

FOR THE RECORD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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TESTIMONY OF DANIEL ZARRILLI BEFORE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION September 4, 2014

Thank you to Chairman Richards for convening this hearing and to the organizers behind "The People's Climate March" who are helping to create public awareness around climate change, which has been called the crisis of this century. My name is Daniel Zarrilli, director of the Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR) and acting director of the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability (OLTPS), and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Administration.

No one city alone can stop climate change, but New York City understands that by taking a leadership role in this fight, we can demonstrate an effective path toward controlling carbon emissions and preparing the city for the risks of the future. Effectively combating climate change begins with understanding the true risks based on the best available science. That is why the city organized and launched the New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC), a group of the region's pre-eminent climate scientists, to advise the City on the local impact of global climate changes. The NPCC released initial recommendations in 2009 and was reconvened after Sandy to provide the best-available projections, which paint a vivid picture of the risks we can expect into the middle of the century and even out to 2100.

For example, high-end estimates put sea level rise at 2.5 feet by the 2050s and as high as 6.25 feet by 2100. To put things into focus, within forty years, the population of New Yorkers living in the 100-year floodplain will have doubled from almost 400,000 to almost 800,000 people. On top of this, billions of dollars of City and public assets are at risk, such as public transit facilities, the electric grid, wastewater treatment plants, and other vital infrastructure. Based on an analysis undertaken by the City, a storm that causes \$19 billion in damages and lost economic activity, as Sandy did, is going to become 40% more likely in the 2050s due to climate change. Even more striking is that a Sandy-like storm in the future could instead cause \$90 billion worth of damages and lost economic activity in the 2050s.

And as we know from the NPCC, we don't just have to worry about coastal storms. An entire range of climate risks – heat waves, intense precipitation, and wind – pose threats and must be addressed. Clearly, Sandy is not the only type of risk for which the city needs to prepare. It is also important to note that while these environmental risks impact communities across all socioeconomic categories, it is our most vulnerable – senior citizens, the medically infirm, and low- and middle- income families - who feel these impacts the hardest. It is for this reason that this Administration must address climate change as it also seeks to create a more equitable and affordable city for all New Yorkers.

Thanks to the effort of hundreds of organizations, thousands of volunteers and the support of the New York City Council, the City of New York has been a global leader in addressing climate change. This Administration will continue to lead the way. Mayor Bill de Blasio established ORR, the first office of its kind, this year in order to ensure that, as the city is rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy, the rebuilding is being done to reduce the long-term risks of climate change. Hurricane Sandy exposed how vulnerable our city is to the effects of severe weather and climate change, and

ORR is leading the City's efforts to prepare for the future. At the same time, the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability is taking significant steps to reduce the carbon emissions that are causing that change.

In cooperation with all agencies, the City is taking action to reduce carbon emissions and pollution. DEP introduced changes to the air code to reduce air pollution, a major threat to public health and the City will work with the City Council to pass those changes this Fall. The City is also pursuing major investments in green infrastructure, such as building out bioswales, vegetation plantings that absorm stormwater, and expanding Bluebelts, both strategies which utilize natural resources to absorb and manage stormwater and reduce flood risk. This Administration has expanded the Clean Heat program with new funds because, although it achieved strong success in converting the top polluting buildings to a cleaner fuel, there remain many polluting buildings in vulnerable neighborhoods of Upper Manhattan and the Bronx and this Administration intends to correct that.

This year DOT is on pace to add over 58 bike lane miles to the network, one of the largest single year expansions in history. The expansion reflects a partnership with local communities, particularly in Brownsville/East New York in Brooklyn, Long Island City and Ridgewood in Queens, and Washington Heights in upper Manhattan, where DOT and community stakeholders have worked closely for months to identify over 25 miles of new bike infrastructure for these neighborhoods, promoting cleaner transportation options.

The City is also leading the way in renewable energy, by installing solar arrays on City-owned buildings throughout New York and advancing a solar power system on the site of the former Fresh Kills landfill in Staten Island that will increase the City's renewable energy capacity by 50 per cent.

And one of the major challenges New York City faces to mitigate climate change is making the buildings we live and work in more energy efficient. New York City has nearly one million buildings and, as the most recent greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory of this city indicated, 71 per cent of the GHG emissions produced come from our buildings. Reducing this impact will require nothing short of transformation of the city's building stock, including both municipal buildings and privately-owned buildings.

We commend the Council and the coalition of building stakeholders for their continuing effort to promote green practices for large buildings and new construction. However, it is clear that our next frontier will be to dramatically expand energy efficiency for existing buildings in all boroughs and of every type and wealth level, particularly multifamily buildings – something we've taken initial steps on by expanding the NYC Carbon Challenge. The Carbon Challenge, a program where building owners pledge to reduce building-based emissions by 30%, originally targeted universities and hospitals but has been expanded to include multifamily buildings. By investing in efficiency we will not only reduce energy costs and promote affordability, but create economic opportunities for thousands of New Yorkers looking for jobs and a way to expand their skillsets.

From Far Rockaway to Harlem and all neighborhoods in between we have seen the powerful impact community advocates can have to address climate change and applaud the effort of the People's Climate March to bring this conversation to a global stage. Here at home, New Yorkers understand the need to act, but need guidance from their leaders and the right tools to bring about change. In the coming months, we will be making announcements that further deepen our commitment to climate change. Together, we can all be a part of the effort to build a greener- and more resilient New York.

New York City Chapter

AGREE – NYC Alliance for a Green Economy

AGREE-NYC is a coalition of New York City-based organizations working to create a sustainable, renewable energy future for New York City. AGREE-NYC works closely with AGREE NY to promote this sustainable energy future for all of New York State, which we hope will serve as a model for the rest of the country.

AGREE-NYC's primary focus is securing a carbon-free, nuclear-free energy future, predicated on the closure of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant-located just 35 miles north of midtown Manhattan on the Hudson River. One of the reactors at Indian Point is operating under an expired license, while the other reactor's license is set to expire in 2015. Their owner, Entergy Corporation, is seeking 20-year extensions to continue running the plant. Indian Point is 40 years old, is built on top of two intersecting fault lines, has the highest earthquake risk of any plant in the country, puts over 20 million people and their water supply at great risk, and has been granted many exceptions to safety regulations over the years so that it could continue to operate. What's more, the power generated from Indian Point is not only not necessary for the NYC region's electricity supply, but standing directly in the way of a full transition to renewable energy. AGREE-NYC wants Indian Point closed immediately and a safe decommissioning plan to be enacted, while NYC invests in renewable energy solutions that do not pollute or endanger our communities. A copy of our City Council Resolution is enclosed.

Indian Point can be replaced entirely with green energy at virtually additional cost, and powered by renewable energy by 2030. Most importantly for NYC, CUNY published a report in 2011 showing that the city has enough solar energy potential on our rooftops to generate half of our electricity on the hottest summer day – nearly three times as much energy as Indian Point generates.

Mayor deBlasio should lead the way in making our city's energy supply safe clean, and secure starting with the closure of Indian Point and replacing it with solar power and other green energy solution. By capitalizing on NYC's renewable energy potential (see CUNY report), we could build a truly green economy, create thousands of jobs, replace Indian Point, and reduce fossil fuel emissions. For more information or to contact solutions at virtually AGREE-NYC, please email us at nyc@allianceforagreeneconomy.org.

Alliance for a Green Economy www.agreenewyork.org

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Ten Reasons NOT to Grant Indian Point's License Renewal

- The lifespan of a nuclear power plant is 40 years IP's reactors are 38 and 40 years old. Fukushima was scheduled to shut down in early 2011, just weeks before the catastrophic earthquake that destroyed it; policy makers had granted the plant a ten-year extension.
- 2. The 1,500 tons of spent fuel stored at IP is vulnerable to terrorist attack as well as system failure that could as it did in Fukushima spread enormous amounts of highly radioactive materials through the air, water, and soil. Radioactive contaminants (Strontium-90, Cesium-137, and tritium) have been leaking from IP's spent fuel pools into the groundwater and the Hudson River since the 1990's.
- 3. IP is located on two active earthquake fault lines; reactor 3 was rated by the NRC as the least likely of all 104 operating nuclear reactors in the U.S. to survive an earthquake with its core intact.
- 4. IP's evacuation zone covers only a 10-mile radius; the NRC warned American citizens to stay at least 50 miles away from the Fukushima- Daiichi Nuclear power plant due to risk of radiation exposure. IP's 10-mile plan was called "inadequate" by a 2003 report commissioned by then-Governor Pataki.
- 5. There are **FOUR** major cities within 50 miles of IP: New York, Newark, Stamford, and Bridgeport 20 Million people live within this 50 mile-radius.
- 6. IP has a poor safety record, despite many safety exemptions granted by the NRC. Currently, the plant does not meet more than 100 federal fire safety standards and has suffered serious deterioration (including corroded piping, leaking spent fuel pools and exploding transformers) during its 40-year operating life.
- 7. Hudson River water used in the cooling process at IP kills over one billion fish and other aquatics annually.
- 8. Alternative energy projects already slated to come online in the near future will easily replace the electricity IP provides the local grid. Coupled with conservation measures and upgrades to existing transmission lines, IP's electricity is unnecessary to power our area.
- 9. An immediate shutdown to IP would cause **NO** immediate energy shortage the NYS Independent System Operator has said that even if IP were closed tomorrow, there would be enough surplus power in our area to meet demand through 2020.
- 10. One of New York City's drinking water reservoirs lies 15 miles from Indian Point; 9 million people depend on the safety of that water supply every day.

NYC COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO SHUT DOWN INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND CREATE JOBS BY DEVELOPING GREEN ENERGY SOURCES IN NEW YORK CITY

WHEREAS, the City University of New York reported in 2011ⁱ that two-thirds of the buildings in New York City have roof space suitable for generating electricity with solar panels, and that the city could supply half of its peak electricity needs with solar energy, for a total of 5,847 mega-watts (MW) of electricity, ii and the October 2011 report by Synapse Energy Economics, Indian Point Energy Center Nuclear Plant Retirement Analysis, iii found that "energy efficiency resources, beyond those currently planned for, could provide as much as 1,570 MW of capacity savings in the Indian Point region," and

WHEREAS, the October 2012 Synapse Energy Economics report, Indian Point Replacement Analysis: A Clean Energy Roadmap, iv confirms that all of the electricity generated by the Indian Point Nuclear Plant can easily and affordably be replaced by energy efficiency improvements and green energy sources, and

WHEREAS, the 2011 and 2012 Synapse Energy Economics report and the New York State Assembly committees on Energy and Corporations^v have concluded that, not only is New York City not dependent on the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant for our electricity supply, but that the scheduled retirement of the reactors in 2013 and 2015 can proceed without posing any immediate risk of electricity shortages or major electricity cost increases in the downstate New York region, and

WHEREAS, the August 2012 Final Draft report to the State Energy Planning Board on the reliability of the state's electricity transmission and distribution system was approved and confirmed the Synapse report's and Assembly committees' conclusions that Indian Point is not needed for New York City's energy supply, finding that New York "has robust planning and regulatory processes" that

i City University of New York. New York City Solar Map. June 2011. http://www.nycsolarmap.

ii Navarro, Mireya. "Mapping Sun's Potential to Power New York." New York Times, June 16,

^{2011.} http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/16/science/earth/16solar.html? r=1

iii Woolf, Tim, Matt Wittenstein, and Bob Fagan. "Indian Point Energy Center Nuclear Plant Retirement Analysis: Replacement Options, Reliability Issues, and Economic Effects." Synapse Energy Economics. Cambridge, Massachusetts. October 17, 2011. Available at http://www.riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Synapse-Report-Energy-alternatives-to-Indian-Point-10-17-11.pdf

iv Woolf, Tim, et al. "Indian Point Replacement Analysis: A Clean Energy Roadmap: A Proposal for Replacing the Nuclear Plant with Clean, Sustainable Energy Resources." Synapse Energy Economics. Cambridge, Massachusetts. October 11, 2012. Available at: http://www.riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Synapse-Indian-Point-Replacement-Study-10-11.pdf

v New York Assembly member James F. Brennan and New York Assembly member Kevin A. Cahill. "Assembly Committees' Preliminary Findings Show Indian Point Can Be Shut Down: Proper planning would allow Indian Point to close with little impact on ratepayers and reliability." February 1, 2012. Available at http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/James-F-Brennan/story/46159/ Also available at http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Kevin-A-Cahill/story/46160/

would prevent the closure of Indian Point from creating a serious electricity deficiency, and that "over 11,000 MW of new generation, dedicated transmission, and other upgrades could be applied toward a replacement for Indian Point," a pool of replacement options totaling more than ten times the possible deficit that may result from the closure of both Indian Point reactors, and

WHEREAS, a Stanford University study co-authored by Mark Jacobson finds that it is technically and economically feasible to convert New York's all-purpose energy infrastructure to one powered by wind, water and sunlight by 2030^{vii}, and realizing the city's potential for reducing energy consumption and generating clean, renewable energy would more than compensate for the electricity supplied by Indian Point, create thousands of jobs, viii lower electricity costs for New York City ratepayers, in and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, thereby strengthening the city's economy and creating new industries while improving air quality and reducing major health problems affecting city residents, such as asthma and other respiratory conditions and heart disease, and

WHEREAS, the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant, with two aging reactors and two spent fuel pools packed well above design capacity, is only twenty-five miles north of New York City, in and New York City lies both downstream and downwind of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant, and all five boroughs of New York City lie in whole or in part within fifty miles of the reactors at Indian Point, and the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) advised all United States citizens within fifty miles of Fukushima to evacuate the area, if yet Entergy Corporation, the owner and operator of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant, does not have, and NRC does not require, an

vi New York Independent System Operator. "Final Draft: New York State's Transmission and Distribution Systems Reliability Study and Report." August 30, 2012. pp. 84-85.

vii http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/NewYorkWWSEnPolicy.pdf

wiii Max Wei, Shana Patadia, and Daniel M. Kammena. "Putting renewables and energy efficiency to work: How many jobs can the clean energy industry generate in the US?" Energy Policy 38 (2010): 919–931. Available at: http://rael.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/WeiPatadiaKammen_CleanEnergyJobs_EPolicy2010.pdf

ix Farrell, John. "How Distributed Solar Can Reduce Electricity Prices." Clean Technica, February 13, 2012. Available at: http://cleantechnica.com/2012/02/13/how-distributed-solar-can-reduce-electricity-prices/

^x Risnit, Michael. "Indian Point readies shift of spent fuel: IP3 refueling requires transfer to IP2 pool; appproval took 3 years." The Journal News. July 19, 2012. Available

