

Potential ways to promote urban agriculture through US Govt support

Call Notes - CFSC Urban Agriculture Committee, November 6, 2008
with Alan Hunt, Northeast Midwest Institute

Land Acquisition

- Investigate issue with IRS "gifting" of easements, and if easements can be used for urban agriculture (Betsy will look into)
- Preference for GSA land sales
- Use of Transportation funds, such as "enhancements", "Mainstreet" programs, or extra right of way uses

Incorporation with other planning and development processes

- Direct each MPO to include a plan for urban agriculture as a criteria for receiving funding
- Inclusion with HUD projects, including Housing and CDBG (NB: issue with reimbursement grants; limited to construction)

USDA

- Include urban ag as requirement with NRCS state conservation plan
- Could enact Urban Resource Partnership (attached files on this)
- Should consider Blumenauer bill option (also am attaching this, and Clay's Farm Bill amendment)
- Hard to resolve issue of Rural Development and Energy funds being for RURAL uses only; politically complicated...
- How do Food Banks fund their gardens? Can we work with them? (will be looked into)
- Make sure that any urban farms with \$1k+ sales/yr are included in the census of agriculture
- USDA conduct a study on urban agriculture?
- Direct USDA to "publish annually and maintain a list, to be distributed electronically and by other means, of available USDA and other federal agency resources which urban agriculture projects and urban farmers are eligible to use"

EPA Brownfield

- Works ok?