

Roles and Responsibilities

Yarducopia is Anchorage's newest community garden program brought to you by Alaska Community Action on Toxics. This isn't your typical community garden. Yarducopia is based on a yard sharing model in which homeowners are matched with gardeners to grow organic produce.

In 2013 we piloted the project transforming five Anchorage yards into edible oasis. Homeowners provide land to garden, purchase seeds and starts through ACAT, commit to composting with the gardeners, and provide access to water and hand tools. The fee is seasonal and depends on the price of seeds and starts...but generally ranges from \$100-\$150. You will be required to purchase a toxic free hose and may want to purchase organic fertilizers. If fertilizer is needed we recommend fish emulsion which is \$23 and will last two seasons or more.

Gardeners build, plant and maintain the garden with the help of Yarducopia. We train the garden volunteers how to build gardens using permaculture techniques and meet with them once a week to problem solve any growing concerns.

The homeowner and volunteers split the produce grown, saving ten percent to give to a charity of their choice. Last year we grew 18 varieties of produce and edible flowers. Garden beds range in size from 10' x 10' to 20' x 20' depending on the homeowners landscape needs.

To be a gardener volunteer you will need to commit to two days of maintenance a week, one hour each day. You will also be responsible for building the garden bed with Yarducopia which is another full day or two half days. Keep in mind hours needed to maintain the garden will depend on weather, plant growth, soil, and vacations!

Interested in gardening and being a homeowner? No problem. If you are would like to participate we will partner you with one volunteer instead of two. Not sure if you want someone you don't know in your yard but you would like to participate? For an additional fee, we can come build the garden with you and friends- three able bodied people required.

All participants both homeowners and gardeners are required to attend a composting and soils workshop during the winter/ early spring. This workshop will provide a foundation to organic growing principles and techniques for the Anchorage area. It will also serve as an orientation for the Yarducopia program. We will go over roles and responsibilities, introduce Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Yarducopia's sponsor and answer any questions you might have.

We are looking to build 20 Yarducopia gardens annually. At this rate we will be gardening 10,000 square feet, the size of Anchorage's largest traditional community garden in three years! Spread the word and be a part of transforming Anchorages neighborhoods into beautiful, friendly, tasty organic communities. The municipality of Anchorage does not have the funding to create more community gardens or manage the ones currently in existence....in order to grow our local connection to food we have to join together and "be the change".

Alaska Community Action on Toxics sponsors the Yarcucopia Program. Take some time to learn a little about the important work that we do!

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Our mission is to assure justice by advocating for environmental and community health. We believe in the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food.

Core Values

Community Right-to-Know

We believe everyone has the right to know about harmful chemicals presents in our air, water, soil, food, and bodies.

Environmental Justice

We recognize that people of color and the poor are disproportionately harmed by toxic releases from military and industrial facilities. We seek to remedy environmental injustices through community-based research and advocacy.

Precautionary Principle

If toxics are present and suspected to cause health problems, we believe that ways to limit and avoid unnecessary exposure to those chemicals must be taken. The precautionary principle means that it is "better to be safe than sorry."

Elimination of the Production and Release of Toxics

Phase out chemicals that are harmful to health and the environment and replace them with safe alternatives.

Rights and Sovereignty of Indigenous People Culture of Caring and Wellness

We care about the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of individuals, communities, and workers affected by environmental contaminants.

Programs

- Rural: Alaska Rural Environmental Justice Program
- Policy: Environmental Health Policy and Social Change Program
- Education: Environmental Health Education Program
- Outreach: Alaska Youth and Community Outreach Program
- Wellness: Wellness and Healing Program

ACAT is a dedicated team of diverse people. We are the only Alaska-based environmental health and justice group working on preventing environmental contamination at every level: local, state, national, and international. Find out more by visiting www.akaction.org.