

Support for community & backyard gardening should be part of a climate action plan!

The Bethlehem Gadfly community gardens June 11, 2020

Peter Crownfield is officially retired but spends most of his time working with students in his role as internship coordinator for the Alliance for Sustainable Communities–Lehigh Valley.

Gadfly:

Connor makes some very important points [here](#), and I'd like to highlight a few:

- Growing your own food lets you enjoy fresher, healthier food than is available in stores.
- You can grow herbs and specialty foods that are hard to find in stores
- Growing without synthetic chemicals helps make sure the food is healthy & free of poisons — and also takes carbon dioxide from the air and sequesters it in the soil.
- Local growing produces far lower greenhouse gas emissions [GHG] because it is less mechanized and avoids much of the processing and transportation
- Composting food waste is a great way to return nutrients to the soil while reducing GHG from disposing in the landfill (and Bethlehem could expand its compost facility to compost food waste without having to pay high fees to a commercial composter
- Community gardening and sharing food from backyard gardens strengthens community
- Community meals offer another great opportunity for building community

Yes, support for community & backyard gardening should be of a climate action plan!

Peter

The Gadfly thread on community gardening has gotten lost in the issues surrounding the killing of George Floyd, and I am glad to get it back on track.

