

Ei

Elemental  
IMPACT

# Elemental Impact

## Unitarian Universalist Church

### Green Team Meeting

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Sarasota, FL

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# Recycling Refinement

## Ei Era of Recycling Refinement:

- **Founded in 2010 as the home to the Zero Waste Zones.**  
*The forerunner in the nation for the commercial collection of food waste for compost.*
- **Launched the Sustainable Food Court Initiative in 2011.**  
*First SFCI Pilot: the Atlanta Airport, the busiest airport in the world.*



# Recycling Refinement

## Ei Era of Recycling Refinement:

- **Hosted the Sustainable F&B Packaging Value Chain Meetings 2011 – 2014.**  
*Non-profit and industry trade association executives traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual meeting.*
- **Mission Accomplished: June 2017.**  
*Ei entered the Era of Regeneration.*



# Elemental Impact

## ***Regeneration in ACTION***

*Work with industry leaders to create best regenerative operating practices where the entire value chain benefits, including corporate bottom lines and the environment. Through education and collaboration, establish the best practices as standard practices.*

# A Catalyst

*Ei is a creator, an incubator.*

*Ei determines what could be done that is not being done and gets it done.*

*Ei brings the possible out of impossible.*

*Ei identifies pioneers and creates heroes.*

# Soil: Foundation of Life

## Soil: Foundation of Life

- *Water and soil are in a Divine marriage and must be addressed together.*
- *Water and soil are the foundation of all life on Earth.*
- *Insects are integral to soil ecosystems and the base of the prey hierarchy.*



# Insect Apocalypse

## Insect Apocalypse

*Insects have declined **by 75% in the** past 50 years.  
**41%** of insect species are threatened with extinction.*

### Insects play a critical role in ecosystems

- Provide food for fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds.
- Pollinate flowering plants in wild and agriculture ecosystems.
- Play an essential role in the decomposition portion of nature's circular-life cycle.
- Recycle soil-system nutrients.



# Insect Apocalypse

## Insect Apocalypse

Contributing factors to the demise of insect populations:

- **Pesticides** – *prolific use in landscape & grounds maintenance, gardening & agriculture, and other pest control.*
- **Loss of habitat** – *due to urbanization, transportation systems, farming, and landscape-maintenance practices.*





# Insect Apocalypse

## Insect Apocalypse

Contributing factors to the demise of insect populations:

- **Non-native plants** in landscapes and wild areas – *most are not food or habitat for insects that evolved in unison with native plants; many symbiotic relationships.*
- **Intangible pollution** – *artificial light, noise (leaf blowers,) and electromagnetic fields.*

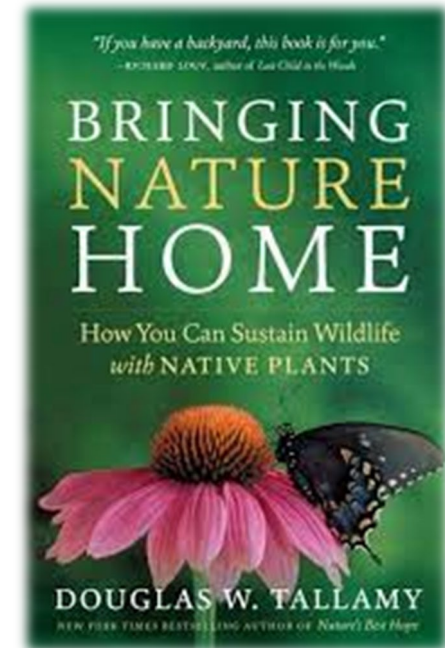


# Homegrown National Park

## Homegrown National Park

*A grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity.*

*“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.”*  
— DOUG TALLAMY



Link: Doug's [Bringing Nature Home presentation](#)

# Homegrown National Park

## Homegrown National Park

*A grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity.*

**SOLUTION:**

**PLANT NATIVE**



# Homegrown National Park

## Ei Native-Plant-Landscape Pilot

*Intention: to create a thriving environment for urban-wildlife habitat and food.*



# Intentional Eating

## Intentional Eating

**Michael Pollan:** *Food is not just fuel. Food is about family, food is about community, food is about identity. We nourish all those things when we eat well.*

“ The wonderful thing about food is you get three votes a day. Every one of them has the potential to change the world.

MICHAEL POLLAN



# Intentional Eating

## Intentional Eating

**Wendell Berry:** *eating is an agricultural act.*

### Evolution towards soil integrity

- **Organic** – toxic-free food; does not address the soil; food often lacks nutrients.
- **Regenerative** – soil focus yet no emphasis on native plants.
- **Rewilding** – focus on native plants.
- **Permaculture** – if not native, plant must produce human food.