 $at\ http://www.lohud.com/article/20120719/NEWS02/307190050/Indian-Point-readies-shift-spent-fuel-IP3-refueling-requires-transfer-IP2-pool-appproval-took-3-years$

xi Applebome, Peter. "Living With a Nuclear Question Mark in the Backyard." New York Times. March 16, 2011. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/17/nyregion/17towns.html

xii Vastag, Brian, Rick Maese, and David A. Fahrenthold. "U.S. urges Americans within 50 miles of Japanese nuclear plant to evacuate; NRC chief outlines dangerous situation." Washington Post. March 16, 2011. Available at http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/us-urges-americans-within-50-miles-of-japanese-nuclear-plant-to-evacuate/2011/03/16/ABwTmha story.html

emergency response plan that includes the evacuation of New York City and other areas within fifty miles of Indian Point in the case of a nuclear accident, xiii and

WHEREAS, the potential for severe radioactive contamination of New York City from an accident at Indian Point poses unacceptable risks of widespread and serious harm to New York City residents^{xiv}, ranging from chronic diseases and cancer^{xv}, to birth defects and infant mortality^{xvi}, and an accident at Indian Point could result in economic impacts^{xvii} and property losses^{xviii} that would be devastating not only to New York City and the surrounding area, but to the region and nation as a whole, and possibly the world, given our unique role within the national and global economy, and

WHEREAS, the March 2011 nuclear accidents at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan demonstrate the potential for catastrophic accidents at nuclear power stations and reinforce the need to take seriously the risks posed by those facilities^{xix}, and the Japanese government has admitted that estimates of the amount of radiation released during the accidents and the weeks afterward were much greater than originally announced^{xx}; and radiological releases from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant continue more than two years after the accidents began^{xxi}; and further catastrophic releases of radioactivity are still anticipated due to potential damage to the plant's spent fuel pools^{xxii}, and high levels of radioactive contamination from the Fukushima

xiii James Lee Witt Associates, LLC. Review of Emergency Preparedness of Areas Adjacent to Indian Point and Millstone. New York Power Authority. January 10, 2003. Applebome, Peter. "Fukushima, Indian Point and Fantasy." New York Times. March 20, 2011. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/21/nyregion/21towns.html xiv Natural Resource Defense Council. "Energy Facts. Nuclear Accident at Indian Point: Consequences and Costs." Available at http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear/indianpoint/files/NRDC-1336_Indian_Point_FSr8medium.pdf

xv Weathers, Cliff. "Study: Indian Point Threatens Water Supply." Nyack News & Views, February 2, 2012. Available at http://www.nyacknewsandviews.com/2012/02/cw_indianpoint201202/

xvi Riverkeeper. "Radioactive Waste and Pollution." Available at http://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/stop-polluters/indian-point/radioactive-waste/
xvii NRDC. Op Cit vii

xviii Nuclear Information and Resource Service. "Impact of a Meltdown at Nuclear Plant: Consequences of Reactor Accident (CRAC-2) Report – NRC & Sandia Studied Meltdowns/Risks at US Nuclear Plants in 1982." Available at http://www.nirs.org/reactorwatch/accidents/crac2.pdf

xix Greenpeace. "Fukushima nuclear crisis." February 2012, Available

at http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/publications/nuclear/2012/Fukushima/Fact%20Shee ts/Fukushima%20Nuclear%20Crisis.pdf + BBC News Asia. "Fukushima report: Key points in nuclear disaster report." July 5, 2012. Available at http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18718486

xx Democracy Now! "Japan Admits 3 Nuclear Meltdowns, More Radiation Leaked into Sea; U.S. Nuclear Waste Poses Deadly Risks." June 10, 2011. Available

at www.democracynow.org/2011/6/10/as japan nuclear crisis worsens citizen

xxi Xaykaothao, Doualy. "With Radiation, Doubt Grows in Fukushima Farms." NPR, March 7, 2012. Available at http://www.npr.org/2012/03/08/148183579/with-radiation-doubt-grows-in-fukushima-farms + Buesseler, Ken. "What Fukushima accident did to the ocean." CNN, March 11, 2012. Available at http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/10/opinion/buesseler-fukushima-ocean/index.html

xxii Hiroko Tabuchi. "Spent Fuel Rods Drive Growing Fear Over Plant in Japan." New York Times, May 26, 2012. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/27/world/asia/concerns-grow-about-spent-fuel-rods-at-damaged-nuclear-plant-in-japan.html?pagewanted=all

accidents has been deposited in towns and cities many miles from the plant^{xciii}, as far away as Tokyo^{xxiv}, 140 miles away, with a metropolitan area population of 34,300,000, and

WHEREAS, twenty-seven years after the Number Four reactor exploded at the Chernobyl nuclear complex in Ukraine, the region surrounding the plant is still declared uninhabitable and will be so for many more decades, xxv and areas far away from Chernobyl in Belarus, Eastern Europe, Germany, and the United Kingdom were contaminated with fallout from the accident in the levels that have required restrictions on food xxvii and animal products for decades after the accident, xxix and the New York Academy of Sciences published a report in 2009 that estimates one million people have died as a result of cancer and other illnesses resulting from radioactive contamination released by the Chernobyl accident, xxx and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory published a report that stated, "Indian Point is situated at the intersection of the two most striking linear features marking the seismicity and also in the midst of a large population that is at risk in case of an accident to the plants. This is clearly one of the least favorable sites in our study area from an earthquake

xxiii Hiroko Tabuchi. "Japanese Officials Failed to Use U.S. Data Tracking Radiation After Tsunami." New York Times, June 19, 2012. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/20/world/asia/japan-did-not-use-us-radiation-data.html

xxiv CNN. "Radiation spikes in Tokyo neighborhood, officials say." October 13, 2011. Available at http://edition.cnn.com/2011/10/13/world/asia/japan-radiation/index.html?hpt=hp_t2 +Hiroko Tabuchi. "Citizens' Testing Finds 20 Hot Spots Around Tokyo." New York Times, Oct. 15, 2011, Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/15/world/asia/radioactive-hot-spots-in-tokyo-point-to-wider-problems.html?pagewanted=all.

xxv Madrigal, Alexis. "Chernobyl Exclusion Zone Radioactive Longer Than Expected." Wired Magazine. December 15, 2009. Available at http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2009/12/chernobyl-soil/. Citing: Ivanov, Yu. A., V.A. Kashparov, et al. "Long-Term Dynamics of Radionuclides Vertical Migration in Soils of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Exclusion Zone." AGU 2009 poster session.

xxvi Busby, Christopher C. "Very Low Dose Fetal Exposure to Chernobyl Contamination Resulted in Increases in Infant Leukemia in Europe and Raises Questions about Current Radiation Risk Models." International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2009 December; 6(12): 3105–3114. Available at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2800337/#b1-ijerph-06-03105

xxvii Der Spiegel. "Looking Back at Chernobyl: In Germany, Fears of Food Contamination." April 19, 2006. Available at http://www.spiegel.de/international/spiegel/looking-back-at-chernobyl-in-germany-fears-of-food-contamination-a-411272.html

at http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/9156393/Chernobyl-sheep-movement-restrictions-finally-lifted.html axix Fairlie, Iain, and David Sumner. The Other Report on Chernobyl (TORCH): An Independent Scientific Evaluation of Health and Environmental Effects Twenty Years After the Nuclear Disaster Providing Critical Analysis of a Recent Report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Altner Combecher Foundation, Berlin, April 2006. Available at http://www.chernobylreport.org/?p=summary xxx Yablokov, Alexey V., et al. Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences. Volume 1181, December 2009. Available at http://www.nyas.org/publications/annals/Detail.aspx?cid=f3f3bd16-51ba-4d7b-a086-753f44b3bfc1 Full repot available at http://www.strahlentelex.de/Yablokov%20Chernobyl%20book.pdf

hazard and risk perspective; xxxii' and independent analysis of data from a 2010 US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) report shows that Indian Point reactor 3 has the highest risk of earthquake damage of the 104 active US nuclear reactors xxxii, and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has precluded concerns arising from new scientific evidence^{xxxxiii} that the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant was built within a mile of the intersection of the Ramapo Fault Line and the Stamford-Peekskill Fault Line from being considered in relation to extending operating licenses for the reactors, and

WHEREAS, there is no repository or long-term storage solution for Indian Point's highly-radioactive spent fuel, and Indian Point's spent fuel storage pools are already overfilled with spent fuel rods from the last 40 years of operations and contain enough radioactive material to render an area the size of New York State uninhabitable for decades, and Indian Point's spent fuel pools, located in vulnerable storage buildings are also leaking radioactive water into the ground and the Hudson Riverxxxiv, and

WHEREAS, the 9/11 Commission Report noted that Al Qaeda had considered a New York City area nuclear power plant as a potential target, when it planned the attack on the World Trade Towers^{XXXV},

WHEREAS, in 2003, Governor Pataki commissioned emergency preparedness expert and former Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, James Lee Witt, to assess the possibility of evacuation from the 10-mile evacuation zone, and the Witt Report determined that most of the

xxxi Lynn R. Sykes, John G. Armbruster, Won-Young Kim, and Leonardo Seeber. "Observations and Tectonic Setting of Historic and Instrumentally Located Earthquakes in the Greater New York City-Philadelphia Area." Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, Vol. 98, No. 4, pp. 1696–1719, August 2008. Available at http://www.earth.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/pressreleases/1696.pdf

xxxii Dedman, Bill. "US Nuke Plants Ranked by Quake Risk." NBC News New York, March 16, 2011. Available at http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/US_nuke_plants_ranked_by_quake_risk-118071354.html +Data: Hiland, Patrick. "Safety/Risk Assessment Results for Generic Issue 199, 'Implications of Updated Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Estimates in Central and Eastern United States on Existing Plants'." September 2, 2010. Available at http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/msnbc/Sections/NEWS/quake%20nrc%20risk%20estimates.pdf

exxiii Sykes, Lynn R., et al. "Observations and Tectonic Setting of Historic and Instrumentally Located Earthquakes in the Greater New York City-Philadelphia Area." Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America. Vol. 98, No. 4, pp. 1696–1719. August 2008, doi: 10.1785/0120070167. Available at http://www.earth.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/pressreleases/1696.pdf

xxxiv Clearwater. "As NRC Acknowledges Spent Fuel Dangers, Defers Relicensing Decisions, Clearwater Files Contention on Unsafe On-Site Storage of Indian Point Spent Fuel." August 27, 2012. Available at: http://www.clearwater.org/latest-news/as-nrc-acknowledges-spent-fuel-dangers-defers-relicensing-decisions-clearwater-files-contention-on-unsafe-on-site-storage-of-indian-point-spent-fuel/

xxxv Rabin, Kyle. "9/11 Report Reveals Al Qaeda Ringleader Contemplated a NY-area Nuclear Power Plant as a Potential Target." Energy Bulletin, July 25, 2004. Available at: http://www.energybulletin.net/node/1243

Indian Point evacuation plan was "inadequatexxxvi," yet the NRC and FEMA simply reduced the evacuation plan to a 2-5-mile wedge in the direction of the plumexxxvii, and

WHEREAS, The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted a special exemption to the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant in New York, allowing it to become the first reactor in the nation to generate electricity with an expired operating license as of September, 28, 2013xxxviii and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff have increasingly granted Entergy additional exemptions from the Indian Point reactors' licensing design bases, a practice that is not authorized by either the Atomic Energy Act or Congressxxxix; in fact, this practice is in direct contradiction to the "Sholly Amendment," which requires that any modification or change of the nuclear license be authorized through an amendment process involving public notice and an opportunity to request hearingsxi; the NRC's misuse of exemptions subverts this important requirement for transparency and has significantly reduced safety standards and required inspections, and

WHEREAS, for the past few years, Clearwater, Riverkeeper, and New York State have pursued legal cases surrounding Entergy's application to relicense Indian Point to operate for another 20 years^{xli}, a facility where one reactor has already reached the end of the 40-year lifespan that it was designed for; with a track record of leaks^{xlii} and transformer explosions^{xliii}, relicensing Indian Point poses an undue risk to the residents of New York City and the surrounding region, and there are much cleaner, safer, readily available sources of energy^{xliv}, as well as long-overdue upgrades and

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xxxvi James Lee Witt Associates, LLC. 2003. "Review of Emergency Preparedness of Areas Adjacent to Indian Point and Millstone." Prepared for the Power Authority of the State of New York under Contract for New York State Nuclear Plan Review, 4500058472. Available at http://www.riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Final-Witt-Report-issued-03-07-03.pdf

xxxvii Kevin McMahon and Joe Jones. "Staged Evacuation." Nuclear Energy & Global Security Technologies, National Evacuation Conference. NNSA & Sandia National Laboratories, February 2012. PowerPoint presentation available

xl 463 U.S. 1224. 103 S.Ct. 3560. 77 L.Ed.2d 1407. UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION et al., petitioners, v. Steven SHOLLY et al. No. 80-1640. Available at: http://openjurist.org/463/us/1224/united-states-nuclear-regulatory-commission-v-sholly

xli Clearwater. "Indian Point Campaign Documents and Filings." Available at http://www.clearwater.org/ea/indian-point-campaign/ip-documents-and-filings/ +Riverkeeper. "Power Plant Cases." Available at http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news/stop-polluters/power-plant-cases/

xlii Clearwater. "Environmental Advocacy: Key Points made by Panelists and Presenters at Indian Point Technical Briefing and Round Table." March 2, 2007. Available at http://www.clearwater.org/ea/indian-point-campaign/environmental-advocacy/

Wald, Matthew M. "Indian Point Reactor Shut Down After Transformer Blast." New York Times, November 8, 2010. Available at http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/09/nyregion/09nuke.html

xliv NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. "Renewable Energy." Available at http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/40899.html

maintenance to our energy infrastructure and efficiency measures that would support generating power cleanly, safely and sustainably from renewable sources^{xiv}, and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the New York City Council strongly urges the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, President Obama, Congress, Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio and the New York State Legislature to make sure that, in the wake of the nuclear disasters in Japan, Indian Point is closed and decommissioned as soon as possible and not relicensed, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New York City Council expresses urgency in the city's pursuit of policies and programs that will enable the city to maximize its use of solar and wind energy, energy efficiency, and other renewable forms of electricity generation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, President Obama, Congress, Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio and the New York State Legislature.

xlv The New NY Agenda: Power NY. 2010. Available online at http://www.andrewcuomo.com/system/storage/6/89/e/798/andrew_cuomo_power_ny.pdf

Testifying to the City Council on Resolution to support the People's Climate March - 9/4/14

Congratulations and thank you to Chairman Richards and all the members of this committee for your leadership on environmental sustainability and quality of life for all of us who live in and love New York City. I join with others here today to urge the Council to pass the resolution before us, to support the People's Climate March, and, as well, to promote and invite your constituencies, friends and neighbors. I hope you'll join us on Sept. 21st as we walk through our beautiful New York City streets and avenues in a moment of bonding and empowerment.

