

Passaic Embraces Vertical Indoor Farming to Battle Climate Change

By Honorable Hector C. Lora, Mayor, City of Passaic

In November, I introduced the idea of Indoor Vertical Farming in the City of Passaic as an approach to tackle the effects of climate change. This ordinance was officially passed in December's Passaic Council Meeting. Indoor Vertical Farming is the practice and process of growing crops and produce in vertically stacked layers. It is the hope of my administration to repurpose old and unused industrial buildings in Passaic's urban community for indoor farming and being a part of a wholesome and nutritious food supply around the globe.

Climate change is a global issue that alarmingly affects urban areas because dense populations' utilize more power and therefore are the biggest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. As the temperatures continues to rise, there are disruptions in the usual balance of nature and the outcome is very costly on the cities basic services, infrastructure, human health and livelihood.

Despite the limited open space available in urban cities, vertical farming is able to produce larger quantity of plants with less square feet space. Using local abandoned industrial buildings will reduce deforestation, transportation emissions, and food waste as well as making beneficial use from underutilized properties. During the pandemic, especially when we were doing food distributions, it has become evident that so many of the produce ended up spoiling because of transportation issues. Indoor vertical farming allows farmers to optimize their growing process since it eliminates disastrous weather, insect infestations and other types of hazards. Farmers are able to control their growth of crops using the farming techniques of Hydroponics, Aquaponics, and Aeroponics. This Controlled Environment Agriculture will increase crop diversity, supply chain collaboration, reduce costs, eliminate disease from the soil, and solve the increasing food demand and water scarcity through water recycling.



Honorable Hector C. Lora
Mayor of Passaic

To address climate change and the food crisis, the city will take action by using the power of technology and getting in touch with crop science companies to grow quality produce. I think these innovative approaches are going to provide opportunities for business development as well as access to healthy foods for our children. The city will continue to seek collaborated research, investments and partnerships for the growth of this project. A small change can contribute to bigger changes in Earth's global climate.

