

Urban Agriculture – Securing Healthy Foods for the Next Generation

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Urban Agriculture

- **Urban Agriculture:**
 - Urban areas account for 3% of the land, but more importantly 83% of the population.
 - Northeast Ohio has a Strong Effective Grassroots Urban Agriculture Movement
 - Many residents in the Greater Cleveland/Akron Area Live in “Food Deserts”
 - The goal has been to address the critical needs and focus on decreasing Food Insecurities through local food production



Urban Agriculture Challenges

- **Urban Agriculture Challenges:**
 - Accessibility to Land
 - Accessibility to Water – Reuse of Rainwater, Fire Hydrants , Water Cisterns
 - Accessibility to Programs – Outreach, Education, Community Development
 - Accessibility to Fresh Foods
 - Degraded Soils



Urban Agriculture Resource Needs

Urban Agriculture Resource Needs:

Land, Water, Funding and Education:

- Youth Development Programs
- Availability of Technical and Financial Assistance Programs
- Ability to farm 365 days a year despite the weather
- Effective Outreach in Urban Communities
- Network System for Urban Farmers
- Programs for Engaging Seniors
- Programs for Energy Conservation and Self-Efficiency



The Refugee Response – Cleveland, Ohio

Cisterns and Rain Harvesters

All need:

1. Something to catch the rain
2. Something to store the water
3. Something to let the water out when needed



Vision for the Future

- Stronger Partnerships with the United States Department of Agriculture –
 - **“Reach for the Stars, but Cherish the Soil”**
 - Creating a Diverse Client Centered Structure
- Utilizing Urban Agriculture to Develop Vacant Lots through
 - Community Development
 - Increasing Local Food Production
 - Economic Development for Urban Agriculture Purposes
 - Environmental Rehabilitation in Urban Settings
 - Urban Soil Health Management – Soil Health
- Expanding on the Urban Agriculture Movement – Chickens, Bees, Agriculture Structures (High Tunnels), Energy Conservation and Self Sufficiency
- **Mission: To Feed the Greatest Nation in the World**



North Coast Urban Farm, Cleveland, OH



Ecovillage Produce LLC –
Cleveland, OH