



Green City Growers to break ground for East Side greenhouse

Published: Friday, October 14, 2011, 1:44 PM Updated: Friday, October 14, 2011, 5:02 PM



By [Thomas Ott, The Plain Dealer](#)

Cleveland, Ohio -- Ground will be broken Monday for a greenhouse where residents can nurture both produce and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Green City Growers, a co-op developed with support from the Cleveland Foundation, will occupy 10 acres at Kinsman and Ensign avenues.

Employees from surrounding neighborhoods will manage, harvest and distribute the greenhouse's crops and can eventually gain ownership shares in the business. The hiring of 35 to 40 employees will begin in the spring.

The hydroponic greenhouse will grow produce in nutrient-rich water. It is expected to yield 3 million heads of lettuce and 300,000 pounds of herbs each year that will be sold to local grocery stores, institutions and other customers.

The business is part of the foundation's Evergreen Cooperatives network, joining the Evergreen Cooperative Laundry and the Ohio Solar Cooperative, also in Cleveland. The latter owns and installs solar panels for government, institutional and commercial customers and provides weatherization services.

A portion of the companies' profits are used to develop other co-ops.

The city helped acquire land for Green City Growers. Much of the neighborhood was abandoned, but about 20 to 25 homeowners remained, many of them elderly and some reluctant to move, ward Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland said.

City Council agreed to let the greenhouse use a portion of its property taxes to develop the business.

Councilwoman Cleveland said the greenhouse will operate round-the-clock, bringing jobs, activity and perhaps spin-off investment to a blighted area.

"It will be unlike anything else in our neighborhood," she said.

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