



**OPEN SPACE
INSTITUTE**

Now in its fourth decade, Citizen Action has mentored, trained and launched nearly 150 grassroots start-ups in New York City and beyond. With a focus on open space access, outdoors recreation and environmental education, groups under Citizen Action all work in some way to protect the environment. Participants range from community gardens and local land trusts, to environmental educators and promoters of nature-based arts and activities. These groups have gone on to become independent non-profits.

Citizen Action Groups Alumni

93rd-94th Street Preservation Alliance

The 93rd-94th Street Preservation Alliance is a group of neighbors protecting open space and the quality of life in a corner of Manhattan's Upper West Side historic district. The group was formed to address the planned expansion of a private school into space behind two large apartment buildings and a number of brownstones.

Contact: ann.lewis@ropesgray.com

Abingdon Square Conservancy

Abingdon Square Alliance (ASA) maintains the safety, cleanliness, and use of Abingdon Square Park's green space for the community. Recent restoration and continuing maintenance of the Park serves to strengthen community ties and foster fellowship in the neighborhood. Currently, ASA is working to more accurately represent the diversity of the lifestyles and talents of the community. Contact: todd.hittle@gmail.com

AFFIRM, Inc.

AFFIRM, Inc. utilizes careful land-use planning to preserve the areas of New Paltz and Gardiner while still maintaining controlled housing growth and appropriate economic development. In addition to the group's monitoring of local governing and planning boards, AFFIRM also provides advice and support to single-issue grassroots environmental groups in the mid-Hudson area. Contact: David.Porter@esc.edu

Alaska Education Project

Alaska Education Project promotes healthy economies in southeast Alaska that are based on sustainable forestry. Contact: mam@mcfdn.org

Ananda Harvest

Ananda Harvest seeks to create a platform of environmental education focusing on sustainability and permaculture.

Better Futures Project

Better Futures Project is a startup project based in Massachusetts that seeks to educate the public around the multitude of harms that flow from burning fossil fuels. The group provides education, support and mentorship to grassroots leaders and organizations working on environmental issues. Contact: craigaltemose@gmail.com



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Catskill Mountainkeeper

Catskill Mountainkeeper is a member-based advocacy organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the long term health of the six counties of the Catskill Region. Contact: info@catskillmountainkeeper.org

Citizens for a Better Canada Lake

Citizens for a Better Canada Lake defends against disruptive boat use and damaging shoreline development. Contact: lars.kulleseid@ropesgray.com

Concrete Safaris, Inc.

Concrete Safaris, Inc. empowers youth to become healthy leaders through green exercise programs that enrich the mind, body, community, and environment. Contact: mac@concretesafaris.org

Corbin Hill Food Project

Corbin Hill Food Project is an innovative social venture founded by a group of Harlem-based citizens that works to connect upstate New York farmers with communities of people in Harlem, Washington Heights and the Bronx through summer and winter Farm Share programs. Its wholesale division supplies schools, health clinics, faith-based organizations, Head Start centers, job training programs and homeless shelters, as well as individual citizens by buying in bulk directly from New York State farms. Contact: king@corbinhillfarm.com

Brooklyn Food Coalition

BFC is a grassroots organization working to change the food system in Brooklyn, neighborhood by neighborhood. Its primary focus is sustainable food and agriculture. The group advocates for and educates locals about food and sustainability in their neighborhoods and supports urban agriculture, new food co-ops, farmers' markets and local/regional sourcing of food.

Contact: kady@brooklynfoodcoalition.org

Deuel Hollow Conservation Association

Deuel Hollow Conservation Association preserves the scenic character and natural resources of the Duell Hollow area in Wingdale, NY, which includes a large portion of land designated as wetlands and a Critical Environmental Area by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Contact: cduhamel@lebenthal.com

dlandstudio

dlandstudio is an interdisciplinary design practice in Brooklyn focused on urban resilience. Its mission is to catalyze change by finding ways to make current mono-functional infrastructure systems such as highways, brown-field sites and post-industrial canals more environmentally productive. With grants from NYSCA, NOAA, NEIWPC, DEC, EPA & the DEP to conceptualize, design and build pilot projects it is developing systemic solutions to large scale sustainability issues. Contact: cazar@dlandstudio.com



