



We Power NYC

Group #5: Environmental Issues

*Katerina Corr, Helen Chen, Cecilia
Castellon, Wali Ullah, James Lherisson*





Introduction

Our group's overall topic was environmental concerns, specifically on regulation of CO2 in New York City.

This presentation will cover the roles of different community stakeholders, how youth can get involved, and some highlights from our research.

This is a topic that is important to us because it is a complex yet prominent issue with far reaching consequences.

Ultimately, we've learned that no action is too small and to never stop acting for the better good!

Group Timeline Highlights

1930s: As Parks Commissioner of New York City, Robert Moses imported his racist building methods to an area dense with people of color in need of relief from overcrowded neighborhoods.

1936: Opening of the Triborough Bridge.

2007-2018: The Department of Transportation installed more than 100 miles of protected bike lanes across the City.

2018: NYC Mayor's Office Climate Policy & Program* pledged to reduce CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050 and align with the 1.5 degree Celsius change marked in the Paris Agreement.

2019: The MTA debuts its first fleet of all-electric buses on the M14 SBS route. The buses were part of the Fast Forward plan and use zero-emission technology.



Roles of Different Community Stakeholders (1 of 2)

Mayor: Sets the key priorities for the City. Several agencies report to them regarding environmental issues.

City Council: Pass legislation affecting New York City residents and ensures that the City agencies are completing their goals effectively.

District Attorney: Oversees criminal justice; not directly related to environmental concerns.

Borough Presidents: Advise the Mayor on the issues and priorities of each of the Boroughs. Several of the Borough Presidents have chosen environmental protection as one of their key issues.

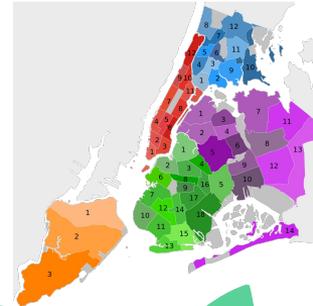


Roles of Different Community Stakeholders (2 of 2)

Public Advocate: Contributes to the role and mission of the NYC Council by serving as a non-voting member.

Comptroller: Determines how the City budget is distributed, affecting the environmental-focused agencies.

Community Boards: The members collectively advise various City officials. Each of the community boards has different committees; some of them include environmental protection.



Influential Government and Non-Government Agencies

Government Agencies

- The Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination
- The Mayor's Office of Sustainability
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Environmental Conservation

Non-Government Agencies

- Environmental Defense Fund
- Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.
- Sierra Club
- Greenpeace
- World Wild Fund for Nature



Interview Highlights

"If everyone genuinely cared about making it fair, then they shouldn't mind working with other different people to change not only the neighborhood but also their environment."

Cecilia's interview with her friend, Stephanie

"The biggest thing individuals can do to be more sustainable is cutting down on waste. That can be really difficult since there is so much waste in packaging and shipping."

Katerina's interview with a NYC student climate activist

"The brief halt in activity decreased emissions for the city and allowed for a temporary decrease in environmental damage. "I've definitely felt like the environment has been clearer than before."

Helen's interview with a NYC public school student

"[It's either] I continue doing what I believe in or I hide and live my life in fear. And I don't choose a ladder."

James' interview with Climate Speaks advisor and NYC climate activist, Aryaana Khan

What can New York students do to help?

- Students can volunteer at local charities or clean up a beach in order to help and protect the environment from pollution or waste.
- Students can use their social media platform to discuss important issues like climate change and environmental issues and how others can find ways to help and volunteer.
- Students can participate in non-profit programs that center climate issues
- Recycling is a great way for others to help the environment because by recycling, you're reducing the effect of air and water pollution, as well as saving energy in order to protect the environment from climate change.
- You can save electricity by turning off your phone, unplugging unused electronics, and taking shorter showers can help you save money and electricity in your house.
- Organize and protest! For climate change and environmental issues for your voice to be heard and to try to make an impact in your community



Thank you!

Thank you all so much for listening to our presentation on what Group #5 has been researching these past few weeks. We are happy to answer any questions.

