

GROWING THE COMMUNITY



The Edible Garden, Scotland

Sitting at the heart of a school's grounds in Peebles, Scotland, this garden affects the lives of 250 children and over 100 homes in the local vicinity. Its workshops have inspired the locals to grow their own produce and it was shortlisted in the 'Community Garden' category for the 2018 Cultivation Street competition.

In 2015, the garden was built from scratch using recycled materials and features a polytunnel for year-round growing, a sensory garden, a wormery, a composting section, training tables and water butts for rain collection. Over the last year, the volunteers have extended the garden by 25 per cent of its original size - they've built raised beds for the nursery, planted a fruit orchard and resurfaced the pathway to make it fully accessible for wheelchair users.

The Edible Garden is primarily used to train school children, teachers and members of the local community how they can grow vegetables, cook healthy meals and reduce waste. It's used by a high percentage of low-income families and these members sell the organic produce they grow in a local shop at a much lower cost than in supermarkets. So far, it has supported over 100 local families with access to homegrown veggies.

Cultivation Street's annual competition, sponsored by Calliope®, gives away free plants and £20,000 cash to reward school and community gardens which make a tangible difference to the communities they're a part of. cultivationstreet.com

