Far Rockaway Health Fair & Transition – Permaculture Convergence

Rockaway Work in Progress
Retrospective: June 2014-June 2015
Transition Recognitions

- Life with less energy and accelerated climate change is the new norm and it’s better to adapt and plan than be taken by surprise.

- We have lost, and must regain the resilience to be able to cope with energy and climate shocks.

- We have to act for ourselves and act now.

- By unleashing the collective genius of the community, we can design ways of living that are more enriching, satisfying and connected.
Climate Change is accelerating. The Far Rockaway Peninsula was flooded by Jamaica Bay on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other during Superstorm Sandy. (Pictures below taken two years later.)
Rockaway Communities

- Endured pre-storm isolation and demographic stratification as "the forgotten New York,"

- Suffered profound personal loss in the storm, and,

- Withstood the life-shattering bureaucratic abuse in the superstorm’s aftermath.
150 Dwellings have been abandoned in the Arverne Section of Rockaway since Sandy. Residents walked away from their homes.
Rockaway in recovery: Sand dune stabilization – replanting dunes with vegetation and using sand fences to mitigate wind erosion and protect coastal ecosystems.
Rockaway in Recovery: Various parts of the boardwalk recover, and are addressed at vastly different rates.
Rockaway Recovery

Beach 86 is coming back on stream.

Pavilion at Beach 86
The Mid-Atlantic Transition Hub (MATH) and the NYC Transition Hub partnered with Battalion Pentecostal Assembly which has produced food locally for decades. (Battalion hoop houses are seen here.)
Transition is a People’s Movement

We trust in the ability of the people to self-organize for the greater good.

If we wait for the government, it'll be too little too late.

If we act as individuals, it'll be too little.

But if we act as communities, it might just be just enough, just in time.
Neighboring Rockaway Farms
On April 18, 2015 the Mid-Atlantic Transition Hub (MATH) held a Transition Neighborhoods Workshop Intensive in collaboration with partners, Battalion Pentecostal Assembly.
April 18, 2015 Arverne, Rockaway Transition Workshop Intensive with Transition Trainer, Pamela Boyce Simms and Permaculturist Wolf Bravo
Principles of Transition

- Positive Visioning
- Help People Access Good Information & Trust Them to Make Good Decisions
- Inclusion and Openness
- Enable Sharing and Networking
- Build Resilience
- Inner and Outer Transition
- Self-organization at the Appropriate Level
The Transition and Permaculture movements explore, lift up and celebrate local culture. Our partners in Rockaway are of Caribbean heritage. June was National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.
The Transition movement celebrates Rockaway’s Caribbean Heritage. Convergence weekend kick off event.

The Russian community at the Seagirt Center opens its doors to Rockaway neighbors from the Caribbean, June 26, 2015.
The party included dancing, great Caribbean food, Transition and cultural presentations.

Seagirt Social Center Director, Olga Shneyder with local artisanal jewelry makers
Event Organizer and MC, Herbert Binger

Dan Miner, NYC Transition Hub (foreground) WBAI Radio talk show host Michael Haskins.
Battalion Pentecostal Assembly, The Mid-Atlantic Transition Hub (MATH) and the NYC Transition Hub collaborated to produce the Rockaway Health Fair & Transition Convergence, June 27, 2015
Rockaway Health Fair & Transition Convergence June 27, 2015

MATH Steward MJ Wilson, Master Composter & Waste Manager

Amateur [ham] Radio, is always the failsafe, backbone of local resilient response to extreme weather. Veteran ham radio operator David Barnard K2OZS, of Transition Albany demonstrated solar powered low band and high frequency equipment.
Rockaway Health Fair & Transition Convergence June 27, 2015

Aleks Jagiello, Queens Compost and NYC Community Emergency Response Team

Elevated Studio Team, Brian Bier, Executive Director – Post disaster architectural design
Rockaway Health Fair and Transition Convergence, June 27, 2015

Theresa Eddins (Left Forum) with Evyan, Herbal beauty & health product artisans, and Raven, “Point A Urban Income-sharing Communities”

Theresa and Evyan’s Herbal Products Display
Rockaway Health Fair and Transition Convergence, June 27, 2015

A phenomenal array of local resilience-building exhibitors participated.

