



Green St. Louis Machine: Growing Sustainable Futures

Presentation

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Welcome!





WHAT is the Green St. Louis Machine?

- Inspired by Stephen Ritz and the Green Bronx Machine ([Stephen Ritz](#))
- Established in 2015 to address food insecurity in St. Louis
- Partnership between community agencies and schools
- preK-12 programming in 8+ schools and 5+ community organizations
- Utilizes aeroponic Tower Garden growing systems



STEAM Education Through Urban Agriculture

- STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics
- Students engage with Tower Gardens technology
- Monthly newsletter

Hands-on learning experiences:

- Plant growth and development
- Nutrient cycling
- Sustainable agriculture techniques
- Cross-curricular integration of science and nutrition education

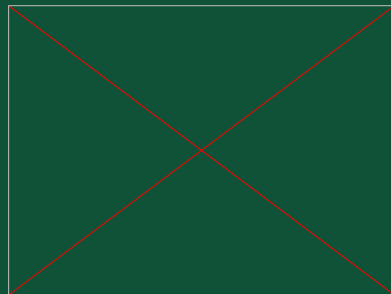


The Challenge: Food Apartheid in St. Louis

- Definition: systemic disparities in access to healthy food ([nutrition studies](#))
- High rates of food insecurity in St. Louis disproportionately affect Black/Hispanic communities, single parent households, and low-income communities ([center for urban and racial equity](#))

Associated issues:

- Childhood obesity ([U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#))
- Diabetes ([CDC](#))
- Heart disease ([American Heart Association](#))
- Preventable cancers ([MOST policy initiative](#))
- Mental health ([National library of medicine](#))
- Academic performance ([children's health watch](#))
- Challenges to community cohesiveness ([Maternal child health](#))



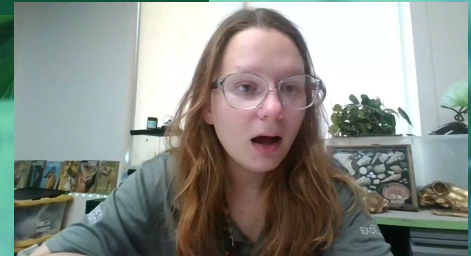
Social Justice and Food Equity

- Educating students about food apartheid and its impacts
- Empowering youth to advocate for better food options
- Developing agency and community cohesion towards food sovereignty
- Addressing historical divides through shared experiences
- Creating a more equitable food system in St. Louis by connecting communities in need with food justice organizations and local farmers



Sustainability

- Partnership with Green schools initiative
- Educating students about sustainability issues in agriculture
- Empowering youth to advocate for better environmental policies
- Developing 'greener' schools
- Addressing historical divides through shared experiences
- Creating a more equitable food system in St. Louis
- Developing systems for managing school food waste etc.



Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement

- Students create value-added products (e.g., bath bombs)
- Learn basic business skills
- Product development
- Marketing
- Financial literacy
- Organize community events (e.g., Annual Green Gala)
- Develop leadership and communication skills



Promoting Nutrition and Healthy Eating

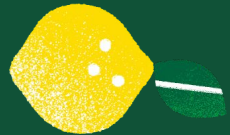
- Students grow their own fresh produce
- Learn about nutritional value of different foods
- Develop skills in food preparation
- Encourage healthy eating habits
- Share knowledge with families and community





Impact and Outcomes

- Increased access to fresh, healthy food in participating schools
- Improved nutrition knowledge among students
- Enhanced STEAM skills and academic performance
- Stronger community connections
- Development of young leaders and entrepreneurs



Future Goals and Expansion

- Develop partnerships with local businesses and universities
- Increase number of participating schools and organizations
- Expand curriculum to include more advanced STEAM concepts
- Increase funding
- Create a network of student-led community gardens
- Advocate for policy changes to support urban agriculture
- Expand farm-to-table initiative
- Begin field trips to the Urban Agricultural Learning Center Greenhouse



GREEN ST. LOUIS MACHINE



**Cultivating
environmental
leaders of
tomorrow!**

Contact Sherry Amen to learn more!
Email: Sherry@greenstlmachine.org



Get Involved!

Ways to support Green St. Louis Machine:

- Volunteer!
- Donate resources or funds:
https://linktr.ee/greenstl_machine
- Attend the Annual Green Gala at Mathews Dickey

Contact us:

Sherry Amen at 314-757-6607 or
Sherry@GreenSTLMachine.org

Stella Erundu at 314-590-3247 or
Stella@GreenSTLMachine.org

Follow [greenstl_machine](#) on facebook and
instagram!!!

www.GreenSTLMachine.org



Students...

DO YOU NEED SERVICE HOURS?

Participating in community service hours with a Green St. Louis Machine can offer a range of benefits, both for the students and the community.

One being the Environmental Impact!



What else can I do



- Start your own school garden (Try hydroponics for year-round yields: even in the **Off Season!**)
- Order an aeroponic tower garden(s) from Green St. Louis Machine: ()
- Do a food waste reduction program at your school
- Start your own school composting system
- Grow/share produce with your community
- Build partnerships with local farms/food equity/sustainability orgs near you!
- Advocate for urban agriculture in your community
- Every plant helps!



Bath bombs!

A demo





Q and A

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!!!

