



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Dutchess County

Green Teen Community Gardening Serving Beacon for 10 Years!



The Green Teen Community Gardening program empowers urban youth, of all ages, to be effective community change-agents by immersing them in their local food system. The program teaches life and work skills through experiential education and exposes children to healthy foods and nutrition education.

SINCE 2004
Worked with 820 Teens
Employed 175 youth
Reached 490 4th Graders



EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMING

Employs 15 –20 youth per year
Works at Sprout Creek Farm
Partners with Common Ground Farm
Teaches farming, marketing and employment skills.

Common Greens Mobile Market serves 3 sites to increase food access for Beacon residents.



RESULTS

- Participants are more likely to be educationally motivated and have higher self-esteem;
- Youth expand their communication, problem-solving and decision making abilities;
- Involvement reduces the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in risky behaviors.

Investment in Dutchess County

- Invested **\$1 Million** in youth vocational training;
- Paid out more than \$350,000 in youth wages in Beacon, NY,
- Established two community gardens;
- Visit the newest garden, Common Greens Garden, on Main Street in Beacon;
- Collaborated with three community partners to provide fresh, local produce to low-income residents.

“In this program I not only work to earn a paycheck, I work to make a difference.”

-S. F., 17

For Information about the
Green Teen Community
Gardening Program
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