



NYC Climate Newsletter: Spring/Summer 2020

Climate justice is racial justice.

We are witnessing a racial inequality crisis, a global health pandemic, profound economic impacts heightened by systemic inequities – all compounded by a climate emergency. All of these are interconnected.

Racism gets manifested in many ways, including the health, environmental, and climate vulnerabilities that are spread disproportionately across communities and brought on by a legacy of white supremacy.

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) can feel abstract, but their impacts on our warming climate result in very real health consequences, such as heat-related illness and death. Burning fossil fuels also produces air pollution, which can lead to asthma and heart disease. Black neighborhoods and other communities that have been historically marginalized often have worse air quality than other urban areas. Programs that reduce GHGs by decreasing fossil fuel use reduce both racial health disparities and climate change impacts.

Climate justice is the recognition that these same historically overburdened communities are also most vulnerable to a rapidly changing climate. As our city recovers from COVID-19, we need to ensure we are rebuilding in an equitable way and creating a resilient economy that fulfills the ideals of the Green New Deal, including providing accessible jobs for all in industries like clean energy that also promote climate and environmental justice.

It will take all of us working together to ensure a fair and green recovery.

Learn more about environmental justice, OneNYC 2050 our long-term strategic plan and Green New Deal, and how we are working to ensure that NYC's government operations are addressing the legacy of historic inequity in our city [here](#).

A Green Recovery from COVID-19

As we emerge from the COVID-19 health crisis, New York is committed to a green recovery that puts equity, fairness, and confronting our climate crisis at the center of our city's rebuilding efforts. Placing climate action at the heart of COVID-19 recovery will ensure that we will emerge stronger and more resilient from this crisis.



A green recovery that prioritizes clean energy, resilient infrastructure, and environmental justice will help accelerate economic recovery while enhancing social equity. Investing in Green New Deal solutions such as clean energy infrastructure over the next decade would spur our nation's economy and create enormous numbers of good-paying and accessible jobs, at just the right moment

to align with the scientific demands of our climate crisis and the needs of an American economy that is suffering its worst unemployment since the Great Depression.

A green recovery can help us to end the age of fossil fuels while pursuing a just transition to a clean energy economy. Ending financial subsidies and investments in fossil fuels and investing in climate solutions will ensure our city's economic resilience and build a sustainable future for all New Yorkers.

NYC Fair Recovery Task Force

Mayor Bill de Blasio has affirmed that climate and environmental justice will be a core component of New York City's recovery from COVID-19, and has underscored the importance of incorporating these principles into the work of the Fair Recovery Task Force, which he has tasked with formulating a broad long-term recovery effort that builds a stronger, safer, and fairer economy and society, with climate and environmental justice as a priority.

Global Partnership for a Fair and Green Recovery

In May 2020, Mayor de Blasio and more than 30 mayors from around the world endorsed the C40 Cities statement of principles to help guide the global recovery and affirmed our commitments to rebuild "a better, more sustainable, and fairer society out of the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis." Read the full list of C40 principles [here](#).

Joining forces with other C40 mayors will help us ensure that climate change and the interrelated issues of equity and social justice are addressed at a global scale as we work together to rebuild a more equitable world.

