

PUBLIC HOUSING COMMUNITY FUND

For Immediate Release: April 22, 2024

Contact: Alex Zablocki
347-885-1200

Public Housing Community Fund, NYCHA, and Con Edison Announce Nine Winners of the Resident Climate Action Grant Program

The nine resident-led projects in community climate action and sustainability were selected for funding through the second round of the Resident Climate Action Grant Program with the potential to impact over 23,000 public housing residents in all five boroughs

Powered by Con Edison, the program sought resident climate-action ideas that were ready to bring problem-solving skills to the next level by leading the way in addressing climate and sustainability issues that matter most to NYCHA residents

New York, NY – On Earth Day, the Public Housing Community Fund, in collaboration with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and Con Edison, is thrilled to announce the [Resident Climate Action Grant Program](#) winners. Originally launched during Climate Week 2022, the Resident Climate Action Grants initiative celebrates its second cohort, underscoring a commitment to sustainable development and community empowerment within NYCHA communities.

Nine innovative, resident-led projects have been selected to receive grants of up to \$5,000 each, aimed at enhancing sustainability and addressing climate-related issues important to the residents. These grants support diverse initiatives across all five boroughs, leveraging resident knowledge and leadership to foster environmental stewardship and community resilience. NYCHA communities awarded funding include Carey Gardens and Red Hook West in Brooklyn, Claremont Consolidated and Morris in the Bronx, LaGuardia, Polo Ground Towers and Wagner in Manhattan, South Jamaica in Queens, and Stapleton in Staten Island, with the potential to impact over 23,000 public housing residents residing in these communities.

“Today marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to empowering NYCHA residents through the Resident Climate Action Grant Program. These grants are a testament to our residents' innovative spirit and dedication, as well as their passion for sustainability and community resilience. By putting the power directly into the hands of those who know their communities best, we are fostering environmental stewardship and building a stronger, more sustainable future for all New Yorkers,” said **Public Housing Community Fund Executive Director Alex Zablocki**. “Congratulations to all our grantees! We can't wait to see your projects come to life and inspire further climate action across our city.”

“At NYCHA, our greatest assets are our residents,” said **NYCHA Chief Executive Officer Lisa Bova-Hiatt**. “There is no limit to what NYCHA residents can do when it comes to innovation, problem-solving, and thinking outside of the box. What an incredible privilege it is to be able to reward their ingenuity in addressing climate and sustainability issues through the Resident Climate Action Grant Program, alongside our partners at Public Housing Community Fund and Con Edison, and to make some of their ideas a reality at developments across the five boroughs.”

Con Edison and other private donors generously support the grant program, reflecting a strong community and corporate partnership. This initiative funds impactful projects and promotes engagement and environmental conversation among NYCHA communities.”

“Congratulations to the winners of the Resident Climate Action Grant Program. These projects demonstrate the creativity and care of NYCHA residents for the sustainability of their homes and communities. I’m eager to see the results of their work as they bring thoughtful, sustainable programs and spaces to thousands of NYCHA residents. Thank you to NYCHA, the Public Housing Community Fund, and Con Edison for fostering this opportunity to bring residents’ ideas for green solutions to fruition,” said **Deputy Mayor for Housing, Economic Development and Workforce Maria Torres-Springer**.

“I’m thrilled to see the second round of the Resident Climate Action Grant Program, select the nine resident - led project winners, knowing that these grants and projects have the potential to impact over 23,000 families in communities across New York,” said **Executive Director for Housing Leila Bozorg**. “I’m especially thankful for the Public Housing Community Fund, in collaboration with NYCHA and Con Edison, for powering this program, which will advance residents’ climate-action ideas”

“Con Edison’s vision is for every New Yorker to share in the clean energy transition,” said **Jen Hensley, Con Edison’s senior vice president for Corporate Affairs**. “In collaboration with the Public Housing Community Fund and NYCHA, Con Edison is proud to support the Resident Climate Action Grant Program, which underscores our commitment to the people and communities we serve.”

