



Greening above the city

with Adela Martínez
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Episode 4



Adela Martínez is the founder of 'Huertos in the Sky', a social impact initiative aimed at transforming Barcelona's rooftops into sustainable urban vegetable gardens.

It organises inspiring team-building experiences that focus on urban gardening, well-being, and sustainability, working closely with subject matter experts.

The initiative

"Huertos in the sky" is an initiative to convert unused **urban rooftops** in Barcelona into productive **green spaces**, primarily for **food production** and **community engagement**.

The project started when Adela noticed the underused rooftops of Barcelona (67% of rooftops in Barcelona are unused due to outdated regulations and lifestyle changes).

After securing funding and approval from supportive building owners, a prototype of a 47m² vegetable garden on a 250m² roof was successfully built.

Insights

- **Not just about food:** Urban gardens help people connect with nature and encourage sustainable habits.
- **Mindset shift:** Gardening creates awareness that spills into other areas – food, fashion and travel.
- **Scalability needs legal reform:** An association was created to lobby for changes in urban agriculture laws.
- **Replication:** Similar models are possible in other cities. Start small and explore existing community gardens and municipal programs.

Impact

- Over 300 kg/year of food is produced on one rooftop.
- Monthly gardening sessions, team-building events and workshops are being hosted.
- Social benefits include **community-building**, **mental health support**, and **ecological awareness**.

Recommended Resources

[Green Roofs Initiative-Barcelona Town Hall](#)
[Replantem- Urban Agriculture Initiatives Network in Barcelona](#)