



*Mezzacello*

## Robots, Sensors, Energy, Systems and Farming?



# One Invention Over Three Years

1. The Bioreactor
  1. Power
  2. Communications
  3. Compost
  4. Water
  5. Fertilizer
  6. Data

Presented by Jim Bruner



# About Mezzacello

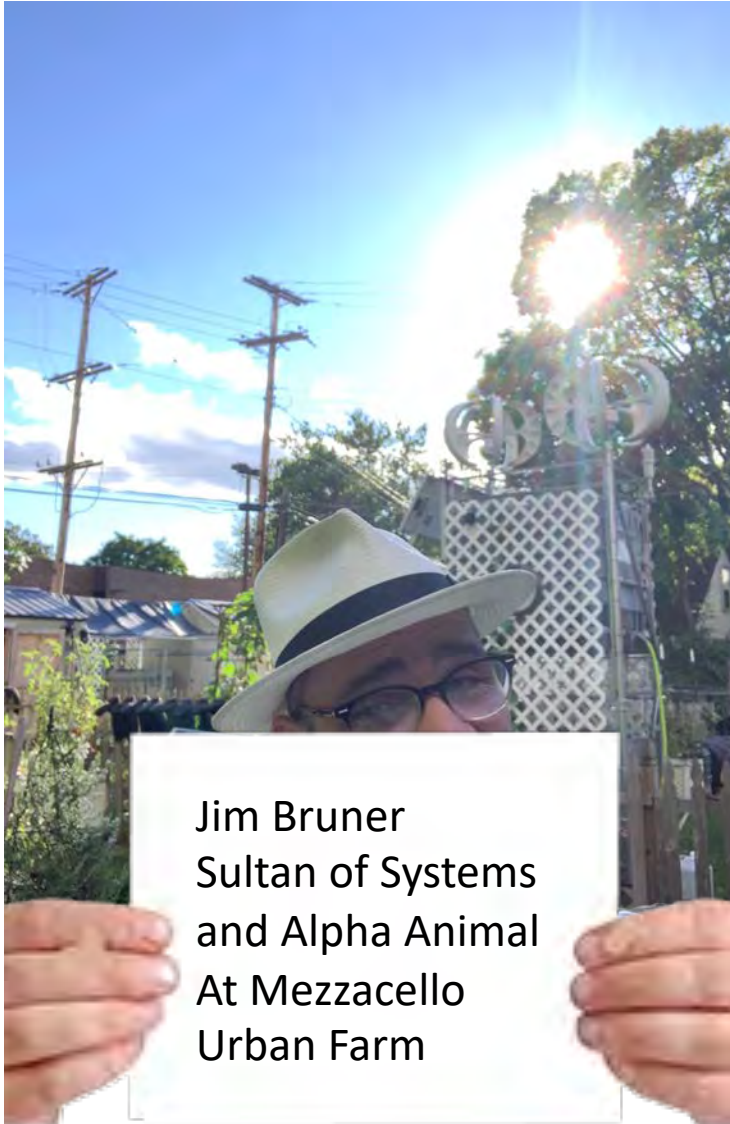
Mezzacello is an Urban Farm and Learning Lab located in downtown Columbus, OH, in the United States.

Grow, Maintain, Sustain, and Explain

We focus on systems design, farming and technology concepts and experiences for young people (and adults).

Our vision is to help communities build food oases in any densely populated urban environment on earth and beyond.

