IMPACT REPORT

SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

NYSUNWORKS
HYDROPONIC CLASSROOMS





OVER 160,000 STUDENTS GREW HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF PRODUCE IN OVER 370 HYDROPONIC CLASSROOMS ACROSS NYC AND BEYOND.

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS - SY25-26



STUDENTS REACHED

160,000



HYDROPONIC CLASSROOMS BUILT

35



HYDROPONIC SYSTEMS INSTALLED

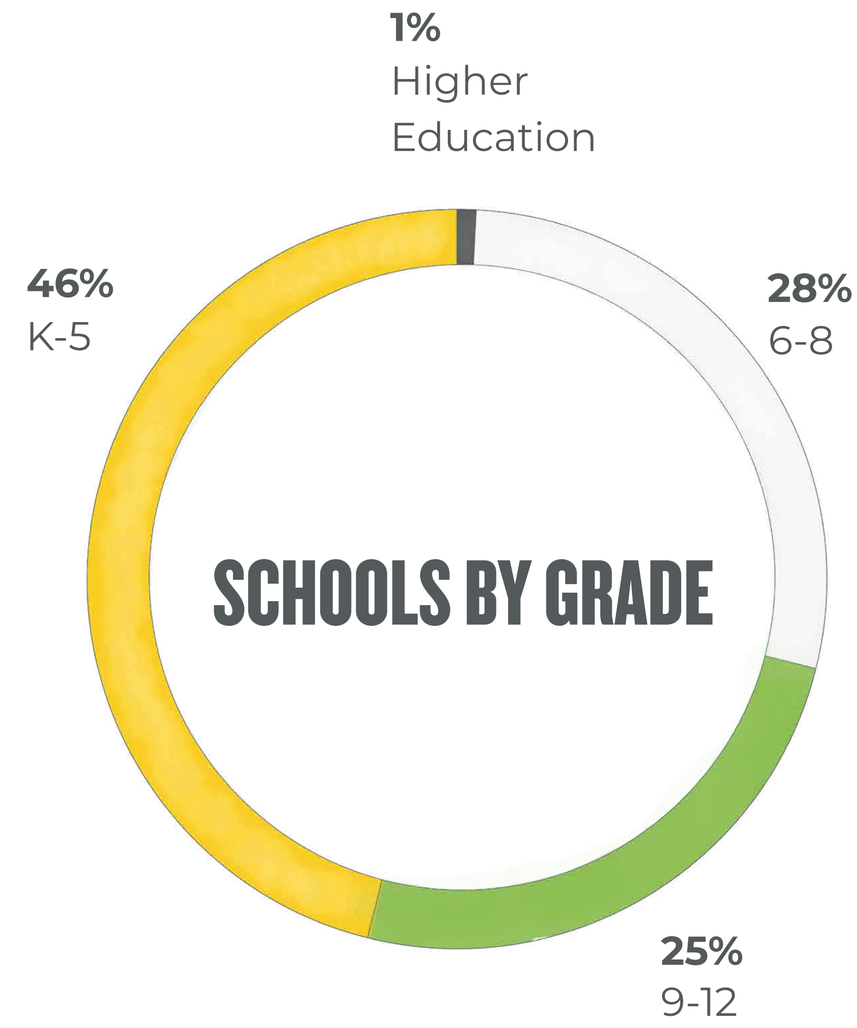
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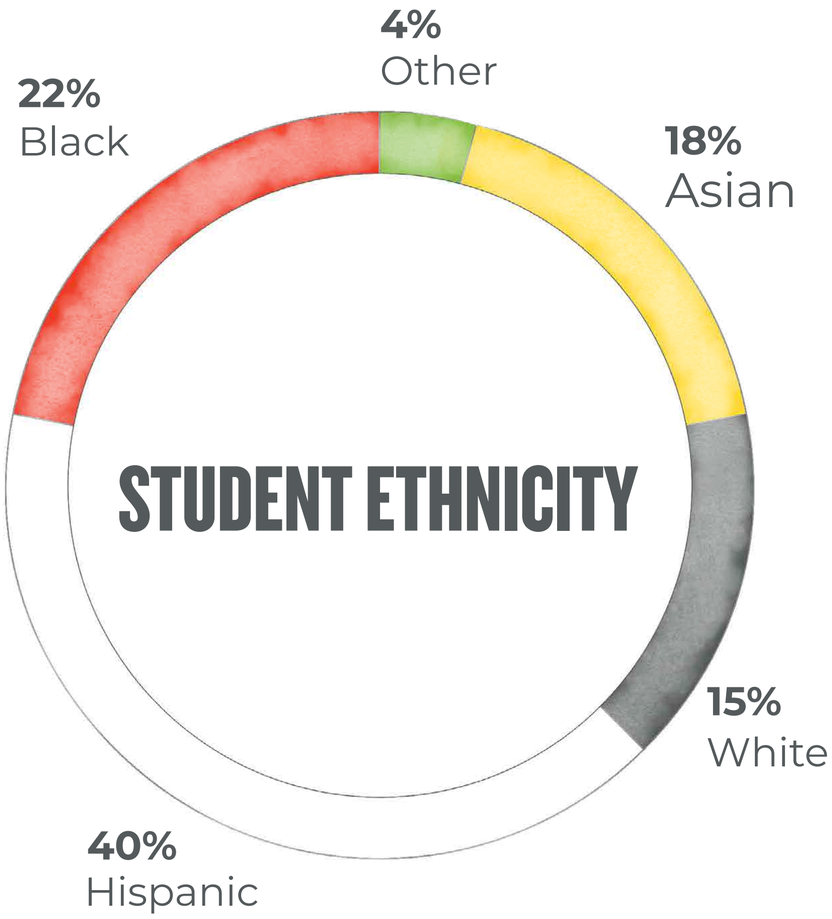