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Earth Matter NY

Earth Matter NY aims to reduce garbage by encouraging more composting in the surrounding community. This group improves local composting efforts, educates the community on the benefits of composting, uses best practices to improve soil health, and supports water conservation practices to reduce the Combined Sewer Overflow burden on municipal sewer systems. Contact: marisa.dedominicis@gmail.com

East 5th Street Beautification Project

The East 5th Street Beautification Project began two years ago when a few Brooklyn residents decided to turn a patch of dirt beside the Prospect Expressway into a thriving garden. Contact: kryssa@earthlink.net

Educating Tomorrow

Educating Tomorrow is composed of teachers throughout NYC who first got together in 2007 to address obstacles in creating and maintaining successful recycling programs in NYC schools. They hold regular meetings, workshops, and tours. Contact: coquillie@houshour.com

Farming Concrete

Farming Concrete's principle objective is to quantify food production in NYC community gardens. They work with nonprofits, the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, students, and gardeners to map all of the areas under production to weigh produce throughout the growing season. Contact: mara@farmingconcrete.com

The Fox Collection

The Fox Collection is a catalogue of Tom Fox's documentary photography and other historically significant materials to the urban environmental movement. The project is an effort to make these materials and resources available through a library for public use. Contact: tom@tomfoxassociates.com

Friends of Catskill Park

Friends of Catskill Park maintains and defends the natural beauty, clean waterways, abundant wildlife, and local communities of the Catskills region. The Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park, a \$400 million mountainside golf resort proposed for the heart of the Catskill Forest Preserve, is the most recent threat being addressed by the group. Contact: lpquinby@gmail.com

Friends of Dover Parks

Friends of Dover Parks strives to enhance existing public spaces and consider land opportunities in the Town of Dover in order to increase recreational activities for the community. They also sponsor scholarships for two Dover Fifth Graders to attend the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies Summer Eco-Camp for a week.



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Friends of the Housatonic

Friends of the Housatonic increases environmental awareness on issues concerning the Housatonic River and its tributaries. The group supports and initiates activities that improve the health of the river through with private trout stockings, and works with the Department of Environmental Protection to implement proactive trout management programs. Additionally, they support Connecticut's DEP program of "No Child Left Inside." Contact: hflyshop@aol.com

Friends of the Hudson River Greenway in the Bronx

This group is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the natural, historic and cultural features of the Hudson River in the Bronx and Westchester. Contact: pelston@pelston.com

Friends for a Better Amenia

Friends for a Better Amenia advises and educates members of the community of Amenia in Dutchess County, New York, about issues concerning the impacts of proposed large-scale residential development. Contact: steven_benardete@yahoo.com

Germantown Neighbors Association

Germantown Neighbors Association has been working with area residents, elected officials, SUNY/Albany and state agencies about the problem of toxic air pollution in the mid-Hudson River Valley and the need for proper air monitoring in the region.

Good Growth Columbia (GGC)

GGC promotes and maintains open space protection and green growth principles in Columbia County, New York.

Green Deeds

Green Deeds is dedicated to creating opportunities for residents, particularly middle-class and low-income citizens of Sayreville, New Jersey, to join the challenge to reduce our carbon footprint. GreenDeeds is dedicated to identifying and promoting better ways for residents to green their homes and neighborhoods and transforming Sayreville into a model green town.

Contact: kborjesson@greendeedsnj.org

Green Spaces Innovation Institute

Green Spaces Innovation Institute provides educational programs related to environmental entrepreneurship. Their first two programs are an internship program for high school and college students who want experience working with entrepreneurs who are building "green" businesses, and a workshop series that provides for start-up companies with an environmental mission linked to helping communities become more livable. Contact: marissa@greenspaceshome.com



The GreenWorks Team

The group works to beautify public spaces in the Brooklyn community by creating gardens in areas that had previously been bleak and unattractive. They organize and train interested community members in gardening techniques to maintain their plots, as well as persons with special needs to develop the skills to perform a wide variety of gardening activities. Contact: heloisejed@mindspring.com