Presented by Jim Bruner







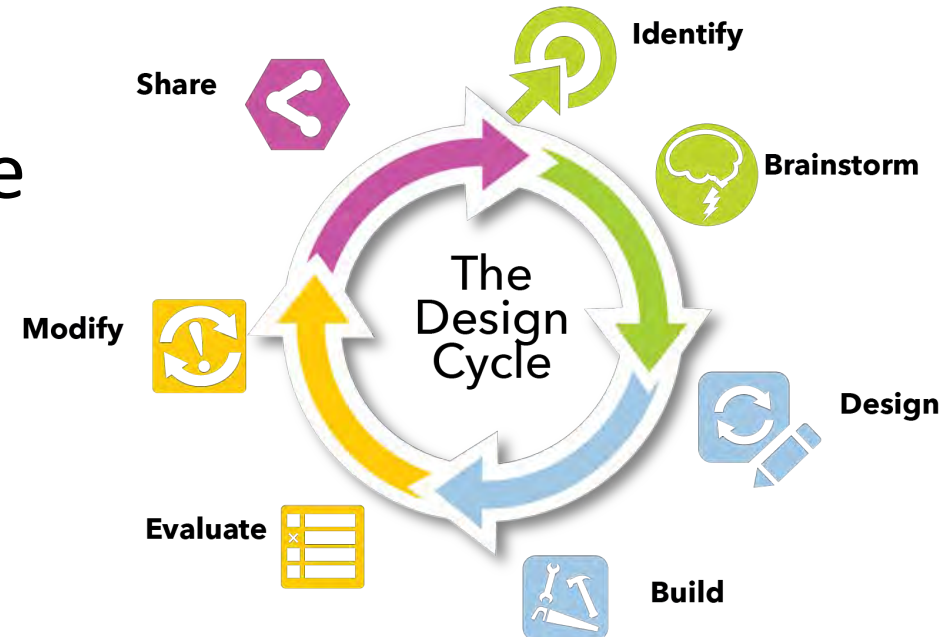
# The Problem Statement

An **Urban Farm** like Mezzacello has unique challenges **that traditional rural farms** do not.

4 unique urban issues:

