

ANNUAL REPORT



2012

Overview and Mission



The Human Impacts Institute was created in 2010 in New York City to reassess the common misconception of environment as separate from society. Our organization is founded on the belief that humans are dependent upon, and responsible for, our natural environment.

We believe healthy communities, stable economies, and social equity cannot exist without environmental sustainability. The Human Impacts Institute inspires individuals, institutions, and communities to challenge the environmental status quo and to use innovation and collaboration to build and maintain a healthy environment and healthy communities.

We approach social change through a systems-based approach, combining research, education, community-building, policy-making, networking, and grassroots action. Always an advocate for open-source knowledge sharing, we serve as a facilitator between community members, scientists, business, media, and policy makers to "translate" information between sectors for effective collaboration.

Our goal is to sponsor innovative thinking, while encouraging risk-taking, and maintaining space for the evolution of ideas within the changing needs of communities.

Our mission is to save environmental ecosystems through inspired engagement, leadership, collaboration, knowledge-building, and creative expression. We promote environmental sustainability by educating our community, providing consulting services to schools and businesses, raising awareness through local and global campaigns, and coordinating hands-on projects and workshops for a greener New York City. Using NYC as a laboratory, the Human Impacts Institute connects global communities in resource sharing and environmental awareness.

Review

The Human Impacts Institute Core Programs

Experiential Education: Participants in HII's programs develop leadership skills that will contribute to improving communities' relationship with the environment, inspire people to push for change, and educate people about their human impacts.

- ❖ **Environmental Exploration:** Offer environmental and community education opportunities through environment impact assessments, field investigations, clean-ups, stewardship, and action campaigning.
- ❖ **From Local to Global:** Train people on the ground to communicate local environmental issues to a wider policy arena and to translate environmental policy jargon for the public.
- ❖ **Climate Crew:** HII partners with the Climate Reality Project to organize free climate change education workshops in environmental science and policy.
- ❖ **Community Conversations:** Use HII blogs, workshops, forums, and social media tools to report on current environmental issues.
- ❖ **Growing our Roots:** HII officially partners with Green Points Education for NYC's Million Trees program, a local tree stewardship initiative.
- ❖ **Youth for Environmental Change:** Connect youth to career opportunities related to environmental issues.
- ❖ **EcoPreneurs:** Provide individualized professional development opportunities to incorporate environmental sustainability into professional practices.
- ❖ **Women's Sustainability and Leadership Training:** Foster the leadership of women and girls within the environmental community.
- ❖ **Human Impacts Institute Internships:** Offer an active learning environment for college students and mid-career professionals. HII has had the opportunity to work with 26 interns since 2010.

Collaboration: HII engages individuals, community groups, NGOs, small businesses, corporations, educational institutions, as well as the government.

- ❖ **NYC Climate Coalition:** Local coalition founded & coordinated by HII committed to fostering partnerships for a Carbon Neutral NYC through resource exchanges, networking, partnerships, and joint advocacy.
- ❖ **MobilizeUS!:** National coalition founded & coordinated by HII to engage Americans in supporting healthy communities, good governance, sustainable economies, and the

environment through grassroots action, advocacy, and coalition building. The MobilizeUS! campaign is organizing for strong U.S. leadership at the 2012 Rio+20 Earth Summit.

Creativity Engagement Projects: The Human Impacts Institute partners with individual artists and arts organizations to inspire environmental action through arts and culture. Using the language of the visual arts, dance, music and theatre, we begin dialogues on community-based needs and solutions and engage the public in environmental awareness and positive action.

- ❖ **Human Impacts Salons:** Public series gatherings bringing together community leaders, environmental experts and visual artists, musicians, writers, and performers in a public space to share ideas, culture, inspiration, and to explore potential partnerships.

Holistic By Nature

Location: Simone Subal Gallery (NYC) June, 2012

Guest Facilitator: Luisa Gui

Melanie Griffin (Dancer and Environmental Educator, Human Impacts Institute)

Jessica Mitrani (<http://jessicasofiamitrani.com> Performance and Video Artist)

Mia Borgatta (Dula and Yoga Instructor)

Evan Van Hook (Corporate Vice President for Health, Safety, Environment & Remediation for Honeywell International & Adjunct Faculty, Columbia Law School)

Solveig Fernlund (Architect, <http://www.fernlundlogan.com/>)

Panos Tsagaris (Painter, <http://panos-tsagaris.blogspot.com/>)

Description: What does it mean to be an environmentalist? And How Can this Label Impact our Communities? Join us for interactive space to explore human impacts on communities and the environment with special guest speakers and performances from the arts, architecture, yoga, and ecology.

Attendance: Approximately 70

- ❖ **10 Days of Climate Action:** Inspire community members through public art installations to examine roles in climate change, while providing resources for action. Developed each year by HII.