I'm a member of 350NYC, our local chapter of 350.org, and the People's Climate March Host Committee, working as a volunteer since the beginning of the year to help make this mobilization a historic and transformative moment. We see it not as a one-off event, but as the beginning of an urban and global movement of civic leaders and citizens working together over the next months and years on behalf of climate change and environmental justice. On September 21st, I will be walking, not as I, but as WE.

It's predicted that 80 percent of the world's population will be living in cities by the middle and end of this century. 80 percent of emissions come from cities. When city governments and leaders take action to curb emissions, to lower their footprint, and encourage and invite their citizens to participate in that mission, it makes a powerful difference. When cities act in tandem with each other, around the world, sharing resources and ideas, it has the potential for creating the kind of global effect that we are all seeking. The New York City Council is a leader in that global network of cities that can make environmental sustainability and climate justice in all of our communities an actuality and a common way of life.

The first time I came to a City Council meeting like this was several years ago where I heard among many powerful and aspirational messages a presentation by SUNY researchers and scientists about building a structure for managing water and sea level rise in NYC based on Dutch engineering models that have been used in cities like Amsterdam and Rotterdam and their outlying farmlands for many generations. At the time, their proposal, at a cost of 100 billion dollars, seemed prohibitive. And yet, less than two years later, their predictions about potential weather effects and damage in New York City came true with Superstorm Sandy. With its \$60 billion cleanup bill, suddenly the 100 billion dollars in preventative action seemed like a bargain.

I believe we are living in a most exciting time, a historic moment in human history – the beginning of the 21st century. We who are alive today are witnessing a transformation in how human beings live on earth. In no small part this is the result of the urgency and inevitability of catastrophic change in nature if we continue living as a global community with our current value system.

You all know, as members of this important council committee, that in your discussions on sustainability, you are being asked to think ahead 5, 15, 30, 50, 100 years from now. To think,

not only with good judgement and logic, but also with imagination and empathy, fueled by facts and witnessing. What will NYC and the world look like in the future? You have willing and supportive partners in this effort. And we'll all be gathering together on September 21st. We're all in it together.

All of us who are concerned about Climate Change and the effects on the lives of our children and grandchildren are learning to think in this way toward a future we will never see. I believe that all of us, legislators and citizens alike, must be willing to change — to see the world and ourselves and our needs in it in a different way — a way that is about interdependence, not independence — sharing, not owning — sustainability, not flagrant, wasteful consumerism. We must be guardians of our home, our earth, in order to protect all citizens. We are caretakers, not profiteers.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Sincerely,

Leah Barber

350NYC

People's Climate March Host Committee

370 Riverside Drive New York, NY 10025 leahbarber@hotmail.com

c: 732 742 1523

September 4, 2014, Public Hearing on the People's Climate March resolution:

"The September People's Climate March and the United Nations Climate Summit: Can Unity between People and Policy makers promote global agreement on Climate Change in 2015?"

My name is Lisa DiCaprio. I am a Clinical Associate Professor of Social Sciences at NYU. I am a member of 350NYC and the Sierra Club and am helping to organize the People's Climate March.

I would like to thank Councilman Donovan Richards for serving as the prime sponsor of this resolution in support of the People's Climate March and to express my appreciation for the Committee on Environmental Protection's broad spectrum of environmental initiatives which include measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We can unite the people and policy makers to support a global climate treaty if we:

- Emphasize the social and economic benefits of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- Promote a vision of climate justice that is local and global in scope.

The UN will only succeed in negotiating a new global climate treaty by the conclusion of 2015 if the U.S. makes an ambitious commitment to the reduction of U.S. emissions based on a recognition of its historic responsibility for one-quarter of all global greenhouse gas emissions since the Industrial Revolution.

Today, the U.S. is one of 12 countries that produce 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. In 2011, for which the most recent data is available from the International Energy Agency (IEA), U.S. emissions comprised 5.5 gigatons of the 32.6 gigatons of global greenhouse gas emissions or about one sixth of the total. Although China is now the world's largest emitter with 8.7 gigatons, and must be included in a new global treaty, U.S. emissions per capita exceed those of China. (Of the 5.5. gigatons, 2.8 gigatons were from electrical power plants and 1.9 gigatons from vehicle tailpipe emissions.)

Moreover, if every country were to adopt the average American lifestyle with its accompanying ecological footprint, we would require the equivalent of four to five planets of resources.

Government policies, mandates, and incentives at all levels of government and in all institutions, civil as well as corporate, must aim to achieve <u>one planet living</u>.

As Christiana Figueres, the executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, stated in an interview in the March 15, 2014 issue of the New Scientist, "We have to get to the point where each individual, each corporation, each community chooses low carbon, because it makes fundamental sense."

What does this mean for us in NYC? Currently, two-thirds of our electricity is generated by natural gas plants within NYC. We must phase out rather than build-out the natural gas infrastructure.

Here are several proposals for reducing our reliance on fossil fuels:

With regard to buildings, which represent 79% of all greenhouse gas emissions in NYC, we can:

- (1) Carry out energy audits on all city buildings to ensure that they have proper insulation.
- (2) Improve NYC building codes for efficiency.
- (3) Provide energy audits funded by NYSERDA for all NYC property owners and property tax credits for implementing recommendations made by the audit.
- (4) Require all new buildings in NYC to meet Passive House certification, an energy efficiency standard requiring a virtually airtight building envelope which dramatically reduces energy use for heating and cooling.
- (5) Mandate the DEP to include information about energy conservation, efficiency, renewable energy, and green power purchasing in all water bills sent to building owners. As a result of New York State's deregulated electricity market, institutions and individuals can obtain 100% of their electricity from renewable sources.

With regard to the People's Climate March, we can call on NYC government officials to publicize the march on their websites. Members of the City Council and our borough presidents, in particular, could also include a new, green page on their websites with suggestions for how we can conserve resources and promote sustainability. Recommendations could be provided on a regular basis in newsletters to constituents.

Finally, NYC should join the existing, global Go 100% Renewable Energy campaign which encompasses cities, regions, and even entire countries. As we cannot generate all of the electricity that we consume within NYC, this

commitment may be achieved with a combination of on-site generation and green power purchasing. [See: http://www.go100percent.org/cms]

In conclusion, the People's Climate March provides an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate that we are responding, <u>as global citizens</u>, to demands for a new climate treaty.

It is a cruel paradox that the nations which have contributed the least to the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are being affected the most dramatically by climate change.

However, Super Storm Sandy has shown us that climate change impacts do not respect international boundaries. As Mohammed Nasheed, the former president of the Maldives, a low-lying nation in the Indian Ocean, reminded us at a 2011 NYC screening of The Island President: "Remember. You, too, live on an island."

Statement in support of Res 0356-2014 by Robert Friedman, NRDC

Chairman Donovan J. Richards, members of the Committee on Environmental Protection, thank you for this opportunity to speak here today. My name is Robert Friedman and I am the Youth Engagement Coordinator for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) based here in New York City. I'm here on behalf of NRDC to enthusiastically support this resolution, recognizing the dangers of climate change and publicly endorsing the Peoples Climate March.

I have been working on issues around the climate crisis for much of my life. It has never been the most uplifting subject, but recently, I've been feeling a renewed sense of commitment to the cause. Here's why. In the groundswell of organizing that is taking place around the world to recruit people to come to New York for the Peoples Climate March, the movement for climate justice is beginning to look a lot more like what many of our own communities can and should look like: racially, politically and socioeconomically diverse, strong, resilient and powerful. Organized labor is at the table. Local, national and international environmental and social justice groups are at the table. People of faith, the LGTBQ community, young people, old people and everyone in between, they're all at this table. It's an honor to be there with them.

I wanted to share with you all a story from a young woman I just had the pleasure to meet. Afsana Akter recently graduated from Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies in Council Member Lander's district. She'd be here with me today but she is just beginning her freshman year at Barnard. She's a passionate student leader with the Alliance for Climate Education and most recently participated in a week long Climate Action Institute as part of a Climate Action

Statement in support of Res 0356-2014 by Robert Friedman, NRDC

Fellowship with the Alliance for Climate Education and Global Kids. The following is her explanation as to why the March is so important:

"I am originally from Bangladesh. In my life, I have been through hurricanes that snapped the old mango tree next to my house, and blew off many people's tin roofs and left them bare. I have been through floods that leveled the rice paddies and ponds and water that reached my knees. However, I have never been through anything as intense as Hurricane Sandy. Although Sandy lasted a few days, it is still affecting all of us today. After 14 months, the MTA is still working to fix the damage that was caused by this storm. People who lost their loved ones still hurt today.

By seeing what has happened and what is still happening due to climate change, I am motivated to join the People's Climate March.

I am tired of people taking climatic issues lightly and thinking that ignoring them will somehow vanish them. I am frustrated that some states have banned and are still working to ban climate science in schools.

The future belongs to not only us, but also those who come after us.

If we don't make any noise now, it will be too late when something worse than Hurricane Sandy hits us."

A movement of this size and depth is new for this cause, but it is exactly what is needed to win the future we want and need. Fundamentally, climate change is an issue of intergenerational and social justice. The People's Climate March is an opportunity for all of us to come together under a single banner of demanding climate justice now.

Statement in support of Res 0356-2014 by Robert Friedman, NRDC

Climate change has and will devastate many communities, here in New York

City and beyond, but if there's anything positive about it, it has the ability to bring us

all together. That's exactly what's going to happen on September 21st. Thank you

for all that you do and I hope I will see you at the Peoples Climate March.



Committee on Environmental Protection Hearing NYC Council Chambers, City Hall Thursday, September 4, 2014 1:00 PM

Global Kids Testimony

Given by Kevin Murungi, Global Kids Human Rights and Foreign Policy Specialist, on behalf of the students of Global Kids

My name is Kevin Murungi; I am Human Rights and Foreign Policy Specialist at Global Kids, a youth development and global education non-profit working with middle and high school aged students in New York City and Washington, DC. Thank you very much for having me here today, for giving me the opportunity to represent the students of Global Kids, and testify on this important and urgent global emergency. I'd like to open with a quote from Global Kids alum, her name is Maya Faison and she is now a second year college student. The effects of Hurricane Sandy directly and tragically impacted this young woman; she lost her uncle in the storm. She has been an ardent climate justice activist with Global Kids and penned this piece for the Huffington Post as a junior in high school, and I quote:

"It is day nine with no heat, no power and no gas in my mom's car to escape. As a climate change activist, I knew something like this was bound to happen, but I never expected something this big. I feel proud that I've been working with other activists to get our elected leaders to take immediate action on climate change. However, I feel heartbroken that it's taken a major storm that has taken over 40 lives and counting for my elected leaders to acknowledge the reality of climate change. We may have heard about how climate change affects far off places such as the Maldives or the Arctic. But here in New York City, it's our reality now more than ever."

Maya was a member of the Global Kids Human Rights Activist Project. Even before Sandy, she and her Global Kids colleagues chose to focus their activist energy and work on climate change and climate justice. They recognized the immediacy of the issue and wanted action taken to mitigate the effects of climate change: Action from their peers, from their schools, and from their government and governments around the world.

They have used this program as the platform to take action in the form of several climate justice related campaigns. In the past, they have called on the New York state legislature to issue a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, as more transparency and stricter regulation are put in place to ensure that the process is environmentally safe. They have worked on a campaign to install green roofs on New York City public school buildings that

would help reduce storm water run off and reduce heating and cooling costs as well as provide green living labs for classes. Last year they worked on a campaign to mandate climate education in schools to make it possible for students around the city to learn more about climate science and climate solutions.

The students of Global Kids would like this chamber to know the following:

- O Global Kids Leaders, representing schools in all five New York City boroughs want to see international leadership on climate change and as such, enthusiastically endorse the People's Climate March
- As you have already heard in my testimony, many Global Kids Leaders were impacted by Super Storm Sandy and know first hand the devastating impact of climate change
- O Many Global Kids Leaders have roots in countries around the world that are especially vulnerable to climate change, like Haiti, Nepal, and Bangladesh, for example. This issue hits close to home for them on several different fronts.
- O Global Kids Leaders, as global citizens, ultimately want to see world leaders work together to make a binding climate treaty to curb global carbon emissions

I'd like to close with another quote from Maya's piece, as is so often the case, the young people we work with say it much better than we ever could, again I quote:

"This is the future I want: a country that is better prepared for climate and environmental disasters, and is working proactively to mitigate global warming. Just like we have fire drills in school, we need to have evacuation plans and disaster preparedness kits. We must rely less on oil and more on alternative energy, and reduce carbon emissions by any means necessary. We cannot continue to provide subsidies to oil and gas companies that are wreaking havoc on our earth. We need more preservation of natural resources and less consumption. Science matters, and we must educate the next generation on the realities of climate change so we are all working to promote a better, more sustainable future. I am more committed than ever to work to make the future I want a reality."

Global Kids students are calling on all City Council members to recognize the dangers of climate change to human health and the environment and endorse the People's Climate March in New York City to help Maya and young people around the world realize this future. This is after all the planet we leave them and we must do what is necessary to follow the lead of these remarkable young people to ensure its long-term health.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF PATRICK ALMONRODE, 350NYC, IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 356

Chairman Richards and members of the Committee on Environmental Protection, good afternoon. My name is Pat Almonrode, and I'm here to speak in support of the resolution now before this Committee.

I'm a volunteer member of 350NYC, the local affiliate of 350.org, an international grassroots organization working to fight climate change. The name refers to the highest atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide that, according to scientists, will allow us to maintain a livable climate – 350 parts per million. We're up over 400 parts per million right now.

As a member of 350NYC, I've been involved almost from the very start with the People's Climate March. Along with Kira Shepherd, Louis Romain, Ravi Ragbir, and others – all led by Rev. Fletcher Harper, of GreenFaith – I've been helping to organize faith communities. This March has tremendous support among people of faith, because it reflects two concerns that all faith traditions share – care for the natural world, and an imperative to do justice for the poor and vulnerable. I've included a selection of statements from world religions, reflecting these two concerns, as Appendix A to my remarks, and I'd like to briefly mention a few key points.

As stated in the Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change, issued at the 2011 Conference of UN Parties in Durban, South Africa,

The nurturing and respect for Life is a central doctrine of all faiths on Earth. ... Today our faiths stand united in their call to care for the Earth Strong action on climate change is imperative by the principles and traditions of our faiths and the collective compassion, wisdom and leadership of humanity.

As Pope Francis has said, "[L]et us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment." And, I might note that, in response to this call, Cardinal Dolan will be urging Catholics to march or to support the March in other ways.

In addition to the imperative to be protectors of Creation, all religious traditions also share a concern for the poor and vulnerable. And as the Rev. Dr. Joel C. Hunter, of the National Association of Evangelicals, has pointed out, "The impact of climate change will fall disproportionately on those who have contributed the least to this problem – the world's poor."

So, as Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, has put it, "Global warming is not just a scientific or political issue – it is a moral issue. It is time for the moral voice of religion to speak up loudly to demand action." And imams, rabbis, preachers, teachers, pastors, priests, and other religious leaders all over the city and all over the country *are* speaking up loudly – and marching.

By marching, we're calling for more than climate action; we're calling for climate justice. We want solutions that prioritize those who are already bearing the brunt of the developing climate crisis. The People's Climate March is about lifting up the voices of those who are already feeling the impacts of climate change and pollution – exactly what our faith traditions call us to do.

In response to the two imperatives I've mentioned – care for the natural world and care for the less fortunate – people of all faiths will join as one in powerful witness to the urgency of the climate crisis and to our commitment to its just solution. Hundreds of religious institutions and organizations have formally endorsed the March – I've listed those in Appendix B. Anglicans, Zoroastrians, and everyone in between – all will be in the streets on September 21. As a Buddhist teacher who's been organizing for the March has put it:

Because of the complexity of our society, how interconnected we all are, not just spiritually but also economically and politically, we cannot do this work individually. ... So we need to come together, en masse, to create the change that is needed. ... [We cannot] sit idly by as the world burns in the flames of our destructive practices.

On trains and buses, people of faith are coming from all across the country. We hope that many will join us at one or both of the two multi-faith services that will bookend the March – the morning service, still in the planning stages, that will be held somewhere near the step-off point at Columbus Circle; and the evening service, a great celebration at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at 6 pm.

Other folks that day will be simply "worshipping with their feet," and that will be beautiful, too. There will be singing, chanting, and praying as we walk through the streets of Manhattan. We've also asked houses of worship along the route to ring their bells or make other symbolic sounds at 1:00 – and worship communities around the world will be doing the same.

I'll leave it to others today to make the case for the March on climate-science grounds, or economic-justice grounds, or political grounds. I just wanted to let you know that the New York faith community, in all its glorious diversity, will be marching. Buddhists from the East Village and the Upper West Side; Baptists from Harlem and Sunset Park; Hindus and Muslims from Brooklyn and Queens; Jews from Borough Park and the Upper East Side; Catholics from Bay Ridge and the Bronx; Presbyterians from Fifth Avenue and Lutherans from Lexington Avenue, and on and on — all will be marching in a multi-faith contingent that we fully expect will be several thousand strong. Please join us in this powerful act of witness — first, by adopting Resolution 356, and second, by marching with us on the 21st.

Thank you for your time. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

APPENDIX A: A Selection of Environmental and Environmental-Justice Statements from Various Faith Traditions

We recognize the science of climate change, and we call for global leaders to adopt strong, binding, science-based targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases in order to avert the worst dangers of a climate crisis. We urge the nations of Earth to ensure that those who will suffer under climate-induced changes such as more severe storms, floods, droughts and rising seas, be aided to adapt, survive and equitably prosper. We recognize that climate change is not merely an economic or technical problem, but rather at its core is a moral, spiritual and cultural one. We therefore pledge to join together to teach and guide the people who follow the call of our faiths. We must all learn to live together within the shared limits of our planet.

From the Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change COP17 UN Conference on Climate Change, Durban, South Africa (2011)

We, representatives of Canadian faith communities, are united in our conviction that the growing crisis of climate change needs to be met by solutions that draw upon the moral and spiritual resources of the world's religious traditions. We recognize that at its root the unprecedented human contribution to climate change is symptomatic of a spiritual deficit: excessive self-interest, destructive competition, and greed have given rise to unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Humanity's relationship with the environment has become distorted by actions that compromise the welfare of future generations of life.

From "Canadian Interfaith Call for Leadership and Action on Climate Change" (2011)

In facing climate change ... [w]e especially want to focus on the needs of the poor, the weak, and the vulnerable in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests. Inaction and inadequate or misguided responses to climate change will likely place even greater burdens on already desperately poor peoples. ... Our obligations to the one human family stretch across space and time. They tie us to the poor in our midst and across the globe, as well as to future generations.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2001

I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment.

Pope Francis, 2013

The impact of climate change will fall disproportionately on those who have contributed the least to this problem – the world's poor. Jesus said, 'What you do unto the least of these, you do to me.'

The Rev. Dr. Joel C. Hunter, Board of Directors, National Association of Evangelicals Climate Change is the greatest human induced crisis facing our world today. It is totally indiscriminate of race, culture, class, nationality or religious belief. It affects every living organism on the planet – including us.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

As a matter of stewardship and justice, Christians must take action now to reduce global warming pollution and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world whose lands, livelihoods and lives are threatened by the global climate crisis.

From "Global Warming and Energy," the General Board of Church & Society of the United Methodist Church (2008)

[The] United Church of Christ admits Christian complicity in the damage human beings have caused to the earth's climate system and other planetary life systems, and ... urges the United States Government to respond to global warming with great urgency and firm leadership by supporting mandatory measures that reduce the absolute amount of greenhouse gas emissions, and in particular emissions of carbon dioxide, to levels recommended by nationally and internationally recognized and respected scientific bodies.

From "A Resolution on Climate Change," passed by the Twenty-Sixth Synod of the United Church of Christ (2008)

[F]or humans to degrade the integrity of Earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the Earth of its natural forests, or destroying its wetlands ... for humans to contaminate the Earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life, with poisonous substances ... these are sins.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I

We weep at the heavy burden that climate change imposes on the world's poor, we mourn its impact on the diversity of God's creations, we tremble at the harm we impose upon our own descendants — and we are alarmed by our own vulnerability, here and now. ... It is time to mobilize the full range of our resources and make the application of those resources a central commitment of our communal agenda. ... For if we do not do these things, who will do them? Though we are neither prophets nor the sons and daughters of prophets, are we not Earth's custodians, guardians of a creation entrusted to us by God for all future generations, assigned to choose life? ... Join with us, that we may together restore what has been ruined, make straight the crooked way, preserve, protect, and cherish the bounty that is ours to tend and ours to bequeath, repaired, to those yet to come.

From "The Covenant Campaign Declaration: The Jewish Environmental and Energy Imperative" (2012)

Global warming is not just a scientific or political issue – it is a moral issue. It is time for the moral voice of religion to speak up loudly to demand action.

Rabbi David Saperstein, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism Muslims heed the call to protect the earth and its inhabitants. We are committed to working with our Christian and Jewish brothers and sisters to reduce global warming pollution.

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, Secretary General, Islamic Society of North America

Allah, in His Wisdom, appointed humans, the creatures that He has conferred with the faculty of reason and with free will, to be His vice regents on earth. And while Allah has invited people to partake of the fruits of the earth for their rightful nourishment and enjoyment, He has also directed them not to waste that which Allah has provided for him – for He loveth not wasters. Furthermore, Allah has also ordered humans to administer his responsibilities with Justice. Above all, people should conserve the balance of Allah's creation on Earth.

From "An Islamic Faith Statement," compiled by Hyder Ihsan Mahasne, biologist and Islamic scholar, under an appointment from the Muslim World League (2003)

Right now our greatest responsibility is to undo the damage done by the introduction of fossil carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and climate system during the rise of human civilization.

The Dalai Lama (2008)

Instead of an economy that emphasizes profit and requires perpetual growth to avoid collapse, we need to move together towards an economy that provides a satisfactory standard of living for everyone while allowing us to develop our full (including spiritual) potential in harmony with the biosphere that sustains and nurtures all beings, including future generations. If political leaders are unable to recognize the urgency of our global [climate] crisis, or [are] unwilling to put the long-term good of humankind above the short-term benefit of fossil-fuel corporations, we may need to challenge them with sustained campaigns of citizen action.

From "The Time to Act is Now:
A Buddhist Declaration on Climate Change" (2008)

The Hindu tradition understands that man is not separate from nature, that we are linked by spiritual, psychological and physical bonds with the elements around us. ... Now centuries of rapacious exploitation of the planet have caught up with us, and a radical change in our relationship with nature is no longer an option. It is a matter of survival. We cannot continue to destroy nature without also destroying ourselves.

From "A Hindu Declaration on Climate Change" (2011)

We are deeply alarmed by the accelerating climate devastation brought about by unsustainable development. We are experiencing profound and disproportionate adverse impacts on our cultures, human and environmental health, human rights, well-being, traditional livelihoods, food systems and

food sovereignty, local infrastructure, economic viability, and our very survival as Indigenous Peoples. Mother Earth is no longer in a period of climate change, but in climate crisis. We therefore insist on an immediate end to the destruction and desecration of the elements of life.

From "The Anchorage Declaration," Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change (2009)

As Unitarian Universalists ... we will not acquiesce to the ongoing degradation and destruction of life that human actions are leaving to our children and grandchildren. We as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses. ... [W]e accept with humility and determination our responsibility to remedy and mitigate global warming/climate change through innovation, cooperation, and self-discipline. We undertake this work for the preservation of life on Earth.

From the 2006 Statement of Conscience of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

APPENDIX B: Religious Organizations Endorsing the People's Climate March (as of 9/2/14)

15th Street Meeting of the Society of Friends

(Quakers)

The Academy for Jewish Religion

Advent Lutheran Church (Manhattan)

Agape Community

Al-Khoei Foundation

ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal

American Ethical Union

Auburn Seminary

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America

Bet Am Shalom Synagogue

Blauvelt Dominican Sisters Social Justice

Committee

Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture

Brooklyn Zen Center

Buddhist Association of the United States

Buddhist Collaborative for Climate Action

Buddhist Global Relief

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Caretakers of God's Creation (a ministry of the

United Methodist Church)

Center and Library for the Bible for Social

Justice

Central Baptist Church, Wayne, PA

Christ Temple United Baptist Church

Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal -

Manhattan)

Church of the Nativity

Church World Service

City Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach

Community of Living Traditions at Stony Point

Center

Congregation Ansche Chesed

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah

Congregation Beth Elohim

Congregation Beth Israel of Media, PA

Congregation Kol Ami, Elkins Park, PA

Congregation Romemu

Congregations for Peace and Justice

Cornwall NY Monthly Meeting of the Society of

Friends (Quakers)

Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, NY Social Justice

Committee

Earth Quaker Action Team

Embracing Simplicity Buddhist Hermitage

Environmental Stewardship Committee of the

Metro NY Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America

Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County

Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

Faith in New York

Faith & the Common Good (U.S.)

Faith & the Common Good (Canada)

Fellowship of Reconciliation

First Congregational Church of Montclair

First Unitarian Universalist Society of

Burlington, Vermont

First Unitarian Universalist Society of

Wilmington, Delaware

Fort Tryon Jewish Center

Franciscan Action Network

The Franciscan Response (North Jersey chapter)

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Germantown Jewish Centre

Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition

Green Muslims of New Jersey

Green Souls of All Souls Church Unitarian,

Washington D.C.

Green Zionist Alliance

GreenFaith

Guilford Community Church UCC Habonim Dror North America

Hazon

Hebrew College

Hebrew Union College

Hillel International

The Hindu Temple Society of North America

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (Inwood)

Horizon Unitarian Universalist Environmental

Justice Task Force

Hudson River Presbytery

Institute for Jewish Spirituality

Institute of Sacred Activism

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

Interfaith Moral Action on Climate Change

Interfaith Power and Light

The International League of Muslim Women,

New England Chapter

Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Islamic Society of Central Jersey

Jewish Community Center of Manhattan

Jewish Community Center on the Hudson

Jewish Climate Action Network

Jewish Climate Campaign

Jewish Community Center of Staten Island

Jewish Farm School

Jewish Theological Seminary

Jewish Vegetarians of North America

Jewish Voice for Peace

Jewish Without Walls (JWOW)

Jews for Racial & Economic Justice

Judson Memorial Church

Karuna Buddhist Vihara

Kol Tzedek Synagogüe

Kolot Chayeinu

Long Island Havurah for Humanistic Judaism

Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy

Network

The Micah Institute, New York Theological

Seminary

Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light

Mishkan Shalom

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate

Conception

Moishe House Park Slope

Moishe Kavod House

Natural Dharma Project

The Network of Spiritual Progressives

New Haven Friends Meeting

New York Insight Meditation Center

New York Interfaith Power and Light

New York Society for Ethical Culture

New York Conference United Church of Christ

New York Yearly Meeting (Quakers)

North Carolina Interfaith Power & Light

Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity,

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

One Earth Sangha

Organic Torah Institute

P'nai Or – Jewish renewal Congregation of

Philadelphia

P'nai Or of Portland, Oregon

Pacific Northwest Conference United Church of

Christ Justice & Witness Committee

Park Slope Jewish Center

Park Slope United Methodist Church

Pax Christi USA

Presbyterians for Earth Care

Quaker Earthcare Witness

The Rabbinical Assembly

Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore

Reform Temple of Forest Hills

Riverdale Jewish Center

Riverdale Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture

Riverside Church Beloved Earth Community

ROAR (Religious Organizations Along the River)

Rutgers Presbyterian Church

Sacred Earth Society

St. Edward the Martyr Episcopal Church (Manhattan)

Saint Peter's Lutheran Church (Manhattan)

The Shalom Center

Shambhala Meditation Center of New York

Shoresh Jewish Environmental Programs

Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center

Sisters of Charity Federation

Sisters of Charity of New York Office of Peace,

Justice and Integrity of Creation

Sisters of Mercy

Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, NY

Society for the Advancement of Judaism

Southern African Faith Communities'

Environment Institute

Stephen Wise Free Synagogue

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Tabernacle United Church

Temple Beth El, City Island

Temple Israel Center

Thomas Merton Center

Trinity Lutheran Church (Manhattan)

U.S. Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Unitarian Church of Summit NJ

Unitarian Universalist Association

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of

Monmouth County

Unitarian Universality Congregation at Shelter

Rock

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Stony

Brook

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis,

Oregon

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of

New Jersey

Unitarian Universalist Metro NY District

Unitarian Universalist Mass Action

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth

Unitarian Universalist PA Legislative Advocacy

Network

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

Unitarian Universalist Young Adults for Climate

Justice

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice of the

National Capital Region

United Church of Christ Justice and Witness

Ministries

United Methodist Caretakers of God's Creation

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

United Synagogue Youth

Uri L'Tzedek

West End Synagogue

Westchester Jewish Council

White Plains Zen

Young Judaea

Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice

Zen Center of NYC Earth Initiative

Testimony of Augusta Williams & Erika Eitland
Master Public Health Candidates
Environmental Health Sciences
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University
Before the
Committee on Environmental Protection
Council Chambers, City Hall,
New York, NY
Thursday, September 4, 2014

Thank you Chairman Richards, and councilmembers for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Erika Eitland, and my colleague, Augusta Williams, joins me. We are Masters of Public Health Candidates at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. We would like to take this time to address the current and future state of our climate and its relationship to the health of our fellow New Yorkers.

