



INNOVATIVE LEARNING TOOLKIT

PROJECT TITLE: Futurefarmers

Tags; art, sustainability

Overview:

Amy Franceschini's [Futurefarmers](http://www.futurefarmers.com) group are a collective of artists carrying out great participatory projects to engage people around sustainability issues, for example: The construction of a 'reverse ark' that used limited recycled materials and formed the basis for discussion, teaching and collaboration on issues related to water, energy and waste: <http://www.futurefarmers.com/reverseark/>

A project using a specially constructed energy smart tent as a site for discussions and teaching about energy use and sustainability: <http://www.futurefarmers.com/energy/>

A community gardening project that takes the Victory Gardening approach used in World War I and II and updates it for the modern form of 'victory' in terms of sustainable food production and the reduction of food miles. People are encouraged to grow a garden in all kinds of available spaces - window boxes, rooftops, front and back yards, etc. The victory garden team provides all the plants and equipment, and then it's up to the individual household to maintain their plot: <http://www.sfvictorygardens.org/>. They have even created a garden registry, with details of each 'urban food production zone' on a Google map: <http://gardenregistry.org/>

In addition to the above ideas and projects, Future Farmers also create a range of art and installations relative to energy, water use, conservation and a range of sustainability issues, for example a rain water/grey water system, a photosynthesis robot (a plant-powered machine), a botanical gameboy (where gameboy machines are powered by energy from lemons and lemon trees) etc. Go to the [Futurefarmers project page](#) for other cool ideas and concepts.

Why is it relevant to PTS?

All of these projects encourage people and communities to think collectively about sustainability issues and their role in minimising environmental harm

They all involve people directly participating in hands-on activities, and these kinds of concepts could easily be applied to a planting day or other PTS activities

Hints and tips for PTS:

The energy tent concept could be used as a mobile resource to take to planting days or other activities as an interesting way to engage people in discussions about energy use, water use, local wildlife and critters, etc

We could take some of the material salvaged during stream clean ups and create a kind of reverse ark as an installation to encourage thought and discussions



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The community gardening approach could take people beyond planting days, to planting their own gardens and growing their own food in all the small patches of soil around their homes

Contact and further information:

Go to the [Futurefarmers](#) website