

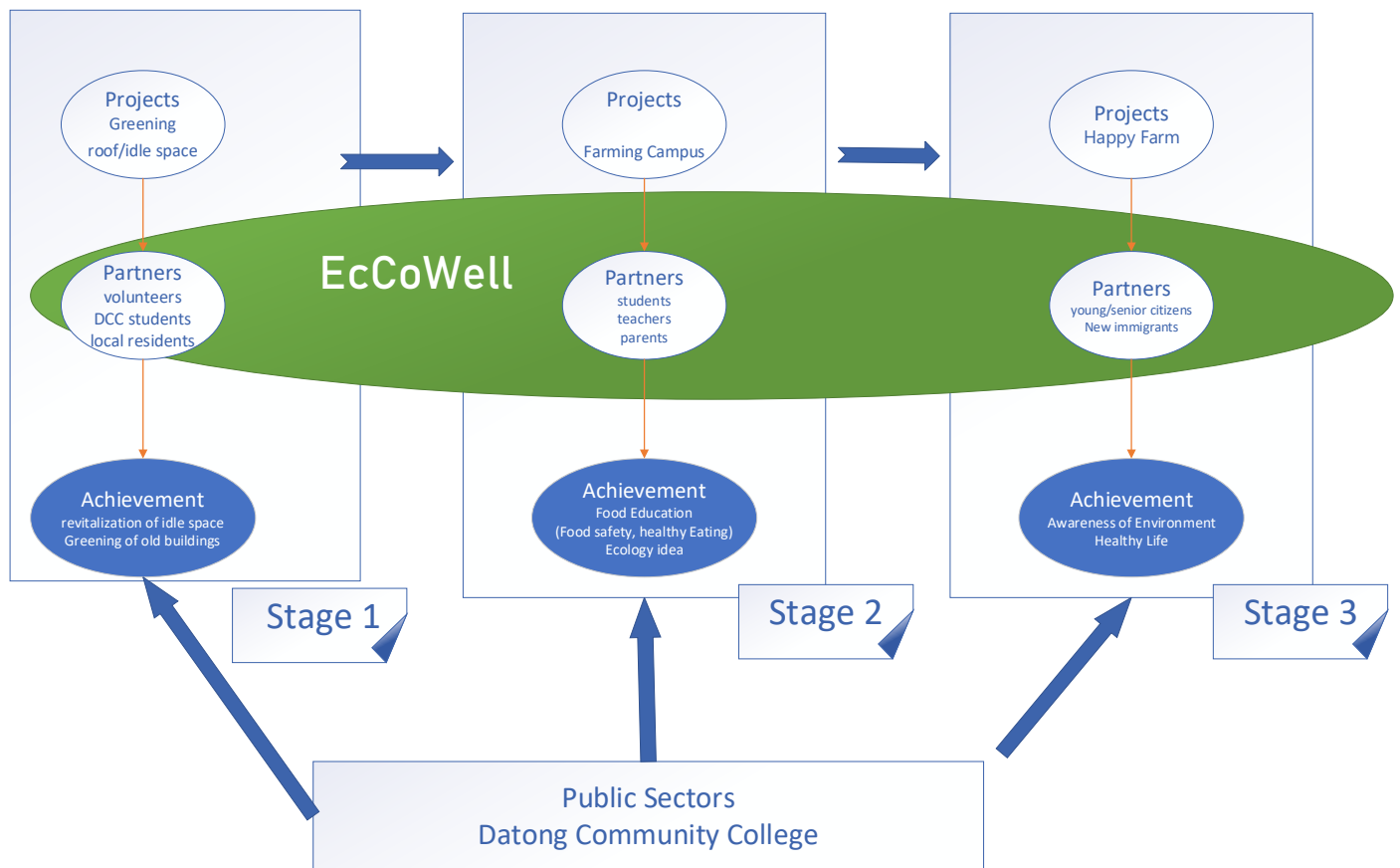
Question Responses from Daton Neighborhood, Taipei

- **Tell us a little about your project, and the partners involved**

Inspired by the initiative “Living and Learning in EcCoWell Cities” by Peter Kearns in 2012, Datong Community College (DCC) has been promoting lifelong learning within Datong District, a traditional neighborhood in Taipei City, hard and deep. Starting from the “Declaration of Taipei as a Learning City,” DCC works as the hub to integrate the resources from public sectors and local civic organizations and enthusiastic citizen volunteers.

The project is called “Happy Farm, Eco City.” This is an evolving project and aims to build Taipei a healthy and happy city with sustainable and ecofriendly living environment for citizens now and in the future. The project and the partners involved is illustrated as following.

Happy Farm, Eco City.



