Agriculture is an important strategy for mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis, disproportionally affecting New Orleans. It encourages community wellness, biodiversity, soil health, and air quality. For these reasons, **it is so important that the city of New Orleans begins to see agriculture and gardening as not an isolated activity but as a potential axis for creating a better city.**

We propose a policy platform that changes growing food in our city from 'allowed' to encouraged.

A GREENER NEW ORLEANS

Climate Change

- Urban areas tend to be 1-7 degrees hotter than surrounding areas and research shows this effect is lessened by vegetation
- **A 10% increase in the amount of green space in cities can help to reduce surface temperatures in urban environments by up to 39 degrees.**
- Heat-related illnesses and deaths are expected to increase as a result of global heating, which will be particularly acute in urban spaces.

Air Quality

- Annually, approximately 711,000 metric tons of **air pollution is removed by urban trees** in the United States.
- Green roofs can be used to supplement the use of urban trees in air pollution control, especially in situations where land and public funds are not readily available.
- Air quality can even be expressed in monetary terms! Pollution removal by urban trees across 55 U.S. cities is worth $3.8 billion in public value.

Green Infrastructure

- Urban green spaces contribute to a sense of place, improving community satisfaction, and acting as a facilitator in decreasing crime and violence when combined with economic and health justice.
- Urban green spaces can be a tool in working towards a more equitable community when public, community centered and accessible to low-income residents.

Waste Management

- According to the EPA, **introducing composting reduces home garbage by .42 pounds per person per day.**
- Farmers and gardeners combined with landscaping and other uses, could absorb as much as 20% of the available food waste.
- Increased organic matter in soil, created by waste streams being directed into composting and away from landfills increases a soil's ability to store water available for plant use.

Stormwater Management

- The clearing and planting of vegetated lots to retain stormwater can **decrease runoff by an average of 30%,** as exhibited in Philadelphia
- Research shows that biofilters can effectively be planted with vegetable crops to treat urban stormwater. While heavy metals can accumulate in vegetable crops, there are safe and strategic ways to grow fruiting plants in less clean soils.

To see our platform for change, sign on and get involved visit:

https://bit.ly/greenernola

GNOGA

New Orleans Food Policy Action Council
NOLA FPAC