



OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

The Department of Energy and Environment is launching a new Office of Urban Agriculture. The vision for the Office is to increase food production in the District of Columbia and support a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient food system.

Urban farming has environmental, public health, and economic benefits. The Sustainable DC 2.0 plan released in 2019 includes several goals and actions related to urban agriculture, including:

- Putting 20 additional acres of land into cultivation for growing food by 2032
- Developing food-producing landscaping on 5 acres of District public spaces throughout all 8 Wards
- Developing and supporting school gardens and garden-based food system education to engage DCPS and charter school students

The Office of Urban Agriculture includes the Urban Farming Tax Abatement Program, which provides tax relief on private properties that are certified as urban farms. In collaboration with the Department of General Services, the Office also manages the Urban Farming Land Lease Program that makes publicly-owned lands available to be farmed for free.

Making fresh, nutritious, and affordable food available throughout the District is essential to improving the health and wellness of the residents of Washington, DC.

OBJECTIVES

- Create a model for urban farming that supports a sustainable, resilient and equitable food system in D.C.
- Increase urban agriculture production on public and private lands and improve access to fresh, healthy foods
- Foster, unify, and empower communities with urban farms that create local green jobs and community-driven economic activity
- Improve public health and reduce health-related disparities in the city

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