



New York Sea Grant and its partners provide region-specific educational resources to help teachers and students understand climate change issues

Hudson Estuary Climate Change Lesson Plans for Middle Schoolers

Impacts from climate change are clearly evident in New York's Hudson River Valley. To meet challenges brought on by these changes, all New York residents need to be climate- and weather-literate.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) has developed a series of lesson plans that teachers can easily use to help students in the Hudson Valley region learn basic climate science. The lessons are designed to help middle school students understand climate and weather basics and explore climate change-related issues close to home in the Hudson River Valley.

NYSG Responds

In partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Hudson River Estuary Program, New York Sea Grant worked with regional middle school teachers and curriculum development professionals to adapt or create classroom lesson plans and activities relevant to their local communities.

Nine Lesson Plans Available

A set of nine lesson plans, including one field activity, were selected from existing scientist- and peer-reviewed plans, and adapted for this project. The lessons are correlated to learning standards teachers use in their classrooms including New York State Learning Standards, Next Generation Learning Standards, and the Common Core.

All of the lessons can be viewed and downloaded for use at <http://www.nyseagrant.org/hvclimate>.

In the fall of 2014, Sea Grant introduced the project to more than 200 teachers and educators at the annual New York State Marine Educators Association Conference in New York City and the project was rolled out as part of a regional NYSDEC Climate Change In the Classroom Conference in Hyde Park New York, cosponsored by New York Sea Grant.



Teachers in a NYSG workshop practice a hands-on climate change learning activity, examining paleoclimate and sediment cores. Photo: NYSG/Paul Focazio

NYSG works with education partners to provide the best available region-specific instructional materials to equip teachers to meet a growing need for students (future citizens) to understand climate change issues.

Partners:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Hudson River Estuary Program
- Cornell University
- New York State Water Resources Institute
- New York State Marine Education Association

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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