

Hello everyone,

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of citizens.

I am writing to express my deep concerns around the proposed bylaw changes to "Clearing of the Land". I do not believe compost, which is a resource should be included with refuse and graffiti? They are not the same.

Compost as a resource is a soil builder and is required to grow healthy gardens and lawns.

By making these changes you discourage innovative and creative ways to compost, and discourage neighbours from engaging with each other to learn, teach, and problem solve.

Many experts believe 'The 1.0m square size is too small. for a double or triple compost units where turning is done - and those aren't ever enclosed on all sides - if anything they are kept open on the front side for easy access- enclosed on all sides is .... unnecessary, detrimental to development of compost- a large garden can easily absorb 60 - 100 bags of collected leaves each year ... why should there be a requirement they be stored in an enclosed space?

I would encourage you **not to make any by-laws around composting at this stage**. As this comes with a costs i.e. by-law enforcement (incoming calls, site visit, sending out by-laws, ensuring by-law is followed **vs. directing energy and resources towards best practices**).

There is a growing movement towards **urban agriculture**, which has many positive spin off benefits i.e. **employment opportunity, increased access to healthy foods, strengthening neighbourhoods and more**. Urban agriculture requires compost.

Encouraging the growing of food also ties into the recently approved **London Food Charter**.

Here is but a sampling of the movement towards 'Urban Agriculture'. I would be happy to send further examples.

### **Urban Agriculture Rezoning in Boston**

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the City of Boston want to establish an environment in which all of our citizens-particularly the most underserved-have direct access to locally produced fresh food, the ability to produce food for themselves, and access to education and knowledge about healthy eating.

Objectives for the Mayor's Urban Agriculture Initiative include:

1. Increase access to affordable and healthy food, particularly for underserved communities.

#### **CBS News: Urban farming on the rise nationwide**

In decades past, Americans relied on rural farms to meet the food supply needs of the rest of the nation. But the capability to grow fresh fruits and vegetables, even of the super-trendy organic variety, is coming to the city. If you don't believe me, **the U.S. Department of Agriculture says "around 15 percent of the world's food is now grown in urban areas."**

Picking up on this movement, the folks at Zillow recently mined their real estate listings to locate city homes for sale that may feel more like Green Acres.

### **Meet your Urban Farmer in Metro Vancouver - 18 interview videos to come**

This short film series, Meet your Urban Farmer, will **introduce urban farmers in the Metro Vancouver area**. If you've never had the opportunity to meet the wonderful array of passionate individuals behind the urban farming movement, and the wonderful food they grow for the community, this will be an opportunity you won't want to miss.

### **Detroit, 96-year-old philosopher Grace Lee Boggs, Feed 'Em Freedom Growers, Urban farming**

"Detroit, because we have this position in the history of the country and the world, is creating that alternative - not in words but in action," she says. "There's a group on the east side called Feed 'Em Freedom Growers; if you don't have food you can't be free. Detroit has over 1,000 community gardens. Urban agriculture started very simply with some African-American women seeing some vacant lots.

### **A case study based exploration of Seattle Urban Agriculture Projects**

Currently there are **103 urban food production sites in Seattle.**<sup>1</sup> These include urban farms, P-

**Patches, community gardens, and school gardens.** From the 103 sites, however, only 10 are functioning as Urban Farms. While P-Patches, community gardens, and school gardens are an important component of Seattle's food system, urban farms have the potential to make a large impact on the local food supply system. Within this report we focus on existing urban farming case studies to better understand how these farms function.

### **California Farm Academy Aims to Produce Next Generation of Farm Entrepreneurs**

The 22-week program, priced at \$1,950, is designed for those with busy schedules, with courses offered in the evening and on weekends for a total of seven to 10 hours of class and training time per week. The cost includes printed materials, machinery, tools and supplies.

### **New York City 100 years ago: "Where City Lots Raise Richer Crops Than Taxes"**

"When a farmer within the city limits is making **\$30,000 yearly out of potatoes alone**, it is time to think of vacant lots in connection with the cost of living"

In Queens there are acres and acres of vacant land, but Queens to all intents and purposes is still a rural district. Brooklyn, therefore, is the only part of the metropolitan section of New York City that contains farmlands and truck gardens.

### **USDA blog: Gooding Community Garden Produces Food, Knowledge, Service and Fun**

Many partners pitched in to help create the Gooding Community Garden. The city provided water. Glanbia, a local cheese manufacturer, provided funds. Boy Scouts built wheelchair-accessible raised beds, and local farmers plowed the fields and helped install irrigation. The University of Idaho donated a shed.

In one year of operation the garden provided **6,000 pounds of food to homebound seniors, local soup kitchens and food pantries. In addition, 17 families enjoyed free garden plots to feed their families.**

### **Composting at home in India - "The Daily Dump"**

In just five years the Daily Dump team has helped over 4,500 customers in Bengaluru to compost household waste in terracotta pots, and these customers keep around 5,522kg of organic waste out of landfills every day. What is remarkable about Poonam Bir Kasturi's waste management process is its simplicity, and the cleverly designed terracotta pots add a touch of earthiness to it.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Best wishes,

Teresa