**Article:** [\*From Organic Certification to Regenerative Agriculture to Rewilding Landscapes: an evolution towards soil integrity\*](#)

# Intentional Eating

## Ei Permaculture-Backyard Pilot

*Intention: to produce healthy, nutritious human food while cultivating soil health.*



## Permaculture-Oriented Landscapes

*Intention: nutrient capture and cycling, carbon capture, minimizing inputs/maximizing outputs, food security, connection to natural systems*

### Components:

- Food forest (perennial food production)
- Vegetable & herb gardens
- Compost

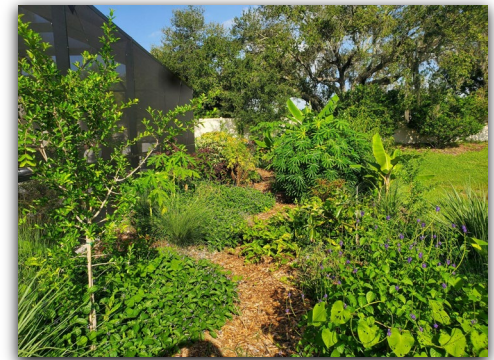
Before



After



3 months later





## Soil Regeneration

*Intention: create a positive feedback loop promoting a natural balance of soil nutrients and organisms*

- Soil carbon content - key factor in most metrics of soil health and primary factor in plant growth.
  - biological activity, moisture retention, pH, bioavailability of nutrients.
- Healthy soil = healthy resilient plants = less inputs & more nutritious food.

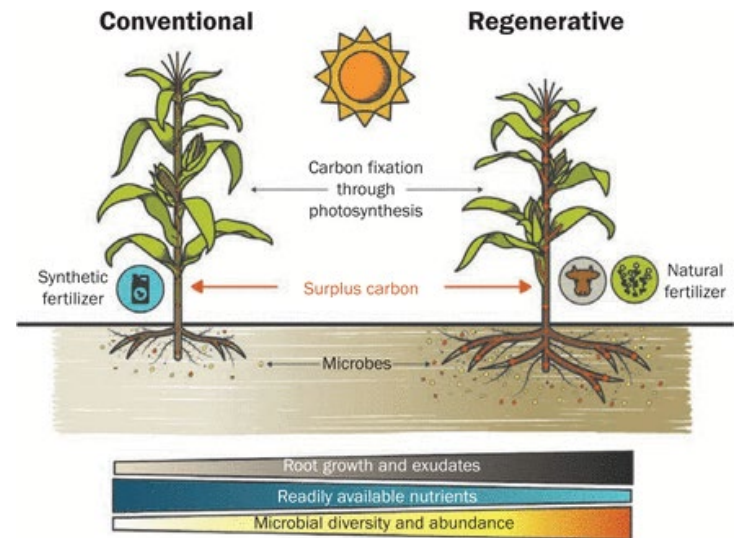
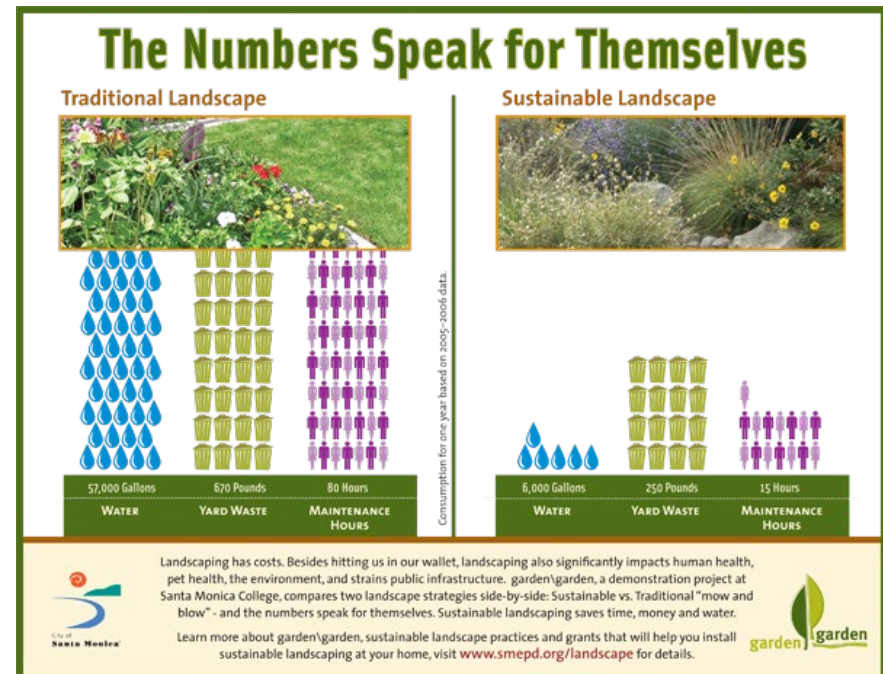


Image courtesy of article: Managing plant surplus carbon to generate soil organic matter in regenerative agriculture by Cindy E. Prescott

## What can you do?

*Intention: cumulative small action by the collective community results in huge impact*

- Plant native plants.
- Leave the leaves; insect pupation & nutrients for soil.
- Eliminate petro-chemical fertilizers, toxic- herbicides & pesticides.
- Educate yourself on local resources.
  - FNPS, Sarasota Audubon, Transition Sarasota



## What can you do?

*Intention: cumulative small action by the collective community results in huge impact*

- Vote with your consumer \$\$; shop local and seasonal when possible.
- Get to know your local farmers.
- Grow your own food; start simple.
- Document your successes and share with friends to learn from and inspire others.
- Take baby steps, lots & lots of baby steps.



# Contact Information

## Thank you!

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