



New York City Energy Policy For 2006 and Beyond

These policies have been endorsed by the undersigned organizations, businesses and community groups

- The American Lung Association • Bright Power Inc. • Clean Air Cool Planet • The Long Island City Business Development Council • Natural Resources Defense Council • New York Climate Rescue • NYPIRG • Quixotic Systems, Inc. •

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Summary

New York is facing several major challenges in its near-to-mid term future. High energy prices combined with increasing energy demand threaten the city's economic viability, air pollution and the human health impacts it causes have gotten worse over time, not better, with asthma becoming an acute crisis in the community. Finally, global warming has begun to impact the region, alternating between significant drought (1996-2003) and a forecast of hotter and wetter summers. More ominously, tropical diseases, unheard of in the region previously, have begun to appear, such as West Nile Virus and Malaria. The long-term impacts of global warming on the New York region are likely to be severe and include sea level rise, increased incidence of mosquito-borne diseases, increased temperatures, and less-dependable hydrological cycles that will result in increased drought and flooding. All of these problems: energy dependence, pollution, human health, global warming, are both mutually reinforcing and yet solvable by the same policy approaches. This issue briefing aims to give policy makers a set of readily available policy tools that can be implemented immediately and are geared towards sensible, economical solutions to these challenges.

In 2004 the "New York City Energy Policy" report, issued by the Energy Policy Taskforce, under the auspices of the Economic Development Corporation, called for the creation of 2,600 megawatts of new electricity resources by 2008. Up to 300 MWs of this new need could be met by a mix of "distributed resources", a term which includes clean on-site generation, energy efficiency and demand reduction. More than a year later, City energy consumption continues to rise unabated and renewable resources remain undeveloped. Pursuing a policy that fundamentally relies on a 20th Century solution, construction of more conventional power generation capacity, will not be the way to meet the report's stated goal of "assuring reliable, affordable and clean electricity". New York needs leadership to ensure that our energy policy and emerging energy economy is safe, secure, and sustainable."

The legislation compiled in this paper is designed to lead New York City towards a sustainable energy policy by increasing energy efficiency; lowering carbon pollution and other air pollutant levels; improving the city's energy infrastructure and making New York more energy-independent; as well as by creating a framework for making all of these elements of public policy increasingly effective in the future.

This paper is divided into three sections; The summary introduces the problems and solutions; Appendix I contains articles and policy briefs that give background data and information on how these policies operate and why they are needed; Appendix II contains the language of each bill itself so that policy makers and concerned citizens can evaluate the bills in one convenient document.

The legislation compiled here forms a basic energy management plan for the City of New York and answers the question that the problems listed above insist that we ask: "So what can we do?"

The answers lie below.

Curbing Greenhouse Gases

[Intro. 148 – Cap on CO₂ From New York City Power Plants](#)

This bill lowers the allowable emission rate of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the city's power plants. The emission rate baseline is established as the average of the total installed generating capacity from 1997-99 and is reduced annually by 1% for every 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity added. Power plants can meet the standard using a pollution credit trading system.

[Intro. 661 – Greenhouse Gas Reporting Requirement and Reduction Targets for City Operations](#)

This bill would require New York City Government to reduce its global warming pollution, create an inventory of global warming pollution for the entire city and establish incentive programs for non-governmental entities to reduce emissions with a citywide goal of 7% below 1990 levels.. While the private sector's programs are voluntary, it commits the City to ultimately a 30% reductions from a 1994 baseline by 2020. As a coastal city, New York is particularly susceptible to global warming impacts on our infrastructure, health, economy, environment and safety.

Building Energy Policy

Intro. 324a - Sets "LEED Silver" Standards for City-owned Buildings

This bill sets building standards for new city-owned or operated construction projects. This will help ensure that as the city builds new facilities or renovates old ones, that the minimum building standards include green building principles as set by LEED Silver rating.

Intro. 382 - Building Commissioning Energy Efficiency and Conservation Training

This bill creates a commission from city agencies that uses training to ensure their buildings' systems are operating efficiently and according to original design. Many studies of energy efficiency point to the connection between energy use and human habits. The approximately 30% reduction in energy use from changes in behavior during the 2001 California energy crisis dramatically illustrate this fact. . The commission set up in this bill would help institutionalize a culture of energy efficiency and wise-use training building managers, building engineers, operations and maintenance staff and other appropriate employees of the City of New York. The training includes issues such as the use of energy-efficient heating, ventilation and cooling systems, the reduction of electric lighting loads, energy-efficient building and building system upgrades, the incorporation of energy efficiency into planning processes, operations and maintenance practices.

Intro. 438 – Expedited Permitting for Projects That Submit LEED Proposals

This bill uses the economic incentive of an expedited permitting process for LEED certified building projects to promote the use of green building standards in the city. Permitting can be an expensive and long process, but by helping to lower the costs of permitting, the city helps to promote the use of green building standards.

City Energy Policy for Efficiency

Intro. 375 – Establishing an Energy Policy Office

This bill creates an Office for Energy Policy. New York City is unique as a large municipality in not having an energy policy office. This bill will help focus the City's executive branch's attention and responsibility on ensure a sustainable energy future. This office will also help promote energy efficiency both inside city government and with the public at large, making city residents aware of the money-saving and pollution cutting opportunities inherent in saving energy.

Intro. 536a – Purchasing of Energy Efficient Products

This bill sets minimum energy standards for certain products purchased or leased by the City. By requirement energy efficient products, the City's will lower government operating costs., Dollars and power is wasted on inefficient lighting, computers and other equipment, but requiring the Energy Star logo will ensure a better operating, more energy efficient City government.

Renewable Energy

Intro. 381 – Citing Survey of City Facilities for Renewable Energy

This bill surveys City-owned facilities and property for their clean on-site energy generation applicability. There are many opportunities within city-owned and operated facilities to deploy renewable and clean energy systems. Such systems include solar panels for large roofs, fuels cells that run on waste gases at sewage facilities or natural gas in large buildings, co-generation, even wind turbines at select locations could be viable alternative energy generators. These systems will help the city save money in energy operating costs, reduce air pollution, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. This bill gives policy makers the knowledge about what is possible on city government property.

***Note: Intro 381 includes recommendations on natural gas turbines which is not a solution supported by the signatories to this issue briefing. It is recommended that this legislation be amended to remove those clauses that promote the expanded use of natural gas microturbines.

Intro. 546 – Renewable Portfolio Standard

This bill requires the City government to purchase increasing amounts of its electricity from clean and green renewable sources to 30% by 2020. The City of New York uses approximately 4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, much of it produced within the five boroughs, translating directly into greater local pollution. As a result of using old technologies, power plants contribute to respiratory disease, heart disease, smog, acid rain, and climate change. Creating a clean power requirement, means an increasing amount of our electricity will come from more sustainable sources that do not make people sick and pollute our environment.