“Building Peace Through Our Shared Environment”

A Community Food Project bringing Catholics and Protestants together in Northern Ireland and Border States
Our Project

- The Peace Environment Project (PEP) is a two-year project that started in 2005 and will end in December this year.
- The gardens are funded through the EU and Border Action Peace II money.
- Five gardens have been established in Leitrim, Donegal, and Fermanagh counties.

Case Study: Lisnaskea

- Lisnaskea is the second largest town in Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.
- The garden was established there in March this year, and is located at the Wildfow Centre in town.
The garden before
Participants

- The participants of the garden come from a variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the participants of the garden have been:
  - Catholics
  - Protestants
  - Englishmen
  - Special needs adults
  - Toddlers and Primary school children
General Community Benefits

- Publicity about the garden has attracted more visitors to the Wildfowl Centre.
- Photographs of the garden are posted in the town centre for everyone to watch the progress.
- During harvest season, bags of produce were sold to locals and the proceeds were given to the Share Centre, a centre in Lisnaskea for special needs adults.
- Also during the harvest season, free bags of fresh produce from the garden were delivered to elderly people and people living in housing estates in the area.

The Future

- The garden in Lisnaskea already has funding for next year and a list of members who would like to join the garden, including Polish workers and a mental health organization in the area.
- The other four gardens on the project will hopefully become part of the CFP and be funded through that project.
- Potential for establishing community gardens like this in larger cities like Belfast, Derry, or Dungannon.
American Community Gardens

- During WWII, community gardens were set up in America to produce food for the local community.
- In the 1970s, President Reagan cut the budget for many food programs which increased food insecurity throughout the nation, so many organizations and communities established community gardens to combat this.
California Community Gardens

- In the late 1970s, the University of California gave out numerous grants to establish gardens and to pay for supplies and head gardeners to teach participants.
- Most community gardens are located in urban areas where food poverty is generally more condensed.

San Francisco

- One garden group in the city, Quesada Gardens Initiative, has established a garden in Bay View.
- Some of the participants of this garden have received funding through the group to start small urban farms and gardens on their property.
- The QGI is using the garden as a tool to promote environmental justice, health, wellness, and food security for disadvantaged groups in the SF inner city slums, and community building to help youth resist drugs and crime.
The Homeless Garden Project

- Is located in Santa Cruz, California and is a large community garden being used as a two-year training center in organic agriculture for homeless people or people in transition.
- The project also has a youth coordinator who brings youth groups to work with the trainees, and a social worker who is there to help them transition back into society.
- After the two-year course, the trainees have the skills to find a job in the organic sector.