

COMMUNITY URBAN FARMS: THE NEXT BIG THING IN GREENFIELD HOUSING ESTATES

Biofilta designs and delivers the latest in low maintenance, water efficient, high yield urban farms that are perfect for any greenfield or existing community. These farms feature ergonomic, water efficient, raised wicking beds that improve yield and reduce weeding, watering and maintenance for residents, and allow communities to become prolific food producers on a small land footprint and reduce food miles into metres.

Well designed and maintained community gardens are a desirable form of green infrastructure that improve health, social contact, nutrition as well as property values. A study of over 500 community gardens in New York found that well run community gardens generated an average \$2 million (US) increase in property values within 300 metres of the gardens.

Biofilta offers a turnkey solution for the property industry, designing gardens for any site, installing world leading technology, commissioning and maintaining these gardens into the future.

Key features of a Biofilta urban farm design include:

- Cost effective, long lasting wicking garden beds that water the plants from the bottom, eliminating the need for surface irrigation systems and increasing water efficiency
- Reduces watering time compared to traditional garden beds
- Water proof system prevents any contamination with existing ground
- Minimal weed establishment as the surface soil forms a dry crust
- Stored water in each module provides optimal water delivery for up to two weeks
- Internal aeration maintains health of the stored water and root zones of the plants

- High plant productivity and vegetable/herb yield
- Modular – connect multiple bays and water from a single point
- Adjustable water level to suit seedlings and established plants
- Connects to rainwater tanks for harvesting rainwater
- Eliminates the need for rocks, ag line and builder's plastic in DIY wicking gardens

The Biofilta urban garden design can generate a range of benefits for communities, property developers and Authorities including:

- Connects communities through a common theme - food
- Meet water sensitive urban design targets by diverting roof runoff to urban food gardens

- Improving stormwater quality and decrease stormwater runoff to the environment
- Using compost created from food and green waste, reducing waste to landfill and closing water and nutrient loops
- Creating beautiful functional gardens that are water efficient, highly productive and easy to operate for local residents
- Generating large volumes of fresh produce for communities, reducing food miles and increasing access to good nutrition and reducing cost of living.
- Increasing social contact and friendships, while encouraging exercise and health benefits

Climate change, decreasing food bowls, urban sprawl and other factors are set to increase food prices and impact on food security in future. Biofilta modular urban farms tackle these issues for housing developers, authorities and communities. Urban farms are the next must have feature in a modern sustainable housing estate.

The urban farm pictured below features 384 Biofilta wicking Foodcube™ modules, creating 460sq metres of growing area. The farm features work sheds, composting areas, benches, a seedling hothouse and water storage to create a closed loop food garden. This garden could produce over 7 tonnes of food per annum for local residents, with a value of over \$70,000 depending on the crop types grown.

If you are interested in a Biofilta urban farm at your school, community, apartment or home, contact info@biofilta.com.au or www.biofilta.com.au



New modular urban farm designs can improve food security for communities



Biofilta advanced wicking beds reduce weeding and watering



Fresh super local produce



Biofilta modular urban farms - can help any new or existing community generate fresh produce