## MEASURING THE IMPACTS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

## METHOD 1 2 3

1)Literature review

The review established a general understanding of the existing social, health and environmental impacts of community gardens and how they are measured from international studies. The review also highlighted the importance of analysing the context of each garden to better understand the impacts they have on their community. An important distinction between indirect and direct environmental benefits was also highlighted and it was concluded that more direct environmental impacts need to be measured - this will generate a lot more quantitative data. This summer, Victoria University teamed up with Wellington city council and Innermost community gardens to research the impacts of community gardens and how to best measure them in Wellington.

There is proof that community gardens enhance social resiliency by providing a variety of social, health and environmental benefits. The research aims to support the growth and development of community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture in Wellington city. Currently, there is not enough quantitative evidence showing the benefits of community gardens for more evidence-based urban planning. The research works toward designing a key point indicator framework for community gardens to be able to easily measure and collect more data on their impacts in the various Wellington region communities.

## **2**)Data collection + analysis

Interviews and surveys were carried out seeking social, health and environmental impacts of Innermost community garden in Mt Victoria, Wellington. 10 semi-structured interviews were undertaken with Innermost gardeners (mix of allotment holders, volunteers & organisers) to seek the social and health impacts gained from the gardens. 10 hours of stopping composters at the gardens and surveying them on their composting habits were undertaken to gain more quantitative data on the gardens direct environmental impacts. Examples are shown below.



Drawing from reflections on stage 1 & 2, the framework consists of 19 KPI's with 100 measures organised by 6 different impacts. The KPI's are organised by impact so that a garden can easily identify the most important measures to take for their garden. Some gardens may consider their social impact to be most important, whereas others may think their health impact is. An urban or market farm can also measure their economic impact. The framework is designed not just for community gardens but also for any existing and future forms of urban agriculture in Wellington city.



Bliss Sunniva Graetz 'Measuring and communicating the benefits of community gardens' Project 246

Supervisor: Fabricio Chicca Associate supervisors: Brittany Rymer (WCC) & Innermost gardens



Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council Me Heke Ki Põneke