Rockaway residents enjoy the music, fellowship health exhibits.
Exhibitor Anne Apparu (left) talks about “Seedball” (dune vegetation planting) as Natalie Greaves of the Just Food Chicken Meet up and Olga Shneyder, Seagirt Adult Social Center listen.
Rockaway Health Fair & Transition Convergence June 27, 2015

Betsy Damon, Founder, Keepers of the Water environmental artist, water catchment systems

Janet Soderberg and Andy Frost, Curators, Canary Project Art Exhibit, The Yellow Rose and Other Stories of Rockaway
Transition exhibitors made solid connections among like-minded activists.

The Caribbean food was thoroughly enjoyed by all.
Transition Montreal, & Cycle Alimen Terre (bicycle distribution urban agriculture in Montreal) met friends from local: Hellgate Farm, Smiling Hogshead Ranch, & Rockaway Waterfront Alliance.
Herbal cosmetic artisans Theresa Eddins and Evyan, Samuel Man, Solar One

Anne Apparu, Seedball US prepares mudballs with native plant seeds.
The Mid-Atlantic and NYC Transition Hubs extend appreciation to our exhibitors

- **Seagirt Adult Day Care Center**
  Olga Shneyder, RN, Program Director
  (718)757-1640, seagirtadultdaycare@yahoo.com

- **Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)**
  Samuel Man, NYSERDA EDGE Regional Outreach Contractor, Solar One
  (212) 505-6050, Direct (646) 576-5660, samuel@solar1.org

- **Urban Upbound** – community revitalization, credit union, job training
  Lori Rodriguez, 718-784-0877 x 375, lori@urbanupbound.org

- **Composting & Recycling**
  MJ Wilson, Mid-Atlantic Transition Hub (MATH) Steward, mjjw@bcinfotech.com
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- **YANA** – Rockaway recovery activist group
  Salvatore Lopizzo, 718-314-1910, info@yanarockaway.org

- **Home Made Soaps and Natural Cosmetics**
  Theresa Eddins and Evyan, theresa@leftforum.org.

- **NYC OEM Community Emergency Response Team**
  Rev. Eleni Marudis, Queens 14 CERT Co-Chief, 917-880-8031, rockawayreverend@aol.com
  Avi Munk, Queens 14 CERT Deputy Chief, 4vrohom@gmail.com
  Nancy Wyrough, Queens 14 CERT Deputy Chief, 212-960-3591, n.wyrough@gmail.com

- **Queens Recovery Coalition**
  Disaster Case Management, Rebuild group, Mental Health services
  Hannah Arnett, 917-975-7033, 914-843-6961, hannah.arnett@nyac-umc.com
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- **Seedball US**
  Seedballs are mud balls containing seeds of native plants. Seedballs support dune systems as well as butterflies, bees and beneficial insects. Anne Apparu 347-510 8580, anneapparu@gmail.com, seedball.us

- **NYCHA Gardening and Greening**

- **Transportation Alternatives**
  Jaime Moncayo, Queens Organizer, (917) 348-2805, (646) 873-6004, jaime.moncayo@transalt.org

- **Rockaway Waterfront Alliance**
  Daniel Borrero, Program Assistant, 718-327-5919 x 114, dborrero@rwalliance.org
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- **Safe Space Solutions**
  Renewable energy systems for small businesses

- **New York Center for Sustainable Energy - NYCSE Lab**
  [http://www.nycse.org/index.html](http://www.nycse.org/index.html)
  David Gibbs, 973-641-7338, r.davidgibbs@gmail.com

- **Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation**
  Corey Terry, Director of Community Engagement, [www.oceanbaycdc.com](http://www.oceanbaycdc.com)

- **Just Food, City Chicken Meetup NYC**
  Natalie Greaves, chicken owner in Laurelton, 917-683-3373, natalie@greaveswrites.com
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- Water Catchment, Betsy Damon, Keepers of the Water [http://www.keepersofthewater.org/](http://www.keepersofthewater.org/). Elizabeth.damon@gmail.com, 917-977-1411

