About SEED Wayne

SEED Wayne is dedicated to collaboratively building sustainable food systems on the campus of Wayne State University and in Detroit’s neighborhoods, through activities in teaching, research, community engagement, and campus operations.

SEED Wayne works in partnership with community-based organizations engaged in promoting food security and justice, sustainable agriculture, farm-to-institution, and related food planning and policy development.

SEED Wayne links to core university functions in teaching, research, engagement and operations.

Student leadership is central to SEED Wayne’s success.

SEED Wayne activities include herb and vegetable gardens on campus, the WSU Farmers Market, farm-to-cafeteria, cafeteria composting, Detroit FRESH: The Healthy Cornerstores Project, and engaging campus and community members in related educational research, educational, and outreach projects.

SEED Wayne is housed in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

www.clas.wayne.edu/seedwayne

Community Partners

SEED Wayne challenges students and others to examine the broader implications of their food choices.

It calls for a critical assessment of the problems posed by the industrial food system to the health of local communities, economies, environments, and cultures, even as it makes cheap food abundant today.

SEED Wayne asks: What are more sustainable alternatives? What solutions integrate the health of individuals, communities, and environments? How do we achieve these solutions?

Sustainability, for us, integrates the 4 Es: Economic Viability, Environmental Responsibility, Social Equity, and Community Engagement.

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Activities

**On Campus**

- Vegetable Gardens—WSU Students and employees grow herbs and vegetables on campus grounds and rooftops, with harvests destined for food assistance sites and growers’ plates.

- Farmers Market—Local farmers and gardeners sell produce, herbs, flowers, honey, and other fresh and prepared foods in a weekly campus farmers market.

- Farm to Cafeteria—On- and off-campus food vendors learn about the benefits of sourcing foods from local growers, and are assisted with developing related logistics.

- Food Waste Composting—Food wastes in WSU cafeterias and residence halls are composted using a variety of methods.

- University Lectures and Workshops—Local and national experts speak on sustainable food system topics, and students offer workshops to their peers on sustainable food system practices.

- Annual Farm Tour—Campus and community members learn about regional agriculture and food systems through trips to farms in and around Detroit.

- SEEDLING—A quarterly newsletter updates campus and community friends on SEED Wayne activities and events.

**In the Community**

SEED Wayne also partners with community-based organizations to increase access to fresh and healthy foods in neighborhoods and support agricultural training and related entrepreneurship among youth and adults.

Activities include:

- Detroit FRESH—neighborhood cornerstores are helped to sell fresh fruits and vegetables through in-store technical assistance, linkages to produce distributors, and community outreach.

- A 4,000 square foot passive solar greenhouse supports food production over an extended season at Earthworks Urban Farm and supports agricultural training and enterprise development.

- Support for Earthworks Urban Farm’s activities, Growing Healthy Kids and Youth Farm Stand Project.

- Engagement in the Detroit Food Policy Council and other community collaboratives to foster food security, justice, and sustainability, and develop related research, planning tools, policies, and programs.

**How You Can Contribute!**

**Students** may implement service learning research or creative projects on campus or in the community related to SEED Wayne’s goals.

**Faculty** members may develop classroom activities or service learning or research projects related to sustainable food systems.

**Campus Administrators** may help connect, or connect more systematically, SEED Wayne’s goals—teaching, research, community engagement, and operations on sustainable food systems—to their unit’s activities.

**WSU campus community members** may also volunteer in SEED Wayne activities, offer workshops on topics on which they are experts, donate money or supplies useful to SEED Wayne, and participate in the WSU Farmers Market, campus gardens, university lectures, and other activities.

**CALLING WSU STUDENTS!**

Students who volunteer with SEED Wayne gain opportunities to learn about food justice issues and enhance their leadership skills, social networks, and employment prospects. If you would like to participate in SEED Wayne’s activities, please e-mail k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu.