

## Climate Science and the Long Island Sound Estuary

Teachers are interested in the resources they can use to teach climate change concepts under the local lens of the Long Island Sound estuary. They need to have a real understanding of climate change literacy; what climate change entails and what systematic impacts will occur to the environment, biodiversity, human health, and the economy; and be able to share this important information with their students.

### **NYSG Responds**

In October 2014, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) co-sponsored the “Climate Change and the Long Island Sound Estuary” teacher professional development workshop at Alley Pond Environmental Center in Douglaston, Queens, NY. The workshop engaged 12 New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) educators in the teaching of climate science and how it can be incorporated into their classrooms.

At this workshop, co-sponsored by NYSG, the Long Island Sound Study, and New York State Marine Education Association, attendees learned about the salt marsh at Alley Pond Park and how it plays an important role in reducing climate change by sequestering and storing carbon. Speakers included Jason Krumholz, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Liaison to the Long Island Sound Study, and Alley Pond Environmental Center educators.

The fall workshop attendees learned how to incorporate the carbon cycle and other climate science concepts into their curricula and were tasked to complete a climate change activity with their students within three months of the workshop.

### **Teachers Enhance Curriculum**

As a result of attending the workshop, three NYCDOE teachers reported that they incorporated the teaching of climate change into their classrooms. These teachers reached approximately 450 students.



*Teachers learn about the salt marsh at Alley Pond Park and how it plays an important role in reducing climate change in this New York Sea Grant-facilitated workshop.  
Photo: NYSG/LISS/Amy Mandelbaum*

“My students really enjoyed learning about climate change and the impact that they have on it. They were engaged in the activity and all put thought and effort into their [carbon footprint reduction] pledges. I plan on re-visiting the pledges in the spring time and evaluating how their commitments are going.”

— Workshop teacher participant

### **Partners:**

- Long Island Sound Study
- New York State Marine Education Association
- Alley Pond Environmental Center
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### ***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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