

PERSPECTIVE

2019 PROGRAM REPORT



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Solar One is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to design and deliver innovative education, training, and technical assistance that fosters sustainability and resiliency in diverse urban environments. We empower learning that changes the way people think about energy, sustainability, and resilience by engaging and educating a diverse set of stakeholders and beneficiaries. Our programs help individuals and communities explore new ways of living and working that are more adaptive to a changing world.

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Directors Letter

May 5, 2020

Dear friends,



When my staff and I first started discussing ideas for this Program Report at the beginning of this year, the world was a very different place. So many things we have always taken for granted – the ability to move around freely, to visit our friends, to hug our loved ones – has been curtailed or taken away by

something so tiny we can't see it, so insidious that we can't tell who may be carrying it and who may not, and so alien to us that scientists can't say whether a virus can even be considered a living thing on its own.

Since I became Executive Director of Solar One in 2004, many extraordinary events have occurred. The Iraq and Afghanistan wars were raging across the globe, soon to be followed by the 2008 financial crisis and then Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

During that time, we've also witnessed an unprecedented commitment to renewable energy and climate change mitigation at the local and state levels. In New York City, there has been a huge increase in the amount of solar generating capacity and an enormous uptick in interest in solar, resiliency, environmental stewardship, and education in all its forms from the New York City Department of Education, the schools, and the workforce agencies we partner with across the city.

Originally, the theme of this Program Report was going to be Momentum, because of the great strides forward that we made as an organization in 2019. But COVID-19 has stopped the momentum of the entire globe in its tracks. And when the pandemic is under control and we can begin to pick up where we left off, there will be great uncertainty about how changed we will be as a country, a society and a community. We need a change in Perspective to understand and prepare for the moment when our momentum picks up once again.

It's impossible to say right now what normal will look like once we can fully emerge from the various kinds of lockdowns we are under, or how long it will take us to get there. We may never go back to handshakes; we may always want to keep extra physical distance between ourselves and others. Classrooms may need to hold fewer students and teachers, and large-scale events may not be advisable for some time to come.

But despite the uncertainty, I have long believed that one of our organization's greatest strengths is our ability to shift our Perspective and adapt our approach accordingly. In 2004, promoting the adoption of solar photovoltaic technology in an urban setting was a gamble. At the time, our little solar shack was the only stand-alone solar-powered building in all of New York City. As our programs made their way first through the public school system, and then beyond into workforce training, energy efficiency outreach and community solar, our Perspective widened. It includes disadvantaged adults, marginalized communities and small businesses coping with the challenges of adapting to a world facing climate chaos, new technology and now, a devastating global pandemic that has hit New York particularly hard.

Reading this report on everything we did in 2019 may have a bittersweet taste right now. Whatever we thought the way forward was at the close of 2019 has been forever altered. As we take this time to recalibrate the future and our response to it, we hope you'll continue with us along the path to a brighter, more hopeful future. That's the new Perspective we're sharing with you today, tomorrow and always.

With best wishes for everyone's health and safety,

Chris Collins

Executive Director

By The Numbers

Green Workforce Training



793 Total Students Trained



863 Certificates Awarded



30 Entry Level Cohorts

Here Comes Solar



7MW Installed To Date



18MW Committed To Date



11MW Committed Affordable Housing

Green Design Lab



4783 Total Students Taught



736 Teachers Trained



427 Number of Schools

Stuyvesant Cove Park



3140 Volunteer Hours



19 Resilience Ecology Interns



46 Park Educational Events

Solar One Events



11 Solar Powered Events



40 Participating Artists



7600 Event Attendees



he Green Workforce team celebrated its tenth year of programming with a continuation of exceptional instruction, new delivery options, and growth in numbers for the educational staff. Our instructors trained 30 cohorts throughout the year, which



translated to learning opportunities for 793 un- and underemployed students interested in a stable, hands-on career pathway. Solar One's model relies on strategic partnerships with workforce development organizations across NYC that provide their own wraparound services for participants, such as job readiness and placement assistance for people with previous criminal justice involvement, substance abuse difficulties, lack of a stable home or income, and a variety of other roadblocks preventing upward mobility. The Green Workforce team's primary partnerships include: STRIVE International, The Fortune Society, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, St. Nicks Alliance, Green City Force, New York Power Authority, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, The Door, Building Works, The HOPE Program, and La Guardia Community College. 2019 also saw two educators join the team, the expansion of offsite programming at our partners' facilities, and, for the first time, growth beyond the five boroughs by delivering environmental education workshops all across New York state.