Groundwater Go

The group developed Internet-based mapping tools and editorial content to educate people about groundwater flow and contaminant fate and transport. The information and tools will be free, user-friendly and interactive. The idea is that as individuals and organizations become more educated about groundwater, they will be more empowered to protect the quality of their water supply. Contact: karen.madsen@groundwatergo.com

Grounded Knowledge

Grounded Knowledge is an environmental education program that uses land as the central context within which to develop the whole learner—intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically. Around the world, access to nature in cities has become limited by socio-economics. Students in Grounded Knowledge work with community members to turn available empty lots into viable, productive urban green spaces.

Contact: groundedknowledge@gmail.com

Grow Smart Dover

Formerly Coalition for the Responsible Growth of Dover, Grow Smart Dover works to protect the character of the Town of Dover, NY, by advocating in favor of sustainable development and redevelopment, open space preservation and local environment protection. The Group works achieve these goals primarily through commenting on significant land use projects before the Dover Town and Planning Boards, and NYS DEC. Contact: cduhamel@lebenthal.com

Hudson Basin River Watch

Hudson Basin River Watch provides hand-on science education to middle and high school students, and mobilizes youth to help monitor the health of rivers. Contact: reed@netheaven.com

Hudson River Watershed Alliance (HRWA)

HRWA is a regional collaboration of more than 200 stakeholders working to protect, conserve and restore the water resources of the Hudson River watershed. As a non-advocacy coalition, HRWA includes representatives from various sectors, including: research and educational institutions; state, county and local agencies; regional environmental and professional organizations; local grassroots groups; and business and private interests.



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Hudson River Valley Wine & Culinary Center

Hudson River Valley Wine & Culinary Center seeks to educate and inform visitors about Hudson Valley food, wine and spirits along with the region's rich culinary traditions. Contact: pfairweather@fairweatherconsulting.com

[InfrastructureUSA](#)

InfrastructureUSA is an online community focused on generating citizen dialogue about civil infrastructure. Infra Views showcases publications, reports and articles from the most authoritative and respected nonprofit organizations, government agencies and think tanks. Contact: info@infrastructureusa.org

[ioby.org](#)

ioby.org is an online, microphilanthropic initiative that enables New Yorkers to learn about, fund, and engage with local environmental projects. Contact: ebarnes@ioby.org

[Kensho Community](#)

Kensho is dedicated to engaging young people in environmental issues. Contact: Teia@kenshocommunity.org

[Lewisboro Land Trust](#)

The Lewisboro Land Trust has helped preserve over 1,000 acres in Lewisboro since its founding in 1994. We are very proud to be celebrating our 20th anniversary with a renewed passion and commitment to environmental stewardship, responsibility for nature, and education of adults and children through experience, exposure and instruction. We are "linking people with the land" by maintaining the town's preserves and offering the community many ways to use and enjoy them. Contact: Events@LewisboroLandTrust.org

Lithgow Association

Lithgow Association preserves the rural character and open countryside of the Lithgow area in Dutchess County, New York.

[Millbrook Matters](#)

Millbrook Matters raises public awareness about issues that affect the local community. The group is fully committed to a transparent local government, the sensible use of shared natural resources, thoughtful village and town planning, and open-minded public communication.

[The National Young Farmers' Coalition](#)

The National Young Farmers' Coalition helps young farmers succeed. The Coalition will create social and networking opportunities for young farmers to work together on common issues, provide practical and technical assistance to through peer-to-peer training and information sharing, and develop policy recommendations that will enable the young farmers' movement to thrive. Contact: lindseylusher@gmail.com



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The New York Wild Film Festival

The New York WILD Film Festival (WILD) seeks to inspire appreciation for the planet and concern for its protection. WILD is the first annual documentary film festival in New York to assemble the best films about the wild world around us. These carefully-selected films will cover a spectrum of topics, from exploration and adventure to wildlife and conservation.

