

# New York City Council

District Six



## June 26th UPPER WEST SIDE CLEAN ENERGY FORUM

Rutgers Presbyterian Church

Thank you for joining us! We hope that today's event provides you with tools to reduce your carbon footprint and use of fossil fuels, as well as a deeper understanding of New York City's preparations for climate change. All of the materials in this packet will be available at <http://helenrosenthal.com/environment/>

## SPEAKERS

- Sharon Griffith, NYS Research & Development Authority
- Alison Kling, Con Edison
- Noah Ginsburg, Solar One
- Jenna Tatum, Mayor's Office of Sustainability

## SPECIAL THANKS

Pastor Stehlik and the entire Rutgers Presbyterian Church staff

Dr. Lisa DiCaprio

Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

The Sierra Club of New York City [www.nyc.sierraclub.org](http://www.nyc.sierraclub.org)



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## June 27th City Council Clean Energy Hearing

The City Council's Environmental Protection Committee is holding a hearing regarding six clean energy bills.

**Date:** Tuesday, June 27th, at 1pm. **Location:** Committee Room, City Hall

**Int. No. 1629:** In relation to requiring periodic recommendations on adoption of more stringent energy efficiency requirements for buildings and energy use intensity requirements for new and substantially reconstructed buildings.

**Int. No. 1630:** In relation to promoting the bulk purchasing of solar energy systems by city employees.

**Int. No. 1632:** In relation to requiring that property owners disclose information about a building's energy efficiency when selling or leasing such building or space within such building.

**Int. No. 1637:** In relation to establishing a New York city energy policy task force and creating a long-term energy plan for the city.

**Int. No. 1639:** In relation to promoting the bulk purchasing of solar energy systems by business improvement districts.

**Int. No. 1644:** In relation to creating a green project accelerator.

Learn more about the bills at: <http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/Legislation.aspx>

## To Attend the Hearing

- Mass Transit: take the #2 or #3 trains to Park Place, and walk across Broadway to City Hall.
- Be sure to bring photo ID.



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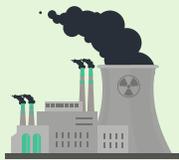
## GOING GREEN WITH YOUR POWER BILL

New York City's default energy supplier, Con Edison, uses a variety of energy sources to provide our electricity. According to the Energy Information Agency, in 2016, these sources were 41% natural gas and oil, 33% nuclear, 20% hydro, 5% renewable/other, and 1% coal.

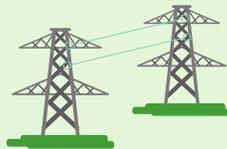
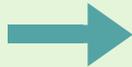
New Yorkers wishing to switch to renewable sources of electricity have several options, detailed below!

## ESCOs & Green Power Purchasing

**What is an ESCO?** An ESCO is an Energy Service Company. ESCOs supply energy that is delivered to consumers by Con Edison. New Yorkers are able to choose their energy service provider because the New York State energy market was deregulated in 1999.



A fossil fuel power plant, solar farm, nuclear power plant, etc. generates electricity



Con Edison OR an Energy Service Company purchases this electricity



Con Edison delivers the electricity to your home (even if an ESCO purchased the power).

**What is green power purchasing?** If you receive an individual electricity bill, you may choose an ESCO that partially or completely sources its electricity from renewables. You will purchase your electricity from an ESCO rather than from Con Edison which supplies electricity that is mostly generated from fossil fuels and nuclear power.

**How does that work?** The ESCO you select will inform Con Edison of your choice. You will continue to receive one monthly bill from Con Edison with no service interruptions. The name of your ESCO will appear in the "your electricity supply detail" section of your electricity bill. This indicates the amount of electricity you consumed during the month and the price per kilowatt hour.



SIERRA CLUB

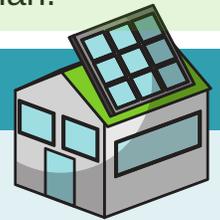
## How do I find a green ESCO?

