

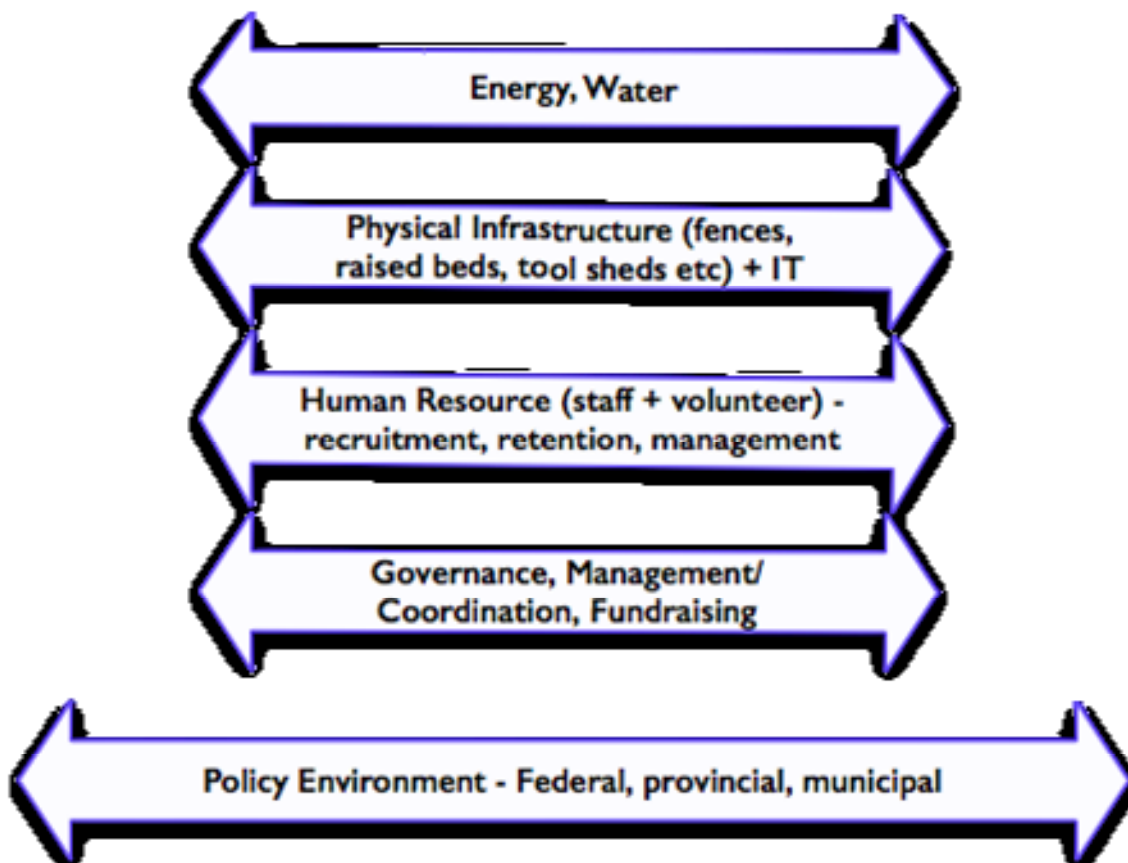
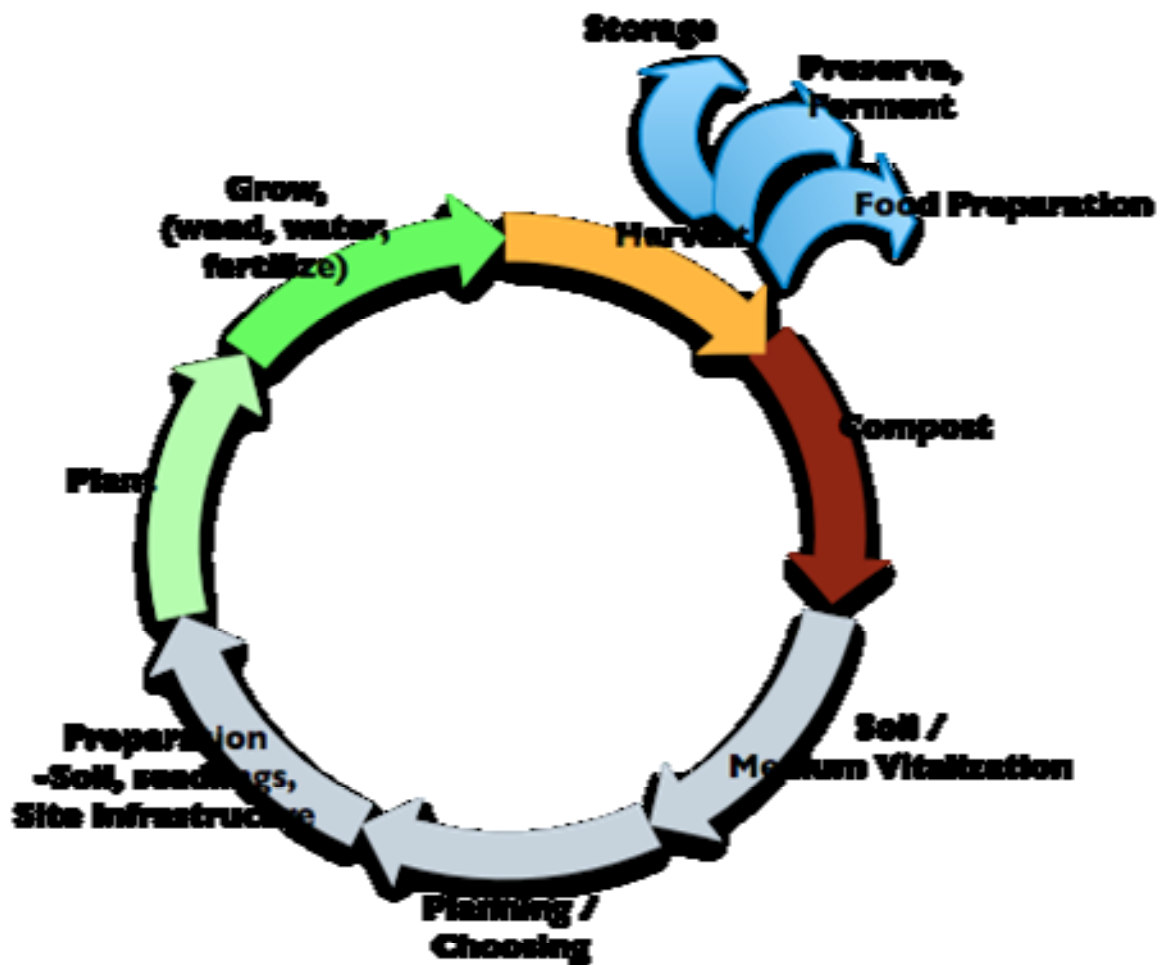
What are the range of ways that people can be involved in Urban Agriculture / Local Foods and get personal benefit?