Hands-on Training for Students with Criminal Justice Involvement

2019 marked the fourth consecutive year that Solar One provided environmentally-focused hard skills programs at Rikers Island. 82 clients participated in Green Workforce classes by way of The Fortune Society's I-CAN program, an initiative dedicated to community re-entry and career building opportunities for people with previous criminal justice involvement. Our staff delivered hands-on programming to train students in building science, energy efficiency, carpentry, and solar PV;

these courses include a baseline of transferable skills that students are able to utilize in their search for future employment. Additionally, the Green Workforce team continued its re-entry solar PV programming to train and directly place clients with solar installation companies in NYC.

Incumbent Building Staff Training and Environmental Workshops

Beyond entry level programming, the Green Workforce team trained incumbent building staff and property management companies throughout NYC. The goal of these programs is to offer a holistic understanding of energy efficiency via a "whole building approach," which encompasses different levels of training for different types of staff members. Building maintainers will learn how to conserve electricity and water in their day-to-day workload, while property managers will be taught how to interpret building management data to effectively track their portfolio's energy usage and costs. These staggered training approaches combine to ultimately cut carbon emissions across the City, which translates to money saved by our clients. Also, the Green Workforce staff began its work with the New York Power Authority to teach residential energy efficiency workshops throughout the state. These workshops are targeted to environmental justice communities in an effort to provide zero or low-cost energy conservation tips and upgrades, with the goal of ultimately lowering residents' monthly energy costs.





SOLARONE WORKFORCE **Program Highlights**

793 **Total Students Trained**

863 Certificates Awarded

30 **Entry Level Cohorts**

Learn more about **Green Workforce Training:** www.solar1.org/green-workforce



ere Comes Solar envisions urban communities where solar power is accessible, affordable and incredibly common. We are working to make this vision a reality by helping affordable housing providers, multifamily co-ops, environmental justice groups, and community centers make their solar projects happen. We are developing new financing, ownership and procurement models for solar in the city, expanding the market to better serve communities that face obstacles to participating in our clean energy economy. With each solar project, we are growing a critical industry and building an employment pipeline for our Green Workforce Training Program graduates.



In 2019, the Here Comes Solar program secured commitments for more than seven megawatts of new solar capacity, primarily on affordable housing and co-ops/condos. These solar projects will deliver utility bill savings to affordable housing providers, low-income families, local nonprofit organizations, and everyday New

Yorkers. Our solar projects are enabled through strong partnerships and strategies such as bulk procurement, creative solar energy credit distribution (onsite and offsite community solar), and third-party financing.

Solar for Affordable Housing

New York City is experiencing a housing crisis; rents have increased while wages stagnate, and the City's population growth has outpaced the creation of new housing units. Solar power can help preserve our City's precious affordable housing stock and prevent displacement by reducing expenses for affordable housing and low-income residents. In 2019, we continued providing free solar technical assistance to leading affordable housing nonprofits such as the Joint Ownership Entity of NYC, the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, and their members. We are also proud to be providing solar technical assistance to the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, helping the agency rollout a "cost-effective solar mandate" in 2020.

Community Solar for Renters

Community shared solar makes solar bill savings available to any New Yorker that pays an electric bill, including renters. In 2019, we launched Community Power, a joint initiative with Con Edison and NYCHA to install solar on three NYCHA developments by and for low-income New

Yorkers. The 1.2 megawatt solar project will integrate NYCHA resident apprentices and provide approximately 350 low-income families with utility bill savings via community shared solar. We are also continuing our work on the Sunset Park Solar project, a 700 kilowatt community solar project located on the Brooklyn Army Terminal. In addition to delivering direct benefit to more than 500 low-income households, these projects will demonstrate that cooperatively-owned solar arrays developed by and for low-income families are economically viable. Both of these projects are on track for 2020 installation, and we are continuing to grow our pipeline of community solar projects in NYC and New Jersey.

