

Levels of achievement

Although It's Your Neighbourhood is non-competitive, there are five levels of achievement to encourage and reward progression. The table below shows the different levels of achievement.

Level	Description
Level 1	Establishing
Level 2	Improving
Level 3	Advancing
Level 4	Thriving
Level 5	Outstanding

Assessors matrix

The matrix below is a rough guide to what an assessor might expect to see by way of achievement in each pillar for the given level. This is not comprehensive and is truly just a rough guide to give assessors an idea of how the achievement levels work in each pillar. It may be helpful to consider if, in relation to a pillar, the group seems to be just starting out or if it has achieved something truly outstanding, or is it making some improvements, developing on existing achievements or thriving in that area?

Level	Community Participation	Environmental Responsibility	Gardening Achievement
Establishing	Formed a group and started talking to/getting input from community	Is considering environmental implications of project and how they can benefit environment	Project is focused on gardening and has potential to be of a high standard
Improving	Community is informed about the group; volunteers are coming forward; approaches to appropriate parties for support are being planned	Environmental initiatives are being incorporated into planning of project (i.e. harvesting rain water, controlling litter and graffiti, minimising use of chemicals)	Group is showing due consideration for good horticultural practice; starting to do some gardening work (e.g. clearing the site(s) or areas, preparing the soil)
Advancing	Group has some support in place; community members are starting to experience the benefits of the project; group is continuing to evolve and develop a structure; new members/ volunteers are getting involved	Environmental initiatives are being implemented appropriately; group is starting to educate the community about them; improvements in environmental quality are noticeable	Gardening is in progress and, although the plants or projects may not be fully mature, there is clear evidence of good planning and horticultural practice as well as creativity
Thriving	Group and project are well known in the community; appropriate partnerships/support are in place; participation/volunteer	Initiatives are starting to benefit the environment (i.e. litter has been reduced or eliminated, wildlife is	The group is continuing to evolve the gardening in a manner appropriate to the site/area and

	numbers continue to grow; increased sense of community and civic pride are evident	being encouraged, green waste is being recycled); it is evident the community is well informed on these initiatives; very good environmental quality throughout the community activity and/or project site	which can be sustained over time; plants are well chosen and well cared for; very good horticultural practices are evident
Outstanding	Group is established and has support in place to sustain the project(s) into the future; could serve as an example for other groups; community is engaging with the project(s) and reaping the rewards	Environmental initiatives are being continuously developed; environmental benefits are measurable; there is on-going education on environmental initiatives; excellent environmental quality throughout site and/or projects and starting to improve outside the core as well	High quality planning and design are obvious; very high standard of horticultural practice throughout; excellent standard of maintenance; gardening activities show originality and creativity