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THE SANITATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF ‘ZERO WASTE ACADEMY’

Free educational series empowers New Yorkers to take action and fight climate change

The Sanitation Foundation, the official nonprofit of the New York City Department of Sanitation, is announcing the return of “Zero Waste Academy,” a program that introduces participants to waste management – increasingly one of the most relevant topics in sustainability – and explores how it fits into our city and our world. The Zero Waste Academy will bring together experts from the NYC Department of Sanitation and the private sector to increase awareness and understanding of the environmental, social and economic impacts of waste management.

Running from April 30 through May 19, the Zero Waste Academy will consist of eight virtual training modules developed and taught by high-level experts on waste in New York City. The curriculum will explore topics such as

- the current landscape of waste in NYC, both public and private
- the origins of American “throwaway culture” and an introduction to circular economies
- how architecture and the built environment influence recycling and diversion habits
- and a focused look at food waste, the largest diversion opportunity in our waste stream

In addition to the core educational sessions, several optional field trips will allow participants to see recycling and composting in action in New York City. These will include virtual field trips to Cooper Recycling and Sims Municipal Recycling, as well as in-person trips to see Earth Matter’s NYC Compost Project operations at Governors Island.

The final module will connect participants with practical ways to actively solve the problems of waste, and the Academy will culminate with a May 19 in-person networking event. Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a certificate of completion and be equipped with the knowledge and resources to create change in their own lives and communities.

“The Sanitation Foundation’s mission is to advance the city’s zero-waste agenda, and we repeatedly find that New Yorkers want to help create a more sustainable city but don’t always know how,” said **Julie Raskin, Executive Director of the Sanitation Foundation**. “Our goal with the Academy is to

turn these New Yorkers into zero-waste experts who are empowered to return to their communities and continue to bring about change.”

“New Yorkers throw out more than 10,000 tons of waste every day, most of which is shipped to greenhouse gas-emitting landfills,” said **Bridget Anderson, Deputy Commissioner for Recycling and Sustainability at the NYC Department of Sanitation**. “The Zero Waste Academy is an important building block in our efforts to engage more New Yorkers in the important work of waste diversion and combating climate change.”

This year’s Academy is made possible by generous support from Con Edison and Verizon Wireless.

“Con Edison is committed to a clean energy future that is affordable, equitable and environmentally just,” said **Frances A. Resheske, senior vice president, Corporate Affairs, for Con Edison**. “The Zero Waste Academy is another way we are working to deepen our collaboration with customers, and other stakeholders, all of whom have a critical role to play in delivering a sustainable low-carbon future.”

“The Academy will give us a unique opportunity to see and hear first hand how the world’s largest City looks at sustainability and waste management,” said **Richard Windram, who is responsible for Verizon Foundation grants in New York**. “Participants will have a unique opportunity to witness and engage in the ways New York handles waste and recycling today, and what the City has planned as we jointly strive to address climate change and create a sustainable future.”

Participation is free but space is limited, so those interested are encouraged to apply early. Applications are open from April 4 through April 15. For more information and to apply, visit sanitationfoundation.org/zwa.

About the Sanitation Foundation

The Sanitation Foundation, founded in 2016, is the official nonprofit organization of the New York City Department of Sanitation. Supported by private funding and in-kind donations, the Foundation leverages non-traditional strategies to promote sustainability and advance the essential services of Sanitation employees.

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