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TITLE: Growing Change: The relationship between Urban Agriculture participation and the presence and development of Ecological Habitus

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A number of the current social and ecological challenges such as climate change, urban growth and food insecurity are complex and interrelated in nature. There have been calls from across disciplines for a holistic and interrelated approach to - and understanding of - these phenomena. Also recognized, however is that current understandings of how to promote the development of this 'ecological' understanding are limited. One group of activities that has been suggested as having potential to enable a shift towards an ecological understanding is urban agriculture. Drawing on Bourdieu's theory of practice and the concept of habitus, embodiment of such a holistic approach to - and understanding of phenomena would indicate the presence of an 'ecological habitus'. The presentation explores outcomes of UA engagement and the relationship between urban agriculture practice and the presence and development of ecological habitus. The research involved a series of interviews with urban agriculture participants in conjunction with participant elicited photography in the Brisbane and Hobart. Initial findings suggest that engagement in urban agriculture may result in increased social and cultural capital, greater awareness of and attachment to place and the potential embodiment of ecologically relevant dispositions, and practices that are perceptible as changes to the lifestyles and material conditions of the participants.