



Cultivating Community and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Mapping our contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and where the risks and opportunities lie

August 2020



A word from our CEO

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) are a call to action for the world to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Cultivating Community has a mission, purpose and vision deeply aligned to these global targets as we work with low income and diverse communities in Melbourne and inspire a healthy and just world.

As we develop ways to measure our impact at Cultivating Community from well-being to social connection, we will look hard internally and externally to how we perform against the global goals. This will help us to innovate, reshape and refresh our work within communities.

Contributors



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Thank you

My thanks to the incredible support of PwC Australia to help us develop our report and matrix, to my colleague Julia who has spent time developing the resource and to our organisation who have taken time to look back on previous work and embrace the opportunity that awaits.



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The U.N. Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. Achievement of the SDGs is essential for our planet and humanity. As a UN member nation, Australia has committed to achieving the SDGs by 2030, and it is important that Cultivating Community contributed to this.



Using the Sustainable Development Goals to measure our organisation's social impact



Mapping our
programs



Identify gaps &
opportunities



Meaningful
impact



In May 2020, Cultivating Community commenced its SDG journey, **mapping 32 of our programs and projects from the past three years to 17 SDGs and their 169 targets.** The initial mapping process identifies where we are currently performing and highlight where there are gaps for improvement.

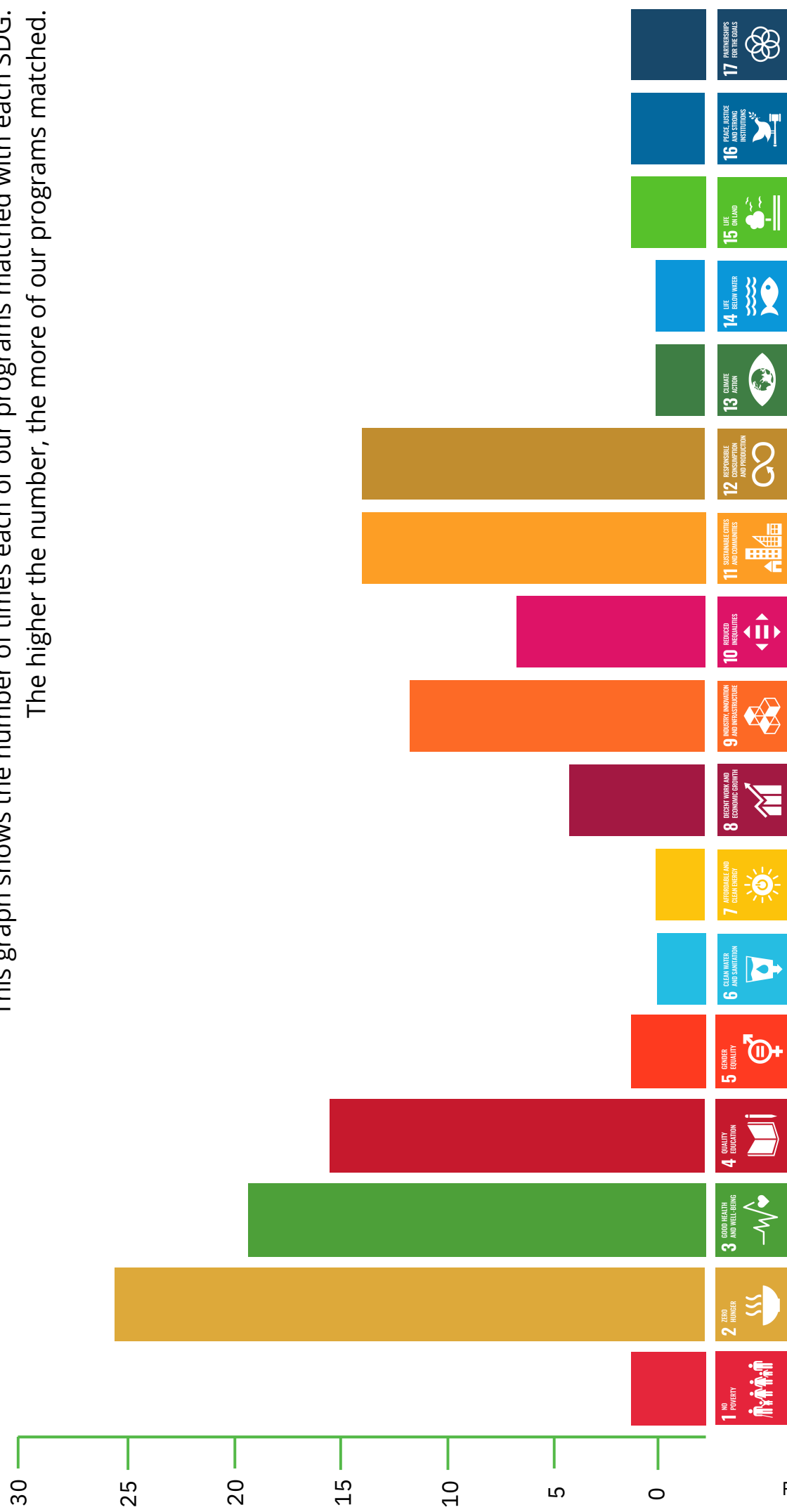
This 'gap analysis' allows us to know where to focus our future efforts, and gives us a baseline from which to measure progress. The process uncovers alignments between our existing priorities/strategies and the goals, and identifies the SDGs where we can increase impact. The analysis also acknowledges that certain significant SDG issues may not be applicable to our organisation.

