

# Harbor Project

Industrial Ecology, Pollution Prevention,  
and the New York/New Jersey Harbor



## Collaborations: Regional and International

### New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

#### NYSERDA – Environment Monitoring, Evaluation and Protection (EMEP) Program

The Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation, and Protection (EMEP) program at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) funded by a System Benefits Charge (SBC) provides scientifically credible and objective information on environmental impacts of energy systems to assist the state in developing science-based and cost-effective policies to mitigate impacts. The EMEP program supports policy-relevant research in order to enhance understanding of energy-related environmental issues. Further information about EMEP may be found at the [NYSERDA Website](#).

#### Developing a Research Agenda Plan through a collaborative consultation process co-sponsored by NYAS

In 2001, NYSERDA convened working groups of science and policy experts to help identify research priorities in New York State. A comprehensive plan was developed and published in 2002, and provided direction for environmental research and monitoring needs in New York for the following five years.

In 2006, NYSERDA and the New York Academy of Sciences (hereafter, “NYAS”) established a working collaboration leading to an updated research agenda for the EMEP program. Through this consultative process that involved the scientific community and policy experts, NYSERDA and NYAS develop a multi-year research plan that builds on the foundation of the 2002 plan, and identifies current knowledge gaps and needs for further research and monitoring, while improving on the assessment of strategic goals for EMEP.

#### Research Planning Workshops

This collaborative effort between NYSERDA, its EMEP program and NYAS included three research planning workshops. Scientific and policy experts were selected to serve as planning team members and address research needs in three major areas, consistent with the March 2006 SBC Operating Plan:

- Atmospheric Deposition of Sulfur (S), Nitrogen (N), and Mercury (Hg), and Ecosystem Response (held on November 9th, 2006). [See Agenda](#) (33 KB PDF).
- Air Quality and Related Health Research associated with Particulate Matter (PM), Ozone, and Co-Pollutants (held on December 13th, 2006). [See Agenda](#) (36 KB PDF)
- Climate Change in New York State (Held on April 10th, 2007).  
[See Agenda](#) (35 KB PDF);  
[Read background document](#) (776 KB PDF);  
[Press Release](#)


## Final Research Plan

[View a copy of the final research plan.](#)




### **A Multicultural Perspective on the Watersheds of New York City and Shanghai: Students & Researchers from China & the US Analyze the Current State of the Hudson & Huangpu Rivers**

In February 2007, the New York Academy of Sciences and Bard High School Early College co-sponsored an event to share research findings from a student exchange program between Bard High and two of the top high schools in Shanghai. This event was made possible through a grant from the US State Department and the auspices of the Academy. The evening started with a poster session where students displayed their research on the Hudson and Huangpu Rivers and received feedback from the audience. After the poster session, Dr. Mossbah Kolkas (Science Faculty at Bard High School Early College), Dr. Marta Panero (Director of the Harbor Project), and Prof. Xiangrong Wang (Chair of the Department of Environmental Science & Engineering and Director of the Research Center for Urban Ecological Planning & Design, Fudan University) gave presentations on their research on the NY/NJ Harbor, Hudson and Huangpu Rivers.

All presentations were well received and praised. In the future, the Harbor Project will explore the possibility of initiating collaborations with Professor Wang (Fudan University) who is working on the Huangpu River restoration project in the Shanghai area, as well as with Professor Pearl Liao Hong (College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Nankai University), who is working on watershed protection projects in an area close to Beijing. Starting these types of partnerships will ensure that our findings and lessons learned will continue to have an impact after the end of our initial mandate.

 [See flyer](#) announcing the event (28 KB PDF)

See the presentations:

-  Dr. Kolkas: [Toxic Wastes in the New York Bight](#) (11.8MB PDF)
-  Dr. Panero: [Multicultural Perspective on the Watersheds of the New York City and Shanghai: Identifying Contaminant Sources to the New York-New Jersey Harbor](#) (1 MB PDF)
-  Dr. Wang: [Ecological Restoration and Management Strategies for River Ecosystem: A Comparison of the Huangpu and Hudson Rivers](#)


### **Friends of the Estuary (FOTE) Partnership**

In 2006, the New York Academy of Sciences' Harbor Project and several local organizations began a partnership called Friends of the Estuary (FOTE) to seek the protection of the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary through stormwater pollution prevention. Our partners include the Association of New Jersey Environmental Committees, Future City, Inc., and the New York City Soil and Water Conservation District. FOTE is pioneering programs to help both businesses and residents become stewards of our local waterways. This collaboration is funded, in part, by the Harbor Estuary Program (HEP).

The FOTE program will assist local businesses by providing materials, guidelines, and trainings on how to reduce impacts on the estuary. The Harbor Project's main contribution to this collaboration is the distribution (through local auto body shops and motor oil retailers) of educational brochures on proper ways to change and recycle used motor oil. These brochures are targeted to people who change their own motor oil (commonly referred to as "do it yourselfers" or DIYs). FOTE is also working with retail stores that sell motor oil to help them establish used motor oil recycling programs.

See the brochures on proper ways to change and recycle motor oil:

 [In English](#) (223 PDF)

 [In Spanish](#) (246 PDF)

### **The Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable (GLRPPR)**

The Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable (GLRPPR), the NY Academy of Sciences, and the US EPA, Region 2 hosted the Summer 2005 Conference at the New York Academy of Sciences in New York City from August 24 through 26, 2005.



The conference featured guest speakers from throughout the Great Lakes region and New York and New Jersey Harbor region, including special guest speakers John Filippelli, Chief of U.S. EPA Region 2: Strategic Planning and Multimedia Programs Branch and Bob Kulikowski, New York City Office of Environmental Coordination.

 [See full agenda.](#) (94 KB PDF)

### **Partnership of Cities on Biosphere & Society**

In the face of increasing urbanization the challenge for sustainable development will largely be lost or won in urban areas. By 2030 over 60 percent of all people will live in cities and most of this growth will occur in developing countries where financial resources and the capacity needed to cope with this challenge are limited. Health, shelter, water and food security crises are looming large in many of these cities, as well as the growing pressures and conflicts over access to the natural resources of the hinterland. Scientific interest in urban ecology is growing and urban stakeholders all over the world are claiming the right to be recognized as stewards of their environment through devolution of power. It is becoming clear that there is a need for innovative governance approaches that deal with the complexities of urban sustainability issues while reflecting the cultural diversity of today's large cities.

To promote a better understanding of these rapid changes and to prepare community leaders to face the social, economic, and political challenges associated with this, the Columbia University-UNESCO Joint Program on Biosphere and Society (CUBES) organized, in co-sponsorship with the New York Academy of Sciences and UN-Habitat, the "Partnership of Cities on Biosphere and Society" Conference was held at the New York Academy of Sciences on October 29 and 30th, 2003.

-  [See More information and conference agenda](#) (164 KB PDF)
-  [Managing the Megacity for Global Sustainability](#) (201 KB PDF)
- [Urban Biosphere and Society: Partnership of Cities | Volume 1023](#)

### **IACERE - CUNY**

To initiate a multi-scientific international collaboration in the new millennium, the Inter-American Comparative Ecosystems and Regional Economies (IACERE) held an international symposium, convened by Professor Ronald G. Hellman, Co-Chair of IACERE and Director of the City University Graduate School's Americas Center on Science and Society (ACSS), in partnership with IACERE team members from New York, San Diego, Chile and Mexico, and the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS).

The symposium, "Ecosystem Resiliency and Its Limits," held December 4 through 8, 2000, included workshops, field research visits and network communication discussions.

 [More information](#)