KB Community Garden

What will we do:
1. Lobby the following University departments to approve our proposal for the garden: Waste, Estates, SRS (Social Responsibility and Sustainability), and Landscaping.
2. Lobby University architects to ensure that green spaces will not be developed on-specifically the green space in front of Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library where we aim to have the garden.
3. Lobby higher-ups at the University to get a full endorsement of the garden.
4. Advertise through Edinburgh University Students’ Association pages to spread the word and increase student involvement.

Background to this:
1. A proposal was previously submitted 1 year ago to build a community garden on a site at King’s Buildings (KB) but was rejected by Estates using the development of KB as an excuse. This time around, we will need help pressuring Estates to accept the proposal.
2. This project is backed up by the 2050 Climate Group, as well as the SRS (Social Responsibility and Sustainability) as a part of their biodiversity strategy.
3. The garden would align well with the centenary at King’s, and has support from the KB100 project to be one of the “100 things” featured during the centenary celebrations.
4. There used to be a permaculture garden at KB, but it was demolished during the development of new buildings at KB.
5. Lecturers and students studying environment-related subject expressed their interest in applying what they learn in a garden.
6. Many students, staff and community members have an interest in this project, and our first open meeting was held on March 11th.

Beliefs and Motivating Actions:
1. Estates have previously rejected proposal forms to start up a garden- we need extra support from students and staff to convince them that the garden would be a valuable addition to the university that would be maintained for many years to come by a student garden group.
2. The garden would ultimately be for the students and staff of the University, to provide a green space and community centre that can support the mental wellbeing of students and staff at King’s Buildings. Gardening improves mental health and wellbeing- and would provide an excellent outlet for students to connect and relax.
3. The garden would provide a community space for many areas of the campus to connect through. Societies, students, staff, and the SRUC have all expressed interest in helping with the garden. This would promote connection, and could be a community meeting space through things like workshops and events. This space could also be used for teaching and learning purposes.
Submitted with 20 Student Signatures in March 2019.