



Greater Englewood Urban
Agricultural Task Force
G.E.U.A

History

- 2009,2010 : Lead Institutions – Growing Home and Fresh Taste
- Members Included: Teamwork Englewood
Openlands
Neighborspace
Imagine Englewood If
Faith In Place
CLOCC
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Chicago Department of Housing ED
Alderman Foulkes, Lyle and Cochran
Chicago Community Loan Fund
Kennedy King College
Center for Urban Transformation

Why The G.E.U.A.

- Forum for community input, planning, and research around urban agriculture & food initiatives
- A place for collaboration between existing community groups, education, NGO's, private sector and government
- Policy change to ensure community benefit from new urban agriculture and food initiatives

What are the Goals¹

PRIORITY # 1 – Develop a Large Number of Farms

Revenue producing enterprises located on distributed plots land that include a diversity of practices and ownership types. Every farm MUST have a tangible benefit to the community.

- Vacant land & in-fill spaces of up to two acres in size
- Operated by non-profit, for-profit and as social ventures
- Hydroponic, aquaponic, rooftop and vertical farms housed in currently vacant buildings and in new structures
- To include greenhouses and other types suited for Chicago seasons.

What are the Goals²

PRIORITY # 2 – Farmer Training Programs

Created to support the development of revenue producing farms in Englewood by teaching farming as a career and way of life

- Fruit and vegetable production focused
- Open to people inside and outside of the community
- Training to include business and skill development
- Training based on Best Practices
- Partnership with local community colleges and universities
- Assists graduates in obtaining land and/or job placement
- Partnerships with local high schools

What are the Goals³

PRIORITY #3 – Develop More Food Related Enterprises

Develop food-based businesses that will contribute to the goal of making Englewood into a food destination.

- Located in focused and centralized business districts
- Connected to existing business districts
- Uses existing assets; e.g. Washburn Culinary
- Small stores vs. big box
- Community ownership
- Lots of entrepreneurs vs. just a few
- Restaurants, bakeries, garden stores, public markets



What's Next

WORK

The Potential

Jim Rogers – Investor and Co-Founder of the Quantum Fund

“Agriculture is going to be extremely profitable for the next 10, 20, 30 years. We may very well have gigantic food crises in the next few years, because we have shortages of everything including farmers. The average age of the farmers in state “X” is 58. In 10 years, they’re going to be 68 if they’re still there. This is happening all over the world. In Japan, there are vast fields that cannot be farmed. The Japanese government has just started to go, “What are we going to do?” They started to even bring in Chinese farmers as an experiment to farm the fields. So farmland worldwide is going to go up in price, certainly in America. And agriculture is going to be one of the most exciting professions in the next 10, 20 years. It’s going to be the farmers driving the Lamborghinis going forward, not the stock brokers. In fact, the stock brokers are going to be driving taxis. If I’m right, the smart ones will learn how to drive tractors so they can work for their farmers. They’re going to be driving their Lamborghinis to their lake houses, and then they’ll be going through the roof in price.”

The Working Groups

- Urban Ag District In Englewood
- Farmer Training
- Englewood Food Businesses and Incubation

Urban Ag District In Englewood

- Zoning and Ordinance Changes
- Leasing City Owned Land
- Land Acquisition
- Building, outdoor storage, landscaping, buffers, fences, etc.
- Community Ownership of farm businesses (Co-Ops)

Farmer Training

- Curriculum Standards
- Skills, Interest, and Knowledge Assessment among residents
- Development of business models for multiple types of farms
- Attracting Englewood Residents
- General Recruitment of Farmers

Englewood Food Businesses and Incubation

- Zoning
- Public/Private Investment Strategies
- Connections to local-regional food systems
- Programs to support/develop small business entrepreneurs
- Incorporating assets of faith-based organizations
- Engaging Englewood Residents

What Happened in 2011

1. Completed a USDA Community Food Project Grant that included over 5 partners working collaboratively.
2. Increased the number of Englewood residents participating in GEUA meetings and activities.
3. Partnered with Emma's Kitchen and Kusyana Café.
4. Increased awareness of urban agriculture opportunities in Englewood and the potential of a local food system.
5. Introduced National Food Day to the Englewood community in partnership with local institutions and non-profits.

What to do For 2012

- Partner with Washburne Culinary to promote their food business incubation program and commercial kitchen
- Discover and support residents that are developing their own food businesses
- Establish stronger relationships with GEGA and Neighbor Space to create community gardens driven by community groups and neighborhood schools
- Develop a community driven seed funding mechanism to help residents and/or community groups spark new food related or diverse urban agriculture projects
- Develop a business incubator based on urban agriculture and food processing
- Partner with the City of Chicago to cultivate sustainable land use strategies in Greater Englewood

Next Meeting

**Thursday, February
23rd 2:30pm -4:00pm**

KKC – U211