Recognizing that the 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 1998, New York City faces new public health challenges, including those associated with more frequent and intense heat waves. It is expected that the global temperature will rise as much as 6° Celsius by the end of the century, with higher latitudes being disproportionately impacted compared to the equatorial regions. Heat stress impacts our most vulnerable New Yorkers, including the elderly, children and low-income families, who may not have the resources or ability to overcome these environmental health challenges. They are faced with the overwhelming costs of the changing climate - whether it is rebuilding their home after Superstorm Sandy or paying high-energy bills for their air conditioner during a heat wave.

However, no community will be immune to the impacts of climate change. Food insecurity and malnutrition is predicted across the world, as the agricultural industry suffers. Altered transmission patterns will introduce diseases to new areas. Hotter temperatures induce pollen growth, leading to an increased incidence of allergies and asthma. Poor air quality from pollution results in respiratory illnesses.

To ensure better health for New York City residents, there are preventative measures that can be taken today. Having learned valuable lessons from Superstorm Sandy, we have been able to make strides in becoming a more resilient city. Through coastal rebuilding, painting roofs white, and fortifying the subway system, we have already begun to prepare for our changing environment. As students, we see climate education as another important investment in New York City's present and future health. The New York City Climate Week events, specifically the People's Climate March, provide an excellent opportunity to bring that education to the public, while raising awareness of climate change and its intersection with health.

New York City has always been a pioneer in human and environmental health. The early formation of the Department of Health in the mid-1800s was sparked by repeated cholera outbreaks and the recognition that human health is tied to the quality of our air, water, food and

housing. It is the better management of conditions in our built environment that has allowed our city to flourish. Nearly 150 years later, we are asking the city to recognize the dangers of climate change to human health, in an effort to improve our well being today and for future generations to come.

The Lancet, a leading global medical journal, stated in 2009 that "Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century...the impacts will be felt all around the world - and not just in some distant future but in our lifetimes and those of our children". By being witness to, and endorsing the largest discussion on climate the world has ever seen, New York City currently has the chance to be at the forefront of a historical and monumental event. The actions we take during New York City Climate Week will foster lasting discussions on the international response to climate change impacts and protect the livelihood of millions. The March is not just about saving our planet; it is about saving each other.



I'm Ruth Hardinger, artist, Member of the Board of Directors for DCS, a real estate broker

I applaud your resolution and this hearing.

The coop building where I live took action to meet the 2030 Plan NYC requirement to convert to #2 oil or natural gas. The board chose to convert to natural gas because Con Ed could pay for the pipeline to the boiler and that benefit had a 45 day application deadline. Board members felt this was the best way to go since it was a cheaper energy source than #2 oil or biodiesel and the current boiler could be adapted. For them, the decision was made on what they saw as a less expensive direction, and what Con Ed described as benefits. Con Ed, as do other gas industry companies, promotes gas as abundant, self-contained (no import or exports), that it burns cleaner than coal, and helps environment by reducing emissions.

Look closer - substantial information contradicts these statements. (they are assumptions!)

US gas is exported and imported now, bringing substantially higher prices then current US prices, and most large corporations are multi-national. The DCS report on Manhattan fugitive emissions shows how infrastructure leaks boldly cross out any "benefit" of burning gas. (Such leakage occurs in other urban areas, Boston, San Francisco and Washington DC have been measured.) Claims of best practices cannot modify the methane's potency because again, this damage has not a boundary. As a short-lived climate forcing gas it must be dealt with immediately – not in 2050.

The PLAN 2030 has taken funds for gas from NYSERDA depleting support intended for renewable development. Gas wells have high depletion rates, its possible that Pennsylvania's current shale gas play will be gone in 6 years. Policy on natural gas has been built on misinformation. When burned it has ½ the carbon dioxide emissions of oil yet, (this reduction still does not benefit the carbon levels). Instead, in addition to emissions/leaks of gas before the distribution/user system, there is un-accounted-for micron particulates from burning gas that produce ultra fine, highly bioactive particles, which can be quite damaging. That the US and the PLAN2030 have used burning to support policy simply shows that documented information about human and environmental damage is not being heeded. The Concerned Health Professionals of NY recently released a 70 page Compendium with health and climate damage data; health impacts have no boundary. The PLAN 2030 and ConEd should be required update with current information, albeit it is negative, before they choose this energy source?

The 2030 Plan brought unintended consequences – particularly – more methane, 90% of natural gas is methane, rampantly leaking from wells to here. The more gas pipelines and infrastructure, the more emissions. The more money spent, the deeper the commitment to that energy source. The current PLAN locks us into natural gas use potentially for decades.

The Energy Services Companies environmental disclosures show that wind, biomass and solar use in the State and City is mostly below 5%, and the rest of the 95% is mostly coal, gas, hydro and nuclear sources. This shows what a long way we have to go.

Hurray for this Council's encouragement renewable energy! Here are some ideas:

25 Main Street P.O.Box 35 Narrowsburg, NY 12764

DCS@DamascusCitizens.org Phone 845-252-6677 www.DamascusCitizens.org

After 911, the City gave 421A tax breaks to new developments. This allowed purchasers to be exempt from real estate taxes or be on a sliding scale of tax payments for a decade. Tax abatements such as this could encourage developers and existing residential buildings to use wind, solar, geothermal, heat pumps, wave energy, and mechanical deductions, etc. It's been done already: a decade ago, four houses on Reade St were built and powered by geothermal. The Empire State Building is using electric from wind and solar. There are architects who design passive houses working in Brooklyn and Long Island. Could the Council honor these architects and developers? What would encourage existing buildings to step up? Could we get NY State energy plan to assist - even though it is riddled with encouragement for gas?

The Council Energy initiatives need to be more publically presented. Could radio, TV and news speak and write about your initiatives? REBNY and the Council for NY Coops have given talks about how to convert to gas. They should change to educate about renewable energy installations in buildings.

NYC can encourage the State to upgrade and convert to renewables. We have a timed opportunity to live on this planet. Lets use it for all species as life depends on the interactions of all.

Thank you.

http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2014/07/health-professionals-release-major-scientific-document-fracking/



The North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc. P.O. Box 140502 Staten Island, New York 10314

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Chair Donovan Richards, Committee on Environmental Protection NYC City Council Chambers City Hall, New York, NY. 10007

produce the first temperature and all the

Reference: Support of Res. No. 356- Resolution recognizing the dangers of Climate Change to human health and the environment and endorsing the People's Climate March NYC, September 21, 2014.

A ...

On behalf of the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of Staten Island, Inc., (NSWC or NSWCSI) and the environmental justice and waterfront communities that we advocate on behalf of. NSWC is in support of the People's Climate Change March to be held on September 21, 2014, as well as the Summit that is being held at the United Nations.

But with that being said this is a matter of logic and that logic boils down to if every time you go to the grocery store and food is missing from the shelves. Or is noticeably too expensive to purchase and it is because of a loss of crops, meat, or seafood because of droughts, floods, or pollution. Then that should be a clear indicator that something is terribly wrong and will continue to be problematic unless we change what it is that we are doing that is causing a lack of food resources.

NSWC is based in the waterfront EJ community of Port Richmond, Staten Island, NY. And we can tell you first hand about the affects about how life threatening Climate Change is for low income communities and communities of color that are already being overwhelmed by man made negative adverse cumulative impacts.

We are the communities that are an after thought when it comes to assistance after a disaster and where funding to help us falls short or never appears. We are the communities that regardless of how poor we are with decades of government reports that have attested to the poverty and deprivation. Most cannot think of any possible way, or

means of mitigation to relieve our situation. Or at least mitigate it so that our communities can see tangible improvements to their lives and the quality of their lives.

When Irene hit Staten Island and the North Shore homes were flooded due to the lack of a proper and well functioning storm drainage system. No one came to our doors to ask if they could assist us in bailing out our basements, or cleaning up the residue, debris and mold that was left behind. No one came and offered tree, trimming or removal services after the root systems of the trees had been weakened and damaged to the point that they were easily toppled. No one came with grant programs for cost free, or affordable repair work. No one came at all. And even though we were told that damages from Irene would be connected to the damages of Sandy in terms of assistance, insurance deductibles and funding. That never materialized for North Shore residents either. Everything that has happened even if it was insured, carried an out of pocket, non reimbursable cost for some of the poorest people in the community.

People who by definition have no money, but are always expected to pay and pay top dollar in most instances. It is one of the cruelest jokes that this society has played on the financially disadvantaged.

It is well overdue that our government's laws, regulations, policies, procedures and infrastructure, along with those industries that provide a service to the people of New York City catches up with the realities of what is happening to all of their people and customers. In terms of Climate Change, there is nothing wrong with our government being an advocate for its people. Especially if our government wants to be effective at carrying out its duties in assisting its people. As well as reasonably addressing environmental issues and the aftermath that goes along with it.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

1 Shuman Beryl A. Thurman, Executive Director/President The Market of the Control of the Con

NSWC

Save All Of Arlington Marsh and Its Cove!!

Margery Schab 530 East 90th Street, Apt 2G New York, NY 10128

telephone: 212-410-2366 • email: mschab@aol.com

cell: 917-509-1688

September 3, 2014

Donovan J. Richards, Chair Members: Stephen T. Levin, Costa G. Constantinides, Committee on Environmental Protection

I am pleased that Committee on Environmental Protection is meeting on September 4, 2014 to discuss the resolution that New York City will endorse the People's Climate March scheduled on September 23, 2014. I endorse this resolution.

We have reached a fork in the road and in order to ensure the future of our health, we must take necessary steps to reduce precipitously our use of fossil fuels as quickly as possible. The use of fossil fuels, including natural gas (which is a fossil fuel!) causes climate change. Also the mining of fossil fuels, especially fracked gas, produces a lot of dangerous wastes that have to be disposed of somewhere. The trucking and disposal of these liquid and solid wastes is alarmingly un-regulated.

Fortunately a frack waste bill has been introduced into the New York City Council chambers. Frack waste in our City will have a detrimental effect on the environment and the health of all New Yorkers. I am glad that the New York City Council has begun to address this issue. I urge passage of this bill.

It is most important when expressing our concerns about the environment, we understand that climate change is a real emergency for each and everyone of us. Climate Change is nothing less than a <u>Public Health Crisis</u>. When the climate is altered, what will live and what will not, where it rains or doesn't, what food is available, where is there contamination?...air impacts, ozone, spills, water contamination. All this can happen; moreover, methane in the air is the highest it has ever been. This is why I call it a <u>Public Health Crisis</u>. This is the reason that it is so important to address courageously and deliberately the causes of this crisis not the symptoms. Addressing the symptoms of climate change will not stop its dangers to our civilization. New York City can and should lead the way away from fossil fuels and to renewable energy sources.

Respectfully submitted.

Board Member of Damascus Citizens for Sustainability.



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth

Cochabamba, Bolivia April 22, 2010

Preamble

We, the peoples and nations of Earth:

considering that we are all part of Mother Earth, an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings with a common destiny;

gratefully acknowledging that Mother Earth is the source of life, nourishment and learning and provides everything we need to live well;

recognizing that the capitalist system and all forms of depredation, exploitation, abuse and contamination have caused great destruction, degradation and disruption of Mother Earth, putting life as we know it today at risk through phenomena such as climate change;

convinced that in an interdependent living community it is not possible to recognize the rights of only human beings without causing an imbalance within Mother Earth;

affirming that to guarantee human rights it is necessary to recognize and defend the rights of Mother Earth and all beings in her and that there are existing cultures, practices and laws that do so;

conscious of the urgency of taking decisive, collective action to transform structures and systems that cause climate change and other threats to Mother Earth;

proclaim this Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth, and call on the General Assembly of the United Nation to adopt it, as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations of the world, and to the end that every individual and institution takes responsibility for promoting through teaching, education, and consciousness raising, respect for the rights recognized in this Declaration and ensure through prompt and progressive measures and mechanisms, national and international, their universal and effective recognition and observance among all peoples and States in the world.

Article 1. Mother Earth

- (1) Mother Earth is a living being.
- (2) Mother Earth is a unique, indivisible, self-regulating community of interrelated beings that sustains, contains and reproduces all beings.
- (3) Each being is defined by its relationships as an integral part of Mother Earth.
- (4) The inherent rights of Mother Earth are inalienable in that they arise from the same source as existence.
- (5) Mother Earth and all beings are entitled to all the inherent rights recognized in this Declaration without distinction of any kind, such as may be made between organic and inorganic beings, species, origin, use to human beings, or any other status.
- (6) Just as human beings have human rights, all other beings also have rights which are specific to their species or kind and appropriate for their role and function within the

- communities within which they exist.
- (7) The rights of each being are limited by the rights of other beings and any conflict between their rights must be resolved in a way that maintains the integrity, balance and health of Mother Earth.

Article 2. Inherent Rights of Mother Earth

- (1) Mother Earth and all beings of which she is composed have the following inherent rights:
 - (a) the right to life and to exist;
 - (b) the right to be respected;
 - (c) the right to continue their vital cycles and processes free from human disruptions;
 - (d) the right to maintain its identity and integrity as a distinct, self-regulating and interrelated being;
 - (e) the right to water as a source of life;
 - (f) the right to clean air;
 - (g) the right to integral health;
 - (h) the right to be free from contamination, pollution and toxic or radioactive waste;
 - (i) the right to not have its genetic structure modified or disrupted in a manner that threatens it integrity or vital and healthy functioning;
 - (j) the right to full and prompt restoration the violation of the rights recognized in this Declaration caused by human activities;
- (2) Each being has the right to a place and to play its role in Mother Earth for her harmonious functioning.
- (3) Every being has the right to wellbeing and to live free from torture or cruel treatment by human beings.