- The Canary Project, Photography and art exhibits after Hurricane Sandy and other climate changedisasters.[http://canary-project.org/](http://canary-project.org/) Janet Soderberg, janet@janetsoderberg.com


- Power Rockaways Resilience, Walter Meyer walter@localofficelandscape.com, David Gibbs, 973-641-7338, r.davidgibbs@gmail.com
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- **NYCHA Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability Program**
  Michael Jacocks, Community Coordinator; Michael.jacocks@nychा.nyc.gov
  718-218-1539

- **NYC Urban Permaculture Farms – Hellgate Farm & Smiling Hogshead Ranch**
  Smiling Hogshead Ranch, Gil Lopez, gilopezsez@gmail.com
  Hellsgate Farm, Rob McGrath, Rob@hellgatefarm.com
  anna.poaster@gmail.com, eric@hellgatefarm.com, anna@hellgatefarm.com

- **Queens Compost Project / Queens Botanical Garden**
  Aleks Jagiello 516-567-9523 aleks.jagiello@gmail.com
  [http://www.queensbotanical.org/education/compost](http://www.queensbotanical.org/education/compost)

- **Rockaway Wildfire**
  Alexis Smallwood, alexissmallwood83@gmail.com 347-606-9925
  Illea Burgos, RockawayWildfire@gmail.com 347-454-1368 (347) 520-5983
  ileia.burgos@gmail.com; [www.facebook.com/rockawaywildfire](http://www.facebook.com/rockawaywildfire); [www.rockawaywildfire.org](http://www.rockawaywildfire.org)
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- **The Elevated Studio**, Resilient and post-disaster architecture, planning and design. Brian Baer, Executive Director 646.470.9545 telephone, 646.500.3065 direct. brianbaer@theelevatedstudio.org, [www.theelevatedstudio.org](http://www.theelevatedstudio.org) Brian Baer, Executive Director

  National Grid, Renee McClure, 929-324-4390; renee.mcclure@nationalgrid.com

- **Montreal Urban Farming - Cycle Alimen Terre**
  [http://cyclealimenterre.wordpress.com/](http://cyclealimenterre.wordpress.com/); lecyclealimenterre@gmail.com
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- **NYC Bee Keeping** - [nycbeekeeping.org](http://nycbeekeeping.org) Liane Newton, 917-318-2355, nycbeekeeping.net@gmail.com, admin@nycbeekeeping.org

- **GrowNYC**, Jon Klar, Recycling Outreach Coordinator jklar@grownyc.org, 212.788.7963; 646.530.0381

**SPECIAL THANKS FOR PUBLICITY & DOCUMENTATION TO:**

- **WBAI Radio**, 99.5 fm, the gold standard in NYC Metro area independent progressive news, art, and music radio. Talk Show Hosts:
  - Kathryn Davis, Heart of Mind
  - Michael Haskins, The Morning Show

- **Rockaway Documentary** Producer, Ali Yarkhan, aliyarkhan@aol.com
We express gratitude to our host and partner, Battalion Pentecostal Assembly
Rockaway Neighbors Embrace Localism

and prepare to

Grow Food Everywhere
Transition is a People's Movement

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If we act as individuals, it'll be too little.

But if we act as communities, it might just be just enough, just in time.
12 Ingredients of Transition

1. Create Initiating Group & design its demise from the outset.
2. Raise Awareness
3. Lay the Foundations
4. Organize a Great Unleashing
5. Form Working Groups
6. Use Open Space Facilitation Technology
7. Develop visible practical manifestations of the project
8. Facilitate the Great Reskilling
9. Build a Bridge to Local Government
10. Honor the Elders
11. Let it Go Where it Wants to Go
12. Create an Energy Descent Action Plan (EDAP)
Contact Us

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NYC Transition Hub: transition.nyc.hub@gmail.com, Facebook: http://on.fb.me/1RbngYV, http://transitionnyc.wix.com/transitionnyc