Resilient Solar for Emergency Backup Power

Solar One is working with the New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to install solar + energy storage systems on community centers located in Superstorm Sandy-affected areas. These systems will power critical loads in the event of future emergencies, allowing the community centers to serve as resilience hubs for nearby residents. Design and permitting for our first four sites began in 2019, and the remaining sites will be under contract by the end of 2020. We are also providing technical assistance to support solar + storage projects on private multifamily buildings in NYC and New Jersey and working with stakeholders to address barriers to storage deployment.

Business Model Evolution and Geographic Expansion

In 2019, we initiated planning for a for-profit subsidiary to grow our impact and diversify our revenue streams. At the same time, we provided solar technical assistance to our first clients outside of New York; multifamily buildings in Jersey City, and we began to evaluate opportunities for further geographic expansion in the years to come. We plan to incorporate a for-profit entity in 2020, primarily to serve our market-rate clients, and we are continuously evaluating opportunities for growth in NYC and beyond.

Here Comes Solar has developed 18 megawatts of solar projects in underserved market segments. 18 megawatts of solar capacity will generate enough power for 5,187 typical NYC apartments, provide an estimated \$121 million lifetime utility bill savings, and will have the environmental impact of:

- Planting 7 million seedlings and letting them grow for 10 years.
- Removing 57,134 cars from the road.
- Reducing 270,475 metric tons of CO2 emissions.



SOLARONE Here Comes Solar Program Highlights

7 W Installed To Date

18MW

Committed To Date

11MW

Committed Affordable Housing Projects

Learn more about Here Comes Solar: www.HereComesSolar.nyc



olar One's Green Design Lab (GDL) is an environmental STEM education program and curriculum, which provides resources and training for teachers, in-school classroom residency programs for students and hands-on workshops in non-formal educational settings. 2019 marked 10 years since the Green Design Lab launched as a small program in Stuyvesant Cove Park. In its tenth year, GDL renewed many of its longstanding programs and partnerships while also growing its offerings in exciting ways. To highlight the ongoing success of the program,



GDL was awarded the prestigious UL Innovation Award and \$50,000 for recognition of its innovative environmental STEM programming.

New Jersey Program

2019 saw the expansion of GDL into New Jersey, with the launch of our summer internship program in Newark. In partnership with the Newark Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and the Victoria Foundation, Solar One implemented a 6-week program for 14 Newark youth aged 14-18. Hosted at Rutgers Business School, the Newark summer program used GDL's urban sustainability curriculum to explore local green careers through field trips, community focused service-learning projects, and hands-on classroom learning.

The New Jersey program continued into the school year through a partnership with Central High School (CHS), a high school within the Newark Central School District. In the fall of 2019, Solar One implemented a semester-long classroom residency to teach the CleanTech curriculum as an Environmental Engineering course. Solar One supported CHS to successfully launch the first Environmental Studies Academy in Newark and trained the school's Science Department to integrate CleanTech across science disciplines.

NYC Solar CTE Education Program

In 2019, Solar One delivered the Solar Career and Technical Education (CTE) program in collaboration with the NYC Department of Education's (DOE) Office of Sustainability and the NYC DOE Office of Post-Secondary Readiness to 11 high schools in all five boroughs. The goal of the Solar CTE program is to implement solar installation classes



within existing electrical, construction and engineering programs at technical high schools across New York City.

The Solar CTE program also saw the introduction of several new program components. Solar One coordinated a Solar Career Expo for participating students to network with local green energy and solar professionals in NYC. Solar One utilized these industry contacts to help coordinate paid summer internships for participating

students to get on-the-job training with a solar company. Through this opportunity, four students were able to assist with installing a rooftop solar array on a DOE school building. To further enhance the program, participating teachers received content training in solar through NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) associate level industry certifications.

Programs for Teachers and Students

During 2019, Solar One delivered professional development workshops and classroom residencies in partnership with the NYC DOE as part of multiple citywide STEM programs including the NYC Solar Schools Education program, DOE Office of Sustainability Coordinator trainings, and DOE's Citizen Science program. Solar One also delivered workshops to educators and students across New York State in partnership with the New York Power Authority's Environmental Justice program. In addition, Solar One worked with Queens Public Library to deliver STEM workshops to school-age children, parents and the general public. Solar One continued to partner with the NYC DOE Office of Community Schools and the Department of Youth and Community Development's Summer Youth Employment Program to deliver the

summer program CareerCLUE. In 2019, Solar One built four Schoolyard Solar projects, which are small scale, standalone solar systems with battery storage. They are used as an educational tool to teach about solar circuits and engineering concepts and also to increase the sustainability of the school campus.