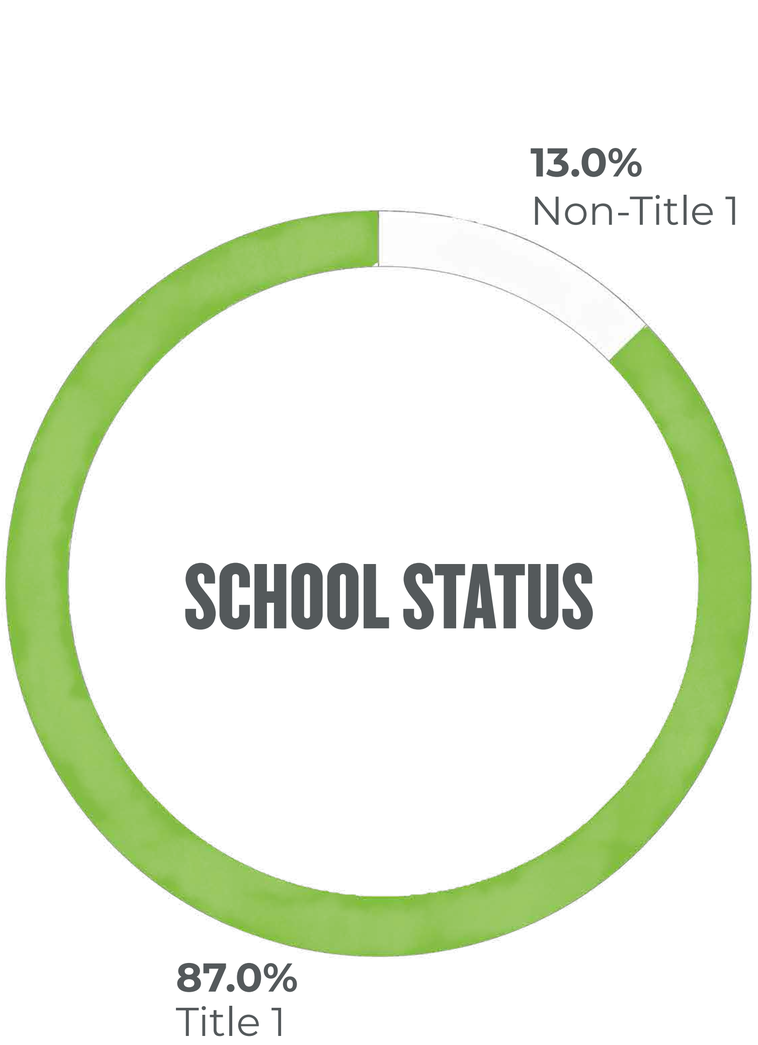
TEACHERS TRAINED

233

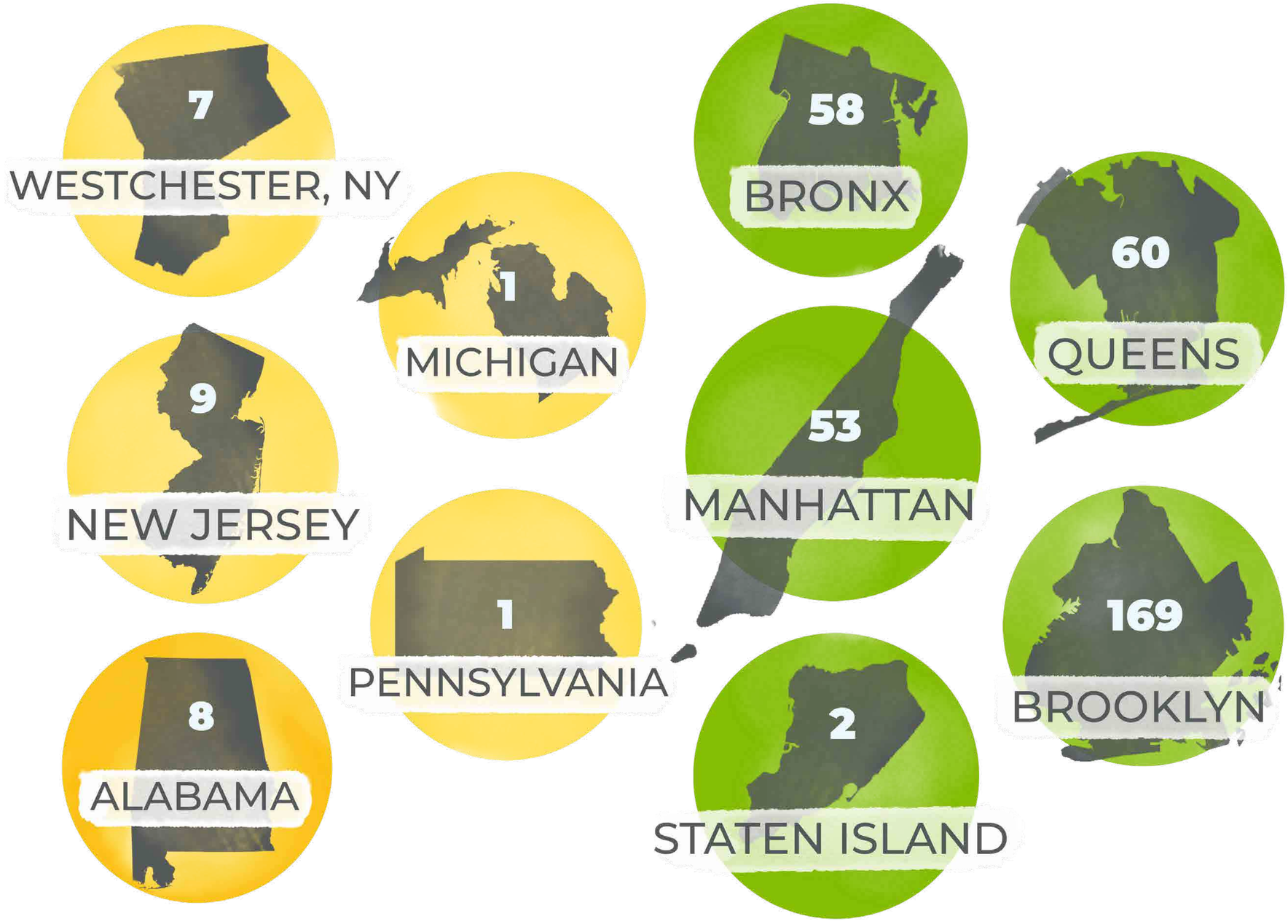
A LOOK AT OUR DEMOGRAPHICS







PEOPLE WE SERVE



KNOWLEDGE



95%
OF TEACHERS REPORT THAT STUDENTS ACQUIRE STRONG SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE.

96%
OF TEACHERS REPORT THAT STUDENTS ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN SCIENCE TOPICS.

95%
OF TEACHERS REPORT THAT OUR PROGRAM ENHANCES STUDENTS' INTEREST AND CURIOSITY IN SCIENCE.



95% of teachers report that students show appreciation for the environment.



92% of teachers report that students are knowledgable about climate change issues after a year with the NY Sun Works Program.



95% of teachers report that students bring home food from the Hydroponic Classroom.


97% OF OUR TEACHERS REPORT THAT THEIR STUDENTS EAT THE PRODUCE THEY GROW IN THEIR HYDROPONIC CLASSROOMS.



WE HELD OUR BIGGEST EVER YOUTH CONFERENCE AT THE JAVITS CENTER BRINGING >1,200 STUDENTS FROM 57 SCHOOLS PRESENTING 28 PROJECTS.

