

Open the Map, Hold the Earth

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Background: 'Our Village' Impacts the rest of Korea

In 2007, the Gyeonggi Province governmental Local Agenda 21 office became interested in responding to climate change and encouraging local community involvement in sustainability initiatives. At the same time, Green Mapmaking was becoming a popular campaign for participatory sustainable development worldwide. We decided to create the Gyeonggi-do Green Map, which became the first printed in Korea. With its Green Map Icons, this project impacted both local and global audiences.

In 2011, the Gyeonggi-do Green Map project became our major resource for officially reactivating community movements under the banner of Our Village Green Map - 'Uridongnae Greenmap'.

Uridongnae Greenmap is made up of three elements: education and workshops, support for printed Green Maps, and promotion of online mapping. Using this framework, we have been educating more Local Agenda 21 officers, NGO activists and citizens every year. Moreover, we have developed an intensive workshop format (aided by Green Mapmakers from nearby countries), which has helped us build up our East Asian network as well as support networks inside Korea.

Overall, Gyeonggi Province Local Agenda 21 cooperates with 31 municipalities and numerous NGOs in our province. We started supporting the funding and coordination of Green Map education,

consultation and strategies in 3 regional areas in 2011. This number grew to 10 regions by 2012. By 2014, 24 regions have promoted Green Map projects, many of which touch on local issues that broaden the boundaries of Green Map activities through schools, contests, artists and more.

While taking part in these projects, we discovered the power of Green Maps: the ability to change perception and encourage personal growth, all the while increasing the value of this adaptable educational process that contributes to a more sustainable society on so many levels.

In Gunpo, a group of school children doing Green Mapping in the field

High school students making Green Maps in Bucheon



Green Map International Workshop in Suwon, 2012



Impacts: Four Maps and Three Ways to Make an Impact

Green Mapmakers re-envision their communities and environment. Here are 3 examples of how different groups used Green Maps to better understand the past and build a more sustainable future.

“The Town We Want to Live In” in Hanam City

In Hanam, the Local Agenda 21 office completed a unique project called “Imagine Our Town” by encouraging all the residents to share disappearing and forgotten stories of Hanam. The Green Mapmakers learned artistic



drawing skills and then, one by one, drew distinctive, characteristic sites in their villages. These were used to let new neighbors know about the project. Legends (including the origins of the village names) and expressive, hand-painted scenes of the past and present made each edition even more interesting and readable. This creative Green Map ensures that the history of Hanam will not be forgotten.

“Our Livable Town” in Songjeong district, Gunpo City

Among the participants in our 2012 contest, the longest-running Green Map project held the highest number of research sessions, twenty one! Various local cultural and environmental groups were involved in 6 planning meetings, 3 working sessions, and 2 trainings, all set against the backdrop of the disappearing Songjeong district. In order to draw public attention and encourage participation, 24 local icon stickers were produced. Interviews by young mapmakers enrich the Green Map, which was included as part of an ongoing local monitoring project, bridging the past and present of Songjeong.



“Tracing Old Paths” in the Natural Village of Gwangmyung City

Over the past few years, ‘Uridongnae Green Map’ has collected the ‘living history’ of a disappearing eco-town based in Gwangmyung City. It aimed to encourage elementary school students and teenagers to develop local



interests and understanding by producing a map as a board game. The ‘Tracing Old Paths’ Green Map is used in elementary and middle school classes. Through playing it, students naturally learn about their community’s rich history.