

Mighty Greens

516 Kennedy Street, NW

Washington, DC 20011

Phone: (202) 882-2628

Website: <http://cityblossoms.org/youth-entrepreneurship-cooperative>



Member since 2023

Winner of the 2019 District Sustainability Award

Reported Environmental Activities

✓ **Environmental Policy/Sustainability Mission Statement**

Mighty Greens is a youth-led, garden-based, entrepreneurship business developed through City Blossoms' Youth Entrepreneurship Cooperative Program. Cooperative members, also known as Youth Staff, use high school gardens and greenhouses as spaces to learn how to care for edible and native plants while growing the business with support from the City Blossoms team.

✓ **Environmental Management System**

City Blossoms is a nonprofit organization that focuses on maintaining and keeping a healthy balance while undergoing environmental change. One of City Blossoms programs is the Youth Entrepreneurship Cooperative (YEC) which serves as a weekly after school program at two DC high schools; Eastern Senior High School and Cardozo Education Campus. Mighty Greens is the youth-led cooperative business that the students in this program created and run year-round.

The Mighty Greens business is the epitome of a sustainable business. To start, both Mighty Greens gardens and greenhouses contain places to recycle. For example, at Cardozo Education Campus, recycling is one of the most effective ways to reduce footprint and the youth-led business commits to that act with no hesitation. In addition to the designated bins and places for recycled products, there is also compost storages available to the community. At a green space like Eastern Senior High School's garden, there is a three bin compost bin in which produce can be preserved and re-used for soil and giving back to mother nature. It is a Mighty Greens team requirement that the youth staff are all trained on sustainable practices. Youth staff members have been shaped to maintain a holistic sustainability approach in life at work. A work place filled with green spaces creates a healthy environment for teams to not only improve work quality but also alertness. These intentional methods of continuously incorporating sustainability into its operation sets Mighty Greens apart from so many youth-led endeavors.

✓ **Environmental Team**

The Mighty Greens business is supported by the Youth Entrepreneurship Cooperative Manager, a City Blossoms full-time staff member. Mighty Greens is composed of youth staff attending

DCPS high schools, mainly Cardozo Education Campus, Eastern Senior High School, and Benjamin Banneker High School.

✓ **Annual Environmental Goals**

For the first time since 2019, Mighty Greens will plan and implement a full growing year (spring, summer, fall) in the school gardens at Eastern Senior High School and Cardozo Education Campus. In meeting this goal, Mighty Greens will partner with over 180 high school youth staff through after school and summer programming.

✓ **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

All product design, procurement, packaging, and sales are planned and implemented by Mighty Greens youth staff. The business makes every effort to source packaging and printing materials locally through a partnership with ACE Hardware. Packaging of value-added products such as herb salts and teas occur in the green houses at Eastern Senior High School and Cardozo Education Campus.

✓ **Commit to Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects**

Every year, Mighty Greens hosts community workdays with school and neighborhood community members at Eastern Senior High School and Cardozo Education Campus. In 2024, Mighty Greens plans to host at least six workdays throughout the spring, summer, and fall to support the maintenance of green spaces on these school campuses. Workdays engage an average of 30 community members per event.

✓ **Equity Considerations in all Activities**

The overwhelming majority of Mighty Greens youth staff attend Cardozo Education Campus, Eastern Senior High School, and Banneker High School. Each of these schools has a student body of majority students of color and are Title I schools.

✓ **Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

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✓ **Composting**

In addition to the designated bins and places for recycled products, there is also compost storages available to the community. At a green space like Eastern Senior High School's garden, there is a three bin compost bin in which produce can be preserved and re-used for soil and giving back to mother nature. It is a Mighty Greens team requirement that the youth staff

are all trained on sustainable practices. Youth staff members have been shaped to maintain a holistic sustainability approach in life at work. A work place filled with green spaces creates a healthy environment for teams to not only improve work quality but also alertness. These intentional methods of continuously incorporating sustainability into its operation set Mighty Greens apart from so many youth-led endeavors.

✓ **Awards/Certificates**

Cardozo Education Campus won the Green Ribbon Sustainable School Award in 2023 from the US Dept of Education. A major feature of Cardozo's application for consideration of this award was the Mighty Greens' operations on its campus and with its student body.