Article 3. Obligations of human beings to Mother Earth

- (1) Every human being is responsible for respecting and living in harmony with Mother Earth.
- (2) Human beings, all States, and all public and private institutions must:
 - (a) act in accordance with the rights and obligations recognized in this Declaration;
 - (b) recognize and promote the full implementation and enforcement of the rights and obligations recognized in this Declaration;
 - (c) promote and participate in learning, analysis, interpretation and communication about how to live in harmony with Mother Earth in accordance with this Declaration;
 - (d) ensure that the pursuit of human wellbeing contributes to the wellbeing of Mother Earth, now and in the future;
 - (e) establish and apply effective norms and laws for the defense, protection and conservation of the rights of Mother Earth;
 - (f) respect, protect, conserve and where necessary, restore the integrity, of the vital ecological cycles, processes and balances of Mother Earth;
 - (g) guarantee that the damages caused by human violations of the inherent rights recognized in this Declaration are rectified and that those responsible are held accountable for restoring the integrity and health of Mother Earth;
 - (h) empower human beings and institutions to defend the rights of Mother Earth and of all beings;

- (i) establish precautionary and restrictive measures to prevent human activities from causing species extinction, the destruction of ecosystems or the disruption of ecological cycles;
- (j) guarantee peace and eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons;
- (k) promote and support practices of respect for Mother Earth and all beings, in accordance with their own cultures, traditions and customs;
- (I) promote economic systems that are in harmony with Mother Earth and in accordance with the rights recognized in this Declaration.

Article 4. Definitions

- (1) The term "being" includes ecosystems, natural communities, species and all other natural entities which exist as part of Mother Earth.
- (2) Nothing in this Declaration restricts the recognition of other inherent rights of all beings or specified beings.

NYC Council Hearing 9/4/14

We fully support this resolution.

To mitigate climate change, we must leave much of our accessible, known fossil fuel reserves where they are, in the ground. Some scientists say we should leave 80% of known reserves in the ground.

In NYC, 80% of our energy use is in our buildings. Nationally, 40% of energy use in buildings.

Reducing the use of fossil fuels in buildings, through energy conservation, can therefore substantially mitigate climate change impacts

I am an architect and a certified Passive House designer. Passive House, developed in Germany in the 1990's, leads to buildings that use 80 - 90% less energy for heating & cooling. 30,000 buildings have been built in Europe since 1990.

Passive House is a global movement.

Starting in less than six months, January 1, 2015, all new buildings in Brussels must meet the Passive House standard, meaning they will all use 80-90% less energy for heating & cooling, and there is a strict standard for source energy use on a per square foot basis.

In the European Union, by 2020, all new buildings are to be near zero or net zero. And any residual energy they may require has to be generated on its own site. This is in 5 1/2 years!!!

These low energy buildings are schools, prisons, 1600 unit apartments complexes, offices, court buildings, fire stations

And bringing back the focus to NYC, there is a 40-unit market rate Passive House rental building in the planning stages for a Manhattan site considering electric heat for the units, because its heating demand will be so low.

We need a master plan for our energy future that weens us off fossil fuels, off fracked shale gas. It is not "natural" We do not need an expanded gas infrastructure.

We need an energy master plan that is not determined by companies that will benefit financially by that plan but rather an energy master plan determined by us, you, our representatives. An energy master plan that looks at our energy sources, the public health, and global environmental risks.

NYC can lead the way in our country. This City Council can push our City forward, thoughtfully and intelligently.

Buck Moorhead, AIA

New York Passive House / Board

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability / Board

NYH20

212 343 2735 917 923 8048 www.nypassivehouse.org

What is Passive House?

Building to the Passive House Standard reduces our buildings' operational energy demand to an optimized extent through passive measures and components such as insulation, airtightness, heat recovery, solar heat gains, solar shading and incidental internal heat gains. Passive House reliably delivers up approximately a 90% reduction in heating and cooling demand and up to a 75% reduction in overall primary energy demand when compared to our existing building stock- meant to aggressively meet the climate crisis carbon reduction imperative while making a comfortable, healthy and affordable built environment. A Passive House may be any building type such as home, school, office, store or factory. Passive House buildings affordably and predictably provide the most resilient. comfortable and healthy interior environments.

Passive House is a methodology to achieve the rigorous requirements of the standard. When designing a Passive House one first looks to minimize the heating and cooling loads as much as possible through passive measures like orientation, massing, insulation, heat recovery, passive use of solar energy, solar shading, elimination of thermal bridges, and incidental internal heat sources. Because the building is airtight, a continuous supply of low volume filtered fresh air is supplied to living/working spaces and stale air is exhausted from services spaces — providing balanced and controlled ventilation with high-efficiency heat exchange.

For more info: <u>www.nypassivehouse.org/why-passivehouse/</u>

What is NYPH?

Formed in 2010, NY Passive House (NYPH) is working to promote a healthy, comfortable and energy-efficient built environment through the promotion of the Passive House building standard. NYPH is an independent not-for-profit organization that facilitates the exchange of information and experiences, among local, national and

international practitioners of the Passive House building standard.

Our Mission

NYPH promotes the Passive House building energy standard in NYS and the NYC metropolitan area — through public outreach, education, support of industry professionals and advocacy. We provide marketing opportunities for our membership, and support the success and vitality of the Passive House community. NYPH is an affiliate of the International Passive House Association (iPHA). NYPH is also a founding member of the North American Passive House Network (NAPHN). NYPH has 13 board members and is all volunteer run through a number of goal focused committees.

Next events to come

Part of the Climate Week, we have a lot of events coming this September/October:

- Passive House Introduction Presentation: PH101. September 17th.
- Documentary screening, 'Passive Passion', see trailer here: www.vimeo.com/17874239. October 1st
- Open House in New Jersey of a Passive House project in construction.
- North American Passive House Network (NAPHN) Conference in Portland Maine, Sept 22th-23th.

You can join us to these events on our active meetup group here: www.meetup.com/NYPassiveHouse-NYC/

Connect with us

If you have any questions feel free to contact Martin Geib: martin@nypassivehouse.org.

And/Or sign up to our monthly newsletter to follow our actions.

TESTIMONY OF LYNA HINKEL, 350NYC, IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 356

Good afternoon Chairman Richards and members of the Committee on Environmental Protection, and thank you for introducing resolution 356 calling on the New York City council to support the People's Climate March.

My name is Lyna Hinkel, founder of 350NYC, the local group of 350.org.

On September 23, 2014 in NYC, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is convening a UN Climate Summit of world leaders in government, civil society, and the private sector to address the climate crisis and mobilize support for negotiating a global, legally binding treaty in 2015 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of the negotiating process, governments are being asked to make ambitious commitments for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. must assume a leading role in these negotiations if they are to succeed.

Our 350NYC Demands for the People's Climate March are:

- 1) We are calling on President Obama to: Commit the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030, using 2005 as a benchmark. This scientifically feasible reduction is to be achieved with energy conservation and efficiency, and renewable forms of energy.
- 2) We are calling on all participants in the UN Climate Summit to:
 - a) Support a \$100 billion annual global fund for climate change adaptation. In 2009 in Copenhagen, as U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton pledged support for this fund. The U.S. must lead in the global commitment required to meet this pledge.
 - b) To increase investment in clean, renewable energy in response to the appeals of the UN, The World Bank, and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for massive investments in green infrastructure and clean energy technologies.

This year, Ceres, a non-profit organization advocating for sustainability leadership, launched the Investing in the Clean Trillion campaign which is based on a 2012 International Energy Agency (IEA) report that the global "investments in low-carbon energy technologies will have to at least double, reaching 500 billion annually by 2020, and then double again to \$1 trillion by 2030" if we are to have an 80% chance of remaining below 2 degrees Celsius of global warming since the Industrial Revolution.

As the world's second largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, the future of our planet depends on the U.S. assuming leadership for the actualization of these demands.



Board of Directors: Raymond Figueroa-Reyes President

Mara Gittleman Vice President

Magali Regis Secretary

Charles Krezell
Treasurer

Aresh Javadi Jill Poklemba Sharon Sockwell Vandra Thorburn Karen Washington

The New York City Council City Hall

Committee on Environmental Protection

Donovan J. Richards, Chair

Members: Stephen T. Levin, Costa G. Constantinides,

Rory I. Lancman and Eric A. Ulrich

Thursday, September 4, 2014 1:00 PM Council Chambers - City Hall

Oversight (T2014-1620) – The September People's Climate March and the United Nations Climate Summit: Can Unity between People and Policymakers promote global agreement on Climate Change in 2015?

Resolution (Res 0356-2014) recognizing the dangers of climate change to human health and the environment and endorsing the People's Climate March NYC scheduled to precede the United Nations Summit on Climate Change that will take place on September 23, 2014, in New York City, which is "aimed at catalyzing action by governments, business, finance, industry, and civil society in areas for new commitments and substantial, scalable and replicable contributions to the Summit that will help the world shift toward a low-carbon economy."

Statement of Raymond Figueroa-Reyes, Jr., President New York City Community Garden Coalition

Thank you Chairman Richards and the distinguished members of the Committee on Environmental Protection for convening this oversight hearing and for according me the opportunity to submit this statement in response to the question that is the topic of this hearing.

My name is Ray Figueroa. I am President of the New York City Community Garden Coalition, an organization dedicated to the preservation, creation, and empowerment of community gardens through education, advocacy, and community organizing. I am also Program Director with the community based environmental organization, Friends of Brook Park located in the South Bronx where among a host of proactive community-based sustainability and resiliency initiatives, I oversee the Brook Park Youth Community Farm. My work in this dual capacity has been critically recognized by the prestigious, international environmental litigation, education, and advocacy organization – the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). In this regard, I am the NRDC New York City 2014 Environmental Advocate of the Year.

I am here - testifying in support of Resolution 0356-2014.

Firstly, Chairman Richards, I want to acknowledge your commitment to and leadership in focusing on frontline EJ/Climate Justice communities throughout the City of New York that have been and continue to be disproportionately environmentally burdened and, in the case of extreme weather events such Super Storm Sandy, still reeling from the effects of the environmental devastation left in its wake and still vulnerable to such future environmental shocks.

As you are all well-aware of, the People's Climate March is "aimed at catalyzing action by governments, business, finance, industry, and civil society in areas for new commitments and substantial, scalable and replicable contributions to the Summit that will help the world shift toward a low-carbon economy." But did you know that already "substantial, scalable and replicable contributions [to] shift toward a low-carbon economy" are already occurring right here in New York City via the aggregate of proactive, sustainable, and resilient ecological contributions of community gardens.

New York City Community Garden Coalition

232 East 11th Street • New York NY 10003 • (347) 699-6099 • www.nyccgc.org

New York City Community Garden Coalition is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1998. Our mission is to promote the preservation, creation, and empowerment of community gardens through education, advocacy, and grassroots organizing. What are these ecological contributions? A cursory survey of the City's community gardens reveals the following; and, in the process, further helps to underscore why the Community Garden Movement – in general – and the New York City Community Garden Coalition – in particular – are in support of the City Council's People's Climate March' Resolution:

Community gardens are actively engaged in the following cost-efficient/cost effective sustainable and resilient activities:

- 1. Carbon Sequestration via composting that diverts methane and other carbon-constituent gases from landfills for pennies on the municipal dollar
 - a. Storing carbon in soils and
 - b. Fertilizing and
 - c. Bio-remediating urban soils in the process
- 2. Storm-Water Run-off Mitigation that prevents overwhelming aging combined sewage system infrastructure as a result of:
 - a. The Surface Permeability of soils in community gardens promoting storm water infiltration
 - b. Root-zone of trees and plants absorbing water from storms
 - c. A conventional sewage system infrastructure retrofit would be astronomical in its cost
- 3. Heat Island Mitigation as a result of tree canopy
 - a. Natural cooling centers at a fraction of the cost of conventional cooling centers that are at-risk of failing as a result of:
 - i. heat-wave-related power outage
 - ii. storm-related power outage (as was the case during Super Storm Sandy when the Con Edison Power Plant and basement utility rooms in NYCHA and other apartment buildings had explosions as a result)
- 4. Air Filtration as a result of plants and trees
 - a. Reducing particulate matter pollutants from motor vehicles as well as buildings at a fraction of the cost
 - b. Reducing asthma in the process
- 5. De-centralized and neighborhood-based food production
 - a. The current centralized food system hub (the largest in the world) is located in the Hunts Point Terminal Market in the Bronx
 - i. Its carbon footprint along with of the supermarkets is as big, if not bigger than, NYC's and the Hunts Point Market almost went underwater during Super Storm Sandy the centralized food system is not sustainable
 - b. In the case of storm- and heat wave-related power-outages, community gardens sustainably promote local and decentralized, neighborhood-based community resilience by ensuring an unspoiled supply of nutritious food even in the midst of a disaster and/or other emergency

- c. The carbon footprint virtually disappears and food costs would also be dramatically reduced
- 6. Valued-added sustainability and resiliency contributions include the following:
 - a. Crime-reduction through the natural green environment of community gardens' mitigation of aggression
 - b. Attenuating ADHD
 - c. Environmental Education Learning Labs for local schools
 - d. Alternatives-to-Incarceration for court-adjudicated youth
 - e. Summer Youth Employment Program Opportunities
 - f. Youth Entrepreneurship Opportunities
 - g. Food-based Economic Development
 - h. Community Beautification
 - Safe Space for Children and Seniors

For all these non-capital intensive and cost-effective reasons, community gardens are leading the way on Climate Change. Community gardens are strategically well-positioned as a Climate Change Solution. We in the Community Garden Movement and the New York City Community Garden Coalition understand Climate Change and we understand what it will take on the ground to resolve this ecological crisis. And so, we will be marching in the People's Climate March and we support the City Council People's Climate March Resolution 0356-2014. And we urge all members to vote "YES".

And we certainly hope the distinguished members of this body will be sufficiently moved beyond the symbolism of today's vote — supporting the People's Climate March — and ultimately join with us all in the frontline EJ/Climate Justice Community in the Long March for Environmental Justice and ultimately consider voting for the permanent preservation of all community gardens in the City as they represent a truly holistic, sustainable, resilient, and cost-effective Climate Change Solution. The Global is the Local and New York City — being the greatest city in the world - has a golden opportunity here to lead by example. What you the leaders here in the City Council do matters, and people all over the world including the Global Leaders will take note.

Thank you, again, Mr. Chairman as well as members of the Environmental Committee, very much for this opportunity to present before you today.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond Figueroa-Reyes, Jr.

President

My name is Jeremy Sanders. I am president of District Council 37's Local 1501, representing the New York Zoological Employees. I work at the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo where I am a Senior Animal Keeper in the Ornithology Department.

I work in a field where we have been able to see firsthand how fragile the world can be. Global Warming, whether you believe it exists or not, its effects cannot be ignored. Climate change is here. We are teetering on a climate catastrophe.

We all remember Sandy. Call it a hurricane or a super-storm, its effects were impossible. We have lived through hurricanes before. In fact, most seem to come and go without a second thought. Many just seem to make the weather channel a little more interesting. We have heard so many stories about the damage that Sandy caused- the financial loss, the loss of life, the loss of homes.

I was born in the Bronx, grew up in Westchester and I now live in Rockland County's Stony Point. With my wife and son, I live in a house that was constructed in 1880. It has weathered over 70 hurricanes. On the night of October 29th, 2012, while the city was preparing for a strong hurricane, and we knew it was going to be a bad one, we had no idea what we were in for.