Winning projects span a variety of sustainability efforts, from garden revitalizations and recycling programs to energy efficiency campaigns and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and STEAM education programs. Each project is led by public housing residents who are at the forefront of advocating for and implementing change. The projects include:

- **Carey Gardens:** Residents proposed a Youth Climate Action Exhibition, a series of workshops followed by a grand exhibition at the Brooklyn Public Library. At each workshop, participants will learn how to live sustainably with presentations from city agencies, including NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, NYCHA, Brooklyn Public Library, and NYC Parks. Participants will also learn the seven principles of art techniques to assist them in creating artwork that represents sustainability and climate change, which will be displayed in a showcase at the public library. The free program will launch this summer from July to September.
- **Red Hook West Houses:** Residents proposed a Tree and Edible Plant Initiative and Stewardship Program, envisioned as an important next step as residents witness the completion of Sandy-related resiliency construction in their community. NYCHA residents, Red Hook West Resident Association, Red Hook Farms, and other community partners will offer hands-on demonstrations on setting up indoor or outdoor incubators and raised planting beds and seed germination techniques. Produce will be harvested and shared with the community. The program will also explore farm-to-table concepts that may reduce Red Hook’s carbon footprint, recipe sharing, and discussions on the

importance of trees for shade to limit the heat island effect, filtering of a particular matter, and stormwater retention.

- **Claremont Consolidated:** Residents proposed a new family day concept that will be themed using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, STEAM, and clean energy concepts. Residents will explore green economy workforce training opportunities and give hands-on exposure to young adults.
- **Morris Houses:** Residents proposed a hands-on initiative to redistribute gently used office furniture and housewares to the residents of NYCHA Morris Houses, enhancing their living conditions at no cost. Since August 2023, this project has successfully furnished over 400 homes with items like furniture, TVs, and other essentials that were destined for landfills but are in near-new condition due to their minimal use in office and commercial settings. The initiative addresses the economic constraints many residents face on fixed incomes, forcing them to retain broken or outdated items. Often, forgoing the purchase in favor of medication or food. The program aims to improve physical space and significantly boosts the residents' mental health by transforming their living environments into more comfortable homes. This recycling, reuse, and redistribution effort is supported by partnerships with two companies aiming to avoid waste and support community needs through non-profits.
- **LaGuardia Houses:** Residents proposed an inclusive, community-wide garden project to enhance their living environment by incorporating more greenery and aesthetics into NYCHA landscapes. Participants will experience the rewarding nature of diligent work as they witness their efforts culminate in visually and environmentally beneficial results. Each building within the LaGuardia Houses will have a Garden Captain responsible for leading the design and execution of a unique garden blueprint that reflects the desires and inputs of the tenants. These gardens will focus on sustainability and climate-friendly practices, aligning with broader environmental goals, and use shade-tolerant and native plants that are both sustainable and attractive, ensuring that the gardens thrive despite the environmental constraints. The project is envisioned as a community-centric endeavor that beautifies the space and encourages intergenerational cooperation and ecological responsibility.
- **Polo Grounds Towers:** Residents proposed "Big CLIMATE Small CHANGE," a program to create a community-led ornamental garden with solar fountains and lighting, new seating, and landscaping to help reduce Polo Ground's carbon footprint while beautifying open space. The intergenerational program will support climate education and provide knowledge about the benefits of ecological resilience and how residents can play a role in positively changing the community.
- **Wagner Houses:** Inner City Green Team Economic & Environmental Development (ICGT) is a resident-led initiative that proposed to expand its Right to Recycle Collection Initiative, which has created a culture of sustainability and environmental consciousness at the Wagner Houses in East Harlem. Since 2021, the program has diverted nearly 150 tons of recyclable materials from landfills. Their educational messaging continues to be an incubator for cultivating an environmental mindset and indicates further scaling the program to include food scrap collections. Residents will partner with Food Recycle Science Corporation to supply in-home food recyclers to expand our ease-of-use concept and use accessible technology to empower residents to take ownership of the food waste they generate sustainably. The recycling device can convert food waste into nutrient-rich soil amendment in hours through grinding, heating, and aeration. On average, there is a 90% reduction in the volume of food from its original form. This form of food waste

management is beneficial for engaging residents who don't participate in food waste diversion and can be a great addition to the composting and gardening programs at Wagner Houses.