SOLARONE GREEN DESIGN LAB

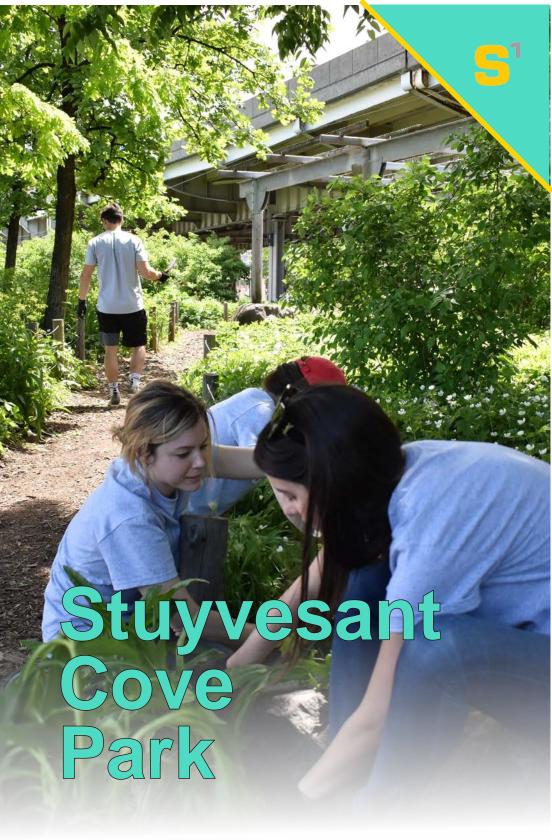
Program Highlights

4783
Total Students Trained

736
Teachers Trained

427
Number of Schools

Learn more about the Green Design Lab: www.solar1.org/green-design-lab



tuyvesant Cove Park is a beautiful two-acre native plant park nestled along the East River. Currently managed as a food forest, it features edible and medicinal plants, many of which have provided sustenance for people in the New York region since long before colonists arrived more than 400 years ago. The park is maintained by a small park staff, a rotation of enthusiastic interns, and hundreds of volunteers of all ages. Stuyvesant Cove provides a taste of nature in the most urban place in the world.



Volunteering in the Park

Each year our staff guides hundreds of volunteers in removing invasive plants and propagating native plants, along with citizen science projects, and park clean-ups and maintenance. Whether during monthly seasonal community volunteer days, weekly service learning opportunities or corporate team building events, people of all ages and backgrounds connect to the natural environment, help maintain a unique public green space, and enjoy a rare chance to do some urban gardening. The Park is the perfect place to refresh ourselves and make a positive impact in restoring the ecological health of our island.

Native Foods

Since 2018, Stuy Cove has been organically managed as an all-native plant food forest, the only one of its kind in New York City. Drawing on traditional indigenous knowledge, we explore the interdependencies of native plants, wildlife, and people. Through this lens, students learn the history and biology of plants and animals that play important roles in the ecology and cultures of our region.



Waterfront Resiliency

Stuyvesant Cove Park is part of the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, a flood protection system that will remake several miles of the East River waterfront in anticipation of rising sea levels and increased flood events due to climate change. In preparation, we are working to incubate the biological diversity naturally selected over the past 15 years at Stuy Cove by banking our locally adapted plants in large portable containers. We are also bringing in new ecotypes and species that are expected to adapt to future conditions on the site, and working with the ESCR team on the design of a new park that will successfully transition at pace with a changing climate.



Solarone Stuyvesant Cove Park Program Highlights

3140
Volunteer Hours

Resilience Ecology Interns

30

Modular Edible Ecosystems

46
Park Educational Events

Learn more about Stuyvesant Cove Park www.solar1.org/stuyvesant-cove-park



Events

What could be better than spending a summer evening by the riverside, listening to a local band or watching an independent film? During the warm summer months, the blacktop area at the north end of Stuyvesant Cove Park becomes the site of a wide variety of community events, many of which are free and open to the public. The blacktop is also available to rent for private functions on a sliding scale basis, and the revenues raised support the operation and maintenance of Stuyvesant Cove Park.

