Team LEAVES Project Description: Launching Environmentally

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Our proposal is a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to make Cambridge the greenest city in the USA by 2020. Our idea has been tested is simply the most effective solution to relevant problems for Cambridge. We propose that all new public buildings be designed to support intensive green roofs that are easily accessible to the public and primarily grow vegetables. Additionally, all existing public buildings will be retrofitted as appropriate to achieve a minimum 50% coverage ideally with veggie gardens, but more realistically, with simple extensive gardens. A intensive garden is a green roof approach that involves thicker layers of soil, and more weight per square foot. Extensive gardens have less soil and support grasses and shrubs. For private and residential buildings, the price of initial installation- either shrub or veggie based gardens-will be reduced by 10-25%, provided by the city as a financial incentive. Additionally, the veggies yielded by public buildings will be sold at local farmers markets in Cambridge at competitive prices. In bullet points:

Phase 1:
-Newly constructed buildings must support 50% green roof coverage, ideally intensive gardens -Existing public gardens will be retrofitted with 50% green roof coverage, most likely extensive gardens

Phase 2:
  -Provide financial incentive for privately owned buildings to invest in green roofs
     -10-25% initial cost

Phase 3:
-Use green roofs to foster grassroots stewardship and conservation philosophies in Cambridge residents, especially school aged children
 -provide affordable organic produce for residents through farmers markets In order to incorporate systems already in place in Cambridge, compost from the DPW will be used as necessary to maintain the gardens. Through MYSEP, youth will be employed to maintain gardens, be trained on basic organic gardening skills and sustainable food philosophy.