



Applications are now being accepted for

## FOOD SOVEREIGNTY 2018: GROWING URBAN FARMS AND FARMERS PROGRAM

While there is no simple step-by-step method to become a farmer, ECO City Farm's Growing Urban Farms and Farmers program is designed to help an aspiring, new, or beginning farmer learn the information and practice the skills they need to farm -- from the ground up.

The training program builds upon all of ECO's offerings over the past seven years: from on-farm internships and apprenticeships, continuing-education courses, gardening and master composting training, to community nutrition education, cooking and herbalism workshops, and intensive summer youth education programs. It includes comprehensive practical hands-on experiences, one-on-one mentoring, and a well-tested graphics-rich, culturally-appropriate curriculum that includes all of the crop production, resource management, business and administrative skills needed for graduates to roll up their sleeves and farm on their own land.

In partnership with Prince George's Community College's (PGCC) Center for Entrepreneurial Development, the program begins with 27-hours of classroom learning, and provides graduates with a Certificate of Urban Commercial Agriculture and continuing education credits upon completion of the program.

The Growing Urban Farms and Farmers program will be offered at both of ECO's farms in Edmonston and Bladensburg, at our offices in Riverdale, and at the Prince George's Plaza campus of PGCC. After the first year of training, a number of successful participants will be offered an addition year of guided learning with opportunities to direct market their produce.

The 2018 program will begin on January 10, 2018, and will be held every Wednesday evening from 6pm-9pm throughout the year. In addition, trainees will be required to spend another 6-8 hours on-farm weekly. The PGCC AGR-302: Intensive Introduction to Urban Commercial Agriculture starts on January 24 and continues through March 21, 2018. Full participation in all components of the program is required of all trainees.

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For more information, please contact:

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To apply for the FOOD SOVEREIGNTY 2017: GROWING URBAN FARMS AND FARMERS PROGRAM, click [here](#)

Deadline November 20, 2017





# Growing Urban Farms & Farmers Program FAQ

## Who

- Individuals with some farming experience who are serious about farming and/or starting their own farm. Twelve participants will be selected. Applications are due by November 20, 2017. A fully completed application –with two references– is required. All candidates will be interviewed in person.



## What



- Food Sovereignty: Growing Urban Farmers and Farms is a comprehensive (9 hours minimum per week) training program for seriously committed aspiring, new and beginning urban farmers who want to learn about every aspect of the joy and business of growing healthy ecologically sound food.
- This is a yearlong classroom training and apprenticeship with potential cooperative farmland with an additional year of guided learning opportunities

## When

- This program is a yearlong commitment. Participants meet in-class and on-farm every Wednesday evening from 6pm - 9pm and Saturday's for 6-8 hours, with additional times as prearranged and/or desired.
- First day of the full program is Wednesday, January 10th, 2018. In-class learning in conjunction with Prince George's Community College begins Wednesday, January 24th through Wednesday March 21st, 2018.
- Successful completion of this segment of the program earns participants a Certificate in Urban Farming.



## Where



- Wednesday classroom work from 1/24-3/21 at Prince George's County Community College, University Town Center campus
- Most of the coursework will be offered at ECO's farms in Edmonston and Bladensburg, and at our offices in Riverdale, with occasional visits and hands-on work at other local farms.

## Why

- Thanks to the USDA Beginning Farmers and Rancher (BFRDP), ECO has been funded to develop and run two yearlong cycles of this program to proliferate urban farming here and elsewhere. Please join us in this collaborative adventure.

## How

Click [here](#) for the application.