OUR FARMER SCIENTISTS



"The hands-on learning was something that I missed a lot in other classes. Here you see the results (...) Taking care of everything is probably the coolest thing. There are so many things that make you feel like an expert scientist."

Arnold Winsent-Glouchko
Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies, Brooklyn



"Seeing those first plants growing in a system that we built with our own hands is an experience we will never forget. Over time I started to understand not just how hydroponics works, but why it works. Hydroponics is not something you can rush, it forces you to pay attention, to adapt and to learn from mistakes. That mindset has stuck with me. It's taught me about leadership, responsibility and collaboration."

Asin Rehal
Lincoln High School, Yonkers



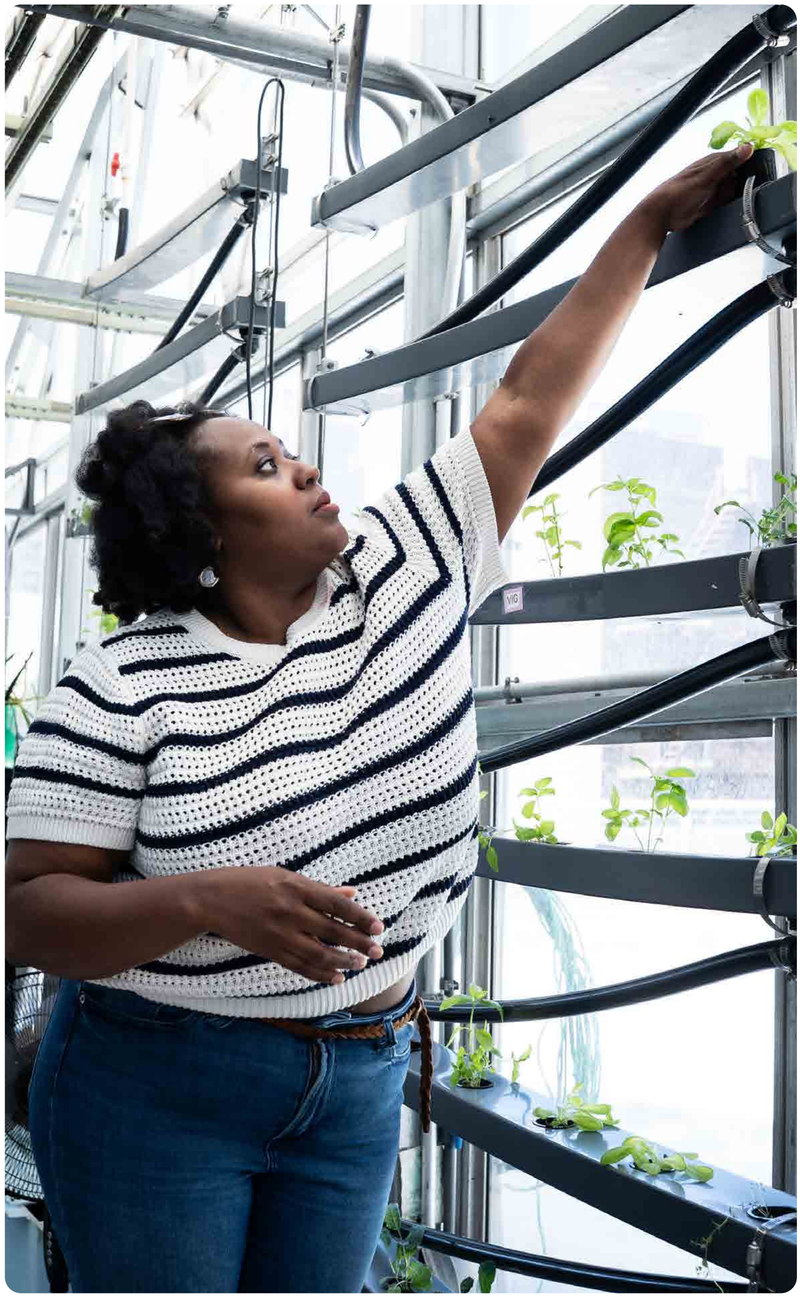
"It was such a pleasant surprise when I got into the classroom for the first time. It's very calming. I was so curious about everything and now I get to learn about it. We learned all about the substrates and maintaining the systems. It's very hands-on and you are interacting and connecting with nature as you learn. We also have fun working together as a group."

