



Urban Agriculture (1.5 HSW) – Dr. Dickson Despommier

Saturday, June 9, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Over the last 5 years, the urban landscape has evolved to include food production - rooftop gardens, greenhouses, and vertical farms. I will present a survey of the dominant types of urban farms and the growing methods they embrace. I will invite course participants to imagine what the city might look like 100 years from now, as vertical farms assume their place among the skyscrapers of the near future.

- Participants will learn about the concept of urban agriculture and examples will be given of the dominant types of city farms.
- This presentation will feature the kinds of commercial crops currently being grown indoors, and the most successfully applied controlled environment agricultural methods employed to produce them (e.g., hydroponics, aeroponics, dryponics, aquaculture).
- The vertical farm concept will be discussed, and several examples will be described in detail.
- Projecting the concept of urban farming into the future, the question: "Is it possible for a city to feed itself"? will be raised and discussed as the sole justification for supporting the idea of urban agriculture. At the end of the presentation, participants will have learned the essence of the current status of urban agriculture, and the importance of applying this environmental approach as a potential means of slowing down rapid climate change.