



GrowNYC Publishes 2023 Impact Report

Report highlights GrowNYC's work to provide New Yorkers with solutions and opportunities to live a more sustainable life and accelerate climate action

NEW YORK – GrowNYC today published its 2023 Impact Report, which outlines how the non-profit continues to address environmental challenges through its programs in Food Access & Agriculture, Education, Zero Waste, and Green Spaces. The report provides statistics and details on how GrowNYC continues to work side by side with New York City agencies, communities, and partners to create a more sustainable and climate resilient City, and inspires change on critical environmental issues.

The report highlights GrowNYC's ongoing efforts to build significant momentum both citywide and nationally to inspire environmental action. As a leading environmental organization in New York City, GrowNYC provides opportunities for New Yorkers of all ages to understand and connect with the life cycle of our environment, plants, food, and nutritious eating.

"All New Yorkers deserve a city filled with green space, opportunities to live sustainably, and access to affordable, nutritious food. The work our 200+ staff does across the city every day inspires me and keeps me going," said Marcel Van Ooyen, President & CEO of GrowNYC. "I hope when you read you too are inspired by how individual participation in our programs makes a huge impact."

Some highlights from the 2023 Impact Report include:

Environmental Impact

Creating an informed population and climate-resilient landscape in New York City

- GrowNYC engaged and prepared 459,500 kids and adults in environmental stewardship, supported 936 school gardens in our citywide garden network and 459 New York City Public Schools on their zero waste journey.
- GrowNYC renovated 30 community gardens and built 7 new community gardens across Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan, totaling 46,500 square feet of green space added to our city landscape. 86 % of gardeners grew their own food, helping create food sovereignty boosting access to fresh and culturally appropriate produce.
- GrowNYC conserved 1 million gallons of water via green infrastructure, providing communities the opportunity to manage and utilize stormwater as a resource.
- In 2023, 19 Teens completed GrowNYC's 8 week Summer Workforce Development program, providing essential training to the next generation of green workers.

Supporting impactful climate action and food system solutions

- GrowNYC distributed 2.6 million of local food distributed through our Food Hub – 90% food sourced from the Hub went to organizations dedicated to expanding food security across our City.
- GrowNYC's Food Hub sourced from 50 regional farmers and producers (42 of which are based in New York State), generating over \$2.98 million in income for our regional partners.
- GrowNYC's New York State Regional Food entered the final stages of development. The state-of-the-art 60,000 square feet facility will soon deliver an increased supply of fresh produce to historically underserved neighborhoods as well as institutional buyers such as universities, hospitals, food businesses, NYC agencies, and beyond.
- GrowNYC operated 66 food access locations across the 5 boroughs working with 207 regional farms, giving New Yorkers 2,954 unique opportunities throughout the year to access fresh local foods.
- GrowNYC collected 2.2 million pounds of food scraps for composting, reaching 24 million pounds of food scraps diverted from landfills since 2011.
- GrowNYC collected 352,000 pounds of textiles for reuse and saved 81,000 pounds of household items from landfill.
- GrowNYC and NYC Compost Project collected 50k+ individual signatures to save community composting, the ongoing city budget cuts threaten the fight for sustainability, the very foundation of our organization.

Social Impact

Investing in increasingly underserved communities

- GrowNYC Greenmarket and Farmstand sites redeemed \$4.3 in nutrition benefits, which make regionally-produced food accessible to low income New Yorkers through the promotion and acceptance of nutrition benefits, incentive coupons, and credit cards. These benefits support our partners in agriculture by going directly to the farmers who are growing the produce.
- GrowNYC expanded its microhub partner network with MHANY Management, a mutual housing association, joining Central Brooklyn microhub partner Brooklyn Packers, a Black-led, worker-owned co-op shop. The microhub network will support capacity building to increase food access points at the community-level in underserved residential neighborhoods.
- The GrowNYC micro-hub partner network places a specific emphasis on sourcing from farmers who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and communities that have been historically impacted by systemic racism in U.S. agriculture. GrowNYC will support these growers by providing technical assistance, covering areas such as food safety, financial planning, aggregation, distribution, and increased NYC market access through our Food Hub.
- GrowNYC facilitated a 100% increase in the number of BIPOC farmers in GrowNYC's Food Hub network and supported 50 regional farmers with free marketing, legal, financial planning assistance, and other services. Our Spanish language beginning farmer course, La Nueva Siembra honored 8 new farmer graduates.
- GrowNYC in partnership with NYCHA unveiled a new 10,000 sq ft community garden at the Pelham Parkway Houses featuring 10 raised garden features, wooden benches,

garden tools, and seeds for the growing season. Together growing hubs for community, safety, and inclusion.

The full GrowNYC 2023 Impact Report can be viewed and downloaded at [HERE](#), along with the [GrowNYC Strategic Plan](#).

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About GrowNYC

GrowNYC is an environmental 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a sustainable and more resilient New York City, providing 3 million New Yorkers with environmental services and programs, including access to fresh, locally grown food, neighborhood green spaces, waste reduction, and environmental education. www.grownyc.org