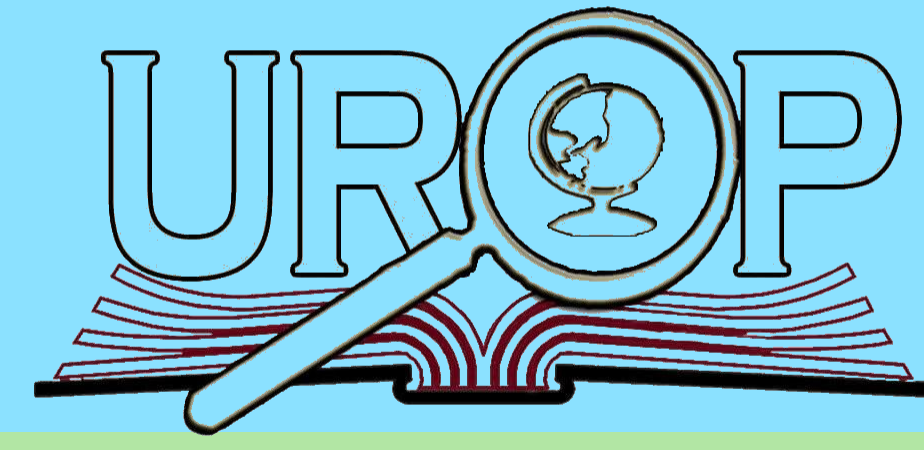




Mitigating Climate Change Through Community Gardening

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Abstract

Climate change is the obstruction of weather normality in an area which affects individuals' general health, food and water security, migration, forced displacement, loss of cultural identity, and other related risks. Youth is the future of our planet. Ensuring that they understand how they can mitigate climate change in their everyday lives is essential to help aid the climate change crisis and limit these harmful effects. By developing a community garden, we should be able to aid in creating a sense of community and brings food security too many. Gardens aid in mitigating climate change as they are highly effective air cleaners.



Results

- Upon developing the community garden, we found that the process doesn't have to be as expensive as one may suspect.
- The wood pellets for the gardening plots were able to be donated from a local plant nursery. We were also able to get free mulch through Leon County's waste management system. With the assistance of the Environmental Service Program at Florida State University, we created three gardening beds out of wood pellets and planted various plants including native milkweeds.
- This garden helped connect youth to each other and to the planet around them. This allows them to know that they can aid in mitigating climate change. The garden took about 2 hours in total to create, and the students were left with a real-world example of how they can make a change today regarding our climate crisis.



Methods

- Amal Ibourk and I aided in developing a curriculum with a teacher at an elementary school for the elementary students involved in my project. This curriculum explains climate change, how gardens can benefit from climate change, and how monarch butterflies come into play in aiding gardens
- To develop the garden, we paired with the Environmental Service Program at Florida State University. For materials, we used a lot of second-hand and donated materials. We opted to create the garden out of wood pallets we got for free from a local plant nursery. The soil was collected from Tallahassee Waste Management which gives away free mulch and compost. This process took about two months in total to find all our materials at a discounted rate.

Conclusion and Future Directions

- All in all, the garden development was successful. Milkweeds, blue porter weeds, zinnias, and sunflowers were all planted which promote pollinators such as monarchs.
- Building this garden directly was apart of community outreach. Not only did it assist in strengthening the community that built and who will use this garden, it also directly is aiding in mitigating climate change.
- Gardens slow future warming by reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon storage in soil and plants. In the future to make this project more successful, I would reach out to additional plant nurseries. This is to assist in the gather supplies that may be able to be donated.



Acknowledgments & References