



Farmer's market

Learning Kitchen

Hydroponic garden

Distribution & Processing

Bee Farm

Composting Station

Public eating space

Food pantry

## A sustainable, food-centric plan for the north wing of Muncie Mall.

The Farm is a community center that aims to mitigate the burden of food insecurity in the Muncie area. Muncie has a food insecurity rate of 17.2% – the fourth highest in the state. This issue is multi-faceted, and a carefully designed sustainability center can address the problem from multiple angles.

## Education

A core function of this center is to aid in the well-rounded education of Muncie community. The combination of a **learning kitchen**, a viewable **hydroponic garden**, and a **bee farm** will present a holistic approach to teaching kids about sustainability and life cycles, which is urgently needed as we confront human effects on the environment. In addition, the learning kitchen provides more practical skills and encourages kids to take an active role in their nutrition.

While the educational aspects of The Farm are youth-focused, they can be adapted for adults as well. The learning kitchen, for example, could serve to both teach essential, introductory cooking skills for kids, as well as provide more advanced lessons for adults who want to broaden their horizons.

## Economy

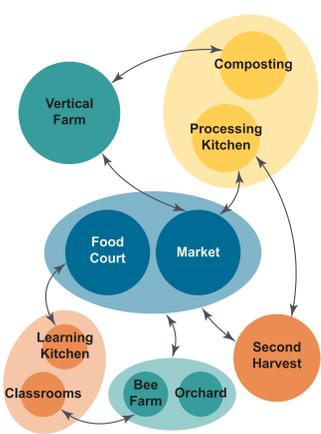
The Farm's programs can speak to the needs of low-income families who don't have the time or resources to research and cook healthy meals. Muncie continually deals with the issue of food deserts, which restrict residents' access to fresh, healthy foods. Creating a daily, indoor **farmers market** in a central Muncie landmark can help solve this problem. The Farm also helps farmers economically by providing them a place to market, store and process goods.

When paired with other programs, food literacy has also been shown to mitigate the burden of food insecurity for low-income families. The learning kitchen fills this role by providing kids and parents with nutritional education, first-hand cooking experience, and new recipe ideas.

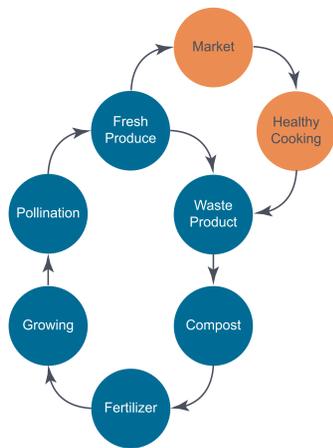
Funding for The Farm could come from several avenues. Selling produce from the hydroponic farm could serve as a stable source of revenue. The center will charge farmers a monthly fee to occupy a booth in the public market. Reliance on renewable energy will offset utility costs. Finally, the community center may be eligible for grants that fund programs related to vertical agriculture and other sustainability initiatives.

## Social Well-Being

The **public eating space** (and The Farm as a whole) provide a place for Muncie residents to gather and strengthen social ties. The shared experience of all the aforementioned activities — commerce, cooking and socializing — can contribute to a stronger, healthier, more sustainable Muncie.



Initial Bubble Diagram



Life Cycle Diagram