Do you have to be interested in gardening or in raising bees, chickens or other animals - or in harvesting, cooking or preserving food to be happily engaged in Urban Agriculture or Local Foods? The answer would appear to be NO! The case studies and video resources include stories from people who are carpenters, volunteer coordinators, Board members, fundraisers, city employees involved in policy development - and a wide range of others. Each brings their passion to making an initiative a success - each is critical to the overall success.

Two tools for 'unpacking' a complex business process into component parts are the Supply Chain, and Value Chain. However those were developed for a linear mindset for producing a product or service, and the assessment of value primarily focuses on the end product or service.

This seems inadequate for 'unpacking' the organic process of urban gardening, that is marked by cycles. An initial stab at representing the components of a community gardening initiative are presented below. Annette Anderwald's video identifies the potential for supporting that cycle by adding composting to the activities included - as a way of maintaining soil health.

Other urban agriculture or local foods initiatives would add additional cycles to the diagram.



The point of presenting such a diagram here is to illustrate the many many roles that are required to make a community garden initiative successful. So it is not necessary to actually be a gardener to be an enthusiastic participant in a community garden. We will return to the diagram in Friday's discussion about ways to think about determining value of social assets in the same way as we assess value of tangible assets.

Thoughts on the graphic? are there even better ways to illustrate the many interdependent components of a successful urban agriculture or local foods initiative?