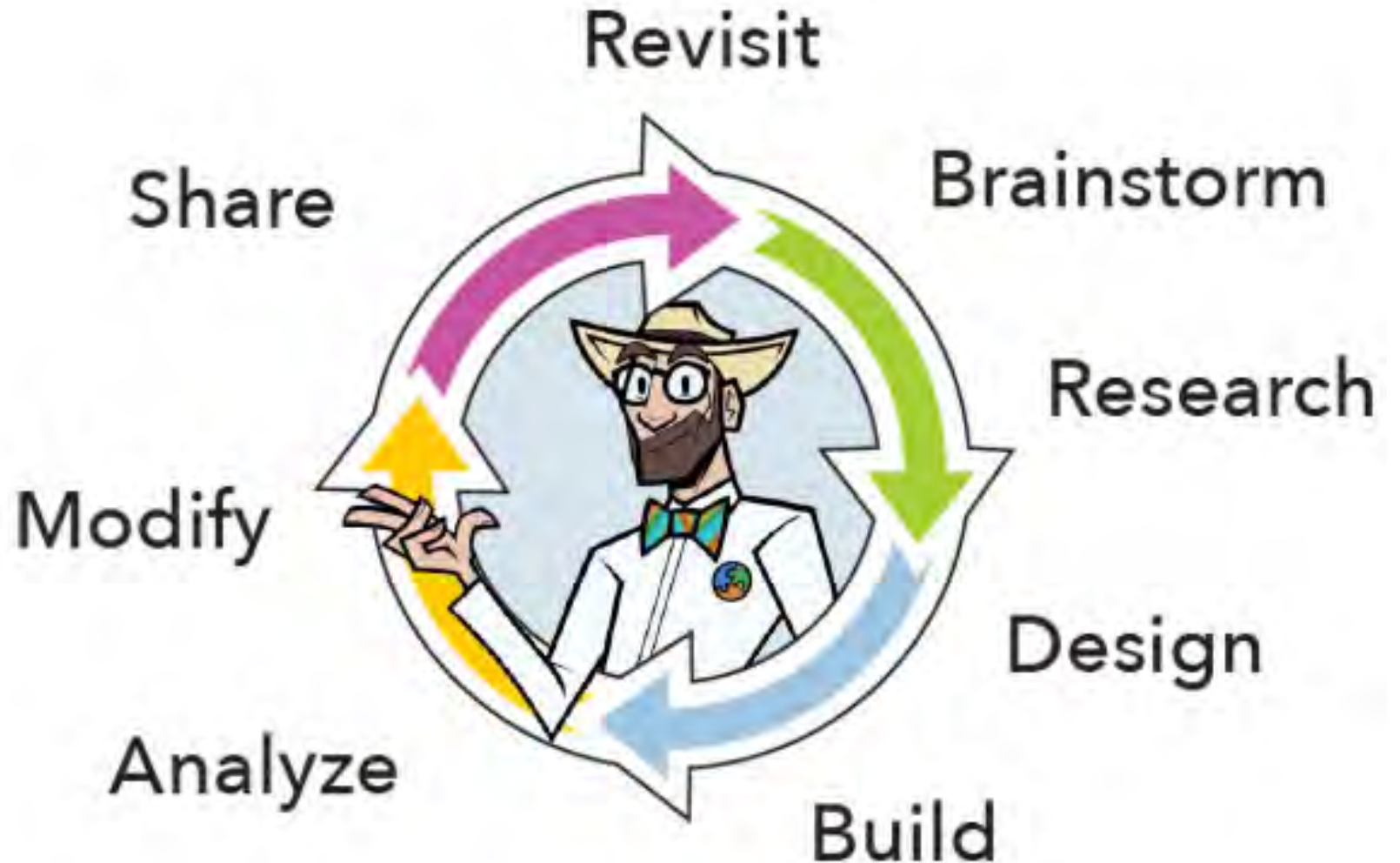


All of these can be  
addressed with the  
**DESIGN CYCLE**



# The Design Cycle

To **build the BioReactor** I had to go through the **DESIGN CYCLE** many times!  
The **DESIGN CYCLE** is how **humans play and learn.**





# A Note on Sustainability

Mezzacello is a closed, **self-sustaining, integrated** and **inter-dependent** series of ecosystems.



