

Campus + Community Environmental Sustainability Program

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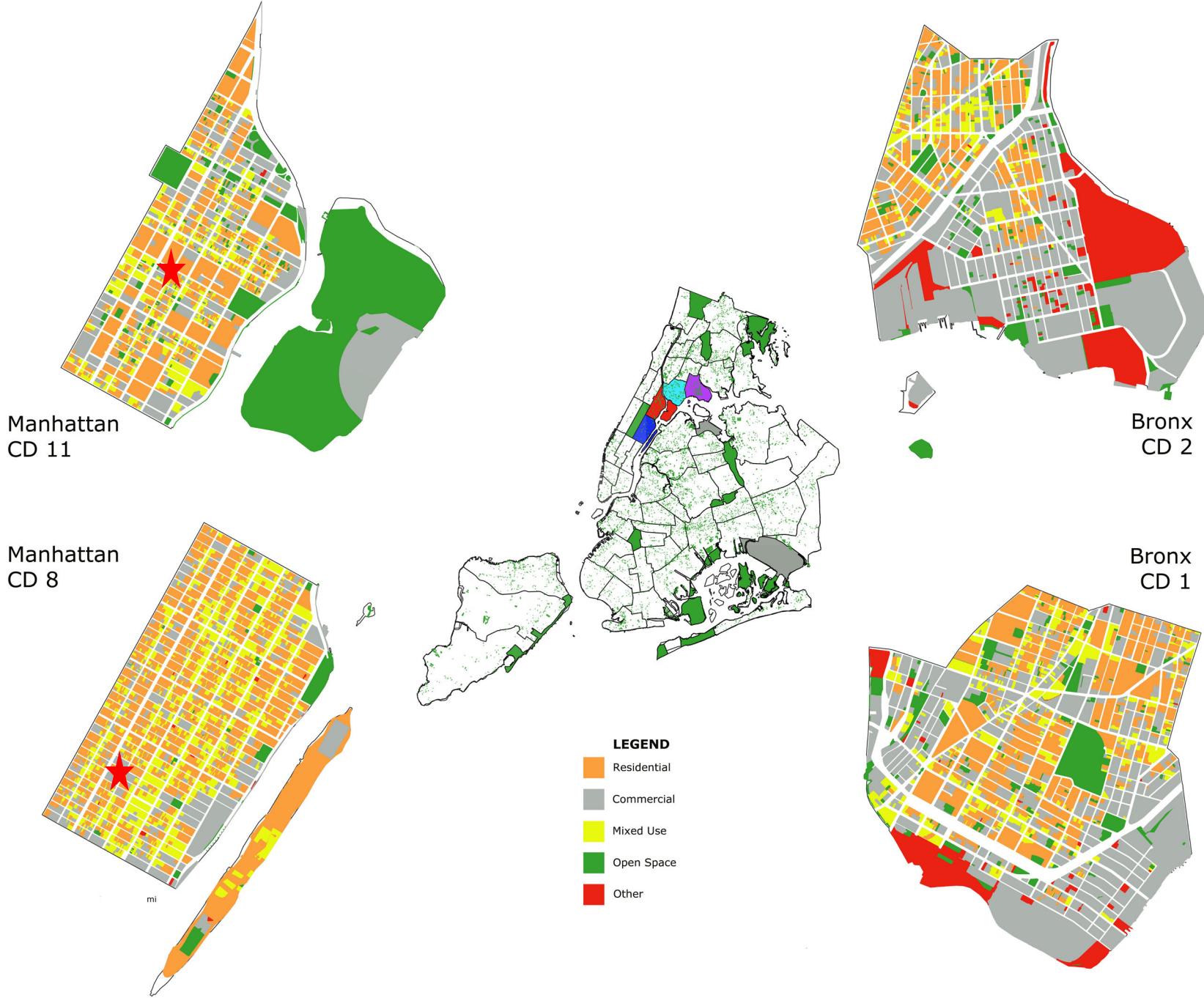
Discussion with CB11

February 19 2026

Concept – Process- and Product-Oriented

- The Campus+Community Environmental Sustainability Partnership program (CCESP) links together **Hunter College with nearby community partners** by utilizing the College's resources as the foundation for long-term community-based environmental sustainability action.
- **Create a “hub”** that runs programs as mechanism for academic communities, community-based organizations, policy practitioners, and students to connect around environmental sustainability challenges facing nearby communities.
 - Environmental sustainability – all dimensions focusing quality of life, economic development, natural hazards with the aim of fostering co-benefits.
 - Possible examples: Undergraduate capstone research projects, class projects work with CBO's, community training sessions led by Hunter faculty
- The **Program will focus** on Manhattan Community Boards – CB 8 (Upper East Side) and 11 (East Harlem) and Community Boards 1 & 2 in the Bronx (Mott Haven, Port Morris, Melrose, and Hunts Point neighborhoods)

Engaging with
NGOs and
CBOs that
operate in four
local
community
boards
(including the
Community
Boards
themselves)



Program Overview – Campus + Community Environmental Sustainability Partnership

- ***Students and faculty will partner with community-based organizations and community boards*** as they conduct group and individual research projects, including data analysis, field work, and documentary interviews with residents about their experiences with extreme weather and climate change-related events.
- This research will be collected in an ***online, sharable database*** that will grow year-over-year, creating a new platform for community-based urban environmental research and policymaking.
- Research findings, environmental sustainability strategies and new public policies on the environments will be ***shared with the community at public forums at Hunter's Roosevelt House (and possibly other community venues)*** featuring panels of guest speakers, including environmental researchers and policy makers.

Potential Processes/Products

- **Urban Environmental Research Database** (knowledge base builds year by year)
 - Environmental sensing, monitoring, and indicator systems
 - Documentary research database. Surveys, interviews, oral histories, archival materials, possibly resulting in a student-created film project (separate grant funding)
- **Community-created strategies and policy recommendations** to community boards and city council members for environmental sustainability.
- **Public policy focused events** to raise awareness about research to promote discussion of issues and solutions between students, faculty, community members, researchers, and policymakers. Connection with Roosevelt House
- **Teaching and training** (including continuing education for community residents) to launch the careers of the next generation of climate and environmental sustainability thinkers, researchers, policymakers, and activists.

Possible Initial Themes of Collaborative Work

– Focus on Community Well Being

- Urban greening – extreme heat mitigation, street trees, air quality, indoor vegetation as well, public health
- Food (In)security – community gardens, food deserts, food distribution centers
- Just energy transitions – local energy generation, electricity costs A/C, ensuring energy justice within new policies and application, blackouts
- Flooding – storm surge, downpours, sea level rise
- Other?

Current Steps

1. Continue community outreach to get feedback on program idea and identify workshop participants – January/February 2026 – Deep Listening
2. Workshop with Hunter representatives and community representatives to create MOU and foundation of mission statement – March 2026
3. Working group meets following to create and initiate program – Spring 2026
4. Execute a program launch – late Spring 2026

Potential Foundational Funding Sources

- Waverley Street Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- MacKenzie Scott Foundation

March 2026 Mission Development Workshop

- An equal mix of Hunter faculty/staff and community representatives
- Aims:
 - Create a set of values and an MOU (or similar) that will guide the work moving forward.
 - Discuss possible themes for engagement that are important to the communities
 - Decide on meeting schedule for spring
 - Begin mapping out structure of partnership

Feedback, Thoughts, Questions?

Discussion

1. What works, makes sense?
2. What needs changing?
3. What else would you like to see?