No Time to Lose

No Time to Lose (NTTL) provides support for programs that highlight the environment through the creative arts. Previously, NTTL projects included a plan for the installation by the Japanese ikebana master Hiroshi Teshigahara, a community artists' garden in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and a lecture series of artists, scientists, and economists at Harvard University. Contact: jcc@jcca-nyc.com

Oblong Valley Association

OVA preserves the natural habitats and resources of the Oblong Valley in eastern Dutchess County, New York. Contact: dreagon@optonline.net

Parents for Climate Protection

Parents for Climate Protection is a grassroots organization made up of concerned parents living in Brooklyn. Their goal is to both educate parents on the implications of global warming and work towards the passage of strong and progressive climate protection legislation. Through family-centered activities, the organization raises awareness of the threat of climate change to future generations while providing a concrete way for parents to express their environmental concerns to policy makers. Parents for Climate Protection support policies on the local, state and federal levels that are based on scientists' recommendations on the necessary reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Contact: nyclaudia@earthlink.net

People's Garden NYC

People's Garden NYC's mission is to create vegetable gardens in high profile places, which will be tended to by students.

Philipstown Citizens Alliance

The Alliance focuses on providing public information on crucial environmental, land use, and governmental concerns in the Town of Philipstown, New York. Contact: michael.c.finnegan@jpmorgan.com

Play Harvest

PlayHarvest was created in October 2010 working in partnership with community groups to develop toys and games that promote children's interest in local food cultivation and preparation.

Contact: info@playharvest.org



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Preserve Salisbury

Preserve Salisbury opposes the expansion of an ill-planned development in the Lakeville Salisbury region of Connecticut through educating the public and the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission. Contact: rturnure@gmail.com

Protect the Village Historic District

PVHD works within the Greenwich Village to protect the historic areas from massive development. Most recently, PVHD addressed the massive developments proposed by Rudin Organizations and St. Vincent's Hospital with the intention of modifying the proposals.

Contact: tmolner@kramerlevin.com

Prospect Heights Community Farm

Prospect Heights Community Farm provides neighborhood residents with opportunities to grow food, compost and participate in gardening. As volunteer stewards of open public green space, the group raises environmental awareness in Prospect Heights through community educational outreach events and gatherings. Contact: jonrpope@gmail.com

The Public Sustainability Group

The Public Sustainability group conceived "Sustainable Schools" in 2009, which will encourage students in NYC public schools to undertake environmental stewardship.

Quaker Hill Civic Association

Quaker Hill Civic Association works to maintain and extend open spaces, preserve amenities and natural beauty. It actively participates in area planning, provides a forum for meeting and exchanging ideas and information, and promotes public and civic interests in the Historic Oblong. Contact: cljw001@msn.com

RelightNY

RelightNY was started in 2006 by teenager Avery Hairston and friends at the Collegiate School in New York City with the idea of giving energy-saving light bulbs to families in need. Contact: slevinson212@aol.com

Roaring Brook Lake Project

Roaring Brook Lake Project monitors and maintains the sixty year old, man-made Roaring Brook Lake in Putnam Valley, NY. Contact: david.morrison@morganstanley.com

Rivers Alive at Wall Street

Rivers Alive at Wall Street seeks to provide full public access to the waters of the East River on Pier 13 at Wall Street. The group seeks to create a center for active waterfront recreation and education on Pier 13 for residents, workers, and visitors, and to elevate the history of Lower Manhattan with site-specific artwork that evokes New York's majestic suspension bridges, glorious skyscrapers and regal tall ships. Contact: Alandzberg@aol.com or coyoteroc@optonline.net



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Rondout Valley Growers Association

RVGA was formed in 2001 in response to increasing difficulties faced by many local farm businesses due to rising land values and development pressure. RVGA's mission is to promote farm produce/products to keep farms profitable in order to help them stay viable and productive, as well as educate the local community about the value of maintaining local agriculture in this historic growing region. Contact: Deborah.dewan@rondoutvalleygrowers.org

Saugerties Citizens for Smart Development

Saugerties Citizens for Smart Development (SCSD) works to provide public access to the waterfront with a walkway along the bluff of the Partition Street Project (a hotel complex). Ultimately the goal is to link this scenic overlook of the Barclay Dam and waterfalls to the Saugerties Lighthouse. Contact: judithspektor@aol.com

Science Partners Learning about Animals of the Sound and Hudson (S.P.L.A.S.H.)

