



# LESSON PLAN Understanding New York City

In *Waste Deep 2*, students view city-based data, statistics, charts, maps, images, and visual games to understand the composition of their waste, where it all goes, how it gets there, and the challenges and goals of NYC's 0x30 sustainability plan. Students will also learn how to properly sort their waste in school and at home and start to imagine school-based solutions to waste.

## OBJECTIVE

Students will:

- learn about OneNYC – New York City's ambitious plan to become the most resilient, equitable, and sustainable city in the world
- learn about the goal of sending Zero Waste to landfills by 2030 and the systems NYC has put in place to tackle the "0 X 30" vision
- gain an understanding NYC's waste-related statistics and how these problems impact our city
- learn how they can be a part of the solution, including recycling basics
- brainstorm school-specific solutions to waste

## INQUIRY/CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

- What can we do to reduce the negative impacts of waste on our health, environment, and economy?
- What are the conditions needed to affect behavior change?

## MATERIALS NEEDED

### Teacher Materials

- Completed Waste Journals
- Posters on Display (from previous lessons)
- NYC Data, Systems, and Recycling Slide Deck
- Sample recyclables, waste items and recycling bins

## TIME REQUIRED

- One 45-minute period

## PROCEDURE

*Waste Deep 2* explores data, systems, and solutions to waste issues in NYC. Through a short opening discussion, presentation, and closing brainstorm discussion students will gain a thorough understanding of the City's waste landscape and start brainstorming ways to narrow the gap between our recycling knowledge/infrastructure and our recycling behavior, particularly in schools.

- I. **Waste Journal Homework Discussion (5 minutes)** discuss student findings from their Waste Journal
- II. **Phase 1 Issue Poster Recap: (5 minutes)** students review issues from Phase 1 and share their own associations with waste
- III. **NYC Data, Systems, and Recycling 101 (25 minutes)** using slide deck with talking points, present slide show to students
- IV. **Idea Brainstorm (10 minutes)**  
*Facilitate a discussion around recycling behaviors in school.*
  - Ask students to start thinking about why there is such a big gap between what we know (and the waste management infrastructure in place) and our behaviors.
  - What are ways we could help change behaviors in our school?

Continue the journey in *Waste Deep 3: Investigating Your School!*