- The NYS Public Service Commission lists ESCOs with certified green power options.
- To access go to:  
[www.newyorkpowertochoose.com/index.cfm](http://www.newyorkpowertochoose.com/index.cfm)
- Type in your zip code
- Choose "Electric" for Service Type.
- Choose "Fixed/Variable" for Offer Type.
- Click "Find Offers"! Companies with a green feather have certified green power options.
- Examples: CleanChoice Energy, Clearview Energy, Global Energy, etc.

## What should I ask about an ESCO?

- Does it provide 100% renewable energy? Many ESCOs only source a percentage of their energy from renewables.
- What are its renewable sources for electricity and where are they located?
- What are the prices for a variable plan? (rates will change to reflect the demand for electricity)
- What are the prices for a fixed plan? (price is guaranteed for six or twelve months)
- Keep track of your contract's expiration date if you choose a fixed plan.

## Solar Roofs & Community Solar Projects



### If you have a rooftop suitable for solar panels you may...

--Purchase a solar array: You will pay for the upfront costs for the solar panels, permitting, and installation and will receive all applicable solar tax credits. If your panels generate more electricity than your household uses, you will receive a credit on your electricity bill!

--Lease a solar array: A solar company will pay for all upfront costs and will collect the tax credits. You will receive a reduced electricity rate and will likely be able to purchase the solar array in the future. Nonprofits, which can't claim tax credits, and individuals who don't wish to pay upfront costs, often lease rather than buy solar arrays.

For more information on solar installations and a list of NYC region solar contractors, go to <http://on.ny.gov/2sZLwag>. When you call a contractor, ask about financing options.



### If you don't have a roof with solar potential, community solar is the future!

Community Solar allows you to secure lower-cost, renewable power even if your rooftop does not have solar potential. An array of solar panels is installed in a sunny location in the community. Residents who receive an individual electricity bill can then become members of the community solar project. Participants usually pay a monthly fee, which is deducted from their electricity bill and there are often additional savings. There are currently 3 projects in NYC. Residents in all 5 boroughs can sign up but there are wait lists. The search is on for more space for CSP's. Learn more at <http://on.ny.gov/2sWpKU9> and [www.ourpower.solar](http://www.ourpower.solar). For instructions on how to sign up for a CSP, or their waitlist, see [helenrosenthal.com/environment](http://helenrosenthal.com/environment).

June, 2017. Written by Dr. Lisa DiCaprio of Sierra Club, NYC

Posted online at [www.helenrosenthal.com/environment](http://www.helenrosenthal.com/environment)



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## CLIMATE CHANGE & NEW YORK CITY

The effects of climate change are already impacting New York City communities and infrastructure. What are the main challenges we face and what is the City doing to address them?

### Key Challenges

#### Sea Level Rise



- New York City has **520 miles** of coastline
- We've experienced **1.1 feet** of sea level rise since 1900
- By 2050, **one to two more feet** of sea level rise is expected
- By 2100, sea levels are expected to rise by as much as **six feet**

#### Increasing Temperatures



- From 1900 to 2013, mean annual temperatures in New York City **rose 3.4 degrees**
- Scientists predict a further **4-5 degree increase** by 2050
- By 2080, the City will experience **6 heat waves per year**

#### Dangerous Storms



- Mean annual precipitation rose **8 in.** from 1900-2013
- The city has seen **more frequent and more intense** storms
- Annual precipitation will increase another **4-11% by 2030**
- Precipitation has become **more erratic** leading to more droughts and floods

Sea level rise, increasing temperatures, and dangerous storms will all test the strength of our city's infrastructure. Both the storms and sea level rise will increase flooding significantly.

Scientists expect to see dramatic flood events that now occur once every 100 years happening once every 8 years by 2080. Flooding will endanger power stations, mass transit, and other critical infrastructure. Vulnerable coastal communities' very existence may be at stake. Climate change's threat to New York City is extensive, multilayered, and complex. Our solutions must be proportionally robust.

