Greenpoint Eco-Schools: Creating a Legacy of Sustainability
Proposed by National Wildlife Federation

This project proposes to implement a comprehensive environmental education program in four Greenpoint schools serving a total of 1,800 students.

Funding for this project will support four full-time “Sustainability Coaches” (one in each participating school) who will directly work with students, teachers, principals, and parents to increase student knowledge of environmental issues while enhancing academic achievement in science and technology. Project partners will provide $10 million in energy efficiency upgrades, new boilers for heating, improved lighting, waste collection, and other improvements for Greenpoint schools. These much-needed improvements will serve as “learning laboratories” for students and teachers to learn about and take action for the environment.

The program is holistic, making connections to all the environmental issues that Greenpoint faces, including Energy, Consumption and Waste, School Grounds, Biodiversity, Water, Climate Change, Sustainable Food, Healthy Living, Transportation, and Healthy Schools.

Sustainability Coaches would work with teachers, principals and parents to develop an Eco-Action team and an action plan in each school around a variety of topics. For example, student teams would audit air quality at their school and use resulting information to suggest and implement projects like eliminating toxic cleaning chemicals, installing “living walls” inside and outside the school, and/or establishing “no-idling zones.”

Other general project activities include:

- Rewarding schools for sustainability progress, up to $10,000 per school, per year;
- Providing each school with $5,000 for a ‘community action project’ within the Greenpoint community;
- Creating a safe social media platform for students and parents to measure environmental actions at home;
- Building off of other GCEF projects to inspire students to learn about specific environmental initiatives in the Greenpoint community; and
- Conducting three community forums to expand community-school partnerships.

Overall, the project will seek to develop a well-educated and empowered generation of student leaders and local residents who are both environmentally aware and motivated to take action to address problems.

Independent Review Committee Score: 87/100

GRANT REQUEST: $1,434,735
VALUE OF APPLICANT & PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS: $10,732,324

LOCATION: Primarily located within PS31, PS34, PS110, and MS126, with field trips and community restoration projects throughout the Greenpoint community

PROJECT GOALS: Achieve quantifiable environmental benefits, including:
- Reducing school waste by 25% per year;
- Reducing school water use by 5% per year;
- Reducing school energy use by 10% per year;
- Reducing use of toxic chemicals in schools; and
- Building school gardens or other projects to increase green space at schools.

PROJECT PARTNERS: NYC Community School District 14 including: PS 31, PS 34, PS 110, and MS 126, Community Education Council 14, the Greenpoint Gazette, NYC Division of School Facilities, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC Dept. of Sanitation, NYC School Construction Authority, NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Change My World NOW, and Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation.