Tutorial for Importing Open Green Map Sites into Google Earth

Step 1.

Download your Open Green Map data files by logging in on Open Green Map and viewing your map(s). Choose the Import/Export tab over the map. Scroll down to 'KML with icon labels' and click to download the file.

You can rename your file if you like, keeping .kml at the end.

Note: (.KML = Keyhole Markup Language is an XML (Extensible Markup Language) file variation used to display geographic data in an earth based browser, such as Google Earth, Google Maps, etc.)

Step 2.

Download (if you have not already done so) and open Google Earth on your computer. You retain ownership but Google may use your data (see Terms of Service for complete details).

Step 3. Double click the downloaded map file in step 1. It should automatically open in Google Earth. If not, and you are prompted with a window asking you to choose an application to open in, manually select Google Earth.

Google provides a useful navigation overview. Review it to find more features.

Step 4. On the bottom left-hand side bar of the Google Earth window are two drop down windows, "Places" and "Layers". Click the horizontal arrow directly in front each of them once, to reveal the full "Places" and "Layers" window.
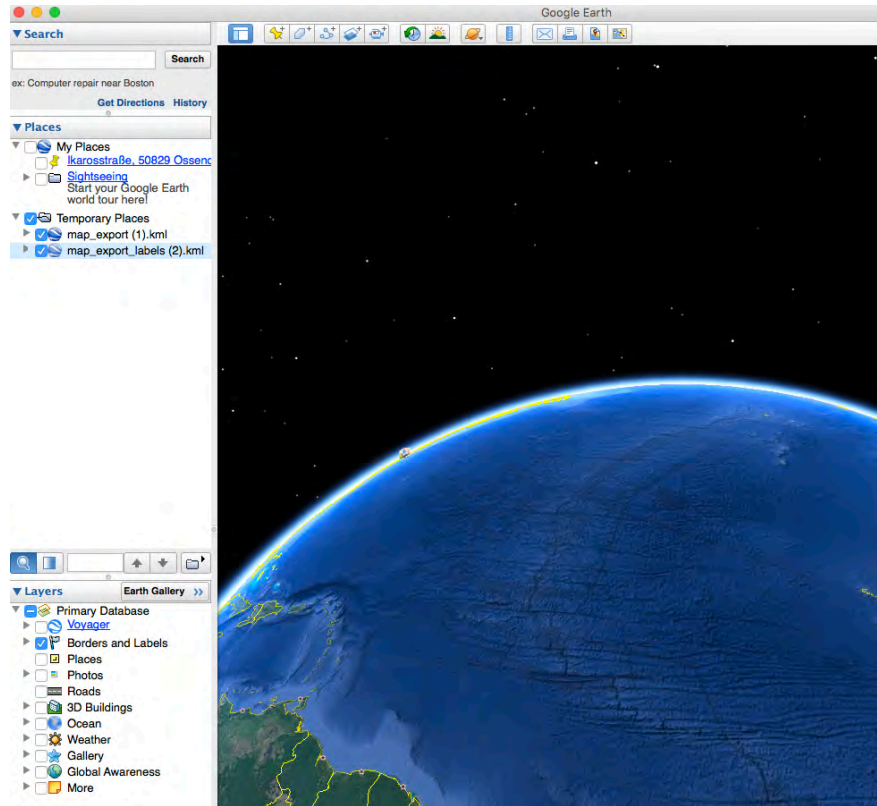
Places>
Layers>
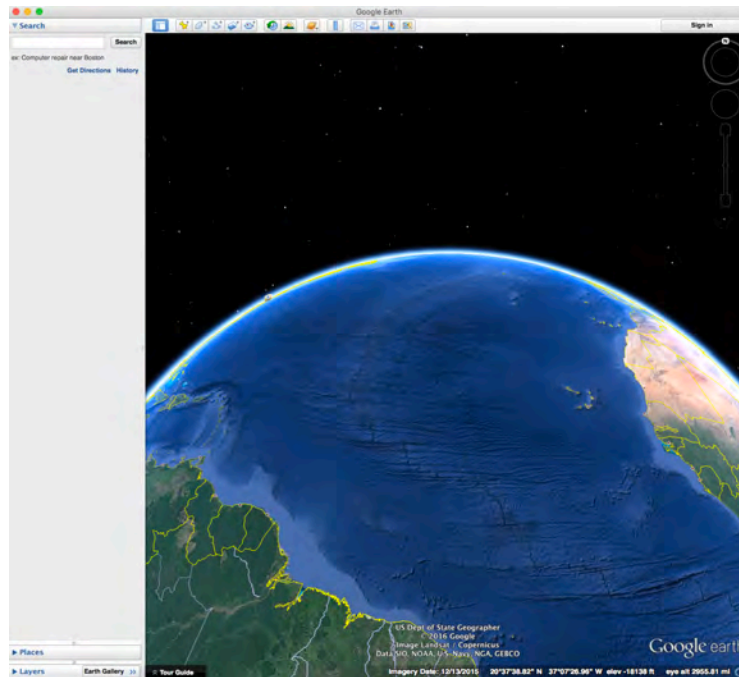
Zoom of Previous Image, "Places" and "Layers" location:

▶ Places

▶ Layers   Earth Gallery ≫   ⌃ Tour Guide
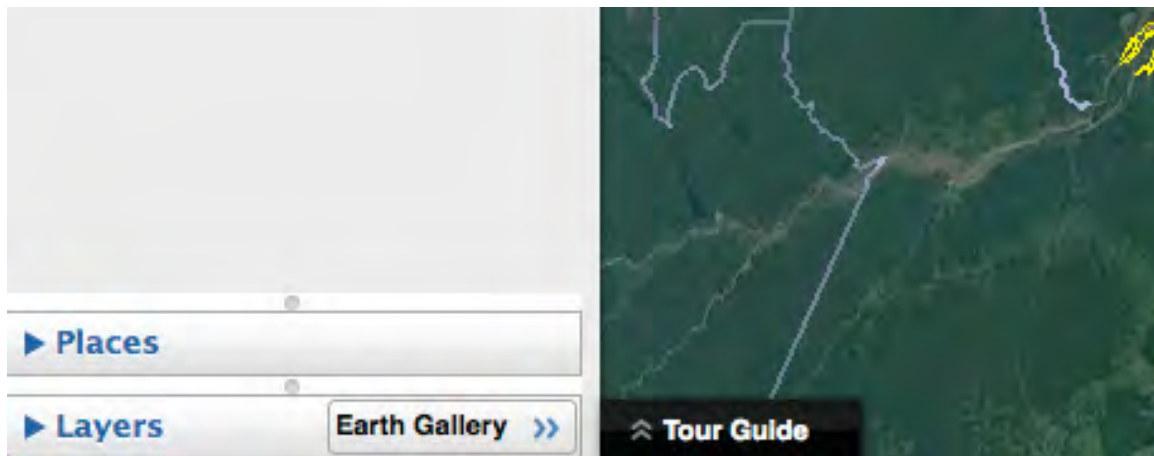
Step 5: After clicking the arrows in front of the "Places" and "Layers" tabs, they will enlarge to fill the entire left-hand side-bar.

Step 6: Under the "Places" tab you will see two further sub-divisions: "My Places" and "Temporary Places", where you will find your file upload. This is where all newly imported files arrive. Click the arrow by the file name - All locations identified in your .KML file will be listed here, as well as any other features.

Lucas, can you make screenshots with just the export_label file.
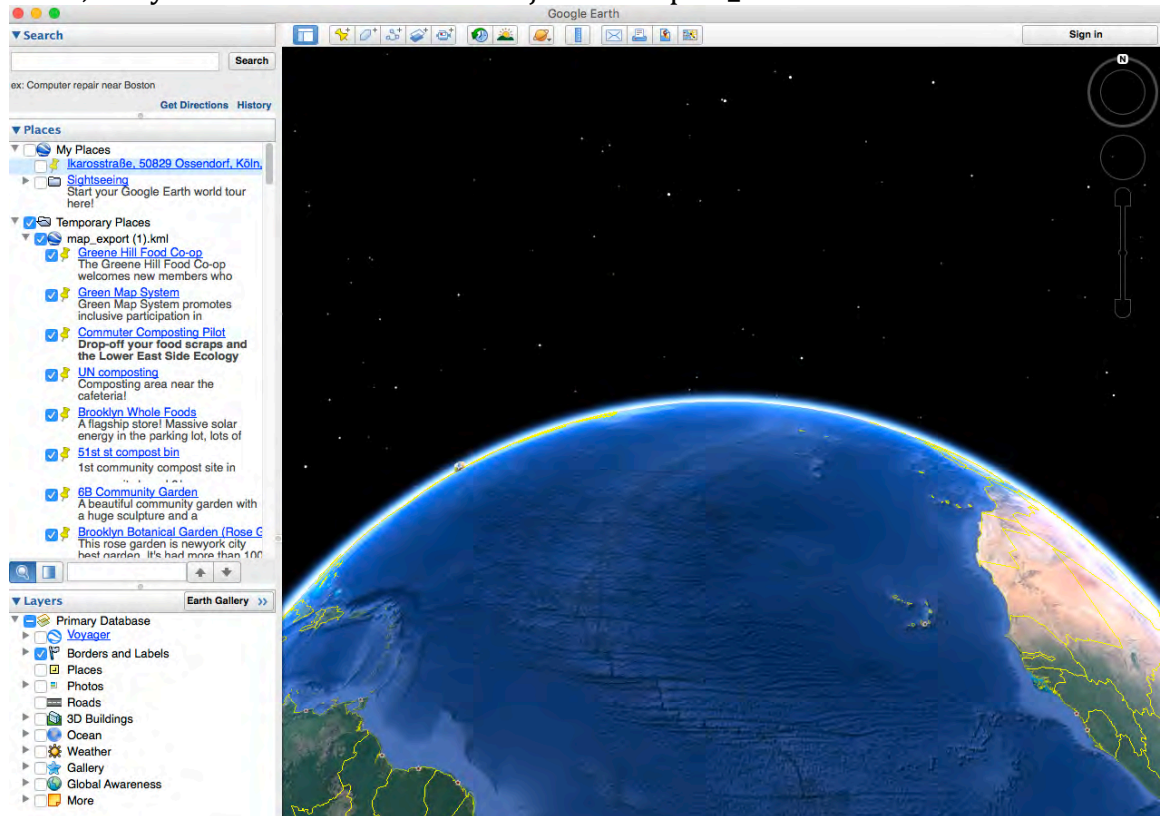
The same goes for the "Layers" tab, which can be opened to reveal a range of map reading tools provided by Google. (Next Page)
