

# PEPH Webinar



Please join us for a Webinar on **June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET**

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**Title:**

## **ECO Youth: Education and Community Advocacy by Providence High School Students**

**Description:** "ECO Youth: Environmental Community Organizers" is a new youth program of the partnership of the Brown University Superfund Research Program Community Engagement Core and the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island. ECO Youth is a youth-led program that works for justice in our communities and promotes healthy lifestyles that everyone can access and benefit from. It is an outgrowth of two years of the Community Environmental College (CEC), a free 8-week summer program for Providence and other Rhode Island high school students.

In summer 2009, two courses were offered in the CEC; Environmental Justice, and Room-by-Room, a design course. In summer 2010, Environmental Justice was repeated and Food Justice added. In 2011 those two courses will be repeated, with the addition of a third class on Leadership, Media and the Arts. Stemming from the first summer, some students got involved in the Healthy Corner Store Initiative, doing healthy makeovers of small groceries in Providence, and then expanding to Pawtucket, and now working on statewide policy changes to encourage healthier food alternatives. Some students continued on as teaching assistants as well. Now a number of these students are part of the new ECO-youth program which functions as a weekly after-school program with regular Wednesday meetings and a variety of additional other activities on both weeknights and weekends. These students learn media, leadership, and public speaking skills; visit youth groups in other cities, carry out public education food justice and health inequality, attend conferences such as the Northeast Food and Justice Summit at Northeastern University, and will be producing a documentary on air pollution, asthma, and climate change. Much work centers around the new Green D(RI)VE bus, which is being converted to use vegetable oil, as a case study and example of alternatives. Youth will document the vegetable oil conversion process and use that footage in the future documentary about air pollution, asthma, and climate change. Given that a major source of asthma-triggering air pollution comes from diesel emissions, the conversion of diesel vehicles to biodiesel and vegetable oil represents an iconic alternative. ECO Youth will use the bus as a hands-on demonstration project for workshops about air quality and alternative fuels. The bus itself will be a mobile learning lab and classroom and will be a venue for ECO Youth workshops. Furthermore, ECO Youth will use the bus for group transportation to environmental conferences where they will continue to learn about environmental issues and present their workshops.

This webinar features:

- Phil Brown, Director, Community Engagement Core, Brown University Superfund Research Program
- Julian Rodríguez-Drix, Programs Coordinator, Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island
- ECO Youth representatives:
  - Jesus Holguin - Providence Academy of International Studies
  - Jummy Olagundoye - Johnston Senior High School
  - Otera Ortega - Exeter - West Greenwich Regional
  - Yanilka Hernandez - The Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center
  - Yamah Dolo - HST (Health Science Technology) Cooley

**PEPH Webpage:**

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If you have any questions about this webinar please feel free to call or email Justin Crane ([cranej2@niehs.nih.gov](mailto:cranej2@niehs.nih.gov), 919 794-4702).