

## CASE STUDY

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# Green Chemistry in New York State Regional High Schools

## A Partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Beyond Benign partnered with the New York State Department of Conservation (NYS DEC) on a NYS DEC grant project titled “Advancing Green Chemistry with a Focus on Toxics Reduction in NYS Schools”. The primary goal of the program was to advance the use of green chemistry in New York’s high school chemistry classes and provide assistance with proper chemical management. The overall program led to Beyond Benign running 11 trainings for New York State high school teachers throughout the state of New York, reaching over 250 teachers throughout the state, including the training of New York State Lead Teachers, who continue to facilitate professional development throughout the state and contribute to Beyond Benign’s green chemistry curriculum development initiatives.

### **Phase 1: Advancing Green Chemistry with a Focus on Toxics Reduction in NYS Schools**

Throughout 8 regions in New York State, the NYS DEC facilitated chemical clean-outs and provided assistance in chemical management for 8 pilot schools (one in each region). Upon cleaning out the chemicals and creating new inventory management policies, the schools then committed to implementing greener chemical experiments within their labs and classrooms for a minimum of the following year. Beyond Benign then coordinated and ran a high school workshop for teachers within the region. Over 250 teachers were trained on green chemistry curriculum and content. Link to DEC’s Green Chemistry information: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/77750.html>

### **Phase 2: Train-the-trainers Green Chemistry Program for New York Teachers**

The train-the-trainers program built on the ground work that was started in Phase 1 of the project. One region of the state was targeted as part of an Environmental Benefit Project (EBP). Two one-day high school teacher trainings were performed and 10 teachers were identified to take part in a 3-day train-the-trainer workshop, and participate with Beyond Benign on leading professional development within the state of New York. Three of the teacher participants are now Beyond Benign Lead Teachers.