In 2019, Solar One hosted the annual music series produced by the Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, a screening of the acclaimed film Brittany Runs a Marathon with Rooftop Films, and the most authentic Oktoberfest this side of Munich with the indefatigable team from Zum Schneider. Thousands of participants and audience members enjoyed the beauty of the park while being wined, dined, and entertained.



Wellness on the Waterfront

Currently, the Park and Events teams are working on plans for both virtual and live events in accordance with social distancing guidelines. We are looking forward to getting back to the park as soon as it is advisable, and to continue to create a greener and more ecologically resilient and restorative New York City for us all.



SOLARONE Solar One Events Program Highlights

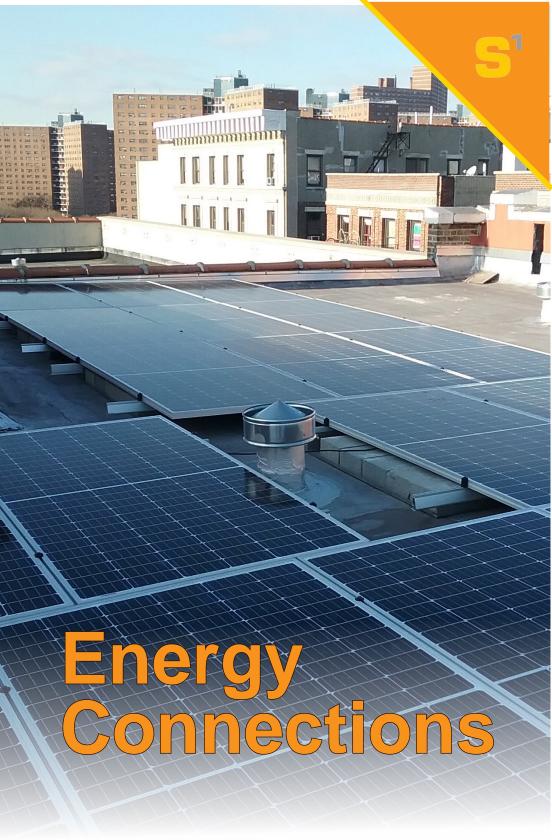
Solar Powered Events

40
Participating Artists

7600

Event Attendees

Learn more about the Solar One Events: www.solar1.org/events/



nergy Connections supports local State and City climate and clean energy initiatives. The program works with NYC agencies to provide technical assistance for initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as energy efficiency and building electrification. Solar One staff are helping implement New York City's ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts defined in the Climate Mobilization Act. We are proud to play this role, and to do so in a manner that is coordinated with and supported by Statewide programs. We are continuing our Clean Energy Connections event series to increase public awareness of clean energy initiatives and to help shape the conversation regarding New York's clean energy present and future.

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program

Through this program, Solar One is assisting the City of New York with implementing high impact actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Key initiatives include helping the City expand its building efficiency benchmarking program, supporting City agencies with climate action planning, and helping the City develop new programs to advance building efficiency and electrification. In 2019, Solar One staff conducted research and analysis to help the Mayor's Office of Sustainability roll

out aspects of the Climate Mobilization Act, the first program of its scale to put a price on building-level carbon emissions. In 2019, Solar One also hired an additional fulltime staff member to support the NYC Division of Energy Management to implement a long-term study to develop a strategy to dramatically reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions. This work is ongoing, and promises to deliver immense environmental benefit in the years to come.



Clean Energy Connections

This live discussion series features thought leaders and innovators in the energy field, and sparks dialogue on the state of the evolving cleantech industry. In 2019, we produced three events at New York Public Radio's The Greene Space in collaboration with our partners NYC ACRE, NYSERDA, and Greentech Media:

The Circular Economy

March 14, 2019

Clean Energy Connections: NYC's Low Carbon Future

August 6, 2019

Clean Energy Connections: Carbon to Value

October 24, 2019



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Director, Events & Park

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Instructor
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Instructor
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Instructor

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Anika Wistar-Jones
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Clean Energy Communities Coordinator

Stuyvesant Cove Park
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Park Manager
Ceasar Nash
Park Maintenance

Major Supporters

Government

DASNY

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery – NY

Rising

Manhattan Borough President's Office - Hon.

