Great Problems Seminar 2015

Taking the Higher Ground: Growing Cleaner on Boston's Rooftop Farm

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Taking the Higher Ground: Growing Cleaner on Boston’s Rooftop Farm

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The Problem: Nutrient Depletion

Solution

Use oats as cover crops to prevent nutrient depletion.

Implementation

Step 1
Gather volunteers

Step 2
Plant winter oats as cover crops

Step 3
Plant spring crops on top of oats

Methods

- Research
- Interviews
- Participant Observation at project site

Cost Comparison of Solutions and Current Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solutions</th>
<th>Current Nutrient Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OATS</td>
<td>$127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEAS</td>
<td>$190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLY TARPS</td>
<td>$248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VINYL TARPS</td>
<td>$388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td>$3100</td>
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</table>

References

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Boston Inner Harbor Watershed

John Stoddard and Courtney Hennessey: co-owners of Boston’s first rooftop farm

The Problem: Nutrient Depletion

Solutions