



Co-producing the treescapes of the future with children

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Co-production is much more than consulting with children and young people. It means being guided by their perspectives and voices to imagine and plan a future they want to live in.



Bus billboard

Headlines

Successful engagement with long-term environmental planning requires listening to, and acting on, the voices of children and young people.

Children and young people often demonstrate ways of relating to and valuing treescapes that are very different from those of adults.

Co-production enables authentic voices and values to emerge through activities across the whole planning, planting, maintenance and use cycle of treescapes.

Co-production not only produces better design, it also enhances children and young people's connection with nature and sustainability.

Background

We engaged children and young people with designing and planning, planting, measuring and caring for treescapes across a variety of contexts including schools and public parks. Co-productive methods such as involving children and young people in creating new treescapes enabled the emergence of children and young people's language and values associated with their neighbourhoods and communities. Our innovative approach has implications for sustainability, place-making, climate action and environmental education as well as urban planning.

Findings

Co-production involves doing everything together, involving children and young people in a whole cycle:

- Planning and designing treescapes,
- Planting treescapes,
- Measuring treescapes,
- Caring for treescapes.



Co-production produces different kinds of knowledge and ideas.

Children and young people might develop plans that adults haven't considered. They come from diverse cultures, linguistic heritages and contexts – children and young people are not a uniform group.



