



The Environmental Justice Report



INTRODUCING DEC'S NEW ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Environmental Justice Report!* The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) produces this newsletter to keep residents informed of initiatives within the agency that are important to the community.

DEC created an environmental justice program in October 1999 after tremendous support from environmental justice stakeholders around the state, much like the advocacy that happens every year during "Caucus Weekend". Representatives, including residents from minority and low-income communities, were concerned about actual and potential adverse environmental impacts in their communities and looked to DEC for a transformation in its permit process to include them in a more meaningful way.

Today, OEJ continues to serve as a vehicle to address environmental justice concerns in the environmental permit review process and across other DEC operations. Please take a moment to learn more about the office by visiting DEC's website:

dec.ny.gov/about/623.html

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES TO BENEFIT FROM \$8.4 MILLION IN NY WORKS II FUNDING TO COMPLETE CLEANUP OF CONTAMINATED SITES

Thirteen municipally-owned brownfield sites (land previously used for industrial purposes) across the state will receive \$8.4 million in NY Works II funding to clean up and remediate the areas for redevelopment. The sites, nine of them in or adjacent to environmental justice neighborhoods, are part of the state Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Restoration Program (ERP).

The NY Works funding allows existing ERP projects to advance beyond the investigation phase and begin cleanup work.

Nine of the 13 sites in or near environmental justice areas are:

546 Hempstead Turnpike Site
(Elmont) — \$275,000

Scolite – Upper Hudson River Site
(Troy) — \$674,205

Foster Refrigeration Site
(Hudson) — \$427,000

Gansevoort/Franklin Street Parcel Site
(Albany) — \$90,762

Sewall's Island Site
(Watertown) — \$695,363

Former Brown Manufacturing Site
(Syracuse) — \$661,550

Former Rome Cable Site
(Rome) — \$1,606,000

26-28 Whitesboro Street Site
(Rome) — \$236,127

312 Maple Street Site
(Endicott) — \$58,721

1318 Niagara Street Site
(Buffalo) — \$968,000

For more information on the progress of these projects, visit DEC's online Environmental Site Remediation Database Search: <http://bit.ly/brownfieldsites>, or sign up on DEC's homepage to receive e-mail updates: dec.ny.gov.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR DEC 2015 SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

DEC is now accepting online applications for its 68th Annual Summer Camp Program. The 2015 camp season begins June 28 and is the perfect opportunity for youth from diverse backgrounds to learn more about various outdoor recreational activities and environmental stewardship. Parents may register campers only through DEC's convenient, online registration system and pay by credit card, e-check or with a sponsor code. Fees for the 2015 camp season remain \$350 per one-week session per camper. Families without Internet access should call the camp office at 518-402-8014 for information on how to register for camp alternatively.

Don't forget to enter today's free raffle for a chance to win one free week of camp for your son or daughter! (Free week of camp is for youth ages 11 to 13 only.)

Youth 11 to 17 years old enjoy week-long adventures in conservation education at DEC's residential summer camps. They participate in a wide variety of outdoor activities such as fishing, bird watching, fly-tying, archery, canoeing, hiking, camping, orienteering and optional hunter safety education. Campers also learn about fields, forests, streams and ponds through fun, hands-on activities and outdoor exploration. DEC counselors teach youth conservation techniques used by natural resource professionals, such as measuring trees and estimating wildlife populations.

As a camper, I developed a love for nature. As a volunteer, I was humbled by service. As a camp counselor, I was able to do the most important thing of all—give back.” – Adam Stewart, Former Youth Camper

For camp dates, more information or to register online, visit DEC's website at: dec.ny.gov/education/29.html.

WINTER CAN BE FUN FOR EVERYONE!

DEC's Bureau of Environmental Education and the Office of Environmental Justice recently took a group of Albany students from EJ communities to the Winter Living Celebration at Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne, New York. There, the



youth enjoyed horse-drawn carriage rides, ice fishing demonstrations, cross-country skiing lessons, crafts, nature exhibits and more. Cherrie Burgess, wife of the late Yusuf Burgess (Brother Yusuf), accompanied the group as she had often done in the past. Brother Yusuf, a DEC employee who died suddenly in December 2014, was an avid outdoorsman who had a heart for enriching the lives of urban youth by exposing them to outdoor activities and environmental education. He was a mentor and a teacher to the youth, and his classroom was the Adirondacks and other regions around the state rich with natural resources. For information on enjoying the great outdoors, visit: dec.ny.gov/26.html.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

DEC will offer Community Impact Grants this year to community-based organizations for implementing projects that address various environmental and public health concerns. Projects can include: community gardens, tree plantings, education and curriculum development, urban farming training, habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, air quality monitoring, green infrastructure training and more.

