Climate Smart Communities Webinar

Telephone call-in number

• 1-866-394-2346
• Code: 1982360347#
• No audio signal will be transmitted over the Internet
Welcome

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Webinar

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Climate Smart Communities
Webinar

Website Address

http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/50845.html
Climate Smart Community Webinars

- May 8, 10:30 a.m. *Sustainable Municipal Fleet Management*
- June 12, 10:30 a.m. *Energy Management Resources for Municipalities*

Coming Events

- April 17. *Rochester Sierra Club Earth Day Forum. Climate Smart Communities: Let’s get with the program.*
  http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester
- April 30. *US EPA Climate Showcase Communities Replication Workshop.*
  Register by April 15: https://cscreplication.eventbrite.com
  http://www.antiochne.edu/innovation/climate-change-preparedness/local-solutions-conference
This report was researched and written by Jennifer Schwartz Berky, principal of Hone Strategic, LLC, an urban planning, historic preservation, and development advising firm located in Kingston New York with legal research support from Jeffrey LeJava, Managing Director of Land Use Law Center for Sustainable Development at Pace Law School.

The Kingston Urban Agriculture Zoning Project is a program of the Kingston Urban Agriculture Committee in partnership with Family of Woodstock and Larrecca Music, Inc. It was made possible by generous public support, including a donation from Kevin McEvoy and Barbara Epstein.
What is Urban Agriculture?

Simply defined as the growing of food within cities, urban agriculture may also be understood as a form of “systems change”: a movement of social empowerment that can reduce poverty and food insecurity, support public health, local economic development and community revitalization, reclaim vacant and under-utilized urban spaces, and address the imbalances of the food system.
Why Now?

We have the chance to support the update to Kingston’s Comprehensive Plan, which is currently underway, and recommend changes to the zoning ordinance and related city ordinances that would remove the current barriers to urban agriculture.
Phase 1 Report Contents

Phase 2 Study and Report: Positive Policies for Local Food Systems Change

Phase 1 Appendices
In 1819, Kingston was mainly an agricultural center and “market town”
After 2 centuries of industrialization followed by globalization (like many cities)...

Kingston is dealing with a shrinking economic base.
A Crisis of Health and Place

- more than 1 in 5 children lack “adequate food to meet basic nutritional needs”
- 17.4 percent “low-income” and “low-access”
- 1/5 in poverty
- 44 percent overweight or obese
A Crisis of Health and Place

The Situation

An Analysis of Food Deserts in Kingston, NY

Legend
- Kingston Farmers Market
- Stores That Sell Some Produce
- All Stores Surveyed
- 1/4 Mile Buffer Around Stores
- Food Deserts in Kingston
- City of Kingston

In this map, food deserts are defined as the locations further than 1/4 of a mile from a store that sells fresh produce and are a census block group where 15% of the population is living below the poverty level.
Urban Agriculture Trends

Between 1994 and 2011 the number of farmers' markets in the U.S. grew by over 300%.

15% of the world’s food is now grown in urban areas according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Benefits of Urban Agriculture

- Health
- Economic
- Environmental
- Social
Benefits of Urban Agriculture

- Farmer's Markets
- Youth Empowerment
- Job Creation
- Health
- Habitat
- Education
- Job Training
- Stormwater Capture
- Community
- Clean Environment
Environmental, social, and economic resilience are interdependent!
Kingston’s New Urban Ag Movement

- Eight school gardens
- 15 shared or community ag spaces
- 2 urban “farms”
An Opportune Moment

1950s: Growth
Arrival of IBM and I-87

1994 - present: closure of IBM Kingston and economic decline
An Opportune Moment

2000 – present: increasing awareness of local, healthy food and social empowerment

2000: Kingston Farmers’ Market

2007: Queen’s Galley
An Opportune Moment

Numerous new and ongoing community initiatives supporting health and local food production.

Many agents of change are helping to transform the city.