

# Examples of inspiring educational activities

with regard to climate change mitigation in the city:

- **Growing experiment in different beds**<sup>1</sup> - set aside 1 bed in the garden to observe an experiment to see how the plants thrive with different soil composition. For example, divide a bed in half and change the incorporation of compost to a zone with no compost at all, just substrate, and a zone with a proportion of compost, in addition to identical soil and plants. Over the course of the year it is then possible to monitor how the plants are doing, how the water is being absorbed, how quickly the part with pure soil dries out compared to the part with compost and how the plants react to any lack of water. Did the compost also have an effect on crop size, for example? It is good to start from a hypothesis and experience everything personally.
- **How to make your grass greener**<sup>2</sup> - If you have a lawn in your community garden, you can try an experiment to make it more environmentally friendly and more resilient to climate change. If successful, it will naturally arouse curiosity. Here are some tips for making your lawn as climate friendly as possible:
  - Minimise watering and do it during the coolest part of the day to reduce evaporation.
  - Fertilise carefully and leave grass clippings on the lawn to increase carbon storage and reduce the need for fertiliser.
  - Mow high for healthy, less-thirsty roots by setting your mower blade to three inches or higher and mowing regularly.
  - Choose the right grass variety that suits your yard's conditions and requires minimal inputs.
- **Signs for the garden** - Convene a creative workshop to make signs for the garden. Prepare a variety of materials and work with participants to choose what you want to have labelled in the garden, and how you will make, describe and paint the signs. The activity is suitable for a whole day or several recurring sessions. If the garden wants to unify the visual appearance, it is a good idea to communicate at the beginning all the specifics that need to be followed in the production.

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<sup>1</sup> Kokoza, archive of teaching materials

<sup>2</sup> Union of Concerned Scientists. The Climate-Friendly Gardener [online], 2010, Retrieved from: <https://ccetompkins.org/resources/climate-friendly-gardener>

- **PUB quiz e.g. on composting<sup>3</sup>** - Set up a series of questions and possible answers on a specific topic and have participants guess the answers individually, in a group or as a competition between 2 groups. Example questions about composting can be found in the Additional Study Materials.

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<sup>3</sup> Kokoza, archive of teaching materials