



Advancing Environmental Justice and Empowering Youth

Clearwater receives grant to develop a Comprehensive Environmental Justice Inventory for Peekskill and surrounding communities

By Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director



Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and the Citizens for Equal Environmental Protection (CEEP) will partner to create a Comprehensive Environmental Justice Inventory (CEJI) in the City of Peekskill by objectively researching and documenting multiple points of pollution in its environmental justice communities.

The project will review existing health data, evaluate any disproportionate impacts on communities of color, ethnicity and low-income populations, and prepare and circulate a report with recommendations for future action. CEEP has already documented that Peekskill has higher than average asthma rates thought to be caused, at least in part, from the steady flow of traffic through its downtown business and residential areas.

The CEJI project will invite a wide range of stakeholders to participate on the project's Community Advisory Committee to help make recommendations to protect existing assets, mitigate harms and identify further research needed. A final report with key findings and recommendations will provide valuable information that will help Peekskill protect its impacted communities from further pollution burdens.

The grant will also include a Youth Empowerment Project, through which Peekskill youth will come to understand the principles of Environmental Justice and will create and implement a project of their own design in their community. Decora Lloyd Sandiford of Readnex Poetry Squad will oversee the youth component and will

Environmental Justice is the concept that

every person is entitled to equal environmental protection under the law. Groups such as racial minorities, women, residents of economically disadvantaged areas, or residents of developing nations offer suffer from an inequitable distribution of environmental burdens such as pollution, location of industrial facilities, lack of clean air & water, lack of recreational areas, etc. Self-determination and participation in decision-making are key components of environmental justice.

implement a revised Angler Survey under direction of Dr. Joanna Burger of Rutgers.

Key Principles of the CEJI and related project components:

- The inquiry will be science-based
- Inclusive process: key stakeholder representing many sectors and demographics
- Collaborative approach

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