

## IS NEW YORK A GREEN CITY?

- Low greenhouse gas emissions compared to the rest of the USA: 7.1 metric tons per person compared with national average of 24.5
- Low electricity consumption per person compared to the rest of the USA. This is partly due to government legislation which has, for example, meant that traffic lights, office machinery and refrigerators in public housing have been replaced by energy-efficient models.
- Very poor recycling rates – only 50% of all the bottles and cans used in the city are recycled, and only 40% of paper is recycled.
- There is an ongoing project for sustainable, low-emissions office towers e.g. the 7 World Trade Centre and the Hearst building.
- Waterways continue to be polluted by sewage after even minor storms, and in summer 2011, huge amounts of sewage were spilled into the Hudson river after a fire at a New York sewage treatment plant.
- Some buses run on compressed natural gas rather than fossil fuel.
- Very few people are dependent on cars for transport – less than 1/2 of all households in New York own a car
- A high rate of air pollution combined with population density means that the risk of cancer caused by airborne chemicals is 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the USA.
- New Yorkers produce roughly 12,000 tons of trash per day, which is transported out of the city by boat and train.
- Mayor Bloomberg plans to “turn yellow cabs green” (change them to hybrids) by 2012.
- Aftermath of the green point oil spill – in the 1950s, the ExxonMobil oil company was responsible for a huge oil spill. Although some of the oil was pumped out of the ground in the following years, most of it remains underground and still affects the city’s waterways today.

