

OMEGA

OMEGA GIVES 2014 LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION AWARD TO GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY



We are excited to announce that the [2014 Leadership in Sustainable Education Award](#) goes to [Groundwork Hudson Valley](#). In choosing to honor Groundwork Hudson Valley, Omega Institute chief executive officer Robert “Skip” Backus says, “Omega Institute recognizes the parallels between the missions of both organizations, each working toward the development of human potential, while honoring the need to engage with the crucial community and social justice issues our region faces.”

For more than 10 years Groundwork Hudson Valley has led the way in the lower Hudson Valley to help transform underserved communities throughout the region into being more livable and environmental sustainable places. They do this through programs directly involving local residents, focusing particularly on youth.

Through [community gardening](#), [community supported agriculture](#), and [neighborhood greening](#) programs Groundwork Hudson Valley has transformed vacant urban lots into green oases, helped bring fresh produce into food deserts, and brought the benefits of green spaces to otherwise neglected areas. Their [Science Barge](#), a prototype floating sustainable urban farm and environmental education center runs from mid-April to the beginning of November, hosting weekday educational programs for schools, camps, and other groups.

Groundwork executive director Rick Madger says, “We are truly honored to be this year’s award recipient. Much like the Omega Institute, our work focuses on transforming people, from the thousands each year who learn and grow on Groundwork’s amazing Science Barge, to the young people we have mentored from neighborhoods in Yonkers and Newburgh that are changing their own communities and experiencing inspirational places like Yellowstone National Park.”

In addition to receiving a \$10,000 cash award, Groundwork Hudson Valley also has been given an organizational development grant so that they can have an organizational planning retreat on the Omega campus. Previous recipients of the Leadership in Sustainable Education Award are [Scenic Hudson](#), in 2013, and the [Hudson River Sloop Clearwater](#), in 2012.