During times of emergency, you often hear about essential personnel or emergency personnel being the only ones allowed on the roads. Doctors, nurses, police, fire, EMT and... zookeepers? We had our own contingency plans in effect. Mostly sitting and waiting. I kept in contact with my family and they were safe throughout the night. Although they did lose power and phones sporadically. Back at the zoo, I slept in my car, thinking I would be able to hear or see any emergencies that would arise. It was eerily relaxing, but the howl of the wind hid the sound of trees crashing down. At about 1 am, I decided to patrol my area and came across a large tree that had crashed through the perimeter fence from some of our crane yards. Fortunately, the animals were safe, but now they needed to be secured. It wasn't easy to wake up my colleagues, but once they were up we all rallied together and rounded up the cranes and relocated them to safe quarters. The rounding up part was no simple task. Standing about 5 feet, these cranes are fast and be formidable in daylight. Scratching and slashing with their feet, and stabbing with their bills. It was a first for everyone involved, rounding up and catching 2 of them in darkness and in the rain and wind.

2 days later, I returned home and began to assess the damage. I was lucky. About \$40,000.00 to my home and property.

Many people I work with lost their homes, their cars, their belongings. They won't argue with you over whether or not climate change is here.

25 46 21- it not a locker combination. It's the approximate number of hurricanes that have hit New York in the 19th 20th and 21st centuries. We are only 14 years into the 21st century and we have had almost as many as the 19th century and we are almost at the halfway mark of the 20th.

The People's Climate March is here because we need to make a change. That change needs our support.

TESTIMONY OF LYNA HINKEL, 350NYC, IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 356

Good afternoon Chairman Richards and members of the Committee on Environmental Protection, and thank you for introducing resolution 356 calling on the New York City council to support the People's Climate March.

My name is Lyna Hinkel, founder of 350NYC, the local group of 350.org.

On September 23, 2014 in NYC, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is convening a UN Climate Summit of world leaders in government, civil society, and the private sector to address the climate crisis and mobilize support for negotiating a global, legally binding treaty in 2015 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of the negotiating process, governments are being asked to make ambitious commitments for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. must assume a leading role in these negotiations if they are to succeed.

Our 350NYC Demands for the People's Climate March are:

- 1) We are calling on President Obama to: Commit the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030, using 2005 as a benchmark. This scientifically feasible reduction is to be achieved with energy conservation and efficiency, and renewable forms of energy.
- 2) We are calling on all participants in the UN Climate Summit to:
 - a) Support a \$100 billion annual global fund for climate change adaptation. In 2009 in Copenhagen, as U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton pledged support for this fund. The U.S. must lead in the global commitment required to meet this pledge.
 - b) To increase investment in clean, renewable energy in response to the appeals of the UN, The World Bank, and the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for massive investments in green infrastructure and clean energy technologies.

This year, Ceres, a non-profit organization advocating for sustainability leadership, launched the Investing in the Clean Trillion campaign which is based on a 2012 International Energy Agency (IEA) report that the global "investments in low-carbon energy technologies will have to at least double, reaching 500 billion annually by 2020, and then double again to \$1 trillion by 2030" if we are to have an 80% chance of remaining below 2 degrees Celsius of global warming since the Industrial Revolution.

As the world's second largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, the future of our planet depends on the U.S. assuming leadership for the actualization of these demands.

New York City Council Resolution #356 to Endorse The PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH, 9/21/14, New York City Testimony of Catherine F. Skopic, Presented for Hearing Sept. 4, 2014, 1:00 City Council

Thank you, on behalf of thousands of New Yorkers who are not here today, for your consideration of Resolution #356 to endorse The People's Climate March. I call upon all Council members to vote yes on this resolution and invite all of you to march on Sept. 21.

There are many reasons to endorse the PCM; but I would like to briefly mention three:

- 1. The continued use of fossil fuels could be understood to be illegal
- 2. The continued use of fossil fuels is considered by many to be immoral.
- 3. With effort, NYS could have 50 98% renewable energy and be fossil free by 2030
- 1. A UN treaty, Environmental Modification Convention ENMOD outlawed the hostile use of weather control in 1978. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity CBD adopted a *de facto* geoengineering moratorium in 2010. Geoengineering is the large-scale intentional manipulation of earth or climate systems. Since we now know that earth has reached its carbon budget and the burning of fossil fuels adversely affects our climate, the intentional continued use of fossil fuels coal, oil, methane (natural gas) could therefore be considered to be illegal, violating the 2010 Convention on Biological Diversity. This global map prepared by the etc group shows places of geoeengineering.
- 2. I would venture a guess that everyone in the room here has either been directly affected by a result of climate change, like Super Storm Sandy, or knows someone who has. Is it morally right to stand by the wayside and do nothing to halt further damaging climate change? As a person of faith, caring for creation is part of my responsibility. The world's major religions have respect for and protection of creation, Mother Earth, at its center. Passing this resolution to endorse The People's Climate March is a major step toward that protection we know earth and all life needs.
- 3. Mark Z. Jacobson of Stanford University, along with Robert W. Howarth and Anthony R. Ingrafea of Cornell University put together a plan for New York State that could help it become 100% renewable by 2030 using wind, water and sunlight. Some adjustments would have to be made; and maybe it would only be 98% renewable; but it is DOABLE! The technology exists; and this plan would provide lasting jobs and economic growth. New York City is an integral and important part of this energy plan. With top down, bottom up and middle out, we could do it. The political will of our leaders is needed. So far, the extensiveness of this march that has reached throughout our nation and around the globe surely shows that the grassroots is behind such a renewable energy future for our home, NYC and our planet. The time is now. The future is in our hands. Please pass Resolution #356 to Endorse The People's Climate March and join the march.

Thank you, Respectfully and in PEACE, r

Catherine Skopic, Representative for the Anglican Communion Office at the UN; Steering Committee, IMAC - Interfaith Moral Action on Climate

140 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10013-3317

I am Regina Cornwell, NYC resident, curator of a climate change project underway in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, called *inClimate*, writer/editor and climate impact researcher.

I am speaking for Barbara Arrindell, Director, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, who has sent this statement for today's hearing on climate change.

First of all, I fully endorse the Council's Resolution 356, its call to endorse the People's Climate March and recognition of "the dangers of climate change to human health and the environment"

In the 2005 Energy Policy Act the gas and oil industry was given a significant expansion of exemptions from major provisions of protective environmental laws - the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Community Right to Know Act, and others...these are the Halliburton Loopholes.

These exemptions were put in place so the industry could avoid liability for damages they knew they would cause. Decades of effort by industry went into obtaining externalization of the costs of environmental, health and community damage...translation; they don't pay for the damages they cause - you do.

It is the commendable Council focus on "the dangers of climate change to human health and the environment" that brings me to my main comment today that NYC Council should act to over ride all the oil and gas exemptions in the 2005 Energy Policy Act within New York City's jurisdiction. That still leaves the waste as "special" from the passage in 1980 of the Bentsen amendment to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. This exemption is being essentially corrected by the Frack Waste Bill introduced by the bill's sponsors, Council members Stephen Levin and Corey Johnson, this past August. This must be adopted.

As the highest Court in New York State has again recently verified, local land use decisions trump oil and gas activities in the Environmental Conservation Law. Carrying that further than Zoning will be the allowable sidestepping of the federal legislation granting the oil and gas industry exemptions in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. In over-riding these exemptions, the Council will be fulfilling its mandate to protect the health and safety of the people in New York City. There are no restrictions preventing the City from doing so, and DCS urges this action as a fulfillment of the Council's Resolution to "catalyzing action by governments," that NYC can set a shining example that will be carried into the larger environment and impact global health. Natural gas, a fossil fuel, is not "green" nor is it healthy and why should the people pay for the damage it causes and allow the industry to profit from that damage?

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Special Wastes | Wastes | US EPAwww.epa.gov/wastes/nonhaz/industrial/special/ Specifically, the **Bentsen** Amendment (§3001(b)(2)(A)) exempted drilling fluids, produced waters, and other wastes associated with the exploration, development ...

Wastes Excluded from RCRA | Waste Identification | Wastes | US EPAwww.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/wasteid/exclude.htm ... §261.4(b)(3) Mining Overburden; §261.4(b)(4) Fossil Fuel Combustion Waste (Bevill); §261.4(b)(5) Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Wastes (Bentsen Amendment) ...

http://www.earthworksaction.org/files/publications/PetroleumExemptions1c.pdf

25 Main Street P.O.Box 35 Narrowsburg, NY 12764 DCS@DamascusCitizens.org Phone 845-252-6677 www.DamascusCitizens.org

September 7, 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the City Council,

My name is Jon Forster. I am a member of Local 375 and an Executive Vice President with District Council 37 representing 120,000 City employees and 50,000 retirees.

I applaud you for this resolution. Two years ago we collectively endured the ravages of Sandy, a product of the very climate change we are speaking of today. People all over the City suffered terribly, especially in our lower income communities. Our own DC37 headquarters was flooded and closed for 8 months. Many of our communities have still not fully recovered.

Now we have the chance to collectively fight back — with this resolution, with a progressive, climate conscious City policy, and with the People's Climate March! We have the opportunity to send a message to this country and to every country in the world that climate change is already here, and if we don't take the appropriate, aggressive steps needed to confront climate change — and do it now — it will unleash forces far greater than Sandy, and may well destroy us all.

The first press conference announcing the People's Climate March in Times Square three weeks ago was the most inclusive, most diverse gathering around a climate action I have ever seen in the United States. It was diverse because this is NYC. It was diverse because of the presence of the environmental justice organizations, the youth, the LGBT and the faith communities. And it was diverse because of the presence of organized labor.

This organizing effort is diverse because there is the growing recognition that we are all truly in this together. And it will be wonderfully inclusive and diverse as we march through the streets of Manhattan on September 21st.

This inclusion and diversity is the great strength and unique contribution that we bring to this resolution, to this March, and to the message that we are going to broadcast to the world on 9/21.

Brothers and Sisters, together we must act to stop climate change now. Together we must demand that this government, and every world government, immediately act to make the tough decisions to reduce CO2 emissions. Together, we too must make the sacrifices and surrender some of our comforts and indulgences to reduce the deadly growth of green house gas emissions.

To paraphrase one of our revolutionary founding fathers, Sisters and Brothers we must hang together in our fight against climate change, or eventually we will surely all hang separately.

Thank you.

"Methane Energy" and Climate Change

New York City Council Hearing September 4, 2014 Rebecca Smith

My name is Rebecca Smith. I am an artist and environmentalist living in Manhattan. I applaud the City Council's acknowledgement of the reality of climate change and what it means for New Yorkers -- and its endorsement of the People's Climate March. I want to focus on the contribution our city's leaking gas pipelines may be making toward heating the planet. Studies of cities throughout the country point to the evidence that natural gas -- because of methane leaks throughout the system -- has a higher GHG footprint than coal or oil.

Natural gas is over 90% methane. The 2013 IPCC report (Footnote 1) has methane as 86 times as potent a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide. This colorless, odorless gas is lighter than air and has enormous potential for leakage throughout the entire gas system – production, transmission, distribution and utilization. A 2014 EPA report on methane emissions from natural gas pipelines shows the attached diagram that illustrates all the opportunities for methane to escape (Footnote 2). Our citywide pipeline infrastructure is the site of distribution and our homes and businesses are the sites of utilization. The National Oceanic & Air Administration reported that methane levels have been climbing since 2009 and cites natural gas as a prime cause (Footnote 3).

Aging urban infrastructures are subject to leaks: how much does our gas system leak and what effect does it have on warming the planet?

Unfortunately we do not have the accurate information we need to answer that question. ConEd's numbers for fugitive methane emissions represent an old fashioned "back of the envelope" estimate -- estimates based on estimates (Footnote 4). Government needs to require accurate reporting which can be obtained by using the highly sensitive, accurate technology now available.

What if you take ConEd's own numbers for fugitive methane emissions and calculate how much global warming potential they produce? ConEd

states that in 2013 their lost-and-unaccounted-for (LAUF) gas was 2.8% (Footnote 5) in NYC. Since Con Ed delivered 300 billion cubic feet per year in total, and Manhattan usage represents 30% of total gas usage, 90 billion cubic feet of gas were delivered. This means 2.5 billion cubic feet lost emissions in Manhattan in 2013 -- the equivalent of 1,425,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide -- or the annual GHG emissions from 300,000 cars (Footnote 6).

An independent environmental organization, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, commissioned Gas Safety Inc. to make a preliminary investigation of methane emissions in the Borough of Manhattan in 2012. [SHOW IMAGE] The report shows Manhattan bathing in a fog of elevated methane levels at an average of over 2.00 ppm -- higher than the normal worldwide baseline of 1.8 ppm. (Footnote 7). Elevated methane levels in an enclosed space can cause an explosion -- as we saw in the Harlem tragedy. Elevated levels circulating in a city are a public health problem as methane combines with oxygen to produce ozone. On a bigger scale we must see that too much methane is a significant driver of the climate crisis because of its extremely powerful warming potential.

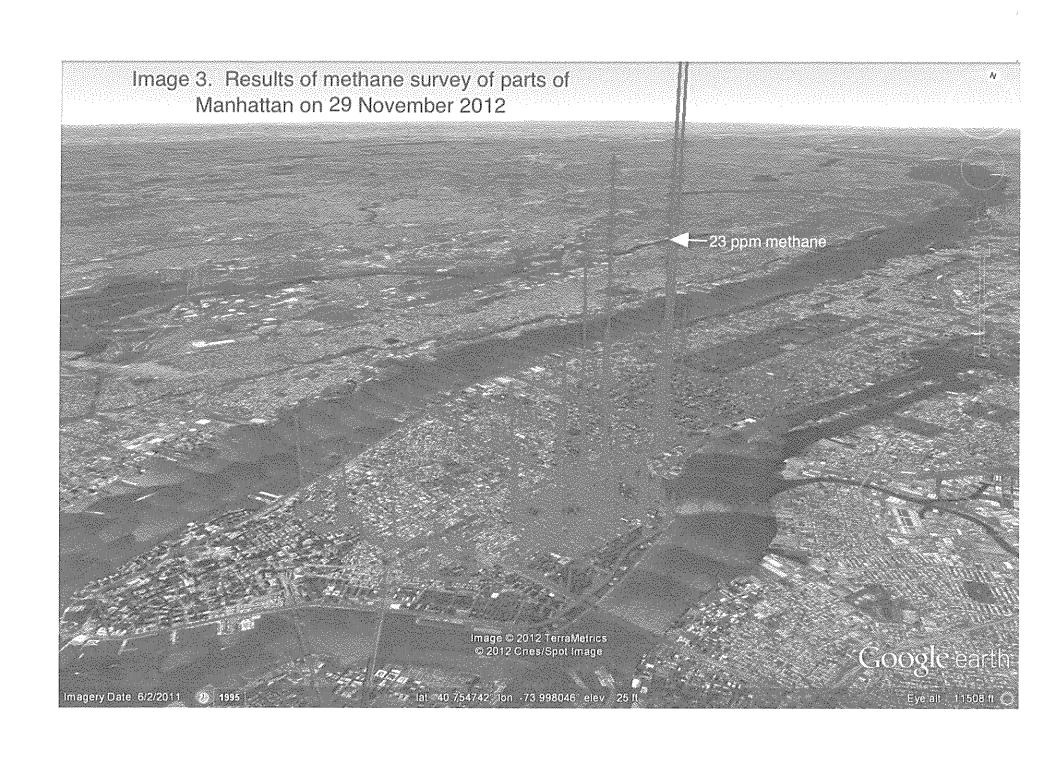
Studies in other cities show comparable results -- in Boston, San Francisco, Washington, D.C, and others.