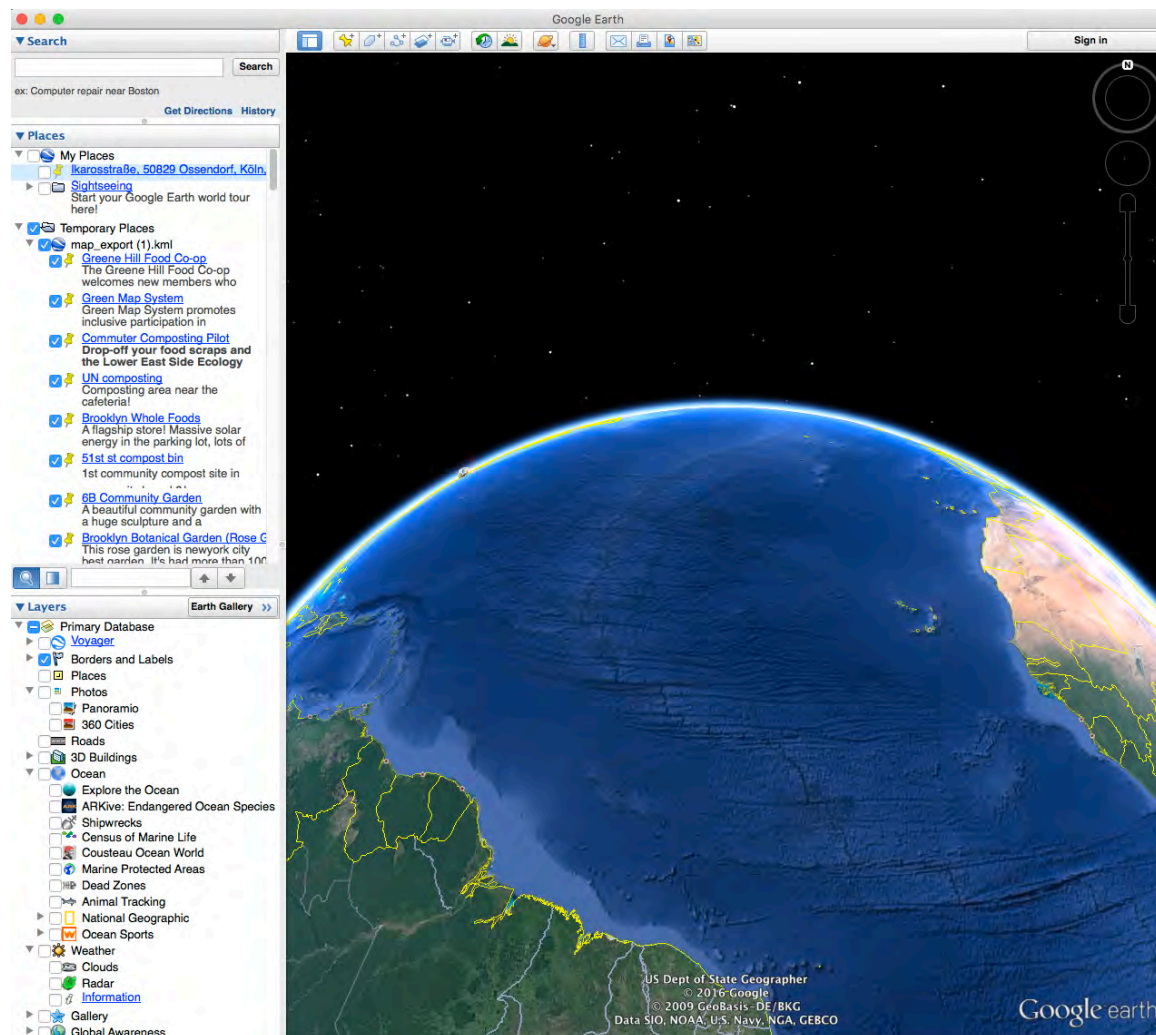
Step 7: View the information stored in your .KML file. Single click on a location name on the left to have a descriptive window appear. This can be done while viewing any portion of the globe.