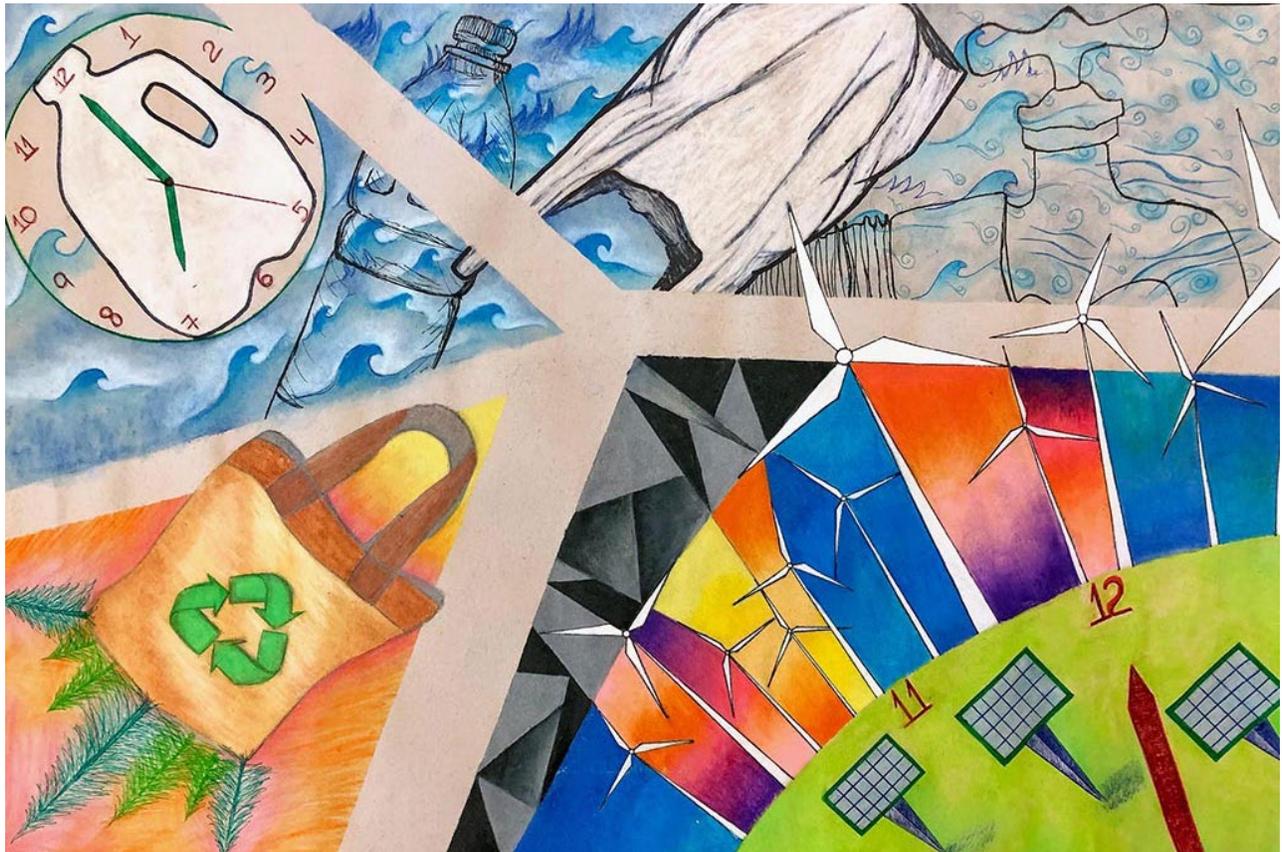
U.S. Conference of Mayors Divestment Resolution

Under Mayor de Blasio's leadership, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution urging all cities to explore divesting from fossil fuels and to invest in climate solutions.

[Read the full resolution](#)

New NYC Climate Change Education Module

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection launched a [groundbreaking new education module on climate change](#), which will expand access to lessons and resources on a wide range of climate topics to teachers and nonformal educators throughout the city.

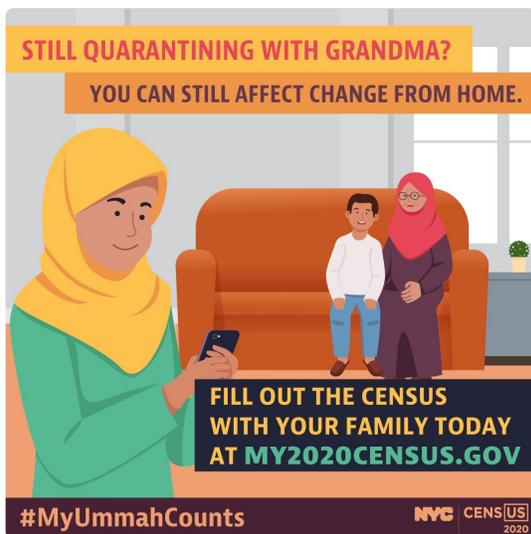


In addition to content on climate science, green careers, and climate policy, the module is centered on New York City-specific lessons on these topics and

promotes youth engagement and empowerment to take action in their own schools and communities. DEP will work with City and nonprofit partners to provide training to educators on the module, which will be **available free to anyone on their [website](#)**.

Fill Out the 2020 Census!

Go online, and in just ten minutes, you can do your part to make sure that New Yorkers get the political representation and access to resources that we rightfully deserve and for the issues that are important to you. **[Fill out the census online now here!](#)**



WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- Billions in federal funds for public education and housing, roads and bridges, and more.
- The number of seats New York City has in Congress.
- Your community. Your voice.

Free COVID-19 Testing and Test and Trace

If you're back at work or out and about in the city, **get a free COVID-19 test** to make sure you're not spreading the virus. It's free, easy and available for all

New Yorkers. Find a location near you at <http://nyc.gov/covidtest>.

If you get a call from NYC Test + Trace or a (212) area code, answer the phone! You'll get important information about your health and free COVID-19 resources and support.

GET TESTED FOR COVID-19

NEW YORK CITY HAS FREE
COVID-19 TESTING
THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

FIND A SITE NEAR YOU AT
[NYC.GOV/COVIDTEST](http://nyc.gov/covidtest).



NYC

Further Reading and Resources

- [Green Voices of Color on Twitter](#)
- [Opinion: On #EarthDay50, The Answer to Two Existential Crises is Staring Us in the Face by Daniel Zarrilli](#) - Gotham Gazette
- [World cannot return to 'business as usual' after Covid-19, say mayors](#) - The Guardian

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