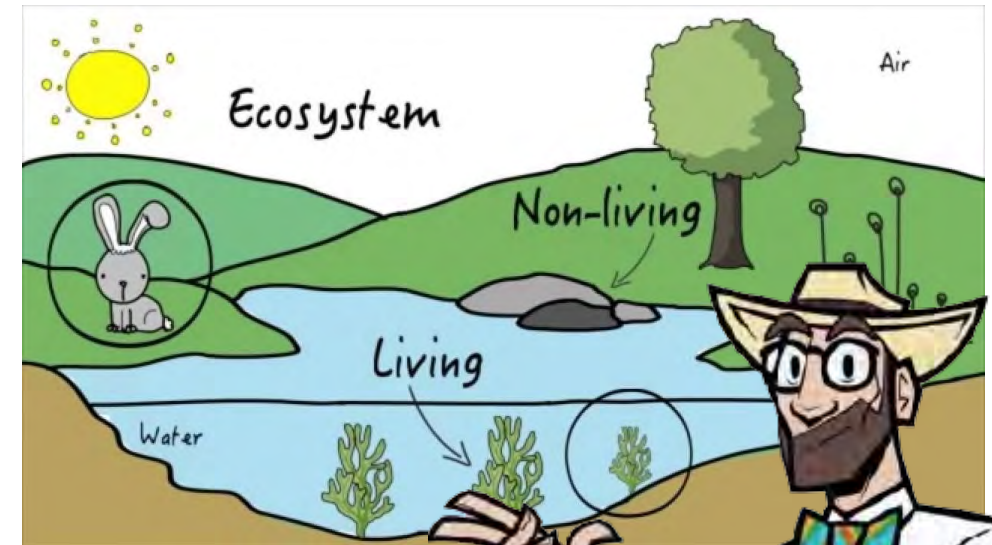
No “**Wastes**” just **new inputs**



**Systems** for managing the **lifecycle** of an **organism**



**Energy** is measured in **discrete amounts** of time and seasons



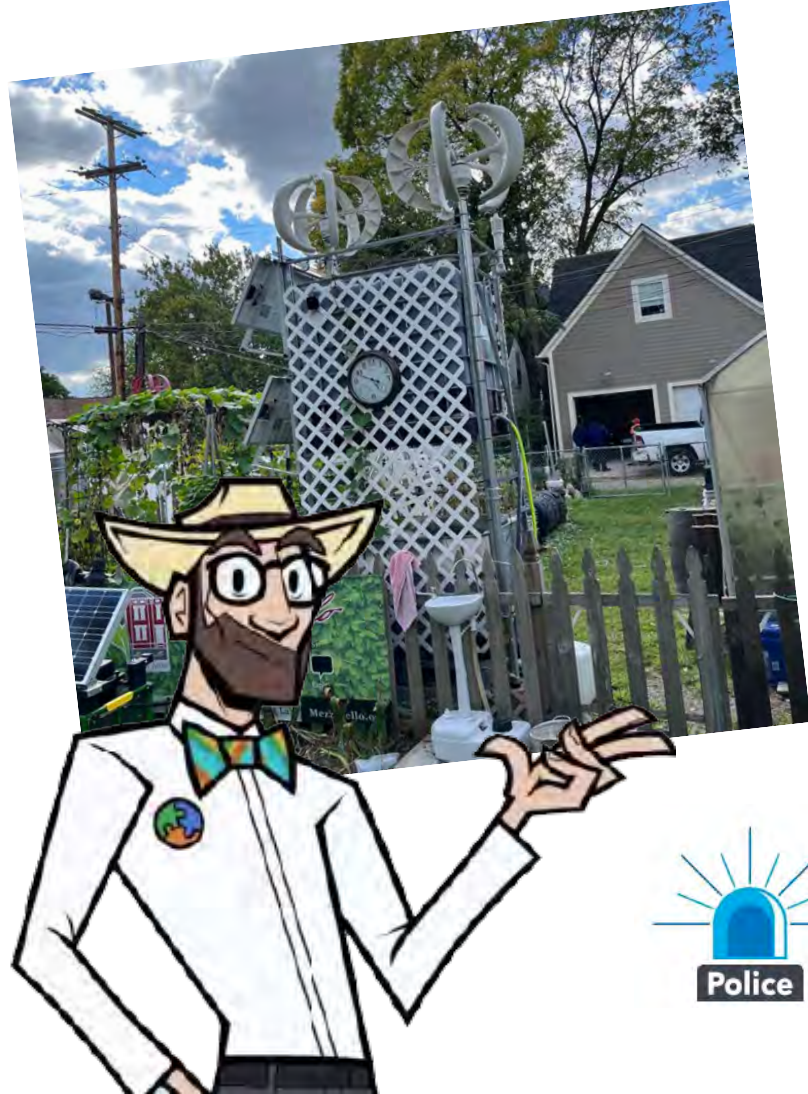




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## The Problems to be Solved

Specific issues at Mezzacello Urban Farm:



