Design Trust Spearheads Development of a Greener New York: New Partnership with NYC Office of Environmental Coordination

In 2005, the Design Trust for Public Space will sponsor Sustainable New York: Developing a City-Wide Environmental Policy, a project in partnership with the New York City Office of Environmental Coordination. "We're super thrilled that the Design Trust is taking on this super important project with the City," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Upon the project's completion, New York will be the first big city in the nation to have a comprehensive environmental policy, outlining practical plans for integrating environmental practices into the everyday operations and planning of New York City government.

Sustainable New York will recommend cost-effective initiatives that can be tailored to the practices of individual city agencies – from alternative-fuel vehicles and recycled construction materials to innovative practices for water management and energy conservation. In addition, the project team will rethink the procurement and fiscal policies that often create barriers to the adoption of environmental practices.

The initiatives outlined in Sustainable New York will set the agenda for New York City's future environmental policies: The Design Trust’s partners and collaborators in this effort will be the New York City Office of Environmental Coordination and the newly formed inter-agency Mayor's Task Force on Sustainability. The strategy will be delivered to the Mayor, and Deborah Marton, executive director of the Design Trust said, "We believe it will become a nation-wide model for urban environmental policy."

The Design Trust is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality and understanding of New York City's public realm – from parks and plazas to streets and public buildings. Since its inception in 1995, the Design Trust has successfully completed nearly two-dozen projects, improving the urban experience for all New Yorkers.

Uniquely among New York's urban-space non profits, the Design Trust selects its projects through an open call for proposals. A jury of experts in planning, design, and city process select the winning project. Sustainable New York was selected by a panel that included Candace Damon, partner at Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Aschuler; Tom Jost, head of urban planning at Field Operations; Andy Stone, director of the New York office of the Trust for Public Land; and Kitty Hawks, a member of the Design Trust's Board of Directors.

For a complete project listing, to view (or download) Design Trust publications, and to get information about the project-selection process, please visit http://www.designtrust.org.