

Research Topics

There are many environmental topics related to Green Infrastructure. A great way to understand these topics is through individual and group research projects for students to gain more knowledge and address these topics with innovative ideas and solutions.

Biodiversity

How can biodiversity contribute to a positive environment in New York City?

- Consider past efforts to increase biodiversity in New York City through native animal or plant restoration and reintroduction into a habitat.
- What methods invite biodiversity into an environment (e.g. Rain Gardens)?
- Consider how we can protect our environment from habitat destruction and fragmentation.

Climate Change & Environmental Health

Discuss the issues surrounding climate change and its causes. How does climate change impact human health?

- Consider the historical climate trends. Consider factors causing this change.
- What are the expected impacts of climate change and how might human health be affected?

Environmental Impact of Wastes

Describe the nature and environmental impacts of the following types of wastes:

- Marine debris
- Landfills
- Hydraulic fracturing
- Medical waste
- Electronic waste

Natural Disasters

How can New York City prepare and respond to natural disasters (storms, hurricanes)?

- Discuss the nature of chosen disaster.
- How can communities prepare for this?
- What are ways to protect one's life and property in the wake of the disaster?
- Discuss ways to manage stormwater runoff and important factors in reducing flooding.

The Sewer System

70% of New York City's sewer system is combined. The sewer system collects both wastewater and stormwater runoff from properties and streets. Research NYC's sewer system and combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

- Why is it important to manage stormwater runoff?
- How do CSOs affect water quality?
- What is the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System?