

Climate Change Partners



DEP provides vital services to more than 9 million New Yorkers, and we have been studying climate change and how it may impact our operations for many years. One result of a changing climate will likely be more intense rain events throughout New York City and our watersheds. Similarly, Copenhagen, Denmark has recently experienced heavy rainfall events, or cloud bursts, that resulted in severe localized flooding. There are many lessons to be learned from past events and the planning efforts undertaken in both cities. To this end, DEP has initiated an innovative knowledge sharing agreement with Copenhagen in order to better address intense rainfall events. During this three-year engagement, each city will share best practices on strategies to accommodate heavy rainfall as well as models for estimating economic savings of implementing robust stormwater management systems. Pictured are DEP Commissioner **Emily Lloyd** and Copenhagen's Mayor of Technical and Environmental Affairs, **Morten Kabbell**.

Spotlight on Safety

My Car Does What?

More than 30,000 people are killed each year in vehicular accidents and the National Safety Council and the University of Iowa recently launched MyCarDoesWhat.org, a national campaign to help educate drivers on new vehicle safety technologies designed to help prevent crashes. Many of these features involve the vehicle's ability to sense a problem before it can cause an accident, such as a drowsiness alert. Some of the other new safety features include:

- forward collision warning

- pedestrian detection
- automatic parallel parking
- blind spot monitor

Car safety technology continues to develop, but even older cars have features designed to keep drivers safe. It is important to review your car owner's manual to learn about its safety features and how to use them. It's also a good idea after starting the vehicle to address any warning notifications on your dashboard (ex. check engine, tire pressure, temperature, etc.). To learn more about how these new technologies work, visit the [website](#).

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [PIPELINE](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner

Eric Landau, DEP's Associate Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Affairs, is a guest commentator this week.

With the weather getting cooler and the school year well underway, the Bureau of Public Affairs (BPA) is winding down some of our popular summer programs, such as Water-On-the-Go and Rain Barrel Giveaways, and ramping up our school-year activities. This year, working in partnership with elected officials, we provided free rain barrels to more than 5,000 New York City homeowners. We also ensured that our fellow New Yorkers could stay cool and hydrated by setting up Water-On-the-Go fountains at roughly 300 events, including our 17 flagship locations and roughly 66 special events throughout the five boroughs, such as Summer Streets and the Disability Pride Parade.

Our annual Trout in the Classroom program has already begun with workshops for the teachers, and today our Education Office staff was out at Gantry Plaza State Park along the East River in Long Island City coordinating the "A Day in the Life: Hudson River Estuary Snapshot" event. Approximately 50 students, 11th graders from Baruch College Campus High School in Manhattan and 7th graders from Hunter's Point Community Middle School in Queens, participated in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation event. Statewide, nearly 5,000 students at 75 different locations, from Troy to New York City, participated in



the hands-on scientific exploration of the Hudson River Estuary.

During the event, five stations were set up where the students were able to measure the river's currents and perform tests to determine the level of turbidity, pH, salinity and dissolved oxygen in the water. The high school students were paired with seventh graders and taught them how to properly measure water quality. The seventh graders taught their high school partners the techniques they use to clean and monitor the oysters they are raising in the East River. The students were supervised by science teachers from their schools and DEP Education staff. DEP supplied the equipment for the event, including seine nets and lab materials to investigate aquatic life, water chemistry and quality, tides and weather. The data collected by the nearly 5,000 students will be analyzed and posted on the "Day in the Life: Hudson River Snapshot" website. To see more photos of the event [click here](#).



In the News



Photo Credit: Yana Paskova for The New York Times

“At first glance, the five rectilinear islands that bob off the south shore of Jamaica Bay look like an art installation cooked up in a studio in Williamsburg or Bushwick. But the structures, which resemble giant planters and are filled with smooth cordgrass, have an ecological purpose. They are helping to protect a quarter-mile ribbon of marshland that hugs the shore in the Rockaways by slowing the onslaught of waves, which are small but relentless.” [Click here](#) to read the entire New York Times story.

Environmental Professional Development

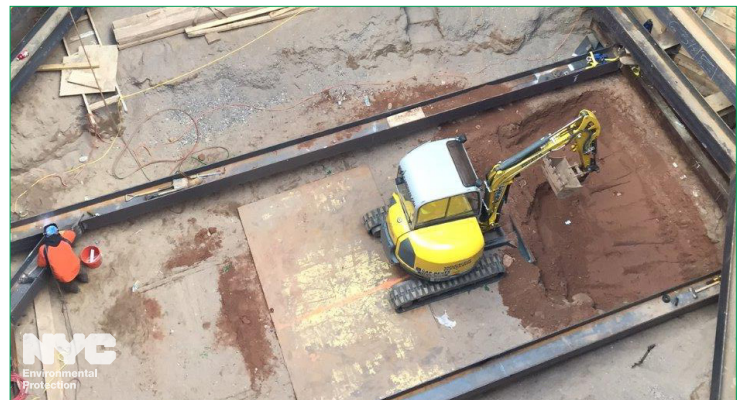


Robin Sanchez, DEP’s Deputy Director of Education, guides Trout in the Classroom teachers through an interactive workshop about how opinions and perspectives on environmental issues are formed. During the workshop, teachers from NYC and the watersheds met in groups to take on roles of different stakeholders involved in a mock “town hall” meeting on challenges surrounding the repair of leaks in the Delaware Aqueduct. This professional development workshop was part of an exciting annual gathering of more than 150 Trout in the Classroom teachers who travel upstate each fall to attend workshops and pick up trout eggs that they will raise and release into NYC’s watershed streams in the spring.

Sunset Park Repairs



In early August, the roadway collapsed at the intersection of 64th Street and 5th Avenue in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn and the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) quickly mobilized staff from its Water Distribution, Repair and Construction divisions to cordon off the area, shut down a 48-inch water main that runs through the collapse and backfill the hole to stabilize the area. Since then, work has continued around the clock to relocate utilities in the area of the collapse, remove the existing 48-inch water main, install a new main, flush it with chlorine, and reactivate it in order to ensure a reliable supply of water for southwestern Brooklyn. In addition, inspection of the manhole leading to a large sewer in the area of the collapse has shown that it too needs to be replaced. Supports and braces have been installed to buttress the water main during the necessary excavation and repairs to the manhole and DEP is working closely with the community to keep them informed about the progress of the repair work. This includes accommodating an MTA bus route on 5th Avenue and ensuring pedestrian access for local businesses. We thank our colleagues in BWSO for working hard to make these critical repairs in an expeditious manner while ensuring the safety of both workers and the public.



We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.