EESI Congressional Briefing: Conservation Corps
WE ARE A MOVEMENT
WE ARE THE FORCE.

Cohort 17 in Service Boot Camp at Howard Houses
OUR VISION

One day we will live in green cities where everyone can thrive.

We are working toward a “green city” rooted in social, economic and environmental justice. We view young adults from frontline communities as the essential force for driving the emergence of sustainable and resilient cities—by transforming their own lives, leading community transition, and promoting the values of a new, regenerative and inclusive economy.

We envision young people building the green cities we want to see through engagement in service years that also lead them on a path to satisfying and rewarding careers. We view service, purposefully designed, as a systemic solution to create a just, collaborative and connected society. Our ambition: that service to help build green and equitable cities becomes an avenue to opportunity for a generation of young residents of public and low-income housing.
We train young leaders to power a green and inclusive economy, through service.

Our model corps in New York City enlists and trains young people from low income housing communities for a new and more equitable economy. We equip them with the tools to change the trajectory of their lives and access good jobs. Corps Members develop a passion for sustainability and service through driving large-scale environmental and health initiatives in public housing and other frontline communities.

We design service as a path to greater well being and means to enlist young people to become contributors and leaders in the movement to build a greener, fairer and more just world. Graduates go on to jobs or college, directly or through alumni initiatives that build towards sectoral jobs and apprenticeships, via social enterprise contracts or advanced training developed with employers. Our network of alumni, partners and supporters constitutes a growing ecosystem anchored in our corps.
72% of NYCHA young adults are *unemployed*, lacking access to stable career pathways. Without successful work experience before 26, the odds of economic independence plummet.

$750M+ in annual energy waste and *unnecessary pollution* is caused by outdated infrastructure and poor usage habits, according to NYC’s sustainability policy goals.
# Green City Force Program Model

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Corps</th>
<th>Alumni-hood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- 18-24 year old residents of NYC public housing with high school diplomas or GED</td>
<td>- Direct employment, apprenticeships or college enrollment</td>
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<td>- 6-8 month AmeriCorps service</td>
<td>- GCF sectoral training initiatives with employers</td>
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<td>- Impactful, skills-building environmental initiatives in NYCHA</td>
<td>- GCF social enterprise</td>
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<td>- Ongoing coaching and support</td>
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Green City Force targets service-learning experiences, technical training and employer partnerships linked to specific jobs that encompass:

- energy efficiency, utilities, renewables and behind the meter technology;
- construction, operations, maintenance and management of buildings;
- waste management including recycling and composting;
- green infrastructure;
- maintenance and management of green spaces;
- horticulture and food production;
- community health and sustainability education outreach
In 10 years, GCF has demonstrated young adults in NYCHA are ready to serve, can create large-scale environmental impact, build interest and skills for in-demand jobs and become standouts in the green economy.
GCF CORPS MEMBER JOURNEY

Public Housing in NYC: a city within the city

RECRUITMENT & ORIENTATION
Residents 18-24 are unemployed at higher rates than their peers outside of NYCHA.
GCF connects the dots between young talent and climate change, health and equality imperatives and opportunity in emerging fields.

SERVICE & TRAINING
Build the force for green service, one cohort at a time.
GCF’s Corps drives large-scale environmental initiatives in NYCHA to transform land, buildings & practices, engaging thousands of residents.

ALUMNIIHOOD
ALumni power green and equitable cities
Continued engagement, support, and training, coupled with employer cultivation.

SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION
ENGINEERING
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ENERGY EFFICIENCY
GROWTH IN ALUMNI CULTURE

ALUMNI CAREER DEVELOPMENT

GCF CORPS MEMBER JOURNEY

Members earn stipends and an education award at graduation. GCF provides MetroCard, certifications & support services.
Professional development, hard + power skills, eco literacy, community building.
MULTI-FACETED IMPACT
(Selected outputs since 2013)

40,000+
NYCHA Residents
Reached with conservation education and materials

13,568
Light Bulbs
Swapped for efficient lighting

8,013
Pounds
Of recyclable material collected
Farms at NYCHA: increasing resident consumption of fruits and vegetables, and resident savings (3 year outcomes, 2019 CUNY report*)

94,306 lbs
of produce distributed with a retail value of approximately $202,257*

$350,000+
In estimated value of ecosystem services with 19,517 lbs. of compostables collected

14,143 visits
To weekly farm stands

2,490 students
Educated in farm based learning

*Source: Farms at NYCHA Evaluation 2016-2019, Dr. Nevin Cohen, PhD. CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute
Eco Hubs powered by Green City Force build towards closed-loop systems in NYCHA developments and platform for young residents in service and training to respond to local and City priorities.

GCF’s corps serves as design and implementation partner to residents, City agencies and NYCHA.

Impact areas include waste, water conservation, energy education, land improvement, resident engagement and outreach and innovation.
In addition to organic food production, they will function as outdoor classrooms for resident participatory planning and engagement around behavior change towards composting, recycling, reuse, refill, energy and water capture and conservation.

Each of the 5 existing Farms at NYCHA will be outfitted with physical features for zero waste, energy generation, water catchment.
GCF ALUMNI NETWORK
Continued career counseling, trainings, and leadership

Salonia Thompson, Cohort 13 Alum

Domingo Morales, Cohort 10 Alum
GCF EMPLOYERS
A growing community

Multiple Hires

Individual Placements
Alumni in Energy & Buildings

This aspect of our sector includes careers related to:

- energy efficiency, utilities, renewables and behind the meter technology
- construction, operations, maintenance, and management of buildings

Examples of job titles include:

- Direct Installer
- Site Superintendent
- Porter/Handyperson
- Green Building Superintendent

65% Of GCF Graduates
GCF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
Employing GCF alumni

Sectoral skill-building

Boosting NYC’s efficiency
Current Position:
Apprentice at IBEW Local 3

Achievements at Green City Force:
• Gained certification as a Green Building Professional (GPRO) from the U.S. Green Building Council.
• Obtained 10 & 30 hour Occupational Safety & Health (OSHA 10 & 30) certification
• Completed NYCHA Resident Training Academy
Conservation corps participants are prioritized as part of New York State’s $70 million investment in clean energy workforce funding through NYSERDA.

“Priority populations” include the following groups:

- 18- to 24-year-olds participating in work preparedness training programs, that include energy related technical training, such as BOCES, technical high schools, Conservation Corps, Youthbuild, AmeriCorps, etc.
Alumni in Horticulture

This aspect of our sector includes careers related to:
- maintenance and management of green spaces
- horticulture

Examples of job titles include:
- Landscaping Crew Member
- Gardener

13.9% Of GCF Graduates
Alumni in Nutrition & Food

This aspect of our sector includes careers related to:
- food production
- food preparation
- nutrition advocacy

Examples of job titles include:
- Chef Instructor
- NextGen Farmer
- Farm Coordinator

9.5% Of GCF Graduates
Alumni in Zero Waste

This aspect of our sector includes careers related to:

- waste management including recycling and composting

Examples of job titles include:

- Organics Recovery Manager
- Compost Coordinator

8.8% Of GCF Graduates
FUNDING MODEL

Service Corps

- ⅓ AmeriCorps
- ⅓ City / State
- ⅓ Private

Alumni Initiatives & Social Enterprise

Fee for service
CORPS ARE ENGINES FOR CLIMATE AND EQUITY IN CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY

The Corps Network
Strengthening America through service and conservation

Power Corps PHL

Mile High Youth Corps

LA Conservation Corps
Transforming Youth. Enhancing Communities.

Civic Works
Join us! To learn more: GreenCityForce.org

Tonya Gayle
Chief Development Officer
tonya@greencityforce.org

Joshua Owens
Program Manager
joshua@greencityforce.org

greencityforce.org
@greencityforce