

Green Cities Food Working Group

It is the Local Food Working Group's mission to promote access to and expansion of locally grown food through education and collaboration.

March 24, 2009

Members Present: Renee Hartsliel, Scott Harvey, Gary Ramp, Michele Mukatis, Deb Carr, Ann Grant, Beth Gentry, Jerald Bridgman, Ingrid Janse, Paula Reinbold, Judith Rice-Jones

Items in red are action items to which someone has attached their name and agreed to move forward.

Local groups represented: Master Gardeners, Slow Food, Peak to Plains Alliance, *Edible* Front Range, Colorado College and many more.

June 7, 12:30-5:30: *Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream* symposium at the Gill Foundation for Green Cities Coalition. Google Awakening the Dream for information.

Michele: Send out the information about the WIC program and agriculture.

Mission: It is the Local Food Working Group's mission to promote access to and through education and collaboration.

Through: permaculture, year 'round gardening, co-ops, CSAs, urban gardens, community gardens, food policies, heirloom seeds, terminator seeds, etc.

Short-term Priorities:

- Ingrid is going to put together a web page for our group and will check out **Peak to Plains** website, Judith's list and **Edible Front Range** to come up with the folks who are already doing it; Michele, Deb and other gardeners can provide educational copy.
- Event: Bulk seeds at Earth-Day to give to each person as a fundraiser – Scott and Deb will investigate seeds and envelopes to make this happen. Ann Grant may be able to get seeds from her Farm.
We need to have a donation jar for Green Cities available to go along with this.
- Helping back yard gardeners and empty lots to become edible gardens – Pikes Peak Urban Gardens, Cultivate Health, Pikes Peak Permaculture, etc.
- Transitioning front yard lawns to edible gardens – Food, Not Lawns
- Transitioning other parks and schools to having some edibles.
- Rain harvesting – supporting the bills that are in our congress right now.
- We can use the educational facility at Conservation Hardware to educate people.

Long-term goals

- Food justice and community food sovereignty – everyone should have access to real food. Beth will research food policy councils and what has/has not worked in other cities.
- More greenhouses – city's greenhouses? Renee will find out about these.
- Get the City involved (City Green Team? Sustainability Coordinator) and create a food policy council. **Nick Kittle:** Invite the Sustainability Coordinator to our next meeting.
- GMO/terminator vs. heirloom seeds
- Community composting system – can we get from the restaurants in town; Happy Worm Herder in Pueblo got land to do composting from restaurants.
- Setting up infrastructure to make these things happen.
- Large public space dedicated to teaching people how to grow food – Harlan Wolfe, Venetucci
- Green infrastructure in communities – low-impact development, native perennial food plants
- A way to warehouse food when harvest is over so that the CSAs can go longer – The Warehouse Restaurant
- Teaching people about a pantry and having food in the house in case of emergency.

Put Larry Stebbins on the email list. Deb is doing a talk on Sustainable Landscaping next month for the Horticultural Arts Society.

Dianne Bertini might be able to put our events on the Green Cities Calendar. Northern Colorado Food Incubator – nocofoodincubator.com