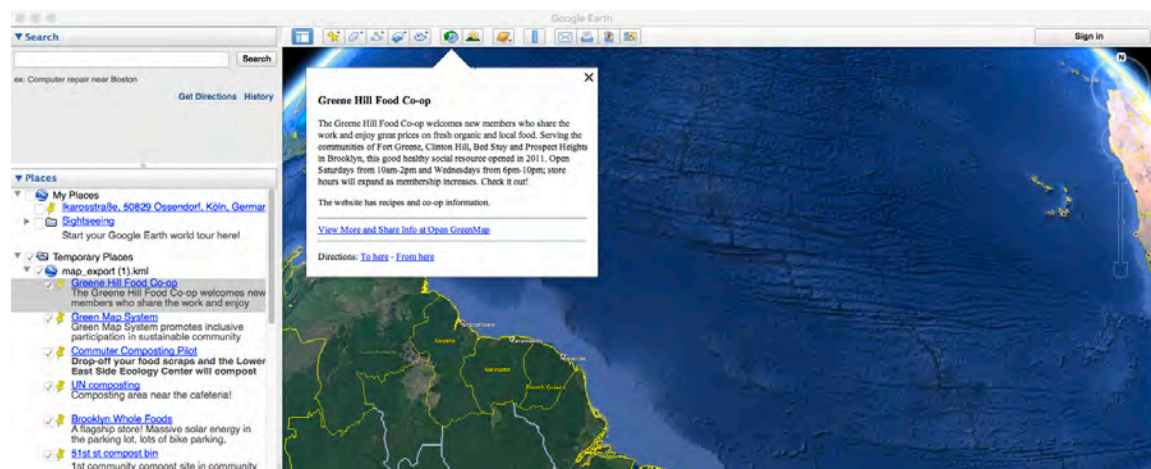
Step 8: Double click on the same location name on the left-hand side to zoom to the specific location of that address on the globe.
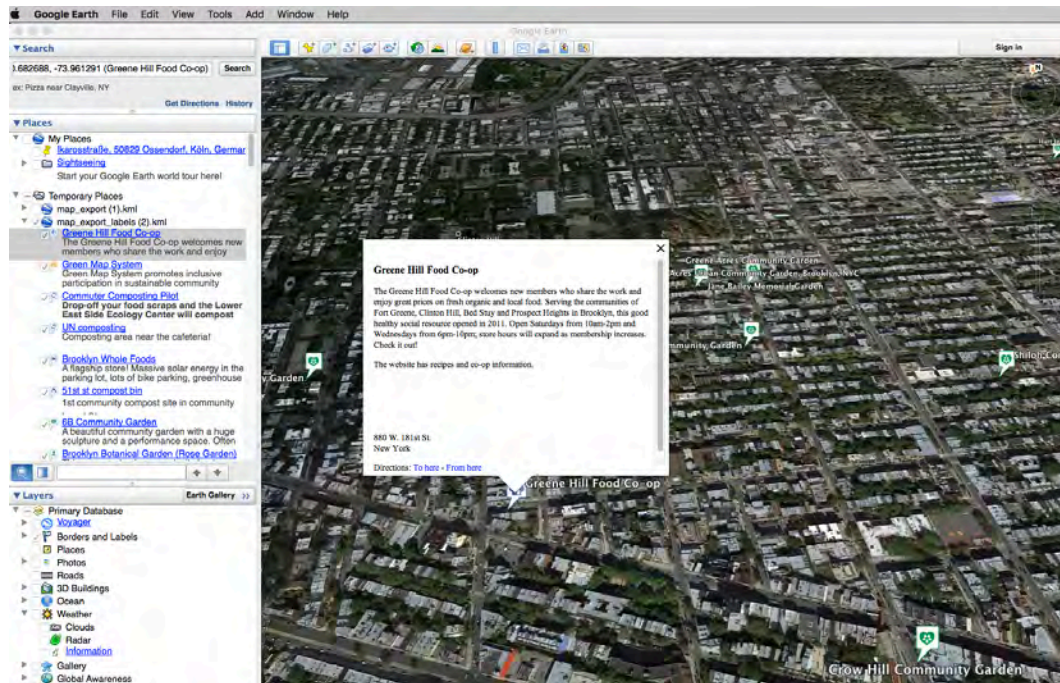

