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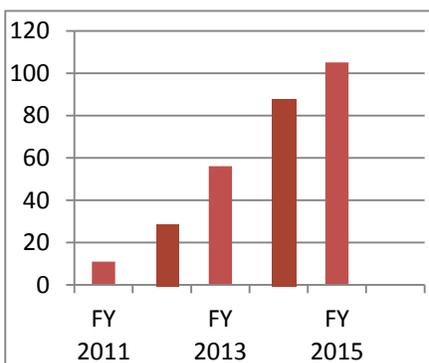
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OER Government Programs Named

Among the Five Most Innovative in the U.S. in 2015 by the Harvard Kennedy School



In October 2015, the Harvard Kennedy School’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation selected the NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) as one of five finalists for the 2015 Harvard Innovations in American Government Award for its programs to cleanup and revitalize vacant land in low-income communities in NYC. The Ash Center recognized the novelty, effectiveness, significance, and transferability of OER’s Vacant Land Cleanup and Redevelopment Initiative, which encompasses the office’s social equity and cleanup efforts. OER also received a grant to help expand these programs to other local governments.



Site Enrollment in the NYC VCP

NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program Enrolls 375th Cleanup Project

In December 2015, OER enrolled the 375th project in its Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). Eighty-two of these projects will provide over 5,300 new units of safe affordable or supportive housing for New Yorkers. Overall, new developments on these properties will result in over \$10

billion in new private investment and over 7,000 permanent jobs. The VCP was launched in 2011 and is the only municipally run cleanup program in the U.S. Ninety projects are now completed. These projects include over 170 tax lots, with an average vacancy of over 10 years. For more information on the NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program, contact OER Director Daniel Walsh at 212-676-0386, or dwalsh@cityhall.nyc.gov.



NYC Clean Soil Bank Receives

New York State Environmental Excellence Award

The NYC Clean Soil Bank program was awarded the 2015 Environmental Excellence Award by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The award was presented by DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos to OER Director Daniel Walsh and Clean Soil Bank Program Manager Samantha Morris at a ceremony held in Albany in November 2015.



NYC Clean Soil Bank Surpasses

250,000 Tons of Soil Recycled

In February 2016, OER's NYC Clean Soil Bank surpassed 250,000 tons of soil recycled since its launch in 2013. The Clean Soil Bank has lowered transport distances by over 1.6 million miles, reduced fuel consumption and lowered greenhouse gas emissions by 3,700 metric tons. The program has saved City government \$4 million in soil purchase costs and has lowered costs by \$17 million for projects overall. For more information about the NYC Clean Soil Bank, please contact Katherine Glass at 212-676-4925 or kglass@dep.nyc.gov.

Study Evaluating Use of Clean Soil Bank to Remediate

Community Gardens Shows Excellent Results



A pilot program studying the use of clean native soil from the NYC Clean Soil Bank to improve soil quality in community gardens was completed in Fall 2015 and showed excellent results in three community gardens in Brooklyn. The soil bank enabled reduction of lead content by up to 97% in garden soil. The addition of compost to the soil enabled high yield of test crops. The study was a collaboration of OER, Brooklyn College and Green Thumb/NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. Special thanks to York Laboratories, which provided pro bono analytic services for the pilot program. For more information, contact Alysha Alfieri at 212-676-0459, or aalfieri@dep.nyc.gov.



**Save the Date for the NYC Brownfield Partnership's
2016 Big Apple Brownfield Awards**

The NYC Brownfield Partnership will host the 2016 Big Apple Brownfield Awards on April 16th. Council Member Costa Constantinides (left), the chair of the Environmental Protection Committee of the NYC City Council will give the keynote address. The Big Apple Brownfield Awards honor the best examples of brownfield cleanup and redevelopment in New York City. Applications for the Abby Duncan Scholarship program, an annual award that provides financial support to students pursuing careers in the New York City brownfield industry, are due March 4th. To learn more about the awards and for information about sponsorship opportunities, please visit: www.nycbrownfieldpartnership.org/awards. Interested parties can also contact OER for more information.



176th Property Receives

NYC Green Property Certification

The NYC Green Property Certification program operated by OER has now awarded over 176 tax lots in the City with the Green Property Certification plaque. This certification is issued to properties that complete land study and remediation in the NYC Voluntary Cleanup Program and symbolizes the City's confidence that the property and new buildings are among the safest places in New York City to live and work. For more information, please contact Noel Anderson at 212-341-2073 or nanderson@dep.nyc.gov.



Northeast Sustainable Communities

Workshop Registration Open

The seventh annual Northeast Sustainable Communities Workshop will take place on March 16th at NJIT in Newark, NJ, and will be hosted by the Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast (BCONE). This year's theme is "Imagination and Creativity in Urban Change for the NJ/NY/CT/PA Metropolitan Area." OER staff speakers include Lee Ilan (Community Impacts of Development), Katherine Glass (Sustainable Remediation), and Hannah Moore (Sustainable Remediation)

Find registration and sponsorship information at: <http://www.brownfieldcoalitionne.org/nscw-2016>.



Join the OER Team

OER has positions open for environmental engineers and geologists (paid), and summer internships (unpaid.) Help us clean up land in NYC affordable housing, open space, community facilities, and overall economic revitalization. OER combines public service, technical rigor,

and an understanding of NYC communities to operate the country's only municipal land cleanup program.

More info at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oer/html/about-oer/careers-internships.shtml>



Follow OER on Twitter!

You could be our 500th follower at @NYCOER! Following OER on Twitter and Instagram (@NYC_OER) is a great way to stay up to date on OER programs, new environmental trends, local brownfields events, and significant news related to cleanup in NYC.

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