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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neighborhoods Groups Urged to Join Global Warming Fight

Micro-Grant Available to Combat Global Warming in City Neighborhoods

New York, NY (June 25, 2013) -- Composting, recycling, building rain water harvesting systems, caring for urban street trees that purify the air by absorbing carbon, and turning concrete lots into community gardens are all things New Yorkers can do in their own neighborhoods to combat global warming, and Citizens Committee for New York City (CCNYC) is eager to fund those efforts in all five boroughs.

“The President this afternoon in his address at Georgetown talked about the big picture and that’s important, but our small grants to environmental groups, block associations, neighborhood groups, civic organizations and public schools can make a big difference too,” said Peter Kostmayer, the CEO of Citizens Committee for New York City who is a former US Rep. from Pennsylvania, and was the EPA Regional Administrator for the middle Atlantic states in the first Clinton administration.

CCNYC this year gave almost 500 neighborhood grants to New Yorkers to improve their neighborhoods, including many projects to protect the urban environment.

“Our rainwater harvesting systems waste less water and our composting grants take food scraps out of the waste stream and the landfills where they cause methane gas,” said the former EPA official.

CCNYC has received foundation, corporate, and city funds for 70 rebuilding grants to hard-hit neighborhoods in Staten Island, Red Hook, the Rockaways, and Coney Island damaged by Sandy.

“These communities understand the cost of not doing anything to deal with rising waters and temperatures in the nation’s largest city”, said Kostmayer, “and our grants give ordinary New Yorkers the chance to do something about climate change in their own backyards.”

Kostmayer said that CCNYC’s grants and technical assistance to thousands of New Yorkers in hundreds of city neighborhoods allow them to follow the President’s advice to all citizens and communities to “adopt smarter practices,” to reduce carbon pollution in the city’s air which effects all of us, especially those suffering with asthma or other respiratory ailments.

“The President talked about big problems and big solutions,” Kostmayer said, “but, Citizens Committee for New York City is enabling city residents to engage in common sense solutions that improve their neighborhoods, engage their neighbors, and help solve a global problem all at the same time.”

“Instead of throwing up our arms, let’s roll up our sleeves and be part of the solution. Contact us for a grant and let’s get to work,” Kostmayer concluded.

About Citizens Committee for New York City

What would it take to improve **your** neighborhood? Whether it's painting a mural, organizing a farmer's market, installing a compost bin, or launching a dance camp, we can help make your idea a reality. As one of the nation's oldest micro-funding organizations, we at **Citizens Committee for New York City** raise money from foundations, corporations, and individual donors—then award it to projects we believe in. But we don't stop there. We're also here to inspire new ideas, and to offer active, hands-on help. That means we're in your neighborhoods presenting workshops, meeting community leaders, even weeding the occasional garden. We're here for you, helping make your neighborhoods greener, friendlier, and more resilient. For more information, visit our website www.citizensnyc.org.