Gale Brewer

NYC Council - Speaker Corey Johnson

NYC Council – Hon. Keith Powers

NYC Council Greener NYC Initiative

NYC Department of Education

NYC Economic Development Corporation

NYS Assembly - Hon. Harvey Epstein

NY Power Authority

NYSERDA

U.S. Department of Energy- Latin American Solar Decathlon

Foundations

11th Hour Project of the Schmidt Family

Foundation

Dr. Robert C. and Tina Sohn Foundation FJC Foundation, A Foundation of Philanthropic

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NYC Fund for Public Schools New York Community Trust

Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh

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Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation

The City Gardens Club of NYC

The JPB Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

The Overbrook Foundation

Trinity Wall Street

Victoria Foundation

Wells Fargo Foundation

Corporations

AKRF

Best Energy Power

Bright Power

Broadway Stages

Brooklyn Solar Works

Cameron Engineering & Associates, LLP

Consolidated Edison

Constellation Energy

Daroga Power Empower Solar

Harvest Power

HNY Ferry

Inclusive Prosperity Capital

JPMS, LLC

Onyx Renewables

PKF O'Connor Davies LLP

Riverkeeper

Solar Energy Systems

Steven Winter Associates

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Organizations

British International School of NY

Building Works/NYC District Council of

Carpenters

The Computer School

Erie 1 Boces

Fortune Society

Green City Force

Horace Mann School

The Little Red Schoolhouse/Elisabeth Irwin

High School

LaGuardia Community College

New York Cares

New York Sun Works, Inc.

NRDC \ Donna de Costanzo

Poly Prep Country Day School

PS 21

STRIVE NY/East Harlem Employment Service

Stuyvesant Cove Park Assn.

Urban Future Lab / NYU Tandon Incubators

Variety Boys & Girls Club of LIC

Volunteers of America

Partners

Accord Power

ADAPT Community Network Alliance for Climate Education

ArcheWild

Ascendant Neighborhood Development Association for Neighborhood and Housing

Development Bjarke Ingels Group

BlocPower

British International School of NY

Brooklyn Borough President - Renewable

Energy and Sustainability Taskforce

Brooklyn Community Board 6 Brooklyn Movement Center

Brooklyn North STEAM Collaborative

Brooklyn Public Library

Brooklyn Workforce Innovations

Building Works/NYC District Council of

Carpenters

Cameron Engineering City-As-School

Consolidated Edison

Co-op Power

Cooper Square Committee

Dalton School Earth Celebrations

Environmental Education Advisory Council NYC

EnergeiaWorks ExpandED

Farm School NYC

Fifth Avenue Committee First Service Energy The Fortune Society

Gilhane

FX Collaborative Green City Force

Grid City / 770 Electric Corp Greenwood Energy

Habitat for Humanity NYC Housing Works

The HOPE Program Horace Mann School

ICF

IPPSOLAR Jewish Latin Center Johns Mansville

Joint Ownership Entity NYC LaGuardia Community College Lawyers Alliance for New York

Local Initiatives Support Corporation NYC

Math for America

Manhattan Comprehensive Night and Day High

Natural Resources Defense Council New York Botanical Garden

New York Cares

NYC Community Energy Cooperative

NYC Department of Citywide Administrative

NYC Department of Education

NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

NYC Economic Development Corp.

NYC Energy Efficiency Corporation NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

NYC Ferry

NYC Mayor's Office Center for Youth

Employment

NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental

Remediation

NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability

NYC STEM Education Network

NYC Wildflower Week

New York Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York Public Library

New York Solar Energy Industries Association

New York State Energy Research and **Development Authority**

New York Sun Works, Inc.

New York University

North American Association of Environmental

Educators

Office of Community Schools

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning, English Language

Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning, STEM Office of Post Secondary Readiness Partnership for Afterschool Education **PVilion**

The POINT Community Development

Corporation

Poly Prep Country Day School

Queens Public Library Quixotic Systems Resilient Redhook Resonant Energy Rooftop Films

Riseboro Community Partnership

Safari Energy School of Visual Arts

Solar Energy Industries Association

STEM Teachers NYC St. Nicks Alliance STRIVE International

Stuyvesant Cove Park Association StuyTown Property Services Sustainable CUNY

The Trust for Public Land United Nations International School

UPROSE

Urban Future Lab / NYU Tandon Incubators Urban Homesteading Assistance Board

Variety Boys & Girls Club of LIC

Volunteers of America

Vote Solar Wavestone

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

WFHA Brooklyn Restoration

WILD Center

WNET- New York Public Media

Zum Schneider

