



Community Grants Program: Past Projects

PROJECT CATEGORIES



Community Clean-up



Educational Outreach



Food Waste Diversion



Reuse & Waste Reduction



Community Clean-up

Hutchinson River Restoration Project, Inc., *Clearing Garbage from the Hutchinson River Shoreline*

Facilitated community participation in debris clean-up activities along the Hutchinson River. The project increased public awareness of clean-up activities through community meetings, newsletters, news releases, and through collaboration and information exchanges with like-minded organizations in communities alongside the Hutchinson River and its watershed.



Community Clean-up

Seneca Waterways Council, Boy Scouts of America, *Scout for the Watershed*

Increased community awareness of watershed pollution prevention through environmental stewardship. The project engaged youth and families affiliated with area scouting and 4-H programs to collaborate with Rochester area colleges and universities in watershed conservation activities and clean-up events.



Community Clean-up

The Art Effect of the Hudson Valley, *Youth Art Activations at the Fall Kill Creek**

Implemented environmental conservation along the Fall Kill Creek in the environmental justice community of downtown Poughkeepsie. The project entailed hosting community clean-up events and empowering local youth to serve as environmental stewards using art and creativity as a catalyst for community engagement and urban renewal.



Educational Outreach

Bedford2030, *Community Vehicle Emission Tool*

Created a [Community Vehicle Emission Tool](#) that provided community members with easy-to-access information on the environmental impacts of vehicle emissions as well as resources for switching to an electric vehicle, reducing vehicle miles traveled, and minimizing environmental impact.



Educational Outreach

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, *Cayuga Lake: Pollution Prevention Public Outreach and Education*

Created and disseminated actionable educational materials that increased awareness and understanding of pollution prevention practices associated with plastic/litter, nutrient/sediment, and hazardous household pollution within the Cayuga Lake Watershed.



Educational Outreach

Clean and Healthy NY, *Advancing Community Solutions for a Just, Nontoxic, Regenerative Society**

Conducted educational workshops and outreach events to increase community awareness around pollution prevention topics, and to develop project recommendations leading toward a just, nontoxic, and regenerative society in the City of Albany.



Educational Outreach

Corn Hill Waterfront and Navigation Foundation, *Environmental Education on the Genesee River (E2GR)**

Developed educational materials and led hands-on, place-based citizen science events for underserved students, families, and teachers in the Rochester City School District about preventing pollution of the Genesee River. Activities increased knowledge of water-quality testing and data analysis, inspired community advocacy, and expanded knowledge of careers and occupations related to environmental stewardship.



Educational Outreach

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, *Promoting the Benefits of Battery-Powered Landscape Equipment Over Gas-Powered Equipment*

Conducted a series of educational workshops for landscape maintenance companies and property managers to raise awareness about the health risks and environmental impacts associated with gas-powered landscape equipment use.

* Impacted an Environmental Justice (EJ) or Potential Environmental Justice (PEJ) community.



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, *The Hull Truth: Raising Awareness and Affecting Sustainable Behavioral Changes in the Use of Antifouling Products and Practices on Long Island*

Developed educational resources and held workshops to inform stakeholders in the marina industry about antifouling pollution prevention. Topics included improving water quality, reducing heavy metal pollution, reducing soil contaminants, and increasing environmental conservation by restoring healthy marine habitats.



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County (CCETC), *Bringing the Benefits of Induction Cooking to Everyone*

Addressed carbon emissions and indoor air quality by promoting the use of electrified cooking appliances through a series of cooking classes. The events introduced low- and moderate-income community members to induction cooking with single-burner countertop units. [Educational materials](#) were made accessible online.



Fashion FWD, *Consumer Awareness of Non-Toxic Apparel*

Increased public awareness about chemicals in apparel. The project entailed the development and distribution of consumer-facing educational materials promoting safer, informed non-toxic apparel purchases. New materials that were developed included a brand evaluation and scorecard for consumers, and website and video content. A Virtual Detox event focused on stakeholder education.



Greater Patchogue Foundation, *Earth Day Eco Fair*

Hosted an educational Eco Fair that addressed issues of waterway pollution related to the coastal community of Patchogue. The event promoted best practices for protecting the environment and providing tools for Patchogue residents to implement at home.



Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Inc., *Nurturing the Seeds of Prevention Education: Expanding Environmental Health Literacy in Youth**

Expanded access to environmental health (EH) education in potential environmental justice area (PEJA) school districts and fostered the development of young leaders. The program educated youth EH ambassadors in EH-related subject areas and assisted them in developing peer-to-peer curriculum as a means for sharing the information with others.



Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance, *Septic Smart for Lake Erie*

An educational campaign in the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed regions throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie counties. The program consisted of a series of workshops promoting proper maintenance of septic systems and other strategies for reducing the strain on the systems, conserving their lifespan, and protecting the freshwater resources of the Great Lakes regions in New York State.



NYC Soil & Water Conservation District, *Green Infrastructure on Private Properties Outreach and Education**

Conducted outreach and education to community leaders about green infrastructure and stormwater management regulations, and incentives for private property owners in New York City. By informing community leaders who represent private property owners through community boards, associations, and other entities, they could in turn share the information with their constituents.



