



Jim Embry

“Leadership for a Sustainable Future”

Jim Embry who was born in Richmond, grew up in Covington and raised his children in Lexington is director and founder of Sustainable Communities Network in Lexington. Since founding Sustainable Communities Network in 2006 Jim has guided the development of 30+ community garden projects at homeless shelters, schools, neighborhood empty lots, city parks, churches, domestic violence shelters, drug court programs, AIDS programs and more! He has organized 4 regional conferences (2007 Green Schools Summit, 2008 Closing the Food Gap, 2009 Growing Food and Justice, 2010 Food Security Summit), inspired community-wide art projects with Leadership Lexington and provides important leadership in many community initiatives. He serves on the board or as a member of many different organizations including: Youth Green Corps, The Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden, Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community, Good Foods Co-op, Earth Spirit Rising, Southern Sustainable Agricultural Working Group, Central KY Council for Peace and Justice, Growing Food and Justice, The Interfaith Alliance, American Community Gardening Association, Slow Food USA and the Lexington Climate Action Plan Team.

In 2009 more than 200 teachers from around Kentucky participated in school garden workshops that he organized and facilitated. In March 2010 the Bluegrass Food Security Summit designed and organized by Jim brought together 200+ Kentuckians to discuss ways to develop greater food security for all! He gave 45 presentations in 2009 at universities, conferences, faith community, and neighborhood groups on sustainability and food systems. He recently facilitated retreats and workshops on Stewardship of Creation, Faith and Ecology and Sacred Earth Connections. In 2009 he contributed articles and photographs to three publications, the Sustainable World Sourcebook, African American Heritage Guide to Lexington and the Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky. Often times called an “eco-activist” Jim was named Model of the Year by ACE Weekly in 2007, has received numerous other awards and is known for thinking “out-of-the-barn”. His current work and writings seek to unify spirituality and quantum science as a guide to creating a socially just, sustainable, and peaceful society that reflects and shares the highest ideals of being human.