

# Climate Benefits of Urban Agriculture

## Urban agriculture as Climate Mitigation

- Decreases food transport emissions
- Decreases embedded food emissions
- Increases soil carbon
- Increases carbon sequestration by woody plants such as fruit and nut trees
- Encourages plant-based lifestyles
- Encourages ecological thinking by considering food systems as part of the circular economy



## Urban agriculture as Climate Adaptation

- Increases social cohesion
- Increases equity through food access and green spaces
- Increases food security for all
- Protects against flooding and cools the physical environment
- Conserves and restores nature's biodiversity and the capacity to deal with change

# Getting Started in Urban Agriculture

## 1. Educate yourself by reading these reports

- Urban Agriculture as Climate Action
- Urban Agriculture Strategy
- Guide to Urban Agriculture
- Climate Emergency Action Plan

## 2. Join a local organization



## 3. Start your own project

- Find your people
- Brainstorm the right idea
- Engage with stakeholders
- Identify resources
- Get, set, go!
- Learn, modify, adapt, persevere

## 4. Support local food system

- Buy locally grown food from urban farms and farmers' markets
- Encourage local restaurants and businesses to source their ingredients locally
- Advocate for urban agriculture friendly policies

# Urban Agriculture as Climate Action:



how growing food in London can help address the climate emergency



# What is Urban Agriculture?

Urban agriculture is about growing food in cities, in both indoor and outdoor environments.

It is being practiced by over 1 billion people worldwide who not only supplement their regular diet with the food they grow,



but also improve the food security of many others, create jobs, and rebuild connections with people and nature.



# Agro-ecological Practices

## Crops

- You can grow a variety of produce like tomatoes, peppers, beans, cucumbers, zucchini, and leafy greens. You can also consider planting herbs such as basil, oregano, thyme and mint.

## Soil

- Test your soil to determine its pH level and nutrient content. Southwestern Ontario soil is generally alkaline, so you may need to add some organic matter, such as compost to improve the soil quality.

## Biodiversity

- Urban gardens incorporate flowers and other native plants to improve pollinator and ecosystem health, increase biodiversity, and decrease flooding risk.

## Food Market

- You can sell the excess food you grow from the end of a driveway market stand 20 times a year.

Urban Roots London market stand



# Edible Neighbourhood



Boulevard veggie patch



Community food hub



Community pollinator garden



Community allotment garden



Community food forest