The SDGs highlight the complexity of issues we face both locally and globally. It will be critical to **build collaboration and partnerships at all levels to leverage the skills, expertise and resources of different sectors and organisations.** Lastly, developing appropriate frameworks for monitoring and reporting our progress on the SDGs is an essential component of implementation.

Outcome of Cultivating Community's 2020 SDG mapping

Summary by SDG

This graph shows the number of times each of our programs matched with each SDG. The higher the number, the more of our programs matched.



Our contribution to the SDGs

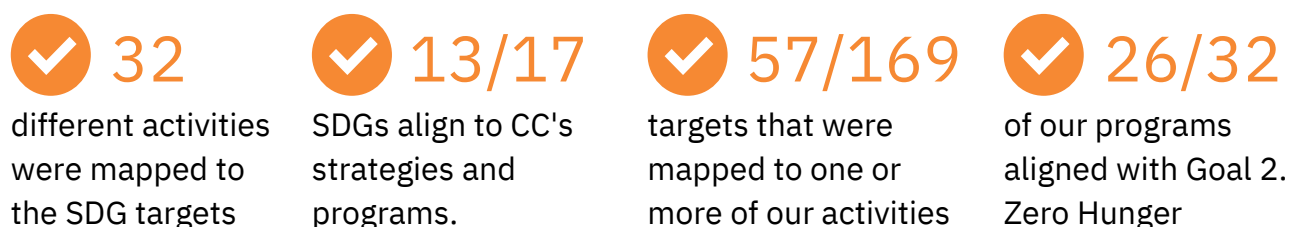
Our top 5 SDGs

Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production.



Mapping against each SDGs and their targets

We mapped 32 of our programs and projects from the past three years against the SDGs and their targets: aligning to 13/17 SDGs, and 57/169 targets.



Where we are already having impact

Creating nourishing and educational food and gardening experiences

Laying the foundations for healthy communities



- Cooking together allows for current hunger needs to be met while developing lifelong skills
- In the outdoor classroom children are given an opportunity to build confidence and shine
- Growing food provides fresh healthy food, improves mental health and well-being, fosters cultural connection, and teaches new skills.

We embrace people, place and culture through food and gardening

Curating spaces for healing and connection



- Creating green spaces of growth on public housing estates, within schools, and in other community spaces increases access to food and the health benefits of interacting with nature
- Promoting and teaching others about sustainable composting reduces waste in our communities and builds harmony with nature.

