

# NEW YORK OPEN CENTER

## **Eco-Metropolis 2005: Conference For A Green, Just And Sustainable Greater New York November 11 - 12**

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For Immediate Release

NEW YORK/EWORLDWIRE/Nov. 7, 2005 --- New York has enormous potential to be at the absolute forefront of global urban eco-awareness. This weekend, the ideas, initiatives and energy to make our city and region greener, cleaner, saner, fairer and freer will take center stage.

On November 11 and 12, Eco-Metropolis 2005 will bring the most dynamic and diverse grassroots activists, citizens, visionaries and leaders together to celebrate the too often unheralded achievements of New York's gloriously diverse environmental and social justice communities. Co-sponsored by The New York Open Center, CUNY Graduate Center and the Bioneers Conference, this conference is an opportunity to support the work that is being done and foster awareness and connections to provide an even greater momentum to this movement.

A special focus this year will be helping nurture tomorrow's eco-leaders. Various panels and events, including an eco-fashion show, will highlight their current efforts. Admission will be free for those under 21 and for students of all ages.

With a high percentage of New Yorkers using public transportation and sharing resources in apartment buildings, New Yorkers are already ahead of many populations in energy consumption. However, many are unaware that the mega-city is also houses a thriving and highly- creative landscape of eco-activists, from community groups demanding environmental justice in their West Harlem neighborhoods to visionary citizens reclaiming the Gowanus Canal.

In their professions, New Yorkers are pioneering models of sustainable building and helping small farmers and the urban poor with CSA initiatives. Over 100 presenters will represent these groups at Eco-Metropolis 2005.

Highlights Include:

- Jason West, the very young "green" mayor of New Paltz who made national news with his gay marriage support, will give a keynote talk.
- Music, poetry and eco-fashion.
- Celebrations of youth eco-activism and environmental education.
- Peggy Shepard, a legendary New York City environmental justice advocate and founder of West Harlem Environmental Action (WEACT).
- Alex Matthiessen, executive director of Riverkeeper.
- In a rare New York City visit, John Todd, world-renowned figure in "green biology" and eco-design, co-founder of the groundbreaking New Alchemy Institute and co-author of the classic, From Eco-Cities to Living

Machines.

- Michael Ableman, one of North America's most inspiring experts on urban agriculture, gardening and urban food security.

Registration Information:

Friday, Nov. 11, 12:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 12, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at CUNY Graduate Center at 365 5th Ave at 34th Street.

To register, call 212-219-2527 ext. 2 or visit [www.opencenter.org](http://www.opencenter.org).

A full program schedule can be found at [www.ecometropolis.org](http://www.ecometropolis.org).

About The New York Open Center

The New York Open Center is the city's leading center of holistic learning and world culture, presenting workshops, concerts, graduate degrees, conferences, films, trips, lectures, concerts and New York City walking tours.

Over 600 annual programs span the topics of holistic health, psychology and personal growth, sustainable living, spiritual inquiry, ecology, environment, social and cultural issues.

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