Check the window for further information contained, such as website links, images, descriptions, directions and comments. You can toggle on or off any number of locations and features simultaneously.

Note – although all your sites will be properly located, there is a bug you might want to fix. When you open the site's info window, each one has the same address and phone number. To remove or edit, control/right click on the blue link for each site on the left, and choose "Get Info". Make edits, and click OK.

While at Get Info (also knowns as Properties), you can change the style of the site (Placemarker). For example, if you don't like the label you can click Style, Color and reduce the label's opacity to 0. Check out the other features and give your map a unique look.

Step 9: Start checking out the whole range of features that Google Earth has to offer, and how these might interact with your data file. These are found under the "Layers" section on the left-hand side. Toggle on or off as desired.

Want to be inspired? Search for Google Earth Gallery or look for specific answers to your questions online.
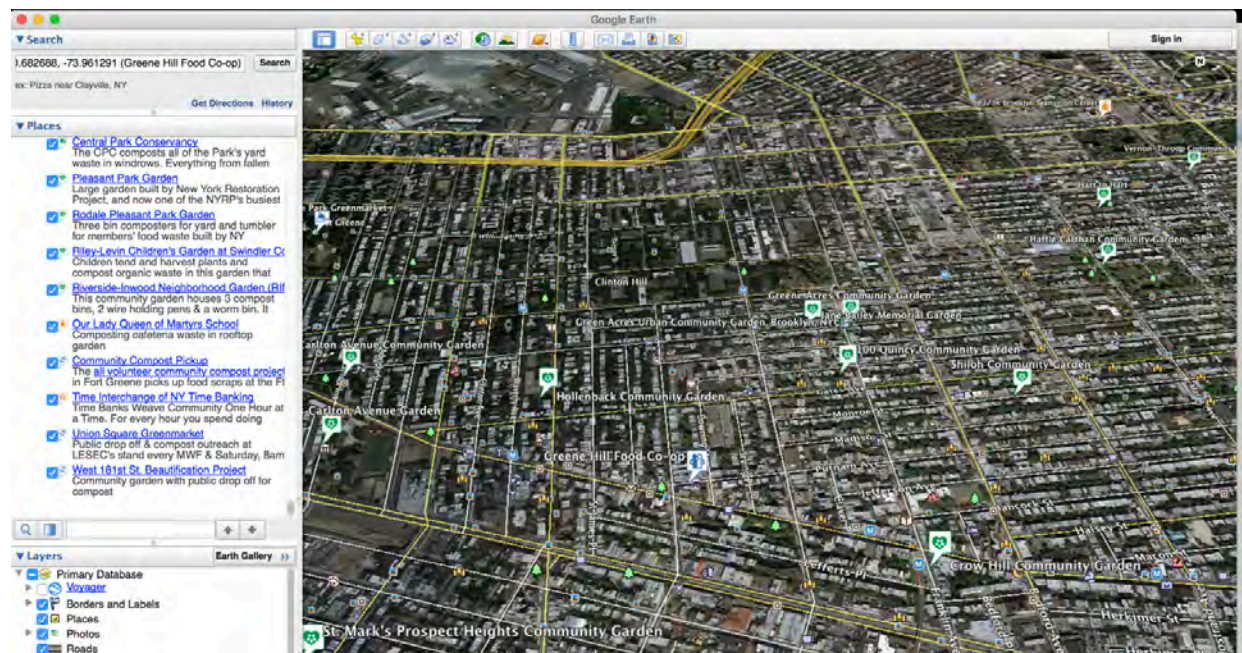
**Step 10:** Explore the ways you can customize your own map, by adding markers, drawing lines and polygons, adding images, videos, and finding geographically proximate historical data and much more. These features and others are found in the drop down windows of the Google Earth app, and in the icons at the very top of the Google Earth window. For more on this please view their online tutorial - https://www.google.com/earth/learn/
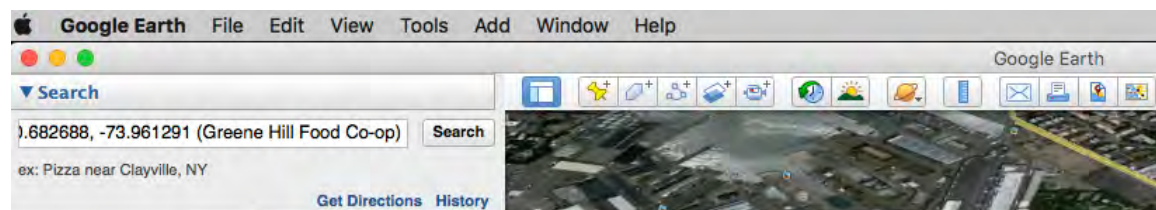
