

**December 1 - 3, 2009**

**Hilton Garden Inn  
1100 Carnegie Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**2nd Ecological Landscaping Conference**



**Enhancing Self-Reliance and Resilience of Cities**

*How can we meet food, water, energy and material needs locally while addressing social, economic and health issues without compromising the needs of future generations?*

**For more information, log on to  
[www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/ulep/conference](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/ulep/conference)**

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## Conference Overview

Cities occupy only 2% of the Earth's land surface but consume 75% of total global energy and produce 80% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Daily needs of modern cities for food, water, energy, and other materials are met almost exclusively through importation of goods from distant places, often across continents, in to the cities. Increasing energy costs and climate change require a shift from globalization to relocalization of the economy with greater attention to preserving and enhancing natural capital. The challenge intensifies with emerging urban issues including increased inventory of vacant lots and decreased tax revenues due to home foreclosures and urban sprawl, increased poverty, hunger, obesity, and heart-related ailments, and increased air, water, and soil contamination. Therefore, urban communities must focus on how to use and manage land, water, and built infrastructure to meet food, water, energy, and material needs locally, while addressing social, economic, and health issues without compromising the needs of future generations. Thus, urban communities must adopt holistic approaches to address these critical and interconnected local and global issues.

This conference will explore and foster a new paradigm in city design and transformation in which services provided by natural ecosystems are preserved, rural and urban ecosystems are integrated, and food, energy and other resources are produced, consumed, and recycled within the city and contiguous metropolitan region. Such a paradigm shift will enhance city and regional resilience, minimize ecological footprint of growing human population, and improve local and global stability and economic sustainability. The conference will focus on the science, education, and technology innovations and needs for an ecological transformation that will constructively address the intertwined challenges presented by climate change, rising energy costs, food insecurity, water shortages, emerging health threats, environmental degradation, and urban sprawl.

The conference will bring together scientists, students, landscape architects, city managers, non-profit organizations, business owners, urban farmers and landscapers, community leaders, and policy makers and will provide a venue for sharing, discussing and synthesizing information to facilitate the development of new technologies, management practices, and policies needed to plan, design, and build more self-reliant communities.

Central questions to be addressed by conference speakers include:

- Why is urban self-reliance and resilience important in today's world?
- What previous research provides a strong foundation for enhancing self-reliance and resilience of urban ecosystems?
- What are the key research gaps in building self-reliant and resilient cities?
- How can we preserve and enhance supporting, provisioning, regulating and social services provided by ecosystems in the cities?

- What community designs and technologies enhance environmental, social, health, and economic outcomes of urban landscapes?
- How can vacant lots and properties be used productively to enhance ecosystem services in cities?
- What are the needs, characteristics, and opportunities of a new multifunctional urban agriculture that extends from rural parts of metropolitan regions all the way to the urban core?
- What ecological systems, designs, and products are needed to sustainably manage storm water in urban areas?
- What kind of local systems of enhancing energy use efficiency, energy production and resource recovery from waste streams are suitable for use in urban areas?
- How can we bring about positive change in public attitudes and behaviors towards landscaping norms and practices that enhance local and global sustainability?

**Target audience for the conference:**

Social and natural scientists from universities, government, NGO's, and consulting firms  
 Urban landscape designers and architects  
 Urban planners  
 City Engineers  
 Policy makers  
 City managers  
 Energy professionals  
 Sewer and storm water professionals  
 Lawn and landscape managers  
 Urban farmers  
 Local food restaurants  
 Extension agents  
 Community organizers  
 Non-profit organizations  
 Students interested in urban ecology and sustainability

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