

Edible Walls Improve School Performance



Steve Ritz

Green Living Technologies was named the technology partner of the New York City Department of Education for a new high school initiated by Steve Ritz, NYC School Teacher and the schools would be founder. The Hunts Point High School for Sustainable Community Initiatives will focus on a degree track in Green Technologies including edible walls, roofs, composting and GLT bioSoil. Students would receive

training and preparation for both living wage employment and college. The proposal calls for students to graduate with both a high school diploma and industry-recognized employment certifications.

Earlier this year, Green Living Technologies in collaboration with Boston Citiscapes provided scholarships to 17 students and faculty from the Bronx and Kingston, MA for the Green Living Technologies Installer Certification Training. The training introduced them to GLT Green Living Walls, Roofs

and Agriculture. This success lead Russ Greenleaf from Greenleaf Gardens to facilitate an educational program in the Scarsdale, NY School District bringing kids from the poorest Congressional District in America, the Bronx, to one of the richest to work side by side with one common goal. Ritz claims that this is proof that "the Bronx is poised and ready to export our talent and diversity to lead the green revolution in ways that help us heal ourselves in a fully sustainable manner."

Before the Bronx students started growing their own vegetables, many had no easy access to fresh vegetables. Consuming their own vegetables improved their nutrition, grew class attendance from 40% to 93%, and helped 100% of the gardening teens achieve passing grades on the state Regents exams in math and science. This spring, using the GLT walls, Ritz and his students grew enough vegetables in school to feed over 450 students a gourmet vegetarian buffet with locally grown "Bronx Fresh" organic produce grown from seeds in the classroom.

To watch Ritz bring urban farming to his students in NYC, watch "Urban Farming NYC" on YouTube. Stephen Ritz can be reached at SRitz@schools.nyc.gov.



Steve Ritz and an "edible roof."

The Sustainable Planet Film Festival Hits New York!

Environmental economist and television producer Pamela Peeters held the fifth edition of the international "Sustainable Planet" film festival in New York on June 7th and June 8th. The Sustainable Planet Film Festival was launched in 2005 as to celebrate the UNESCO DECADE on Sustainable



Education. It is the platform where moviemakers meet with for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in order to watch movies, listen to visionary experts and participate in intelligent debates touching sustainable lifestyle solutions. The festival has already been produced in three different countries (Belgium, Jordan and the US), and will be produced in

three new countries in the near future (Spain, Australia and Vahrain). The movies showcase community building efforts and/or environmental care practices.

The fifth edition, held in New York as a two day event, celebrated unique sustainability personalities in various categories who were recognized for their community building efforts or environmental care practices. Honored were Almudena Fernandez (Spanish top model, spokesperson for Al Gore and owner of a line of Eco shoes), Katherine Gass (Art Curator for the Bank of America and the Jumeirah Hotels), and Nil Sonmez (VP and Partner of Rouge Tomate). The Sustainable Planet Film Festival program included films "Climate Chaos in the South, the Victims Story", "Fresh", "Eco Boys and Girls", "Native Wind: Powering America", "Urban Farming NYC - Bronx NY", and "Ethical Markets".

For more on Pamela Peeters visit PamelaPeeters.com.