Poughkeepsie Farm Project, *Green Jobs for Youth*

Provided Poughkeepsie youth with training and education in sustainable agriculture, organic gardening, and community food security. Participants became advocates for sustainability by teaching other community members to grow healthy food using soil-building organic practices. They also learned how to implement day-to-day changes to prevent food waste and pollution.



Residents Forward, *Community Climate Awareness Garden*

Utilized a community garden to conduct hands-on workshops and outreach activities, educating students and community members about food-related pollution prevention and climate change topics. The project taught participants methods for producing locally grown fruits and vegetables and how to reuse food waste.



Rochester People's Climate Coalition (RPCC), *Go All Electric Marketing Plan Implementation*

Created and promoted educational content that created awareness for organizational leaders across the Genesee/Finger Lakes region about electrifying their fleets and buildings, as well as provided connections to resources. The project focused on beneficial electrification systems as a means of reducing carbon emissions.



Starflower Experiences, *Sustainable Wyandanch Internships*

Recruited student interns in the Wyandanch School District and educated them on topics related to sustainability, environmental exposure, and environmental justice, empowering them to be community advocates by helping expand knowledge across their community.



Syracuse University Center for Sustainable Community Solutions, *CNY Sustainable Food Specialists*

Provided intensive training for college students and food system stakeholders about strategies for addressing local wasted food through hands-on experiential learning activities and round-table discussions. The project provided a regional education and network-building initiative promoting locally relevant food waste reduction solutions for the Central NY community.

* Impacted an Environmental Justice (EJ) or Potential Environmental Justice (PEJ) community.



Educational Outreach

Syracuse University Center for Sustainable Community Solutions, *Developing Reuse Opportunities for NYS Communities**

Conducted research on the challenges and opportunities of implementing reuse programs throughout New York State. The program included hosting community reuse workshops and developing materials to educate potential environmental justice area (PEJA) communities on starting and managing reuse programs, and preventing valuable, usable items from entering the waste stream by keeping them in productive use.



Educational Outreach

The Foundation for New York's Strongest, *NYC Citizens Waste Academy*

Built on existing programming, the project provided NYC residents with free education and training to increase awareness and understanding of waste systems, and the environmental, social, and economic impacts of waste management and mismanagement. The goal of the project was to promote implementation of pollution prevention practices pertaining to waste reduction at the individual and community level.



Educational Outreach

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency, *UCRRA Zero Waste Seminal Project*

Educated participants about ocean plastic pollution and the effects of litter on watersheds, marine life, and humans. The project also educated participants about the environmental harms of microplastics, and raised awareness of waste diversion practices that reduce waste, optimize reuse of materials, and inspire long-term behavior change that fosters zero-waste living.



Educational Outreach

Western New York Sustainable Business Roundtable, *Circular Economy for Small Business**

Conducted educational programming events for historically underserved early-stage entrepreneurs and businesses on topics pertaining to circular economy principles and implementation strategies for small businesses, and an introduction to life cycle analysis.



Food Waste Diversion

Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA), *Compost for Good*

Developed an open-source toolkit for community-scale composting as a means for increasing the number of individuals and organizations implementing composting systems and improving existing community-scale composting systems. The toolkit was made available to organizations and municipalities across New York State.



Food Waste Diversion

City of Rochester, *City of Rochester Composting Pilot Program Education*

Developed educational materials and conducted information sessions and webinars to educate pilot composting program participants about the benefits of reducing food waste and recycling it into compost. The project also promoted behavior change related to food waste reduction and composting.



Food Waste Diversion

Clarkson University, *Potsdam Community Food Waste: Education, Engagement, and Planning*

Conducted community educational workshops, stakeholder engagement events, and data collection to inform planning of a community-scale food waste management program in the Town of Potsdam.



Food Waste Diversion

Green Inside and Out, Inc., *Food Scrap Recycle Long Island*

Pioneered the establishment of food scraps recycling and backyard compost programs for two Long Island towns. The project facilitated food waste diversion from incineration and landfills and created a replicable model for other Long Island townships.



Food Waste Diversion

Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, *Snug Harbor Community Composting for Staten Island**

Established 8 food scrap drop off (FDSO) sites in neighborhoods across Staten Island as a means for diverting organic waste from landfills or incineration. The project engaged community partners to educate youth from underserved communities about the importance of organics recycling and training them to become Compost Ambassadors at the FDSO sites.



Reuse & Waste Reduction

FABSCRAP, *Sample Overhaul and Audit Project (SOAP)*

Conducted industry-deep systemic research of wasteful practices surrounding fabric samples and their associated packaging in the fashion industry. Research identified and evaluated alternative processes including reuse of materials associated with textile samples, and concluded with a whitepaper report containing pollution prevention recommendations to disseminate to industry stakeholders.



Reuse & Waste Reduction

Shift2, *Refurbishing Corporate Computers for Distribution to the Local Community**

Refurbished 100 phased-out corporate laptops and distributed them to households of children in the Rochester City School District resulting in expanded information technology access to individuals living in an EJ community. Additionally, the project extended the lifecycle of the devices and reduced environmental impact by diverting electronic waste from landfills.

For more information about the NYSP2I Community Grants Program, contact Ambika Walker:

apwgis@rit.edu • 585-475-2399 • rit.edu/nysp2i/community-outreach

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