New York Urban Agriculture Center

Peter Harrison  Utah State University

Urban agriculture is the practice of growing and cultivating food in densely populated areas for personal consumption by the grower, or for the distribution to the inhabitants located in a close proximity to where the food was grown.

Why Urban Agriculture?

Current agriculture practices and methods have lead to serious issues with the economic, social, political, and environmental state of our world. Made worse by the issue of climate change, it is necessary to transform how we produce and distribute food. Urban agriculture is a solution. Urban agriculture has many health, social, economic, and ecological benefits.

Health
- Access to healthy food
- Food-health literacy
- Physical activity

Social
- Food security
- Safe spaces
- Youth development
- Job growth
- Food affordability
- Job readiness

Economic
- Conservation
- Stewardship
- Diversification
- Biodiversity

Ecological
- Irrigation Cost
- Erosion
- Antibiotic Resistance
- Pesticide Toxicity
- Nutrient Depletion
- Deforestation
- Water Pollution
- Economic Pressures
- Water Depletion

Current Agriculture:
- Erosion
- Irrigation Cost
- Nutrient Depletion
- Water Pollution
- Deforestation
- Economic Pressures
- Pesticide Toxicity
- Antibiotic Resistance

The design for the New York Urban Agriculture Center is the first of its kind – a museum-like space that will host displays of different urban agricultural practices. Some of these practices include hydroponics, aquaponics, container gardens, rooftop farming, vertical gardens, community gardens, and aquaponics. Modelled after the approach of The Living Building Challenge, the design for the New York Urban Agriculture Center is a regenerative space that connects occupants to light, air, food, nature, and community. With a fully integrated sustainability system, the building gives more than it takes, creating a positive impact on the human and natural systems.

Everyone agrees that climate change has and will have a disastrous or at least dramatic effect on agriculture.

- Modern Farmer Magazine

Did you know that over 20% of the food in the world is produced in urban settings?