



Eden Streets

Association of farmers
with **Social Missions**

Eden Streets Summer 2022 Newsletter



Farmer Karl

Eden Streets Newsletter - Summer 2022

Growing Possibilities

Dear Members of Eden Streets,

Thank you for cultivating people as you grow plants! At the height of summer in your busiest time, we humbly acknowledge you for continuing this work that impacts so many lives. Transitional employment and job training on the farm brings with it added layers of complexity, yet you continue to give of yourself and make re-connection possible. Here's a brief update on our news.

If you have any news to share, please reach out to me. Thanks for continuing to share our story and recruit members!

Gratefully,

Farmer Karl and the Eden Streets team

What you will find in this issue:

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Please welcome our New Members!

In the last quarter, our membership has grown from 36 to 45. Please extend a welcome to our newest members:

- Ryan Barrett
- Angie Bleck
- John Brubaker

- Claudia Hales
- Sara Marie Hamilton
- Anna Keogh
- Benjamin Kutcher
- Sandra Raymond
- Scott Richards
- Marley Weaver

For all members, if you are comfortable with sharing your information so others can reach you, please add your photos and farm information to your member profile. If you have questions about how to do that, please contact our Member Services Director, Nary Rennie at Nary@EdenStreets.org. We are shooting to add twenty more members this quarter so that by year end we can have 80 active members. At that point, we'll start planning for our own association elections. We see great value in conversations about what you find most valuable and sharing these in our member [forum](#) online so that any member can access threads interesting to them.

Feedback from our Members

Some of our members have really caught the significance of what we are doing. Claudia Hales, a Masters of Public Administration student at Brigham Young University, approached West Valley City as part of her community development internship. The city manager has given her the green light to work on developing a scope of work for what a farm with a social mission in West Valley City would look like. Others are smiling because of their new member gifts. Here are some quotes:

"I would like this program to be implemented in the West Valley City, Utah"

Claudia Hales

"Thank you so much for the gifts of the seeds and a rather sporty cap! Your work is still meaningful to me; let me know how I can help." **Russell Peacock**

Farm Visits on the East Coast

In April, Farmer Karl visited eight farms with social missions on the east coast:

MD: [TALMAR](#) (Baltimore),

NY: [The Battery](#) (New York City),

NJ: City Bloom-[Hawthorne Ave Farm](#) (Newark), Grow-it-Green (Morristown)

PA: [Ruth Bennett Community Farm](#) (Chester), Sankofa Farm (Philadelphia), [Homefields](#) (Millersville),

DE: Bright Spot Farms (New Castle).

Based on those visits, 14 more blogs have been posted. These include a combination of personal impact stories as well as how these farms operate.

We are also experiencing success with video conference interviews with farm directors: (Boston: The Food Project, [Revision Urban Farm](#), NY: NUFFI) as well as past executive directors of farms with social missions like the Greater Newark Conservancy. Our purpose continues to be to share this valuable information so that you will know how to start a farm with a social mission in your community and whom to contact for more information.

Please Welcome our New Leadership!



We are delighted to introduce to you Sara Marie Hamilton, our new Director of Cultivation! Originally from Berkeley, California, Sara Marie Hamilton has hands-on experience as an entrepreneur, farmer, food-system leader, and community organizer. She specializes in linking people with the resources needed to sustainably create abundance. Sara Marie sees farming as a powerful means toward social and environmental justice reform. With direct experience running a small family farm in Oregon, she employs regenerative, land-management practices to address community causes. As an instructor at Full Life Pilates and managing partner at the Slow Life Farm, she managed social media and customer relations. Sara Marie is certified in advanced permaculture, growing small farms, and sustainable agriculture. We also added two new board members who are farmers. We are looking to fill a seven-member board with 4 farmers and 3 exceptional business leaders. [Anne Dunaway](#) joins us a leader of local food systems and a cooperative approach to local farming. [Mark Kearney](#) join us as farm manager of the 3-acre Hawthorne Avenue Farm (City Bloom) managed by the Greater Conservancy of Newark. Please read Mark's inspiring story in our [blog](#).

