

Username: mayatylis

Team Name: Hewitt 2024

School Name: The Hewitt School

**hw_project_greenteam**...

Kathy Hochul,

We are four high school juniors who are reaching out to make a difference in our city. We are passionate about sustainability and would love to see a change in the way our city impacts the environment.

We are aware and grateful of your recent initiatives such as the funding of The Department of Agriculture and Markets and the State Education Department to support New York farmers. We would like to add on and share some of our concerns with the environment as well as some solutions.

An environmental issue that has captivated our attention is the production and distribution of food. The impact of this issue is prevalent in areas of NYC where unhealthy, unsustainable, and cheaper food is accessible to all and can be the only choice for many. Food insecurity is not only a social issue but also an environmental one. There are millions of New Yorkers who are food insecure due to financial issues and these families do not always have access to the fresh, local, organic, seasonal, nutritious, and delicious food that others are privileged to buy. While these foods are healthier, they are also more sustainable and if all New Yorkers could eat foods like this, our city, our country, and our world would be better for it. The distribution of food is closely related to the production of food as the economic factor has an impact on both and on the sustainability of the food. Chocolate, for example, needs about 516 gallons per 4 ounces according to the water footprint calculator, which means that chocolate uses more water to produce than any other food. Other foods use a surprising amount of water to produce as well, such as meat, which is harmful to the water supply and the accessibility of water. In addition to the detrimental uses of water, the production of many different types of food can be harmful in terms of the agricultural practices used to produce these foods. There are countless different aspects to the negative systems of food, specifically in NYC, and we could further explain, but we would like to talk about a solution, not a problem.

There are several organizations addressing food insecurity and providing food to those who can not afford it or have access to it. Our school and specifically the earth committee has partnered with Rescuing Leftover Cuisine to donate leftover food to those in need. As high school students, we are doing our part to help the short term problem of food insecurity. Long term, we would like to raise awareness, inspire, and encourage the rest of NYC to do their part and donate to local organizations, be mindful of their food waste, and be mindful of the food they are buying and where it came from. The overall long term objective would be for every New Yorker to lead a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle. In order to obtain this goal, we would need various leaders to help us share this passion and goal to the entire NYC community. These leaders include young voices, old voices, politicians, teachers, and everyone and anyone else. Initiatives that NYC elected officials and especially yourself, Ms. Hochul, construct are extremely crucial to forging the future. We urge you to take these words and put them into more action. We are in support of any and all initiatives that provide NYC with a more equitable and sustainable future.

There is not just one way to prevent climate change, and every sustainable step helps. We can use our voices to generate change in our communities, but we would love it if you too would take more green initiatives into consideration. We appreciate what you have done and look forward to more positive change in our city.

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to read this message. We sincerely appreciate it!

Best,
Skye, Maya, Isabelle, and Olivia



hw_project_greenteam We wrote to Kathy Hochul, the governor of New York. We believe that the issues surrounding food are many and result in unjust and not sustainable impacts on New Yorkers. #pgc2022 @turninggreenorg

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