Enhancing our SDG impact

Commitment to meet an additional seven SDGs

We have identified seven SDGs that CC has capacity to have a greater impact in. These include: Reduced Inequalities, No Poverty, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Climate Action, Gender Equality, Life on Land and Partnerships for the Goals.



A strategic view

SDG mapping highlights the complex range of issues our community faces and asks us how we can work to address this through our strategies, programs, and partnerships. We can see that the top five SDGs our organisation met reflect our mission and what is at the core of the programs we deliver. We can say with confidence that we will continue to meet these goals. As we move forward and build upon the work we currently do, linking in the above seven goals will help bring meaningful impact to our work by acknowledging the interconnection of issues our program participants face. For example, a gardening program may be enriched by objectives that consider meeting not only our top five SDGs but consider one of the above seven. Including SDG monitoring in our program building and evaluation will remind us to keep a holistic view of community development and identify areas we could improve upon.

We are working towards our potential

Get into Cultivating Community and High Rise

Using ideas and places of good practice to connect the dots.



- We will develop pathways to employment across food systems
- We will apply the gender lens to the recruitment of project participants
- We will develop skills and potential to eat better and do better

Our environmental commitments and the Climate Change Declaration

Laying the foundations for healthy communities.



- We will help inform local authorities to develop their plans
- We will seek out ways to encourage wildlife within any community gardens or spaces we work
- We will procure, where possible, from like-minded ethical and social organisations

Where our opportunities and risks lie

Global failure to achieve the SDG targets by 2030 poses real risks to our business, and our people

COVID-19 arrived in 2020. Its impact locally in Melbourne and the Public Housing communities and schools we serve has been immense. Its impact on the most vulnerable around the globe has set the work of the SDGs and many organisations back in time. There has never been a more important moment than now to focus on impact and these goals. The next decade means we must get to grips with the goals as a connected community. Failure is not an option if we want to achieve joy and connection with the earth for our project participants.

The future of our society relies on a strong and prosperous global economy. A society that is healthy, wealthy and wise.

At Cultivating Community failure to achieve the SDGs presents risks to us, including reduced access to talent, reputational damage to our identity and purpose, and a reduction in opportunity for investment to grow and flourish.

The SDGs offer a strategic framework to contribute to global success, peace and prosperity. Cultivating Community pledges to do its bit. Our efforts should be focused on the SDGs that align with our organisation's strategy and our ability to have a real and sustained impact.

Rob Rees MBE DL – CEO Cultivating Community – July 2020



Where to next - Enhancing our impact

We can enhance our contribution towards achieving the SDGs in Australia through collaboration and partnerships with local organisations to maximise our efforts.



1. Increase SDG awareness

Increase internal and external awareness of the SDGs and promote a framework for assessing social impact.

- Make the SDG report available to all our team and volunteers
- Guide our team to understand the benefit of the report and how we will use it to measure impact and influence going forward
- Be open and transparent with our achievements and our aspirations by sharing with relevant investors, partners, and stakeholders



2. Strategise and prioritise

Use the SDG mapping report to inform our social impact, strategy and aspirations.

- Board oversight of Cultivating Community SDG priorities
- Implement strategy and performance reporting using SDG lens
- SDG framework applied to Cultivating Community project goals and measurements
- Use the SDG framework as a consistent way of assessing our social impact



3. Enhance measurement and report

Hold ourselves accountable through regular reporting on progress and enhancing measurement tools including program mapping matrix.

- Identify reporting mechanisms and KPIs to monitor our SDG performance
- Enhance measurement for priority SDGs
- Include SDG reporting in Annual Report, with accompanying comments from Chair or CEO



4. Engage with clients and partners on SDGs

Share learnings with external stakeholders to help them enhance their social impact and contribute in partnership with others to the SDGs.

- Share practical SDG learnings with external stakeholders
- Share with clients our experiences to enhance their social impact
- Identify opportunities to partner with other organisations on shared value projects to increase collaborative impact.



Appendix 1: Approach

Mapping, risk analysis and opportunities

Mapping

The mapping process identifies where we are currently performing against the SDGs, and highlights areas where we are not doing well.