- **South Jamaica Houses:** Residents proposed a dual-faceted project for the South Jamaica development, aimed at leveraging its smaller size and lush greenery to foster community engagement and beautification. This initiative is focused on intergenerational programming and learning, encouraging each resident to share ideas and forge solid and lasting relationships that enhance community sustainability and resilience. Through both physical and virtual interactions, participants can learn from each other, projects aimed at combating the adverse effects of climate change, such as the South Jamaica Houses Cloudburst program, and collectively envision improvements for their surroundings. The program will transform the South Jamaica Houses campus with appealing, vibrant open spaces using native and heat-tolerant plants.
- **Stapleton Houses:** Residents proposed an expansion of their community garden at Stapleton Houses from three to 20 gardening beds, aiming to involve a broader segment of the community, including seniors, youth, and students. This expansion is envisioned as a physically engaging project that requires building additional garden beds and managing the cultivation of produce, which has already proven effective in feeding more NYCHA residents. The expanded garden would increase the production of fresh, healthy food and serve as a platform for various community-enriching activities. Planned activities include cooking demonstrations to showcase how to prepare nutritious meals, community programs to promote engagement and collaboration, and outreach initiatives to foster a culture of healthy living among residents. Additionally, the program plans to host a Health Fair to address the community's environmental justice issues, further supporting the community's well-being and health education and enhancing the quality of life through sustainable gardening and health-focused activities.

The Public Housing Community Fund is partnering with Kinetic Communities to provide technical assistance to grantees throughout project implementation.

“At Kinetic Communities Consulting, we believe promoting climate resilience means meeting disinvested communities where they are to create a just, community-driven, clean energy future. We’re thrilled to be a part of the Resident Climate Action Grant Program that does just that, where NYCHA residents themselves are able to identify and implement community projects addressing their communities' needs” said **Kinetic Communities Consulting, Sustainability Consultant Yangchen Dolma**. “We want to congratulate all the grantees and will continue to provide support through project completion!”

In September 2021, NYCHA's Energy & Sustainability Programs Department released an updated Sustainability Agenda. The document outlined NYCHA's commitment to healthy and comfortable homes that showcase environmental stewardship and sustainable design. In 2021 NYCHA launched the Climate Action Network workshop series to elevate awareness about energy and sustainability projects and initiatives and build a community around sustainability-related activism. The feedback from the workshop series helped showcase the need for Climate Action Grant funding for residents. This grant program builds meaningful partnerships, fund residents' ideas and will help make their developments more sustainable.

The Public Housing Community Fund and NYCHA, in partnership with Kinetic Communities, will continue to work with applicants as they implement their plans through this fall. The Public Housing Community Fund anticipates raising additional funds to help support and scale up the program to positively impact even more public housing residents through the programs. Learn more about the Resident Climate Action Grant Program at <https://www.communityfund.nyc/climate-action>.

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About the Public Housing Community Fund

Public Housing Community Fund is a nonprofit that forges partnerships to power transformative programs that enhance the lives of over 500,000 residents across NYCHA communities. Our goal is to engage people and partners to build a stronger, more equitable New York City by investing in public housing communities. We invest in programs focused on leadership development, financial empowerment, community health, and workforce training for residents of the NYCHA community. www.communityfund.nyc

About NYCHA

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the largest public housing authority in North America, was created in 1935 to provide decent, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. NYCHA is home to 1 in 17 New Yorkers, providing affordable housing to 528,105 authorized residents through public housing and Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT) programs as well as Section 8 housing. NYCHA has 177,569 apartments in 2,411 buildings across 335 conventional public housing and PACT developments. In addition, NYCHA connects residents to critical programs and services from external and internal partners, with a focus on economic opportunity, youth, seniors, and social services. With a housing stock that spans all five boroughs, NYCHA is a city within a city.

About Con Edison

Con Edison is a subsidiary of Consolidated Edison, Inc. [NYSE: ED], one of the nation's largest investor-owned energy companies, with approximately \$15 billion in annual revenues and \$66 billion in assets. The utility delivers electricity, natural gas and steam, and serves 3.6 million customers in New York City and Westchester County. For financial, operations and customer service information, visit conEd.com. For energy efficiency information, visit coned.com/energyefficiency.