1. **Biomass + health codes + legal variances**



2. **Electrical loads MUST be to code and not exposed**



3. **Animals and Plants need water and fertilizer safely utilized**

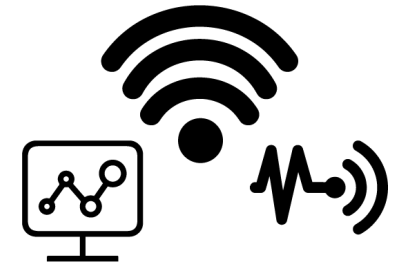
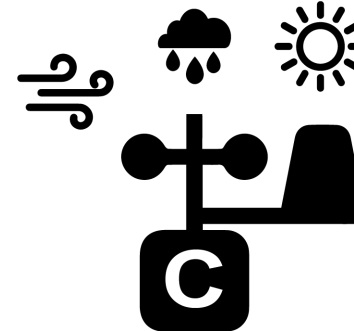
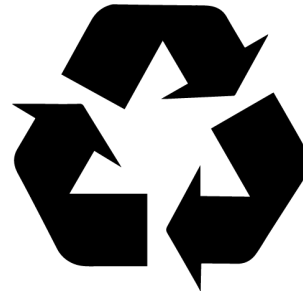
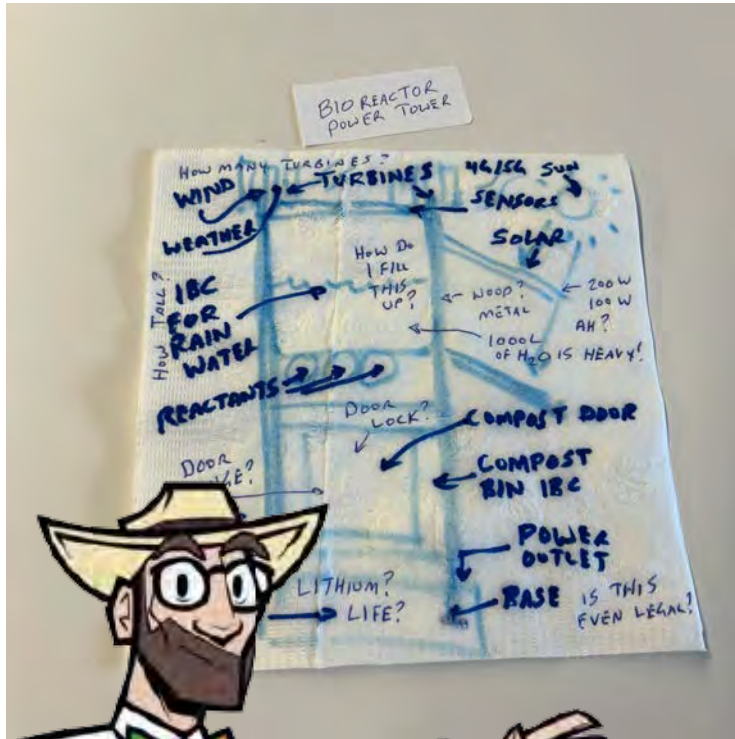


4. **All Laws are followed!**



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# One Invention Over Three Years







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# What Do These Have to With Farming?

## Composting, Water Collection, Actionable Data, and Energy

- Collect and **process compost** and **accelerate** composting process.
- This design optimizes all three of those needs and:
  - adds a WiFi repeater,
  - weather data,
  - atmospheric sensors,
  - wind turbines,
  - security cameras,
  - drone launching and recharging platform,
  - and a central solar-powered collection hub for rain barrels around my urban farm.

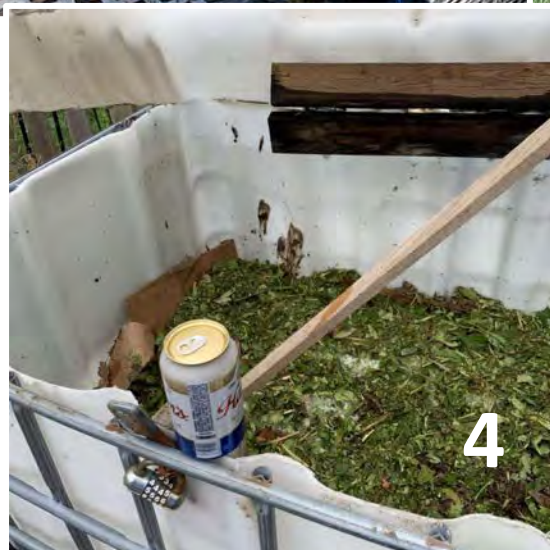
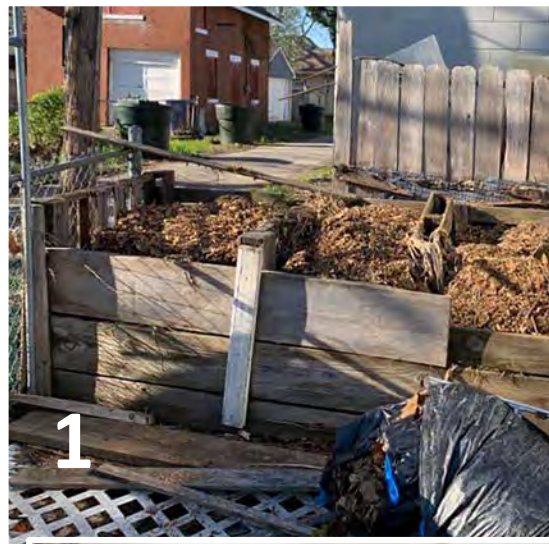