- **What were the elements that made that partnership transformational, and in what way was empathy a driver in the partnership?**

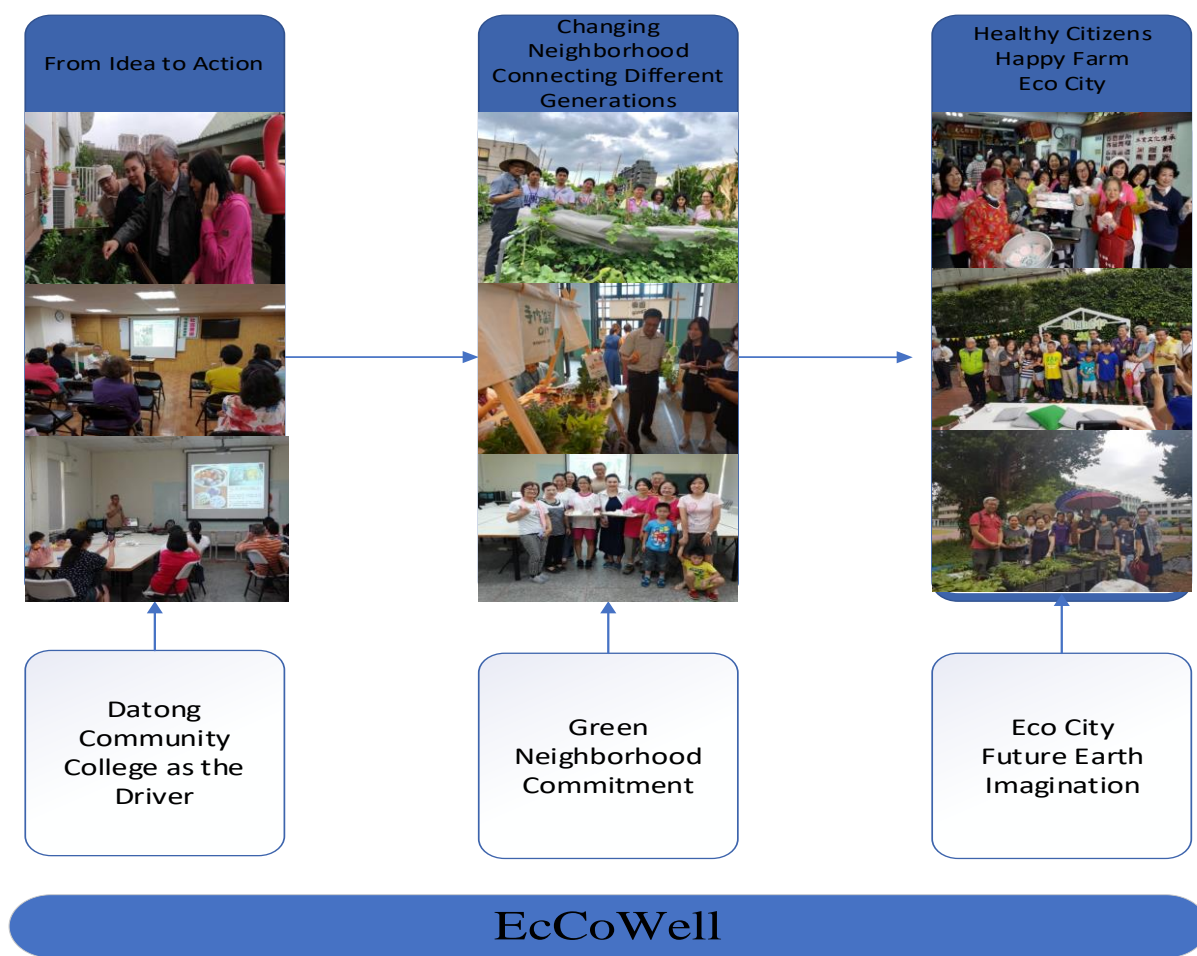
Helping its citizens to pursue lifelong learning and thus a sustainable development of Taipei city to be assured has long been recognized since the Declaration of Taipei as a Learning City was signed. And Datong Community College is dedicated to helping citizens in Datong district realize the meaning and the importance of lifelong learning. Our project started from the very basic idea “greening our own surroundings and revitalizing our own neighborhood.” So, citizens are more than happy to get involved and eager to help. The partnership in our project has three elements to make it transformational. One is the thorough support from public sectors (Taipei City Government). The second is the enthusiasm and

passion from local citizens. And the third is the coordination efforts from Datong Community College. DCC stands by the locals and exerts the social cohesion of locals. At the same time the resources from the public sectors are drummed up through DCC. The community consensus and mutual understanding are building up step by step. Empathy underlies the collaborations from these three partners. And Empathy unites.

- **How do you/did you measure if the partnership was/is successful?**

Since Datong District is a traditional community in Taipei City, the development and modernization of this district have certain limitation for the preservation of historical buildings. But the greening project of idle spaces and rooftops makes the whole community lively and amiable. This old community starts to attract young people to move in again. And through holding different festivals and workshops, DCC encourages seniors in the neighborhood to teach young people how to make traditional snacks and pass on traditional food information to the youths. This successfully connects different generations and the most important part is to give the seniors sense of achievement and thus they are willing to walk out and attend community activities, which is the aim of active ageing.

After the farming campus idea is introduced, the awareness of food safety and consciousness of healthy diet are thus infused into young generation. At the same time, parents can be influenced by their own children. Now we already have farming campuses from elementary schools to senior high schools, which enhance the awareness of food education and ecology. Furtherly, the idea is promoted to the whole city. Neighborhood farming gatherings and growing vegetables horticultural therapy are promoted. Edible landscapes are spreading in the whole city. A healthier and happier eco city is gradually forming.



- **How was imagination used to create and drive the partnership?**

Citizens have expectations for their future life--- happier, healthier, greener, and more eco-friendly And then they are more eager to change their surroundings and more willing to invite others to work together. Then a real and lasting shift towards the shared objective for an Eco Taiwan is possibly formed. Here is the graph to show the partnership to form the learning ecosystem operated in Datong District, Taipei, Taiwan.