The Human Impacts Institute Services

- ❖ **Environmental Consulting:** Services providing Healthy Home/Office packages to individuals and businesses that wish to receive personalized environmental consulting. Consulting areas currently include:
 - Energy saving (heating/AC, water consumption)
 - Food (eating organic, local, and healthy)
 - Green cleaning (living chemical-free, reducing toxins)
 - Overall sustainability (assessment of home and individual impacts)
- ❖ **Employee Engagement Initiatives:** The environmental sustainability program includes:
 - A series of environmental education workshops where participants are provided with the opportunities to engage in educational workshops on (a) water and (b) air quality testing, and to receive (c) sustainability training in homes, schools, and at work.
 - Opportunities for employees to participate in hands-on volunteer programs. Activities include tree stewardship, community beautification, and co-mentoring with local youth.

The Human Impacts Institute 2012 Fundraising Events

Rooftop Soiree: Join the Human Impacts Institute crew for music, sangria, and sustainability on the rooftop of the Green Team's global headquarters! Get your green on by getting to know our programs and enjoying the beginnings of summer nights in NYC on the roof terrace!

Art Gallery exhibition: Join the Human Impacts Institute for our "Green Your City" Happy Hour at Ed. Varie Gallerie, NYC. See environmental art from Green Patriot Posters, experience students' environmental outreach campaigns from HII education programs, and make your own eco-commitments for Spring 2012.

Holiday Soiree: On December 11th, Human Impacts Institute had its Human Impacts Institute Green Holiday Soiree. The event took place at the amazing eco general store/ café Sustainable NYC in the East Village. The Soiree was a huge success filled with good company, delicious organic drinks, our education program art from NYC students on display, and eco-holiday games, all with in the amazing, environmentally friendly ambiance of Sustainable NYC that HII values so much!

The Human Impacts Institute in the Press

[2012, Costa Rica Star, HII on Indegenous and Tourism in Costa Rica](#)

[2012, WSJ, HII Selected for Women's Social Entrepreneurship](#)

[2012, WBAI Radio, HII ED Interviewed on the 10 Days of Climate](#)

[2012, National Geographic, Youth and Rio+20](#)

[2012, Alternet, HII's ED Writes on the German Energy Transformation](#)

[2012, Grist, Earth Summit 101](#)

[2012, National Geographic, How You Can Join Rio+20](#)

[2012, Greenpoint Gazette, HII Wins Solar For North Brooklyn](#)

[2012, Greenline, Green School Honors HII for Environmental Leadership](#)

[2012, Costa Rican Star, HII in Costa Rica for Women's Empowerment](#)

[2012, DailyNews, No Denying Climate Change](#)

[2012, NYSERDA, HII Helps Small Businesses Green](#)

[2012, Ford, HII Selected for Green Grants Finalist Award](#)

[2012, Globo1 \(Portuguese\), HII Leading End to Fossil Fuels at Rio+20](#)

[2012, SustainableAmerica, HII Makes Clever PSAs on Oil Addiction](#)

[2012, US Department of State, Thank You Letter to HII](#)

Project Highlights

January 2012

Occupy! Weekly Earth Summit Workgroup Meeting
Conference Call Check-in for MobilizeUS (Rio+20 US Engagement)
Spring 2012 HII Internship Applications Due
Human Impacts Design Series

March 2012

Human Impacts Design Series
MobilizeUS! Action Tour: SXSW Panel on Creative Energy, Renewing the Fight for Renewables
Conference Call Check-in for MobilizeUS (Rio+20 US Engagement)
MobilizeUS! Action Tour: US/Canada Citizen's Summit for Sustainable Development
3rd Intersessional Meeting for Rio+20 (CLOSED)
MobilizeUS! Action Tour: Boston Rio+20 Project

April 2012

EcoFocus: A Green Media Event

MobilizeUS! Tour: NYC Youth for Sustainable Development
Conference Call Check-in for MobilizeUS (Rio+20 US Engagement)
Exploring the Environment of the Southside! (OPEN)
NY Cares Day with the Human Impacts Institute
MobilizeUS! Action Tour: NYC+20
MobilizeUS! Action Tour: MobilizeUS! Coalition Booth at Earth Celebration Day
MobilizeUS! Action Tour: Columbia Environmental Symposium: Sustainable Perspectives

May 2012

Con Edison Energy Efficiency Summit (OPEN)
Conference Call Check-in for MobilizeUS (Rio+20 US Engagement)
Kids Tree Workshop (CLOSED)

June 2012

A-MAZE-ING Water
Green School Tree Guard Painting (CLOSED)

July 2012

City of Water Day

Environmental Ed and Arts: Grand Street Weekend Walk Block Party (OPEN)
Community Tree Stewardship Day (OPEN)
Youth Environmental Leadership: Intro to Personal Sustainability (CLOSED)