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## Evolution & Iteration of Designs





## How It Is Used Today



1. To teach students
2. To provide community resources
3. To power research stations
4. To create high quality soil and water







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## Power Generation Action Shots!



Winds up to **35kph**

Batteries **topped off**  
after **30 minutes!**

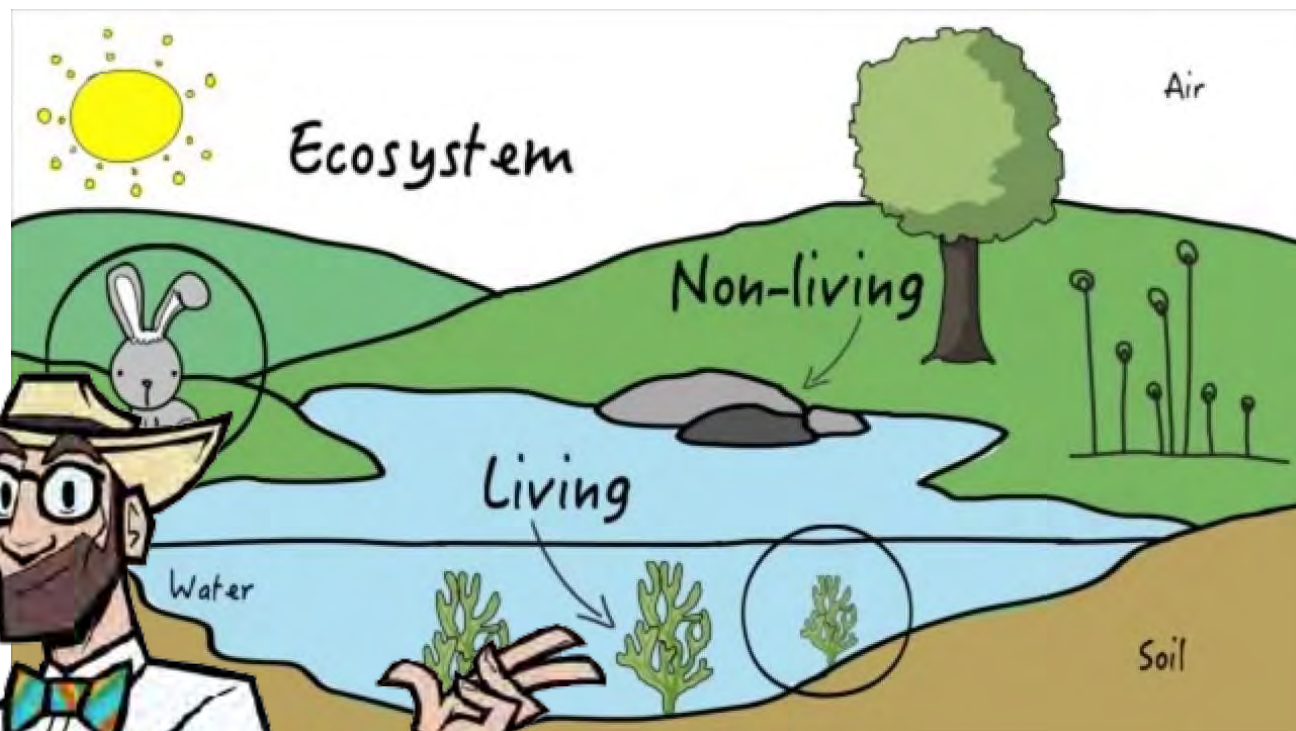