"Grow Ogden" Farm

Since January, Eden Streets has endeavored to create a farm with a social mission in a community with which we have had no personal connections. Convinced of the opportunity that Ogden's demographics present in Utah, we proposed the farm "Grow Ogden" to community leaders in Ogden, Utah. The initial proposal was developed by a team of ten who submitted the proposal as part of the Permaculture Institute of North America project design contest. We were recognized as semifinalists. The document served to spawn discussions with nonprofits, particularly the Lantern House, the largest homeless shelter in northern Utah. The Lantern House board is excited about the possibility of having the farm on two acres of land just east of their property.

On June 28th, Ogden City Administration tentatively and informally gave preliminary approval to lease the land to the farm operating organization provided Eden Streets

find the appropriate local host organization. Our analysis shows a Social Return on Investment (SROI) at the end of the fifth year as 2.71 with a net present value of \$6.2M. What that means is for every dollar spent on the farm, \$2.71 is returned to the community or of social value including less pressure on police force as well as less trips to the emergency room. SROI measures change in ways relevant to the people or organizations that experience or contribute to it, assigning monetary values to represent social, environmental, and economic outcomes. As a result, this valuation produces a ratio of benefits to costs or investments (inputs). The return from a farm with a social mission comes in the form of stable income earned by those who graduate from the farm program. It also includes savings of the per-capital costs for government programs and case managers who support those experiencing homelessness.

Eden Streets is working with various nonprofits to find a host incubator organization for "Grow Ogden" farm nonprofit. Scopes of responsibility for each organization have been outlined. We have also been working with the Lantern House to draft a grant application to help fund the farm. With the experience we are getting, we will be able to share a case study on how a farm can be established in a city. Please look for blogs about "starting a new farm" which will outline our step-by-step story as it unfolds. For those who have first-hand experience in working with a city to start your farm, please share this information in our member [forum](#).

Headquarters Move to Ogden

Eden Streets moved in the beginning of July to Ogden, Utah to learn directly how to design, build, and startup a farm with a social mission. We are excited to become part of an "ecosystem" of nonprofits, university, and government organizations to establish the farm "Grow Ogden".

Sharing Eden Streets' Story

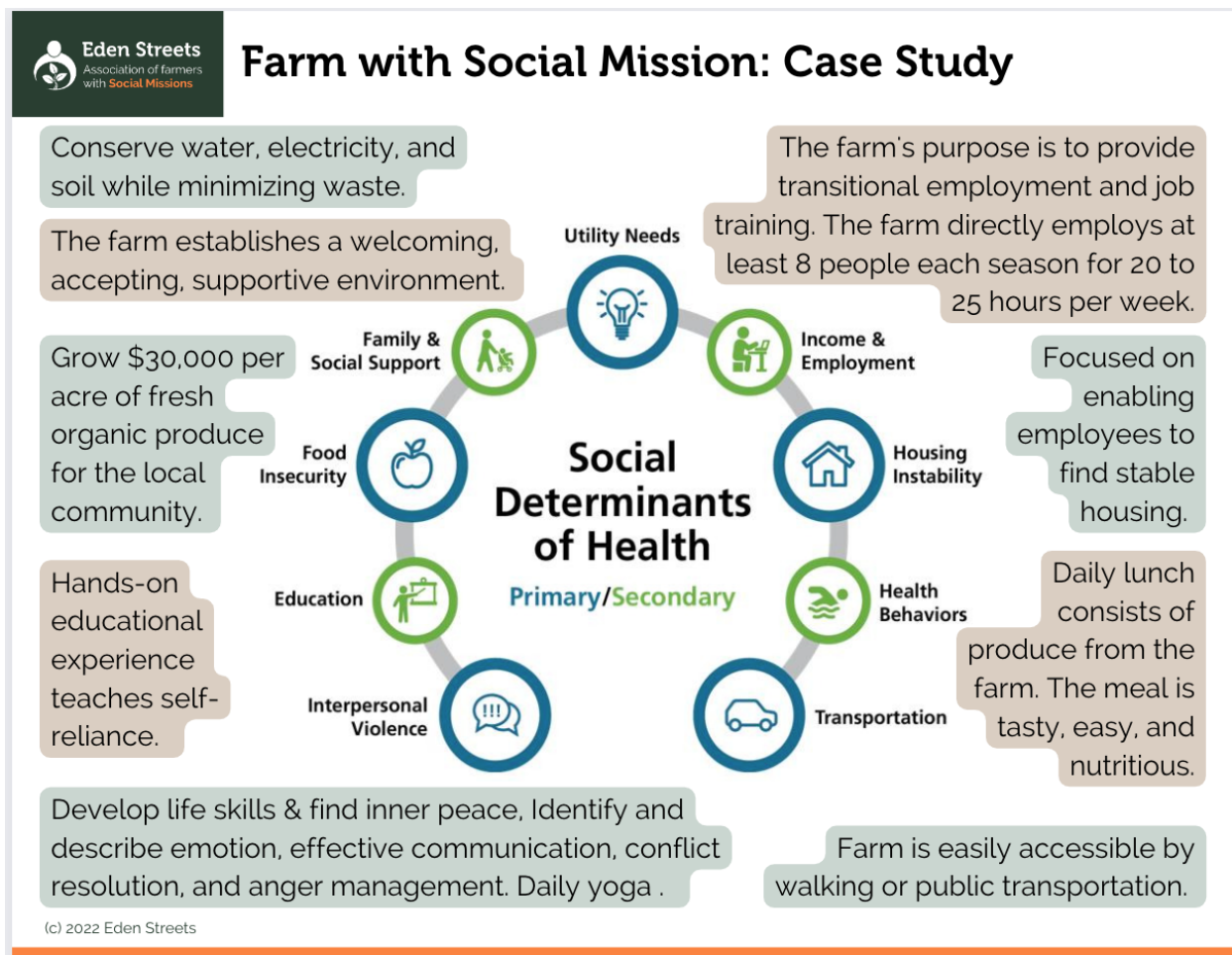
Eden Streets has focused the last few months on developing a clear packet of information about who we are and what we do. We will soon post this packet of information on our website under "Resources". This packet has served a useful purpose as Farmer Karl and his officers have met individually and in group forums to introduce Eden Streets and request donations and corporate sponsorships.