- We spoke to our team leaders to identify activities that were relevant to the SDG mapping. For each activity, we reviewed each potentially relevant SDG target and assessed whether that activity was contributing to the achievement of that target. In many cases, activities were mapped to multiple targets (within the same and across multiple SDGs)
- We identified 32 separate 'activities' that were contributing to the SDGs. For some (for example School Food Garden), we grouped together multiple of these into the one 'activity', which means they would count as one in the total count.

Gap analysis

The 'gap analysis' allows us to know where to focus our future efforts, and gives us a baseline from which to measure progress. The process uncovers alignments between our existing priorities/strategies and the goals, and identifies the SDGs where we can increase impact. The analysis also acknowledges that certain significant SDG issues may not be applicable to our organisation. The gap analysis was conducted at the SDG target level to ensure a comprehensive assessment was made across each SDG.

Opportunity analysis

The SDGs highlight the complexity of issues we face both locally and globally. It will be critical to build collaboration and partnerships at all levels to leverage the skills, expertise and resources of different sectors and organisations.

- The opportunity assessment was performed in conjunction to the gap analysis, considering the opportunities available for CC to make a meaningful contribution towards the targets, over the 10 year SDG timeframe.
- The analysis was conducted at the SDG target level.

Ongoing reporting and evaluation

Developing appropriate frameworks for monitoring and reporting our progress on the SDGs are an essential component of implementation where we are currently performing against the SDGs. Such frameworks provide an impetus for action ('what gets reported gets done'), ensure accountability, provide feedback on implementation success, create a coherent story on wide-ranging actions, and provide an opportunity for ongoing public engagement.

- A program matrix and database will be developed to measure future programs against SDGs and their targets.
- Distributing information about SDG mapping to staff will ensure SDGs are considered during planning and implementation of programs and projects.
- Yearly review will be conducted with support of PwC.

Appendix 2: Mapping

The below highlights what we assessed and how it matched the key targets within the Sustainable Development Goal framework. We list also one headline opportunity for Cultivating Community to embrace and develop over the next 18 month period (Sept 2020 – March 2022)



Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.

Programs matched: After School Cooking, Meet and Eat, Food Relief Packs (COVID), ASC Packs (COVID), Our Shared Table

Targets matched: 1.4, 1.5

Opportunity: to reach out for more impact investment in our projects that we know work and to develop more employment enterprises.



End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition.

Programs matched: After School Cooking, Meet and Eat, Public Housing Community Gardens, Carlton Kitchen Library, High Rise, Fitzroy Urban Harvest Food Swap, School Food Gardens, Food Waste Avoidance Workshops, Communal Garden Workshops, Growing Food at Home Workshops, Community Garden Consultation, STREAT, Moving Feast GROW (COVID), Food Relief Packs (COVID), ASC Packs (COVID), Project Respect Garden, Our Shared Table, Floyd Garden, Spotswood Garden Project, Strong Shoots, Cubbies, Good Food Organisation, Food Centre Expansion, Housing Choices, Deakin Study, Living Food Boxes

Targets matched: 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.B

Opportunity: in collaboration with others – such as Moving Feast - to develop a visionary food system that empowers the consumer



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Programs matched: Meet and Eat, School Food Gardens, Public Housing Community Gardens, Communal Garden Workshops, Growing Food at Home Workshops, Community Garden Consultation, STREAT, Food Relief Packs (COVID), ASC Packs (COVID), Project Respect Garden, Our Shared Table, Spotswood Garden Project, Strong Shoots, Cubbies, Good Food Organisation, Food Centre Expansion, Deakin Study, Living Food Boxes, Moving Feast GROW (COVID),

Targets matched: 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9

Opportunity: to develop early years interventions and adapt our offer within school aged education including our Lets Keep Cooking and Canteen Concept.



Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.

