



Dear friends,

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Happy Birthday to us! We are thrilled to announce that WE ACT turned 25 this March! Reflecting on our history, it has been a long road of hard won battles, but well worth the effort. We might be a little older, but we are still a feisty, politically-savvy force ready to take on big environmental injustices. We have proven it time and again: organizing community residents to address environmental hazards and harms and promoting science-based policy, gets results.

You might know about WE ACT's landmark successes, but we'll tell you one more time:

- Galvanized the community to create the West Harlem Piers Park from an abandoned pier that was slated for a hotel.
- Sued and led a campaign against the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) plans to open an eighth diesel and particulate matter-polluting bus depot, which resulted in more stringent bus pollution standards and the MTA's switch from diesel running buses to hybrid electric buses – which reduced tailpipe emissions by 95%.
- Detrered the City from expanding the Marine Transfer Station waste facility in Northern Manhattan through a community campaign and led a visioning process with local residents for new uses for the facility.
- Collaborated with Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health to measure exposures to air pollution in Northern Manhattan. The results of this research project was adapted by the EPA and used as justification for a fine particulate standard, which was later upheld by the US Supreme Court.
- Organized parents on NYC's school food system to advocate for healthier food options.
- Organized parents to educate the New York City Council to pass a strong lead poisoning standard.
- Opened a Washington D.C. office to voice concerns of impacted communities.



WE ACT is committed to improving the environmental health of our local region and of the world beyond it. Extreme weather events like Super Storm Sandy remind us about the challenges we face from climate change and how connected we are to each other. And we are reminded how we are connected to the earth that sustains us.

WE ACT's work cuts across multiple domains to address climate change, increase access to green resources, and reduce exposure to toxic chemicals – here are just a few ways:

- We are reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the Northern Manhattan Clean Heat Initiative and by advocating for more stringent air quality regulations through the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change, a 40-member, national coalition.
- We are promoting greater reliance and access to public transportation through the New York State Transportation Equity Alliance.
- We are building the science to drive stronger environmental health protections and policy change through community-based research conducted in partnership with Columbia University, the University of Pittsburgh, and Mount Sinai Medical Center.
- In 2013, WE ACT is increasing its engagement in federal agency rulemaking and will be hosting educational programs related to understanding the implications of climate change, and will work to meet its challenges. Please watch for these programs, join us, and spread the word.

In honor of WE ACT's 25th Anniversary, please consider making a sustaining donation of \$25 or more per month at [www.weact.org/give](http://www.weact.org/give). Your contributions enable us to respond quickly and effectively as environmental policy and conditions change.

Also, receive WE ACT news via email by signing up for our updates and action alerts at [www.weact.org/news](http://www.weact.org/news).

Thank you for helping WE ACT to grow and become a strong force for environmental justice over these incredible 25 years!

Best wishes,

*Peggy*

Executive Director