

350 garden challenge

MAY 15-16, 2010

Creating 350 waterwise food gardens in Sonoma County May 15-16, 2010



Overview

On a single weekend, May 15-16, 350 Sonoma County landscapes will be transformed into bountiful gardens, which save water and emissions, grow food and habitat, and promote greywater and low impact development. All while educating and empowering community, and supporting local businesses. This is an opportunity to promote and increase participation in city and county programs for lawn removal, greywater and healthy food while creating innovative demonstration gardens in communities ranging from front yards to apartment patios, city landscapes, schools, churches, organizations and businesses. We chose 350 gardens to participate in the 350.org international campaign dedicated to building a movement uniting the world around solutions to the climate crisis. We use “waterwise” to emphasize the need to conserve water as we increase local food production.



Goals

The goals are simple:

- * Create a healthy homegrown food supply
- * Save water and cut greenhouse gas emissions
- * Support local businesses
- * Build community and beautify our neighborhoods



Partnerships

Daily Acts, iGROW Sonoma and GoLocal are collaborating with the cities of Sonoma County, the Sonoma County Water Agency and dozens of community groups and companies to create the 350 Garden Challenge. This county-wide project will engage citizens, organizations, local businesses, media and civic leaders to improve access to healthy, fresh local food and position Sonoma County a national leader in the local food movement and water conservation.



Roll out

The planning team will coordinate with community organizers to assist residents with garden planning and design, water management, access to materials, team building, and documentation support. Garden site and participation will largely be coordinated using online tools at www.igrowsonoma.org. The Garden Challenge will be funded by a grant provided by the Sonoma County Water Agency and sponsorship by local businesses. The planning team will inform media partners and food-oriented organizations about the Garden Challenge who in turn, will help inform the community about the program.



Contacts

Primary Contact

Beth Dadko, Coordinator
iGROW Sonoma
707-565-6681
bdadko@sonoma-county.org
www.igrowsonoma.org

Project Manager

Trathen Heckman, Director
Daily Acts
707-789-9664
trathen@dailyacts.org
www.dailyacts.org

Business Outreach

Kelley Rajala, Director
GoLocal Cooperative
707-888-6105
k.rajala@golocal.coop
www.golocal.coop



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How to Participate

You can get involved in the 350 Garden Challenge in four simple ways...

- 1) Grow Your Own Garden
- 2) Join a Garden Crew
- 3) Become a Community Organizer, or
- 4) Support the Garden Challenge

1) Grow your own

Everyone can have a garden. Grow herbs in your kitchen, a potted garden on your balcony, a fruit tree in the front yard, or replace your whole lawn with an edible food forest. Growing food can also help you cut your water usage dramatically, very important in our Mediterranean climate. Our resource page is full of guides to help you plan edible estates big and small. We can even help supply volunteer labor and the know how. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to come up with the design and materials for the garden (subsidized materials may be available from out business sponsors). Help us meet our challenge by signing up your site today!

Simple Steps :

1. Register your garden project at www.igrowsonoma.org
2. Connect with your community organizer
3. Plan your garden
4. Collect your supplies
5. Get ready to plant on May 15 & 16

2) Join A Garden Crew

Volunteers will be needed at many garden sites. Whether you are a life-long gardener or are looking for a reason to get your hands dirty for the first time, you can volunteer to help plant 350 gardens in a single weekend. Have some experience working in a garden or planting trees? Become a mentor and share the knowledge you have on how to Grow a Garden with others. Are you an artist? A musician? A culinary genius in your own right? Do you have a truck and a good sense of direction? Perhaps something else of value you'd like to suggest to volunteer to our cause? We need you, too! **Sign up to volunteer at www.igrowsonoma.org**

3) Become a Community Organizer

Every city or neighborhood will have a Community Organizer to help coordinate volunteers and materials for the Challenge. If you have great organizational and communication skills we need you as an organizer. Please call Beth at 707-565-6681 for more information.

4) Support the 350 Garden Challenge

This is a big project and you or your organization or business can help in several ways....

- donate garden materials or plant starts
- make a financial contribution to support the project
- help us get the word out

Give us a call with any questions or ideas **707-565-6681** or go to www.igrowsonoma.org to learn more.