Kiani
Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School, Queens

WE HELD **45** PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

during which

WE TRAINED **233** TEACHERS



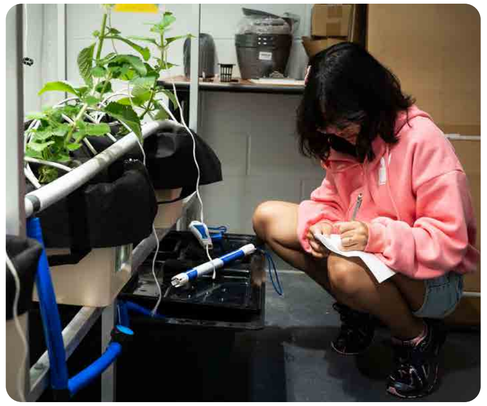
ACCORDING TO OUR LATEST TEACHER SATISFACTION SURVEY, **99%** OF OUR PARTNER TEACHERS WOULD RECOMMEND OUR PROGRAM TO OTHERS.

DEVELOPING THE NEW GREEN WORKFORCE



275
STUDENTS PARTICIPATING

of whom



109
STUDENTS ARE CERTIFIED

from



9
PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

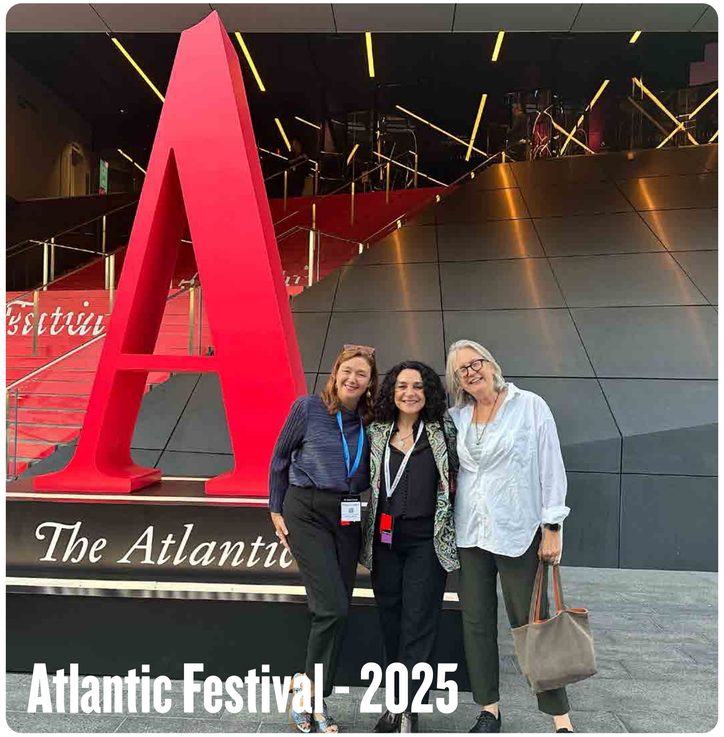
PANEL PRESENTATIONS



Research Panel

In April 2026, NY Sun Works convened a panel of experts in climate education and education research to explore two of-the-moment questions: How do we make sure climate education programs are effective? And, what are the broader outcomes of teaching students about climate change?

This panel was hosted by Venable LLP and moderated by Adam Freed (principal and head of the Sustainability Practice, Bloomberg Associates). Panelists included: Christina Kwauk, PhD (co-founder, Unbounded Alliance and independent researcher), Shino Tanikawa (Executive Director, NYC Soil & Water Conservation District and member, NYS Board of Regents), Andy Zimmerman (science educator, New York Harbor Middle School), and Alex Kudryavtsev, PhD (researcher, Cornell University).



Atlantic Festival - 2025

NY Sun Works Executive Director Manuela Zamora joined glaciologist Brent Minchew, climate communicator Kate Marvel, and Atlantic staff writer Ross Andersen at the Atlantic Festival's Climate Summit. The conversation explored the intersection between education, climate science, and technological innovation and highlighted the role of education as an indispensable tool for addressing our climate challenges.

PUBLICATIONS



Authored by Cornell University researcher Alex Kudryavtsev, **Systemic impacts of sustainability education: a case study of New York Sun Works** showed that our Hydroponic Classrooms and curriculum drive systemic change by enhancing academic learning, empowering students to address local and global environmental challenges, and fostering civic engagement that results in positive community outcomes.

A PEER-REVIEWED STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN OCTOBER 2025, CONFIRMED NY SUN WORKS' IMPACTS ON STUDENTS AND THE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES WITH WHOM WE WORK.



