

Campaign for
WE ACT
Environmental
Justice Center



**LET'S BUILD A HOME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.
LET'S BUILD LEADERSHIP FOR CLIMATE ACTION.**



WE ACT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CENTER

Building Leadership For Climate Action

The WE ACT Environmental Justice Center is a five-story brick and limestone townhouse in the Hamilton Heights Historic District in West Harlem, located across the street from City College of New York. The gut renovation will allow the building to be energy efficient and designed as a “passive house.”



Environmental Justice Center Features:

- Two floors dedicated to educational and training programs.
- Up-to-date technology and equipment for Science, Technology, Energy, Arts, and Math (STEAM) education.
- Outdoor space for citizen science activities.
- Two conference rooms to host convenings and technical assistance trainings.
- Flexible office space for use by staff and in civic engagement campaigns such as get-out-the-vote.



Building Leadership For Climate Action

The WE ACT Environmental Justice Center in Harlem is now under construction! The center is an outcome of 35 years of WE ACT's leadership and experience in taking community-based action in partnership with the most affected people. We work with our members and community stakeholders to address frontline communities' concerns and priorities through successful environmental justice advocacy campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels.

WE ACT has its origins on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 1988, when 100 Harlem activists came together to protest the threat to their community's air quality posed by the North River Sewage Treatment Plant. Those activists included The Sewage Seven, led by WE ACT's Co-Founder and Executive Director, Peggy Shepard. They were arrested that day but won their fight to reduce Harlem's exposure to toxins and hazards. Since then, WE ACT has evolved from a volunteer organization into a national environmental justice leader with its base in Harlem and a federal policy office in Washington, DC.

WE ACT's core initiatives include:



Environmental
justice policy
advocacy



Environmental
justice thought
leadership



Environmental
health research
with academic
institutions



Education
and advocacy
training



Green jobs
& workforce
development

Climate policy must reflect distributive, procedural, and retributive justice if all communities are to benefit. WE ACT continues to expand its staff, policy agenda, educational tools, and technical assistance to meet the urgent need for environmental justice perspectives, engagement, and leadership to infuse public policy. In 2022, WE ACT's efforts and resources helped to win landmark environmental justice legislation in New York, including a cumulative impacts law and a major state investment toward environmental stewardship and equitable green jobs. We launched a nationwide initiative targeting 10 cities to ensure that the unprecedented federal commitments to climate investment reach the communities where they are needed most. And WE ACT partnered with two other national environmental justice leaders to host the first-ever Climate Justice Pavilion at COP27 in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt – an important milestone in elevating the concerns of frontline communities around the world in the United Nations' climate negotiations, as we all act to sustain a safe and healthy earth for our families and for future generations.

OUR MOVEMENT URGENTLY NEEDS A PLACE TO CALL HOME

In the new Environmental Justice Center, WE ACT will strengthen its ability to serve as a movement-builder, sharing our knowledge, experience, and best practices, along with capacity-building resources, including funding, with allies across the country. The Center will be a convening space and technical assistance hub for environmental justice organizations and other grassroots advocates. With a permanent space to call our own, equipped with the technology for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) education and citizen science, we'll also scale up our community-based education, workforce development, and civic engagement efforts that directly empower Northern Manhattan residents.



“The WE ACT Environmental Justice Center establishes a long-overdue hub for grassroots advocacy, climate justice education, and capacity-building for New Yorkers and national environmental justice advocates.”

– Peggy Shepard, Co-Founder and Executive Director

Each year in the new WE ACT Environmental Justice Center...

1,000+



Children and youth will receive our Environmental Health and Justice Leadership Training.

100+



Workers will be trained with the skills needed for well-paying green jobs.

1,000+



Residents will access knowledge and tools to lead community-based campaigns, through participation in working groups and monthly membership meetings.

10,000+



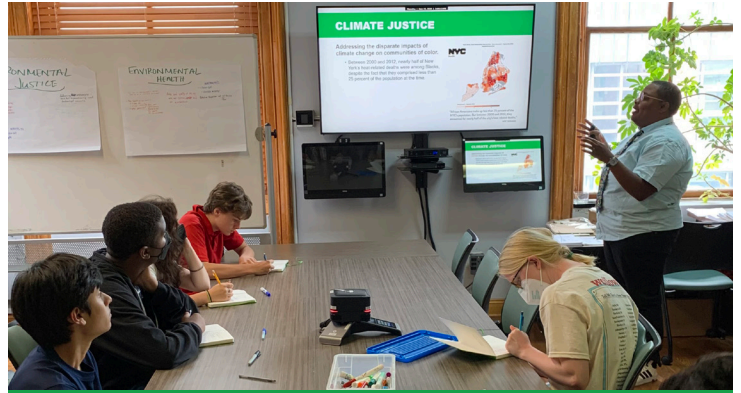
Voters will be mobilized around environmental issues through our non-partisan get-out-the-vote efforts.

THE WE ACT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CENTER IS IN OUR SIGHT

WE ACT owns a five-story townhouse in Harlem, WE ACT's home community. We are launching a \$7.3 million campaign to completely renovate and transform the building into a state-of-the-art community-based Environmental Justice Center, and grow our education, workforce development, and advocacy programs.



Youth Education – our award winning educational programming will help build the next generation of climate justice champions.



Leadership Development – through working groups, citizen science, and advocacy trainings, we'll prepare residents to lead their own campaigns.

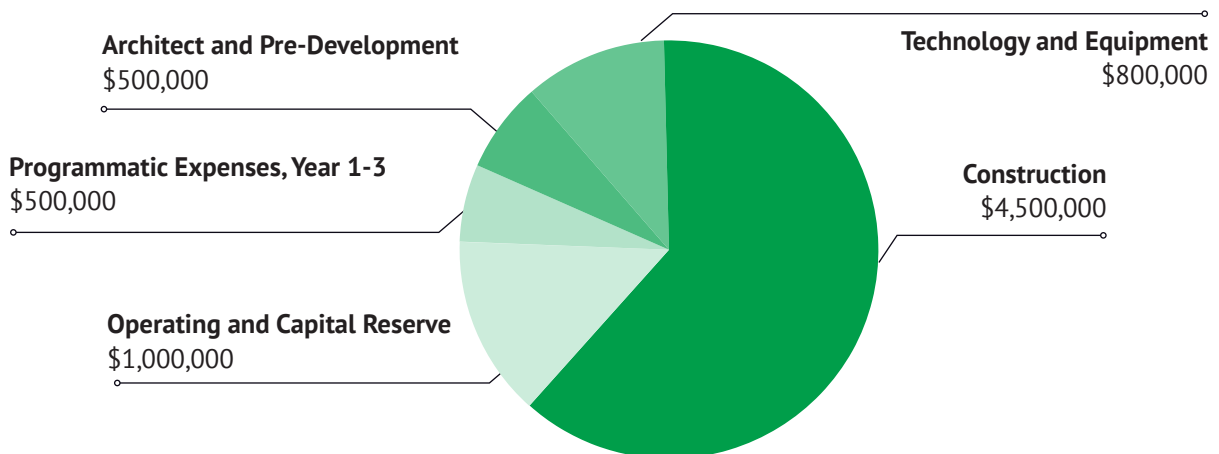


Workforce Development – our training programs are preparing community jobseekers for jobs in the booming green jobs industry.



Capacity-Building – providing grassroots leaders with the knowledge and resources to engage with decisionmakers at all levels of government.

WE ACT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CENTER CAMPAIGN BUDGET



LET'S BUILD A HOME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Join with us to open the doors to New York City's first community-based environmental justice center, a milestone in this movement to increase the pace of environmental and climate justice and to create a pipeline for future climate justice leaders and changemakers.

This is no small task. Time is dwindling to meet critical emissions reduction targets to combat the worst impacts of climate change. We must ensure that the most impacted communities share in the benefits of intensive climate infrastructure investments. By supporting our Environmental Justice Center, you can help mobilize the residents of low-income communities of color across the US to demand environmental justice and have a seat at the table in decisions that affect the health of their neighborhoods.

Please make a gift that is as meaningful to you as it will be to the communities and families seeking environmental and climate justice.



For more information, please contact Morgan Fritz, Director of Development, at morgan@weact.org or (212) 961.1000, ext. 305.

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