



**For Immediate Release:** January 20, 2023

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## **Fund for Public Housing, NYCHA, and Con Edison Announce the Winners of the Resident Climate Action Grant Program**

*Four resident-led projects in community climate action and sustainability were selected for funding through the first Resident Climate Action Grant Program*

*Powered by Con Edison, the program sought residents who were ready to bring their 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** – After launching during Climate Week in 2022, the Fund for Public Housing, NYCHA, and Con Edison announced the first four winners of the [Resident Climate Action Grants Program](#). The Resident Climate Action Grant Program supports resident-led sustainability projects and programs. Public housing residents worked collaboratively to apply for a Resident Climate Action Grant of up to \$5,000 to support resident-led sustainability projects in their communities. Today, winners were announced and awarded funds to implement their ideas from Woodside Houses, Red Hook West Houses, Wagner Houses and Mill Brook Houses.

“Residents of public housing are focused on making their communities more sustainable by taking climate action! Thanks to the support of NYCHA and funding from Con Edison and private donors, four powerful and impactful resident-led sustainability projects will be implemented in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens by public housing leaders bringing about positive change, community engagement and environmental conversation around issues facing the public housing community,” said **Fund for Public Housing Executive Director Alex Zablocki**. “Congratulations to all of the awardees!”

“The host of innovative ideas around environmental stewardship and climate action developed by NYCHA residents is truly impressive,” said **NYCHA Interim CEO Lisa Bova-Hiatt**. “We applaud the first cohort of Resident Climate Action Grant awardees and look forward to the role their projects will play in furthering sustainability-led projects across NYCHA campuses throughout New York City.”

This newly launched program was generously funded in part by a grant from Con Edison and KC3 Executive Director, Daphany Rose Sanchez.

“Con Edison is proud to support the Resident Climate Action Grant program,” said **Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Con Edison Jen Hensley**. “We congratulate today’s

winner and look forward to seeing each of these innovative and impactful ideas turned into action that will improve our city's environment and help in the fight against climate change.”

“To the NYCHA community, may the Climate Action Grants allow you to take charge of climate solutions and empower you to support your community, family, and friends. Congratulations to the awardees!” said **KC3 Executive Director Daphany Rose Sanchez**, a generous funder of the program. “To the industry, funding the Climate Action Grants provide an opportunity to uplift communities to lead Sustainable Action in whichever way suits them best”.

A ceremony was held at NYCHA to celebrate the winning applications and showcase the resident-led sustainability projects. The projects include:

- **Woodside Houses:** Resident Green Committee at Woodside Houses in Queens will revitalize their garden filled with fruit trees that was started by "One Million Trees" and take children on a field trip to the New York Botanical Garden for education on sustainability and nature concepts.
- **Red Hook West Houses:** Red Hook West and NeighborhoodSTAT leaders at Red Hook West in Brooklyn will host an energy efficiency event and campaign with Con Edison focused on improving energy efficiency in their development and gifting residents with free LED, energy efficient light bulbs.
- **Wagner Houses:** The Inner City Green Team at Wagner Houses in Harlem will launch a "One-Stop-Drop" recycling center by converting shipping containers for the collection of recyclables such as electronics, clothes, collecting compost, and more.
- **Mill Brook Houses:** Community leaders at Mill Brook Houses in the South Bronx will revitalize their community garden and educate youth living in public housing by adding compost collection, solar energy equipment, planting new vegetables, and painting scientific murals at the garden.

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.

“NYCHA’s Sustainability Agenda outlined a vision for a grant program that would jump-start resident-led community projects, on everything from recycling to arts and cultural activities,” said **NYCHA Senior Vice President for Sustainability Vlada Keniff**. “We identified this as a key strategy in helping NYCHA meet the moment around climate change because providing residents with opportunities to drive the future of their communities fosters deeper engagement around sustainability topics.”

The Fund for Public Housing and NYCHA will continue to work with applicants as they implement their plans through this fall. The Fund for Public Housing 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://fundforpublichousing.org/climate>.

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### **About the Fund for Public Housing**

The Fund for Public Housing (The Fund) is an independent not-for-profit organization that creates and leverages resources and relationships to enhance the opportunities and quality of life for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents. Through public-private partnership with NYCHA, the Fund is investing in leadership development, workforce skills, economic mobility, community health and resident asset building, with a focus on NYCHA's 100,000 youth and young adults (14-24 years of age), as a centerpiece of the organization's commitment to creating economic opportunity and equity for all NYCHA residents. For more information, visit [www.fundforpublichousing.org](http://www.fundforpublichousing.org).

### **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 roughly 1 in 16 New Yorkers across over 177,000 apartments within 335 housing developments. NYCHA serves over 339,000 residents through the conventional public housing program (Section 9), over 29,000 residents at developments that have been converted to PACT/RAD, and over 92,000 families through federal rent subsidies (the Section 8 Leased Housing Program). In addition, NYCHA connects residents to opportunities in financial empowerment, business development, career advancement, and educational programs. With a housing stock that spans all five boroughs, NYCHA is a city within a city.