Programs matched: After School Cooking, Meet and Eat, Carlton Kitchen Library, High Rise, Fitzroy Urban Harvest Food Swap, Highett St Compost Club, School Food Gardens, Food Waste Avoidance Workshops, Composting Workshops, ASC Packs (COVID), Our Shared Table, Spotswood Garden Project, Strong Shoots, Cubbies, Food Centre Expansion

Targets matched: 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.A

Opportunity: to support the message within our community projects that engage young people that the value of learning can inspire their world.



To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Programs matched: Our Shared Table

Targets matched: 5.1, 5.4, 5.C

Opportunity: to apply a gender lens to all our policy thinking and project ideas.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Programs matched: No programs matched in 2020.

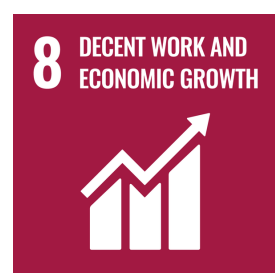
Opportunity: to learn from others to improve how as individuals we reduce our water waste and improve our sustainable community garden practices.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Programs matched: No programs matched in 2020.

Opportunity: to rethink how we procure our services and influence our landlord.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Programs matched: Public Housing Community Gardens, High Rise, Highett St Compost Club, Moving Feast GROW (COVID)

Targets matched: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8

Opportunity: to support and influence all Community Capacity Building Initiatives.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Programs matched: Public Housing Community Gardens, High Rise, Highett St Compost Club, Food Waste Avoidance Workshops, Composting Workshops, Communal Garden Workshops, Growing Food at Home Workshops, Community Garden Consultation, STREAT, Project Respect Garden, Housing Choices, Living Food Boxes

Targets matched: 9.1, 9.2, 9.4

Opportunity: to develop stronger links and collaborations with research and development organisations and expert partners.



Reduce inequality within and among countries by 2030.

Programs matched: Carlton Kitchen Library, Fitzroy Urban Harvest Food Swap, Floyd Garden, Good Food Organisation, Housing Choices, Deakin Study, Living Food Boxes, Our Shared Table, STREAT

Targets matched: 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.6, 10.7

Opportunity: to advocate stronger for the communities we embrace and use our voice in support.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Programs matched: Public Housing Community Gardens, School Food Gardens, STREAT, Moving Feast GROW (COVID), Project Respect Garden, Floyd Garden, Spotswood Garden Project, Community Garden Consultation, Strong Shoots, Cubbies, Food Centre Expansion, Housing Choices, Living Food Boxes, Living Food Boxes, Communal Garden Workshops

Targets matched: 11.1, 11.3, 11.4, 11.A, 11.B

Opportunity: to develop and showcase food precincts as a place making ideal that reduces crime and increases engagement and welfare.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Programs matched: After School Cooking, Carlton Kitchen Library, High Rise, Fitzroy Urban Harvest Food Swap, Highett St Compost Club, Food Waste Avoidance Workshops, Composting Workshops, Communal Garden Workshops, Growing Food at Home Workshops, Community Garden Consultation, Moving Feast GROW (COVID), Food Relief Packs (COVID), STREAT

Targets matched: 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.A

Opportunity: to improve our own behaviour for others to follow.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Programs matched: No programs matched in 2020.

Opportunity: to choose to work with only those LGAs and others who have signed up to the climate change declaration.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Programs matched: No programs matched in 2020.

Opportunity: to only use fish from sustainable sources in our food activities and supply chains.



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification and halt biodiversity loss.

Programs matched: Good Food Organisation

Targets matched: 15.8, 15.9

Opportunity: to only use recycled or ecofriendly wood in our projects.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all.

Programs matched: Good Food Organisation

Targets matched: 16.7, 16.b

Opportunity: to offer increased activity that brings those living with disability and difference together with our existing groups.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Programs matched: Good Food Organisation

Targets matched: 17.13, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19

Opportunity: to develop our advocacy within Government and decision-making circles.





Our vision is for joyful, connected communities who care for each other and our earth.

To learn more or get in contact:

See our programs in action and find out about upcoming workshops, events and ways to get involved:

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www.cultivatingcommunity.org.au/**