Science Partners Learning about Animals of the Sound and Hudson provides hands-on education about the Hudson River for almost 500 second-grade students in Westchester County, NY, through field trips; classroom observations of Hudson River marine life in aquariums; and learning exchanges with students in other schools in the program. Contact: pforbes@byramhills.org

Seeing Green

Seeing Green aims to create a model for research that measures the environmental benefits of urban farms and community gardens. By quantifying the environmental benefits that urban farms and community gardens add to the city, the group hopes to make the case that these areas are a viable part of a city's green infrastructure. They are currently studying gardens and rooftop farms in New York City to develop metrics to assess their storm water management potentials. Contacts: tylercaruso@gmail.com or erik.facteau@gmail.com

Sensible Wireless for Gardiner (SWG)

SWG protects the natural environment and viewshed of the town of Gardiner, New York through opposing the construction of a 160+ foot wireless tower. SWG promotes the implementation of wireless facilities that blend in with the natural and architectural features of the town as a means of providing necessary services and still preserving the scenic environment of Gardiner. Contact: kastanphoto@att.net

Stand for Land

Stand for Land promotes public awareness of local environmental concerns through education and distribution of informational material. They participated in a project with the Library and Teen Center that had students design artwork showing their vision for Marbletown, with class discussions on the environmental issues facing the town. Contact: info@standforland.org



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Stewardship and Environmental Mapping (StEM)

StEM's mission is to develop the ecological and digital infrastructure to both track and grow urban forest stewardship. Contact: timon.mcphearson@gmail.com

Sunset Ridge Coalition

Sunset Ridge Coalition is an informal neighborhood network focused on the maintenance of a high environmental quality of life in the Sunset Ridge neighborhood of New Paltz, New York. In particular, SRC raises public awareness about issues regarding land-use, open space and wetlands protection planning. Contact: mramirez@amrpa.org

TARGET Tuxedo

The goal of TARGET Tuxedo is to monitor proposals for and the implementation of residential and commercial development in and around the Town of Tuxedo, NY, for the benefit of the public at large. TARGET Tuxedo works to raise the general level of awareness within this area about proposed development and performs a watchdog role for relevant government planning and construction agencies. Contact: ndeh@optonline.com

Thomson-Clarks Mills Residents Committee for a RiverFront Heritage Corridor Park

Thomson-Clarks Mills Residents Committee for a Heritage Corridor Park is establishing 40 acres of land on the Hudson River waterfront a RiverFront Heritage Corridor Park. Contact: kbartholomay@nycap.rr.com

TreeKIT

TreeKIT supports stewardship of the urban forest of New York City by organizing mapping workshops and developing online tools for individual stewards, non-profit groups and municipal foresters to collaboratively track their actions, visualize conditions across the New York City urban forest, and connect with people working nearby. Contact: ebarry@gmail.com

Turf

Turf provides community residents with opportunities for improving the health of their Parkchester neighborhood in the Bronx, through participation in educational workshops on cooking and nutrition, access to sustainable agriculture, and stewardship opportunities at urban and rural farms. In addition to the creation of a local healthy, sustainable food system, residents also work to protect both urban and rural farmland. Contact: se_wong2002@yahoo.com

Union Square Native Plant Garden

Located in lower Manhattan's Union Square Park, the garden lies at the intersection of East 15th Street and Union Square West. Contact: marielle@drosera-x.com

White Roof Project

Started in September 2010 as a group of environmental activists turned roofers, the group educates the public, creates white roof project chapters and motivates volunteers to paint



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roofs white in partnership with the New York City Department of Buildings as a strategy to reduce stress on the city's power grid, lower local ambient air temperatures and combat the Urban Heat Island effect. Contact: hjames@whiteroofproject.org

World Ocean Observatory (W2O)

World Ocean Observatory (W2O) provides a universally accessible, Internet-based place of exchange for information and educational services concerning the ocean.

Contact: pneill@thew2o.net