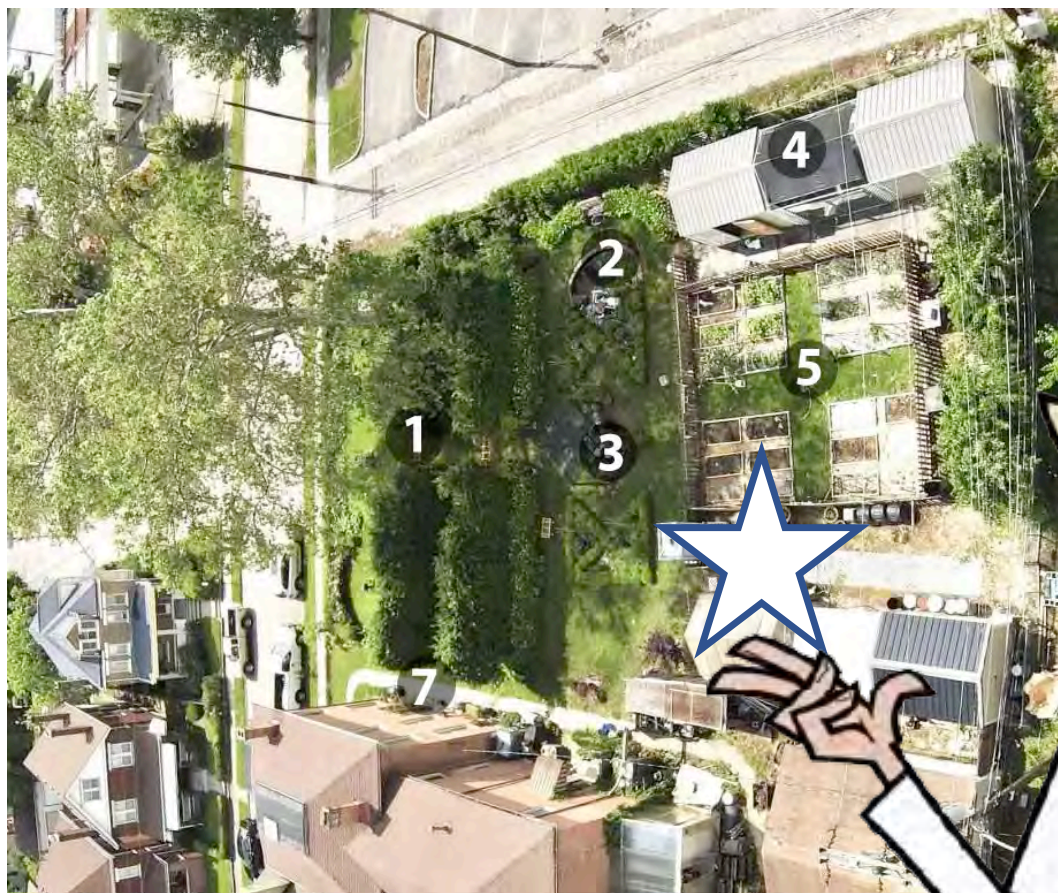






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# Sustainable Ecosystem Plan

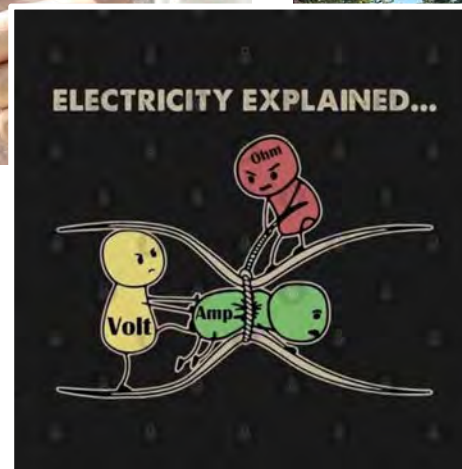






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## Future Plans and Infrastructure





Contact Us and Stay in Touch

**Thank You for Your Time!**

My name is Jim Bruner,  
Sultan of Systems

at  
Mezzacello Urban Farm  
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