For more information on the threat climate change poses to New York City see the New York City Panel on Climate Change's most recent report, *Building the Knowledge Base for Climate Resiliency*. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/nyas.2015.1336.issue-1/issuetoc>

# The City's Response

New York City has two main strategies for addressing the challenges posed by climate change:

**mitigation and adaptation.**



*lowering New York City's carbon footprint to reduce severity of climate change in the future*

*addressing the effects of climate change that are already in process*

## **THE 80 BY 50 PLAN**

The City of New York has set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions **80% by 2050** relative to 2005 levels.

Reductions will be made in...

- Buildings' energy use
- Transportation Sector
- Solid Waste Sector

These sectors currently account for 73%, 21%, and 6% of emissions respectively.

*Commercial buildings alone account for roughly 30% of New York City's greenhouse gas emissions*

## **THE NYC CARBON CHALLENGE**

Private sector partners have voluntarily agreed to reduce their building-based emissions 30% by 2025. Currently 500 million square feet of real estate are included in the Carbon Challenge.

*By 2026, the challenge will have diverted nearly 515,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the equivalent of taking more than 100,000 cars off the road.*

The 80 by 50 plan is a part of the Sustainability Vision in the City's OneNYC plan.

## **ONE NYC: OUR RESILIENT CITY**

Created in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, ONE NYC includes a series of infrastructure investments to help NYC withstand the impacts of climate change.

*To address **flood concerns** the City has...*

- Added 4.15 million cubic yards of sand to city beaches
- Planned a \$355 million Lower East Side flood protection system
- Made 10,500 ft. of bulkhead repairs
- Created a \$100 million investment plan for coastal communities

## **KEEPING THE CITY COOL**

Building materials, like concrete, trap and radiate heat, magnifying the warming effects of climate change.

*NYC Cool Roofs has coated six million sq.ft. of roofs with reflective paint, keeping buildings cooler and reducing AC use.*

*One million trees have been planted around the city through **Million Trees NYC**, increasing shade and lowering temps.*

Read more about the One NYC Plan at <https://onenyc.cityofnewyork.us/>

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.26

June 2, 2017

CLIMATE ACTION EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, we all have a moral, economic, public health, and security imperative to act to protect our planet, fellow human beings, and future generations; and

WHEREAS, we must act, and act together at every level, as individuals, as cities, and as a global community; and

WHEREAS, climate action taken by cities in the United States and around the world can result in 40% of the pollution reduction needed globally to limit warming to only 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, the many benefits of climate action by cities also address issues of inequality including the expanding wealth gap, the lack of housing, the accessibility of public transit, aging infrastructure, and other major urban challenges; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris Agreement puts millions of Americans at risk and cities like New York City must step up to stop climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered:

**Commitment to Principles and Goals of Paris Agreement**

Section 1. Adopt and Commit to the Principles and Goals Set Forth In the Paris Agreement. To protect our residents and all human beings from the effects of climate change, New York City will adopt the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement to deliver climate actions that are consistent with or greater than its own commitments to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 and that support the critical goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as set forth in the Paris Agreement, which entered into force on November 4, 2016; and

§ 2. Develop New York City's Pathway to Achieving Emissions Reductions Necessary to Contribute its Proportionate Share to Global Efforts to Limit Warming to 1.5 Celsius.

The mayor directs city agencies to work with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability (MOS), its national and global climate network partners and other leading cities to develop further greenhouse gas reduction plans and actions that are consistent with the principles and goals of the Paris Agreement and that contribute to global efforts to limit warming to 1.5° Celsius. All City agencies shall work with MOS to create a citywide plan by September 30 to advance the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels by further reducing their own greenhouse gas emissions; and

§ 3. Global partnership. New York City will commit to acting locally and globally, working with other leading United States cities, and with regional and state partners, business leaders, the faith community, the public health community, scientists, activists, and citizens across our community, these United States, and the world to meet our country's 2016 commitment under the Paris Agreement, to make even more ambitious future commitments to emissions reductions, and to support inclusive, healthy and prosperous communities.

  
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Bill de Blasio,  
MAYOR