

Toronto organization wins green grant

Toronto Green Community is hoping to have gardens popping up across the city.

The non-profit organization received funding from the Earth Day Canada Community Environment Fund for its Container Gardening Train-the-Trainer program, which will allow them to hold workshops in the north, south, east and west parts of the city to train people.

"They learn all about container gardening and how to give a workshop successfully," said Emily Martyn, garden co-coordinator.

Each trainer is then given a little funding to go back to their community to conduct a workshop in an effort to build capacity.

Martyn said the focus of the program is on container gardening rather than backyard or plot gardening because so many Toronto residents live in apartments.

"It's the only real option for growing fresh food," Martyn said. "So many people in this city live in an apartment or they live in part of a house and don't have access to a backyard."

Toronto Green Community did a pilot of the project last year and now with funding from Earth Day Canada (\$11,980), as well as Live Green Toronto, it is able to expand the workshops, which will take place from mid-March to mid-April.

The Earth Day Canada funding will be used to provide training materials and to print a booklet about container gardening.

The program also has an added benefit and increasing the amount of organic, sustainable food grown in the city.

"There is the added benefit that they can produce some of their own food," Martyn said.

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