What does Eden Streets do? This diagram shows what our function and purpose is:



We are developing an experience base with regards to how to work with city leaders and those offering government-sponsored grants. Eden Streets brings together the land owners, government leaders, the donors & sponsors, and nonprofit community leaders to make farms with social missions a reality. We are striving to package the process and the information in a way that we can empower you as new farmers with social missions to succeed in operating your farms. For those who already are operating farms, we hope this information will support you or make you aware of new possibilities.

As we develop grant-writing experience, we note how farms with social missions address all nine social determinants of health as shown in this model. We hope to empower you with evidence-based case studies that enable you to be awarded grant funding.



Connecting Farmers through Our Blogs

One of the most exciting parts of this work is getting to know the farmers doing this work as well as the individuals being transformed by their experience on the farm. The quotes below came from a farmer and a farm program graduate. With their permission, I share these with you. As a result of posting their blogs, they have been able to connect with each other and many other people. Even with our brief encounter, we feel like we share a "brotherhood".

[Mark Kearney:](#)

"I love it (my story on blog)! Who would've known? I never thought my hard work would ever be seen, but thank you for sharing the light on the things that I am so passionate about – people and gardening..."

"I just finished reading the whole bio on Asim. The way you wrote it helps me interpret it as if Muhammad was speaking. It brought tears to my eyes. I am so blessed to have met you. You have shined a light on some things that I am very passionate about – other people's lives. I thank you!"

Sye Sneed:

"Karl, I began reading all your posts, and it's amazing what you're doing. Simply [amazing!!! Such a humble approach you have in your reporting truly draws the viewer in. And the piece on me and my story is beautiful, for the lack of the exact words, 'music' to experience it 3D. Even more important to me is that 'I feel me.' Peace and blessings!"

"Can't say enough about the places I'm back in touch with since our conversation. I have boundless emotion from the reaction and response the article has triggered. Your brother Sye."

These simple blogs have expanded their "farmily" and our Eden Streets "farmily". Thank you for being a part of it!

Hope to see you at Eco-Farm 2023!

Please hold the dates on your calendars! [Eco-Farm 2023 Conference](#) will be held January 18th through 23rd at the Asilomar Conference Center near Monterey, California. We hope to see you there!

Cheers! - Farmer Karl



Please find us on social media:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EdenStreets>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/eden.streets/?hl=en>