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### Identifying a cohesive urban agriculture policy for Burlington, VT

Despite a diversity of urban agriculture activities, the city of Burlington, VT, lacks clear municipal policies to govern growing food and keeping animals outside agriculturally-zoned areas. Burlington City Council created the citizen-led Urban Agriculture Task Force in March of 2011 to investigate and recommend policies to provide city officials with the tools to effectively govern urban agriculture and allow residents to maximize community and health benefits from these activities. This research project works with the Task Force as a community partner and follows Participatory Action Research (PAR) principles to identify barriers, needs, opportunities, and potential policies related to the production of food in the city. Topics of concern include preventing nuisances through the promotion of best practices, protecting human health and animal welfare, and clarifying municipal processes for agricultural activities. Research methods include interviews with local urban agriculture practitioners, Burlington city officials, and outside experts, in addition to active participation in and observation of stakeholder meetings and public meetings with Burlington residents. Results from this research will be included in a report the Task Force will deliver to City Council in the spring of 2012 with policy recommendations for governing and supporting urban agriculture in Burlington.