



University of Dundee

Citizen Science Projects (MOOC) 1.9

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Video - 1.9 Action spotlight: Community-based environmental monitoring

In this video, you heard from Professor Mel Woods, who shared some of the collaborative activities that the citizen observatories part of the WeObserve project have been involved in.

Community-based environmental monitoring is when groups of people or communities collect information to create new knowledge. These people can be in the same geographic location or spread all over the world. In many cases, these activities use personal devices or sensors, like apps on a mobile phone, to help people collect and upload the data online.

There is also often a collaborative feature to the online platforms. For example, they might use chat forums so that people can discuss the data they are collecting, how they are doing it, and what they are discovering from their activities.

Some projects encourage people to get together. For example, if a community in the same geographic area is collecting information on an environmental issue experienced locally, they can have weekly “meet-ups” where they discuss the challenges they face or share exciting insights or news.

In the video, you heard about:

+ **[The GROW Places program]**(<https://medium.com/@growobservatory>)******, which connected Community Champions across places in Europe. These champions were already working with a network of community gardeners, local groups, community growers and independent farmers. GROW Places brought together the community champions through online courses, educational resources and science experiments, face to face and online events, and provided the materials and sensors needed to participate.

+ **[LandSense Campaigner]**(<https://landsense.eu/Project/What-Is-LandSense>)****** is a web-based application that allows people to plan and launch their own citizen science campaign on the LandSense Engagement Platform. This platform is great for connecting with a growing LandSense community and services and where users can promote their own campaign to communities with similar interests.

+ **[GroundTruth 2.0 Meet Mee Mechelen]**(<https://mechelen.meetmee.be/c/english-summary/>)****** citizen observatory engaged a group of citizens, policymakers, and environmental experts to capture air quality in Belgium. The volunteer citizens decided on how to capture data on different streets in the city which had varying levels of pollution.

These are a few ways that communities can form in a citizen science project.

##Share your thoughts!

- + Do you have any other examples of community or collaborative activities in citizen science?
- + What do you think helps to make a great community in citizen science?