



NY Small Farma Ltd

You Have Questions, We Have Answers

How efficient is cannabis in sequestering carbon compared to trees and other plants or crops?

The specific amount of carbon sequestered by Hemp/ cannabis is a bit of an unknown at this point. There's not a lot of scientific research that has been done on the actual carbon sequestered under various conditions. A lot more research needs to be done. Much of this depends on how the plant is grown. Obviously indoor production sequesters no carbon and produces a large amount of CO₂. Outdoor grown cannabis using regenerative practices generally sequesters a small amount of carbon.

Will co-op or micro business cannabis licenses allow a small farm to offer sales at the farm market or open as a consumption coffee shop much like a brewpub? Are these details yet to be finalized?

You are correct, the details are yet to be finalized in the regulations. What we have pushed for is for a micro business to be able to operate somewhat like the on-Farm brewery license so the grower can cultivate, process and sell on farm. It is unclear whether that would also include consumption, though it is a good idea. Those may be included as separate licenses entirely so either 2 permits may be required or special provisions would have to be made for these situations.

What are some best practices that would be exercised by greenhouse or indoor growers that would minimize their carbon footprint?

This is a huge question. We will be providing some materials around these questions in the very near future. There are some good best practices guides particularly for indoor growing. In general practices that increase efficient water use, energy use and minimize waste generation are the key to lowering your impact as a producer. This is a complicated question and really requires a longer answer than can be given here. If you would like to discuss this further, please reach out to us.

Will micro businesses (or even home growers) have access to testing for cannabinoid and terpene profiles?

All cannabis that is sold legally in New York State will be required to have batch testing of all product. Typically, this is done in five- or 10-pound batches for everything that's growing on a farm. So that will likely include, by law, THC and cannabinoid content and testing for pesticides heavy metals and microbiological contamination. Terpene profiles would not typically be required but any commercial lab that will be testing cannabis in New York should be able to do those tests. Home growers should have access to that testing as well.

How much money is needed to start up a dispensary or cultivation of cannabis? Are there current assistance/ potential grants people can apply for?

That is big open question. Start-up costs depend on what you want to do. If you're wanting to do a small micro business and just produce, depending on your level of experience, it can be fairly reasonable to start up. It's impossible to give an exact amount because it really depends on so many variables. We are hoping that there will be state and/or local assistance for people who want to do start-ups, either outright grants or small business low interest loans for people who want to start cannabis businesses. What is going to be needed desperately is a cadre of people who will be able to offer competent technical assistance to people who are just learning the operation. This is farming so if you've never gardened or farmed, it might be a tall order to jump into this and expect to make money or make a go of it, though we would never want to discourage anyone from getting into growing plants. In some ways it depends on what your expectations are. Bottom line, grow for the love of the plant and don't expect to get rich.

Living in Queens I don't have much access in an urban area to growing- where can I volunteer my time in upstate NY to learn more about the cannabis business from cultivation to selling?

Another fantastic question. A big unknown as yet. Brian, a NY Small Farma Board member, is seeking to develop a program on his farm where people can come stay for a week or two and learn not just how to grow cannabis, but how to farm and grow regeneratively in a poly culture (Many plants- vegetables, herbs, medicinals) which is the way to produce cannabis outdoors. NY Small Farma will be networking, collaborating and advocating to make opportunities like these a reality.

If cannabis is a bioremediator, are the plants then contaminated and rendered useless for medicine?

Great question. Commercial hemp, not higher THC cannabis, would typically be used for bioremediation and the methods by which you harvest that and dispose of it are, again, yet to be really researched properly. Hemp is a great bio- remediator. It sucks up heavy metals and other toxins from the top to foot to 3 feet of the soil. All cannabis that would be used in a medicinal or adult-use form for consumers will be tested for heavy metals, pesticides and other contaminants before it can be used.

How are those plants that have taken up toxins to be disposed of? Is this even an issue that needs to be addressed?

The methodology around disposal of those plants is yet to be fully researched. The type of disposal depends on the levels of toxicity, heavy metals and other contaminants in plants. Again, a lot of that research still needs to be done and it is a very important question if Hemp, primarily commercial Hemp that is typically used for a paper or other fiber, is used as a bioremediator