

Haileybury MUN

Research report



Environmental commission: committee 2

The question of urban agriculture for the prevention of world hunger

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What is urban agriculture?

Urban agriculture, urban farming, or urban gardening is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around urban areas. City gardens are usually community run to improve the community environment and awareness of agriculture.

What are the benefits of urban agriculture?

- **Increase in food security-** In many cities organic produce is expensive often causing lower income families to not be able to afford healthier produce. This can also be a form of income as the urban farmers can sell this produce.
- **Reduces food miles** – Producing food locally means that it does not need to be transported burning fossil fuels and emitting CO₂.
- **Makes good use of scarce land-** land is very scarce in urban environments meaning that growing vegetation on the roof of a building is very good use of land. This smart use of land could reduce the issues of urban sprawl.

What are the drawbacks of urban agriculture?

- Limited lateral space
- High land values
- Contaminated soils
- Theft and vandalism

UN actions:

The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) supports the transformation of UPA (Urban and peri-urban agriculture) into a recognized urban land use and economic activity, integrated into national and local agricultural development strategies, food and nutrition programmes, and urban planning.