

Humboldt State - Bayside Community Garden

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Abstract: This project would seek to reduce the campus' footprint on food transportation and make use of the local gardening scene and would foster the connection with the community through partnership with Bayside Park Farm and Community Garden in renting garden plots that can provide food for campus Dining operation.

1. Project Description

This project proposes a partnership between Humboldt State University's Dining Service with Bayside Community Garden (BCG). The BCG is located on 930 Old Arcata Road, approximately 2 miles from Humboldt State University. The Annual Fee to rent a Garden plot that is about 4 feet by 25 feet is \$75 for residents and \$86 for non-residents (City of Arcata, n.d).

There has been little research on campus food gardens since the "greening initiative" of higher education is relatively new. However, there are many universities that have campus garden programs that provide food for Campus Dining Halls, on-campus farm stands, food banks, volunteers, and community members, etc. (Duram & Klein, 2015). This project does not necessarily address a need for gardens on campus, but looks into using the local resource - BCG - that can still have an impact on HSU's campus sustainability goal. HSU's garden can be maintained through Dining's student staff during the school year and possibly during the summer to provide food for conferences that happen on campus during that time - a model that has been used in some other Universities.

2. Need Statement

This project has the potential to meet the following goals:

- *HEIF will achieve its mission through projects that are developed by students and, to the extent possible, implement, monitor, and maintain with strong student involvement.*

This project will be developed entirely by students in development teams and if there is favorable outcome, more students can be involved during CG operation and maintenance, and volunteer opportunity.

- *HEIF will require accountability by measuring and reporting quantitative and qualitative results, as well as levels of involvement by students and other participants, in all its projects.*

The results of this project will be both qualitative and quantitative. The logistical and economic feasibility of this project will be studied. Analysis and comparisons can be made on the magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions reduction from food transportation, the budget allocated to rent the plots and hire student staff annually, and the jurisdiction and laws that can be involved during this process.

- *HEIF will strive to make its projects derive from and be connected to the curriculum of the university.*

This sustainable model can be used as examples in teaching for the Environmental Studies program. This is an experiential education opportunity that can be incorporated in classes that foster students to become socially and environmentally responsible leaders. This is an opportunity that not many universities have the chance to access due to limitation in local farming resources.

- *HEIF will support dissemination of information about its projects through public outreach and educational activities.*

This project will not only be a part of educational opportunities for HSU students but also an opportunity for HEIF. This is an organizational opportunity that takes steps in addressing carbon footprint for food - a topic that has had a lot of students' attention in recent years. The progress and accomplishment of this project will be publicized with public and any associated programs through various media sources such as HEIF's website, community announcement, North Coast journal, etc...

3. Outcome

Benefits of this project, as included above, are in alignment with HEIF's goals and missions, advancement of Humboldt State's goal of sustainability as shown in Climate Action Plan and CSU Sustainability policy to increase sustainable food purchases to 20 percent of total food budget by 2020 (HSU Office of Sustainability, 2016). Student learning outcomes include hands-on experience in researching, analyzing, and presenting the feasibility of this project during development and implementation process. If HEIF decides to fund the project annually, a tangible and immediate impact of HEIF will be visible to the University, the students and the community.

4. Partners

There are several campus organizations, faculty and staff, and community organizations that have high potential to support this project such as HSU's Dining Service, Bayside Community Garden, Humboldt Permaculture Guild, and many local farmers.

References

- City of Arcata. (n.d). Bayside Park Farm and Community Garden. Retrieved from <https://www.cityofarcata.org/439/Bayside-Park-Farm-Community-Garden>
- Duram, Leslie A. and Klein, Sydney K. "University Food Gardens: A Unifying Place for Higher Education Sustainability." *International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development* 9, No. 3/4 (Jan 2015): 282-302. doi:DOI: 10.1504/IJISD.2015.071853.
- HSU Office of Sustainability. (2016). Climate Action Plan. Retrieved from <https://facilitymgmt.humboldt.edu/sites/default/files/facilitymgmt/sustainability/climateActionPlan.pdf>