SAVING: Finally make sure to save your imported .KML data files. Since they are freshly imported they will be in the "Temporary Places" folder. Files in this location will not be stored unless saved into the permanent "My Places" folder. Control/right click the file name in "Temporary Places" and scroll down to the "Save to My Places" option. You can control/right click on the title to rename it, too.
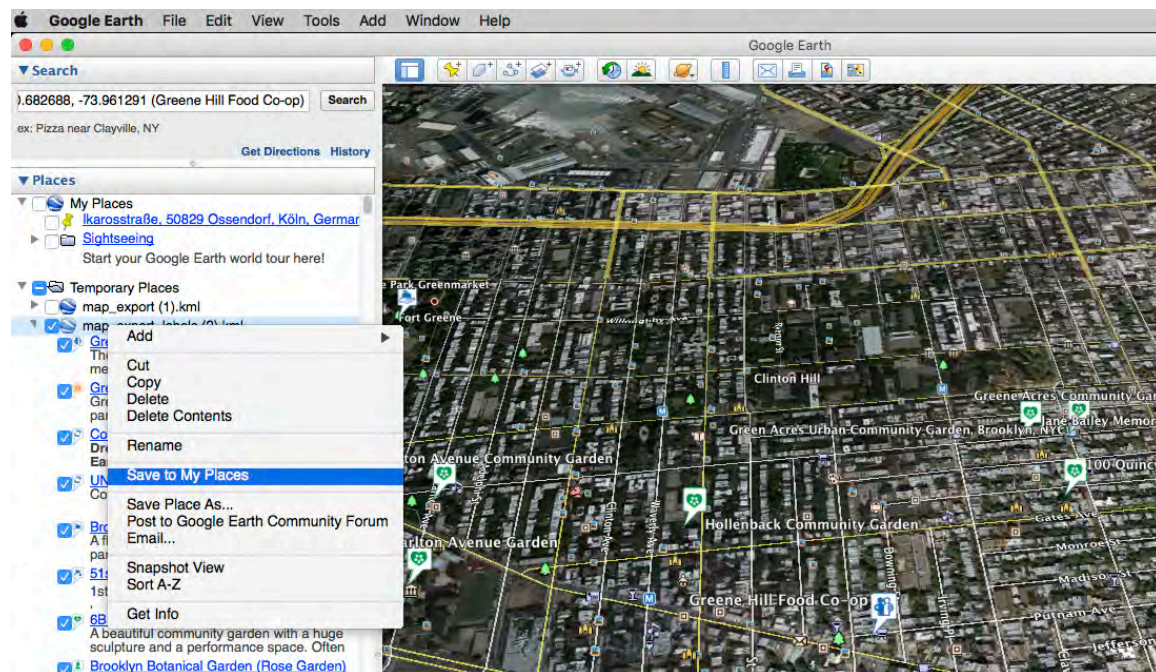
Your imported file will transfer to the "My Places" folder.
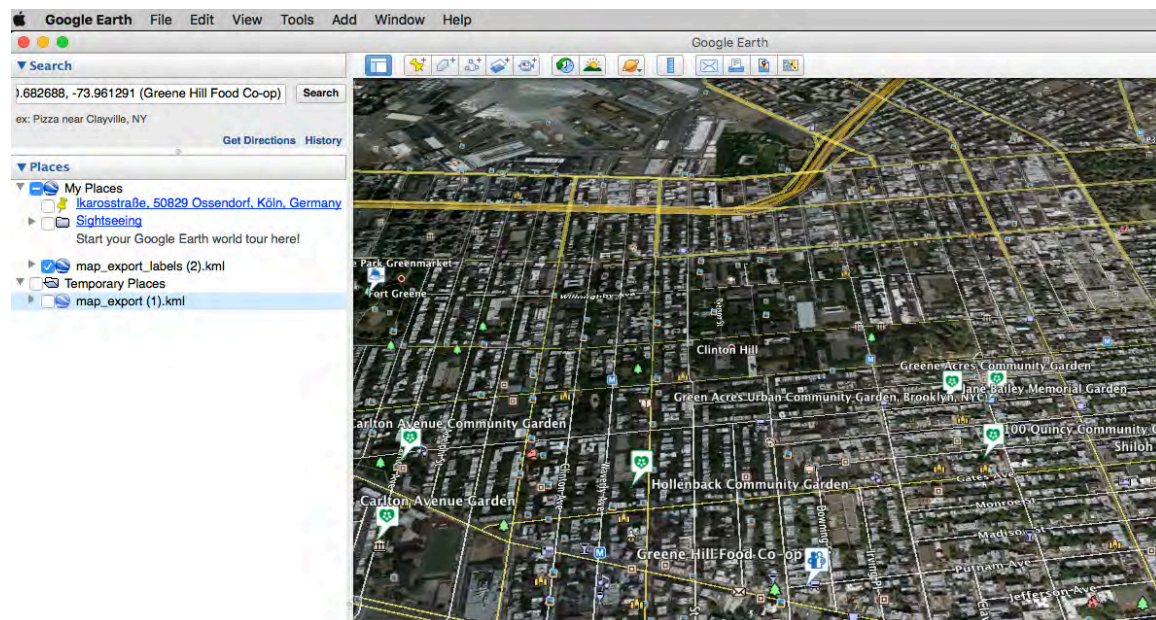
Sharing your Google Earth Green Map

Sign in on the top right to have the share button appear. Since this is a desktop application, there is no URL or embed code. However, you can share different types

of views, files or tours – you can even display your map on Google + or email them to be viewed by others on Google Earth.

You can also make a Tour, recording your story, adding links and images, etc. Start at the Add Menu and click Tour to begin. There is video here with detailed information - http://bit.ly/GEvid17

An easy way is to share an image is to make a screenshot (command shift 4 on a Mac, right-click or top key on a PC). You can open each screenshot in Preview, save as JPG or other format to make sharing easier.

You can display these images of the map on your website. We invite you to add it to a Project Story on GreenMap.org (use the tag for Google Earth to help website users find it). It's a good way to help others explore and enjoy your efforts!

Thanks to Lucas Reckhaus who completed this tutorial in January 2017