August 2012

Youth Environmental Leadership: Creative Sustainability Outreach (CLOSED)
Youth Environmental Leadership: Cooking Oil Recycling Outreach (CLOSED)
Adopt A Tree with City Councilwoman Diana Reyna (OPEN)
Youth Environmental Leadership: Green Careers Development

September 2012

10 Days of Climate Action: The [Climate] Revolution Begins Within
10 Days of Climate Action: Pixelations of Nature
10 Days of Climate Action: Tree Huggers, An Installation on Climate and Greenwashing
10 Days of Climate: To Which Season Does It Belong? A Performance on Food, Desire, and Climate
10 Days of Climate Action: Nothing Is Disposable, An Interactive Installation on Consumerism and Climate Impacts
10 Days of Climate Action: Green Culture Cycling Tour, An Exploration of Climate Action in NYC
10 Days of Climate Action: Art Environment Action! Opening of Exhibit and Workshops
10 Days of Climate: "Resourcing Move" Reimagining Slick Move , An Interactive Performance on Oil Addiction and Climate
10 Days of Climate Action: The Human Impacts Climate Carnival, A Choose-Your-Own-Adventure of Local Impacts of Climate Change
10 Days of Climate Action: School Evacuation A Performance of Vulnerability and Climate

October 2012

New York City Outdoors!: An Environmental Education Expo
10 Days of Climate: Climate and Oil Addiction
Green NY Planting Day! (OPEN)

November 2012

Non-Toxic Cleaner Workshop for Domestic Workers (CLOSED)
Press Event and Coalition Meeting: New Yorkers Take On Climate Change

Our Crew

Staff

Tara DePorte, Executive Director and Founder

Melissa Mitchell, Program Coordinator

Melanie Griffin, Outreach Coordinator

Board

Tara DePorte, President

Founder and Executive Director, Human Impacts Institute

Amy Braunschweiger, Media and Outreach Advisor

Web Communications Manager, Human Rights Watch

Sally Newman, Law and Advocacy Advisor

Environmental Lawyer, Southern Environmental Law Center

Jan Peterson, Grassroots Leadership and Gender Advisor

Chair of the Coordinating Council, Huairou Commission

Advisory Board

Eric Axelrod, Environmental Health and National Policy Advisor

Environmental Officer at United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

Kimo Goree, International Development Advisor

Luisa Gui, Events and Fundraising Advisor

Tristan Jones, Climate and Coalition Building Advisor

Chiara Jovanovic, Business and Development Advisor

Columbia Business School 2011, Former Vice President of Investment Management Division, Goldman Sachs

Akong Charles Ndika, Sustainability and Research Advisor

Technical Officer, World Health Organization Office

Anastasia Pinto, Social Justice Advisor

International Steering Committee, GenderCC-Women for Climate Justice

Member-Partner of the Women's Learning Partnership and Indigenous Research Network of DoCip

David Lee Rubin, Editorial Advisor

Jan Peterson, Grassroots Leadership and Gender Advisor

Kate Offerdahl, Youth Leadership Advisor

Alex White, Coalition Building Advisor

Interns and Volunteers

Kate Offerdahl, Youth Leadership
Coordinator

Sarah Fackler, Climate and Coalition
Building Intern

Melanie Griffin, Environmental Education
and Climate Intern

Lauren Lavitt, NYC Climate Coalition
Outreach Specialist

Eugénie Lejeune, NGO Management and
PR/Marketing Intern

Mariana Orozco, Environmental
Leadership Intern

Brendan Schoenman, Environmental
Leadership Intern

Adam Shepard, Environmental Education
and Services Intern

Melanie Sluyter, Environmental
Leadership Intern

Grant Smolen, Environmental Services
Intern

Klas Svensson, NGO Management and
PR/Marketing Intern

Alex Turek, Environmental Services and
Education Intern

Tess Clark, Environmental Education
Intern

LeAnne Harvey, Environmental
Leadership Intern

Elaine Baker, NGO Management Intern

Celia Cui, Environmental Services and
Retrofit Intern

Sunny Du, Environmental Retrofit Intern

Julia Goldstein, NGO Management Intern

Jila Keshavarz, PR and Marketing Intern

Dominique Murray, Environmental
Services Intern

Rachana Patel, Environmental Education
Intern

Income

Contracted Services	\$8,900	5%
Workshop Fees	\$46	<1%
Fundraising Events	\$2,097	1%
Foundation Grants	\$8,000	5%
Individual Donations	\$740	<1%
City Funding (NYC)	\$760	<1%
In-Kind Donations¹	\$146,817	88%
TOTAL	\$167,360	100%

Expenses

Program Personnel	\$18,856	11%
Payments to Affiliates	\$1,000	1%
Supplies	\$2,093	1%
Outside Services	\$210	<1%
Travel	\$84	<1%
Advertising/Marketing	\$204	<1%
In-Kind Donations*	\$146,817	87%
TOTAL	\$169,264	100%

¹ Programs: 72.3%, Administrative: 26.3%, Fundraising: 1.4%



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