. To do that, Greening Communities forms ethical engagements with a range of stakeholders. Including community volunteers, tenants, registered social landlords, charities, developers, and trusts and training organisations. To achieve the goals and the benefits intended, Greening communities relies on the sponsorship of socio-environmental corporations and the support of local and national government and policies. Overall, it is safe to say that the success of the project is dependent on trustworthy partnerships.

List of goals, targets and indicators: [SDG Indicators — SDG Indicators \(un.org\)](https://un.org/sdgs)