"It (the Community Impact Grant) made all the difference that year in our ability to sustain our environmental work and continue to offer our students and Apprentices the chance to work alongside professional scientists on projects impacting the long-term health of the Bronx River." -Adam Green, Executive Director of Rocking the Boat

Since launching the Community Impact Grants in 2006, DEC has awarded 121 grants totaling more than \$4 million to organizations statewide that have made exceptional improvements in the communities they serve. The grants empower stakeholders to be actively engaged in finding solutions to the disproportionate burdens that some environmental justice communities experience.

Get ready to pitch your innovative ideas, and stay tuned for future dates for the application period! The Office of Environmental Justice will send e-mail updates, and you can receive them by signing up on DEC's homepage at: dec.ny.gov.

NEW COLLEGE INTERNSHIPS FOR DIVERSITY STUDENTS COMING THIS SUMMER!

The Department of Environmental Conservation is launching a new summer internship program geared toward college students representing diverse and traditionally under-represented backgrounds. This new program is designed to introduce diversity students to the wide range of exciting careers at DEC. The agency has a tremendous range of professions for almost every area of study. These include: biology, engineering, research, law enforcement, communications, forestry, environmental planning, budget & finance, legal and many more. Positions are part time with schedule flexibility. They are uncompensated but designed to be a valuable enrichment and learning opportunity. Students have the ability to arrange for college credit through their schools. If you are at least a sophomore at an accredited college or university (or know someone who is), please visit the following website for more information including application deadline: nysinternships.com/nnyl/intern.cfm.

TIPS ON E-WASTE RECYCLING

Did you know that since January 1, 2015, consumers can no longer dispose of certain types of electronic equipment in landfills, waste-to-energy facilities, in the trash or at curbside for trash pickup? Electronics covered by this new law include: computers (laptops, desktops, tablets and e-readers); televisions and cathode ray tubes; computer monitors; electronic keyboards; electronic mice or similar pointing devices; fax machines; document scanners; printers; VCRs; digital video recorders (DVRs); portable digital music players; DVD players; digital converter boxes; cable or satellite receiver; electronic or video game consoles and small-scale servers. To learn about the two options for recycling your e-waste, visit DEC's website:

dec.ny.gov/chemical/66872.html.

Contact us:

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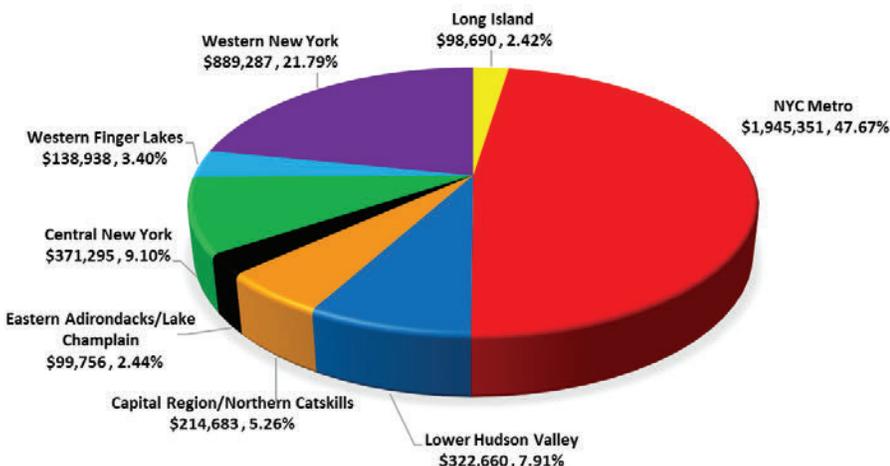
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**COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT SUMMARY
 2006-2012**



**Department of
 Environmental
 Conservation**