As states move to mandate climate change education, the central question is no longer if climate content should be included in the classroom but how to design instruction that produces meaningful climate outcomes.

This policy brief offers a pathway for how to design instructional content, pedagogical approaches, and assessment tools that achieve and measure positive climate outcomes.

"BEHAVIOR SHIFTS DO NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT. WE MUST DESIGN FOR IMPACT. IF WE ARE NOT INTENTIONALLY THINKING ABOUT HOW TO SHAPE STUDENT'S CLIMATE LEARNING AND BEHAVIORAL OUTCOMES, WE CANNOT REASONABLY EXPECT CLIMATE IMPACT TO BE ACHIEVED."

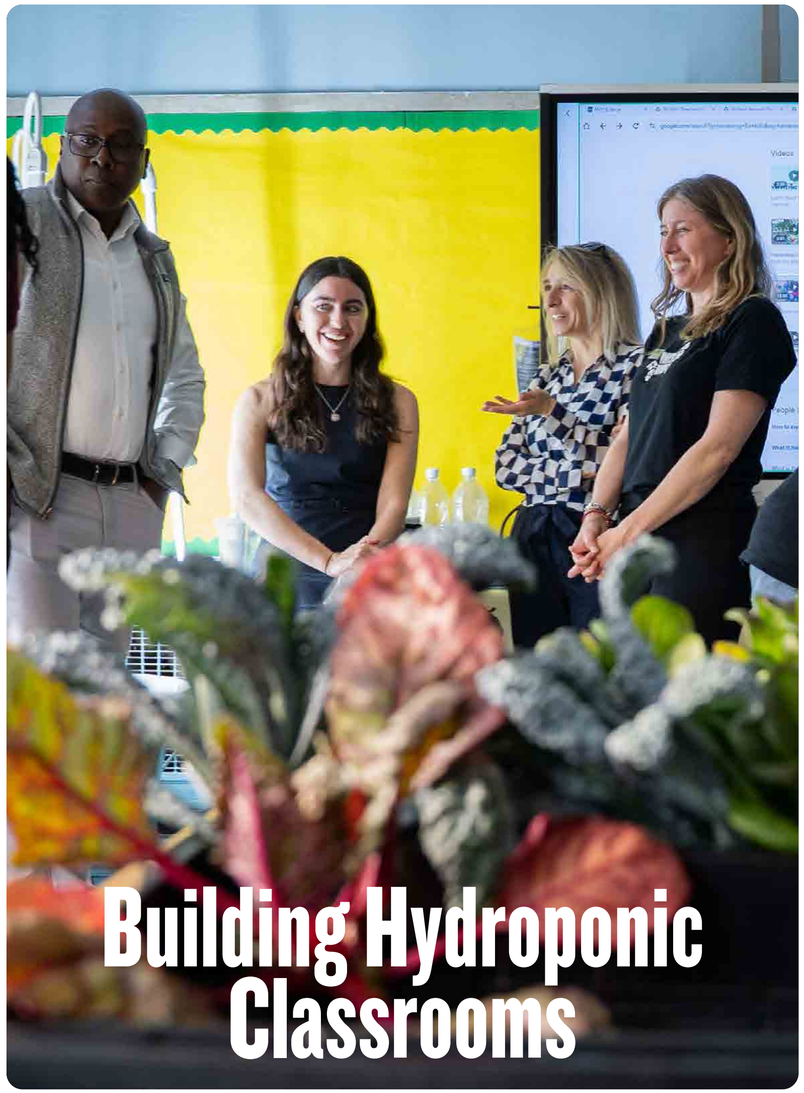
-Christina Kwauk, PhD

MEDIA


Our expansion to Birmingham, Alabama generated significant media attention. This included in-depth TV coverage from WIAT CBS 42, WBRC 6, WTVM 13 (NBC), and ABC, plus local coverage in Birmingham Times and Birmingham Business Journal.
Overall, we scored over 500 media hits with national distribution and pickup including:
AP
yahoo!finance
BUSINESS INSIDER



CORPORATE SUPPORT



Building Hydroponic Classrooms

2018 — 2026

9



Career Mentoring

Volunteers from EY, Bregal Investments, NYPA, and the NY Sun Works Associate Board generously gave their time to mentor students on workforce readiness skills, including networking and writing resumes and cover letters.



Conference Sponsorship

The 2026 Youth Conference was sponsored by NY Power Authority, EY, and GFP Real Estate with additional support from the Javits Center.


SUNWORKS