



BROOME COUNTY: CITY PROJECT UPDATE

Below is an excerpt from the CITY Project's monthly update, which highlights the climate change work they took on this summer:

Broome County CITY Project Coordinator, Vicki Giarratano reports that the CITY Project has been busy finishing summer projects, exhibiting at State Fair and getting ready to transition to new collaborators and partners and recruit new CITY Teen Leaders for the fall. **Work continued on the CITY's "green project", a climate change project through Cornell University, making recycled jewelry and bags as well as educating the community about climate change.** The Teen Leaders worked at CCE Broome County's Book Recycling event.

Kevin Mathers, CCE Broome's environmentalist, educated the CITY Teen Leaders about how much garbage we actually produce and how long it takes to break down in a landfill. As Vicki explains, "We were truly amazed at the waste we all contribute to and were made aware of how we could reduce our carbon footprints and make a difference, just by making simple changes. We put our new knowledge to the test as CITY Teen Leaders shopped and cooked lunch for 20 people. With a limit of \$50.00 they prepared tacos, tuna pockets, and yogurt fruit crunch. We saved and calculated our carbon footprint. What an eye-opener!"

The Teen Leaders also spent time helping to restore the community garden at Columbus Park East. In addition, the CITY Teen Leaders have been teaching the Youth Community Action model at Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network and at both of the Binghamton Housing Authority (BHA) housing complex sites. The Teen leaders taught the younger youth about fundraising and the youth set out to have a lemonade stand. The lemonade stand raised enough money to purchase a Wii gaming set for the community center. The CITY Project will provide resources from CYFERnet and CYFAR 2008 on interactive gaming, physical fitness and nutrition. **At the Great NY State Fair, the CITY Teen Leaders worked in the Press Corps, Welcome Booth, Operation Military Kids, and manned the CITY Project booth educating about recycling and climate change.**