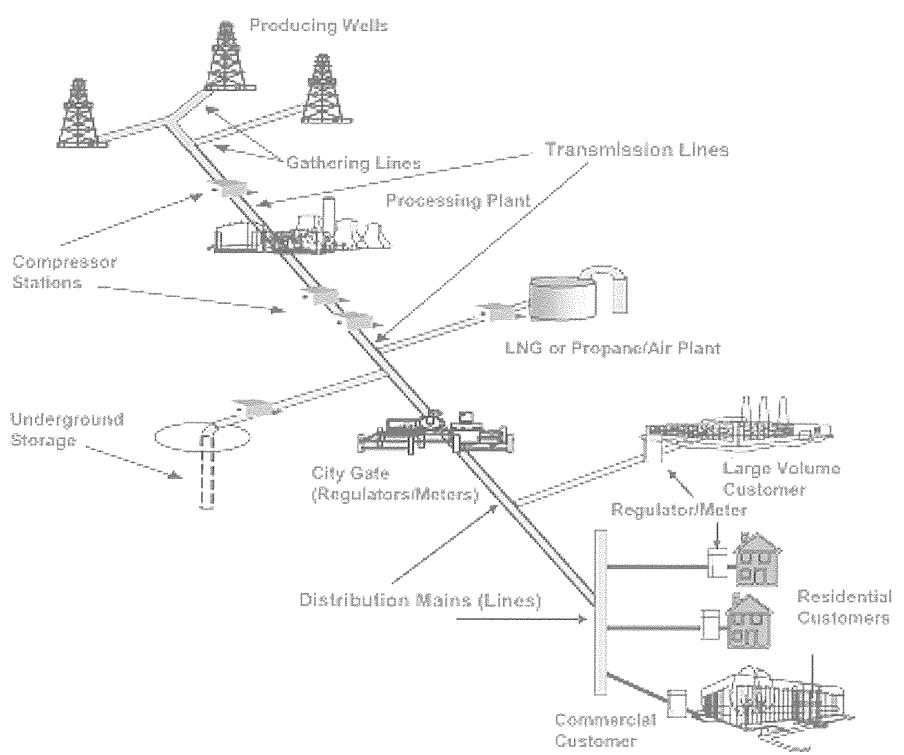
Distribution is only part of the natural gas life cycle. The DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory has estimated a 1.8% loss in production and transmission (from big, cross-country pipelines) (Footnote 8). Add to this ConEd's estimate of 2.8% loss in distribution and we have a total combined emissions -- based on government and industry estimates -- of 4.6%. That means that in addition to the footprint of burning gas, gas leaks ADD a carbon footprint equal to 480,000 cars per year. That's a lot of global warming coming from natural gas -- the so-called "bridge fuel". In fact, even the most conservative estimate for gas leaks produces a carbon footprint for gas energy 1 and 1/2 times higher than the cutoff point (Footnote 9) at which gas energy becomes a greater source of GHG pollution than oil or coal.

Sadly, these calculations don't even take into account gas migration from wells and other sources for leaks along the natural gas life cycle. NYC needs to recognize the true climate cost of natural gas and invest instead in the transition to sustainable energy NOW.

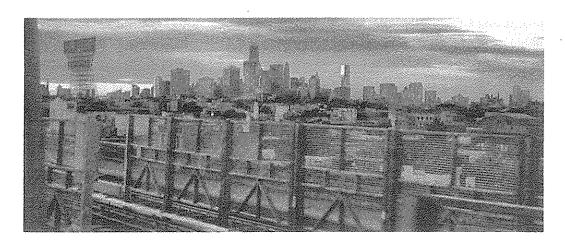
Footnotes

- 1 2013 Intergovernmental Paper on Climate Change http://www.enn.com/press_releases/4210, press release, third paragraph
- 2 "Improvements Need in EPA Efforts to Address Methane Emissions from Natural Gas Distribution Pipelines", EPA Report No. 14-P-0324 June 25, 2014
- 3 National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration www.esrl.noaa.g (methane chart showing rising levels) www.noaa.gov/features/02_monitoring/methane.htmlov/gmd/aggi/(article citing role of natural gas and methane)
- 4 2013 Con Edison Annual Report
- 5 NYS Dept. of Public Service, Staff White Paper on Lost And Unaccounted For (LAUF) Gas, issued January 27, 2012
- 6 www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html
- 7 Payne, Dr. Bryce F. and Ackley, Robert, "Extended Report on a Preliminary Investigation of Ground-Level Ambient Methane Levels in Manhattan, New York City, New York, March 11, 2013
- 8 Hughes, David H. Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions: From Shale Gas Compared to Coal. 2011 www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2011/07/lifecycle-greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-shale-gas-compared-to-coal/
- 9 Howarth, 2014. A bridge to nowhere: Methane emissions and the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas. *Energy Science & Engineering*. www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/index.php





Source: The EPA.



A FRAMEWORK FOR A SUSTAINABLE CITY

Climate change, a fast-changing economy, and new pressures to preserve our environment combine to make urban sustainability an urgent priority.

At the same time, sustainability offers tremendous opportunities to improve public health and our environment, deliver real savings and efficiency for tax-payers, and open new doors to good-paying jobs particularly for low-income New Yorkers.

New York City is uniquely positioned to become the most sustainable big city in the world. With significant public infrastructure and a robust mass transit system, dense living patterns, and capacity for civic innovation, Bill de Blasio recognizes this is a transformational moment for our city.

The De Blasio Record on Sustainability and the Environment

Bill de Blasio is a committed protector of the environment and a strong advocate for urban sustainability. Throughout his public service life, he has pushed forward a far-thinking sustainability agenda and championed legislation that would mitigate negative environmental impacts. These initiatives have helped preserve our environment while increasing city efficiency.

Promoting Green Buildings. One of the best ways to bolster sustainability is to use green standards in the renovation and construction of buildings. As a City Council member, Bill de Blasio co-sponsored legislation to offer incentives to implement green building standards. He also supported mandates for all city construction and repairs to ensure they earn at least a LEED Silver certification.

Improving Air Quality. Bill de Blasio has worked to reduce toxic emissions and improve air quality. He has pushed the New York State Legislature to implement the same motor vehicle emissions standards used by California, and introduced legislation to crack down on emissions from idling vehicles and sanitation trucks.

Reducing the Negative Impact of E-Waste. The rapid rise of technology has produced a proliferation of e-waste—faulty or outdated computers, phones, monitors and other similar electronic products. Often, these devices contain toxins, lead or chemicals that pose serious health and environmental risks. Bill de Blasio led the fight in creating a comprehensive e-waste management plan for New York City. As a result of his efforts, manufacturers and waste handlers are now required to comply with strict standards for collection and recovery of harmful e-waste.

Harnessing the Power of the Purse to Promote Energy Efficiency. The City of New York has enormous leverage through its purchasing power to promote the use of green products and increase energy efficiency. As a City Council

member, Bill de Blasio pushed the city to change its purchasing to ensure New York's power of the purse obtained economies of scale.

Ending Government Use of Styrofoam. Landfilling garbage incurs high costs and does tremendous damage to our environment, and Styrofoam is one of the most dangerous contributors because of how long it takes to biodegrade. Bill de Blasio initiated the SPARE pledge — Stop Polystyrene and Revitalize the Environment — to ban government use of Styrofoam, and he backedsseparate legislation to end Department of Education use of Styrofoam in food packaging.

Creating a Culture of Recycling in Our Schools. Recycling should be a way of life for all New Yorkers, and Bill de Blasio knows the best way to nurture that culture is by teaching our children to be good environmental stewards. That's why he has pushed for better waste management and recycling in New York City schools.

for our economy. Bill de Blasio intends to build on that history and expand sustainability initiatives throughout the five boroughs.

Build an Alliance for a Sustainable New York. New York City has all of the critical components in place to become the most sustainable city in the world: dense public-sector resources and infrastructure, private capital, innovators in science and technology, strong labor unions, and a committed citizenry. We can and must build on the successes of PlaNYC and convene all stakeholders to build the most sustainable city in the world. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will convene public and private sector actors to expand and deepen PlaNYC, and he will update the plan every year on Earth Day.

Commit to Renewable Energy. The green collar economy begins with a clear commitment to alternative energy sources. As mayor, Bill de Blasio will expand the city's investment in large-scale clean energy production, including wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower and biofuels. Not only would such a transition reduce New York City's carbon footprint, it would expand economic opportunities — from entrepreneurs to production and installation jobs. 90 Bill de Blasio will also advocate at the state level for the New York Solar Act, which will provide additional incentives to support the adoption of solar energy production.

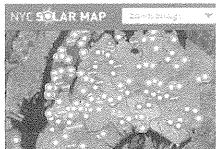
Retrofit and Green New York City Buildings. Bill de Blasio will make every government-owned building as green as is financially viable by 2020. 91 For the private sector, Bill de Blasio will continue the commitment to the New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation. He will also replicate Chicago's public-private partnership model to create more funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. 92 This includes direct loans for energy efficiency in buildings and "Energy Services Agreements (ESA)," where energy efficiency work is packaged as a service that building owners pay for through savings with limited upfront cost to the owner. 93

Help Every Business Reduce its Energy Use. At economic development hubs around the city, Bill de Blasio will have city workers provide technical assistance to local business owners with an emphasis on greater efficiency. This technical support will provide information on ways to increase energy efficiency in their buildings and better manage waste, which will help reduce transit and logistic energy costs while improving industrial processes. The city will also help small businesses identify the government and private resources that can help them green their businesses and use the energy savings to grow their businesses.

Set a Goal of Zero Waste in New York. New York City is behind in recycling and reducing waste, at great cost to the budget and the environment. The city spent \$320 million in 2011 on disposal, while sanitation trucks drove 40 million miles, spewing huge amounts of greenhouse gases. 94 The cost of Zero Waste may sound unattainable, but it is actually a practical program and goal. Since adopting Zero Waste, San Francisco recycles 80 percent, compared to 15 percent in New York City. 95 Seattle and Oakland and states like Minnesota, Oregon and California are striving for Zero Waste. Companies like Xerox, Sony and Hewlett-Packard are finding that adhering to Zero Waste principles results in significant cost savings. Bill de Blasio will institute a Zero Waste program: strengthening and expanding existing recycling, instituting composting programs, and establishing waste reduction programs, including, for example, bans on plastic bags and requiring more materials to be recyclable or compostable. Instead of a focus on disposing and exporting waste, Bill de Blasio will look for opportunities for economic development, building industries, and creating jobs from materials that can be recovered.

SOLAR

Where energy is generated is a crucial part of America's energy equation and the same is true for solar. Urban areas like NYC are the load centers that need power-clean renewable powergenerated locally. Since 2007 Sustainable CUNY has led the implementation of multiple U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) solar initiatives, working with the Mayor's Office, NYC Economic Development Corporation, Con Edison, NYSERDA, NYPA and over 30 partners to strategically remove barriers to large scale solar deployment.



NYC Solar Map



Strategic Zones



Installing Solar

The NYC Solar Map, an online, interactive tool, helps New Yorkers understand the solar potential of their homes and businesses.

Areas where solar generation to the grid and are therefore eligible for incentives.

Resources to navigate the solar PV installation process from Incentives to Financing and Permitting are available would provide the greatest benefits to help system owners and installers navigate through the process.

BACKGROUND

In 2006 solar production was negligible in NYC due to extensive barriers including: technical, policy and lack of incentives, standardization or cohesion among agencies and utilities. CUNY, as an objective and trusted university, convened the stakeholders to collaborate on drafting and implementing the strategic solar plans for NYC. This work i includes multiple reports, new tools such as the world's largest interactive solar map for NYC's one million rooftops, analytics and the creation of Solar Empowerment Zones, now known as Strategic Zones. The result to-date of collective efforts with our partners is an exponential increase in solar production and solar jobs.

Sustainable CUNY - Key Activities and Reports --- New York City has been actively engaged in solar initiatives since 2005, when the City University of New York (CUNY) launched the Million Solar Roofs Initiative (MSRI) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In 2007 Sustainable CUNY led the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability (OLTPS) and the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) in developing and implementing comprehensive plans for large-scale solar integration and associated economic development.

This strategic approach has resulted in multiple U.S. DOE grant awards, which Sustainable CUNY implements on behalf of NYC, in collaboration with over 40 key partners:

2013: U.S. DOE Sunshot initiative rooftop solar Challenge II: NYSolar Smart

2012: U.S. DOE SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge I

2010: U.S. DOE ARRA 'Special Projects'

2007: U.S. DOE Solar America City

The reports below helped create and inform the NYC Solar Platform that is paving the way for NYC to realize the benefits of solar. Significant financial and technical support has been provided by the U.S. DOE, the New York State Energy Development Authority, the New York Power Authority, the Mayor's Office of New York City, Con Edison, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the NYC Department of Buildings and the City University of New York.

2013 - Solar Market Growth

New York City's solar market has grown exponentially and is poised for continued growth. This rapid market growth will continue applying downward pressure on the cost of solar in New York City.

Other industry resources

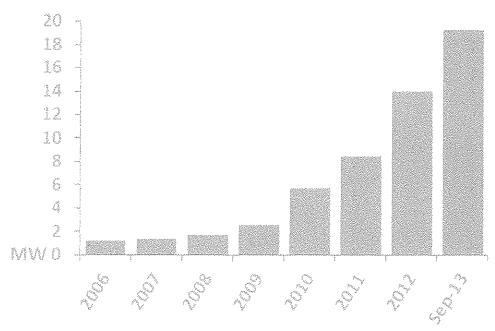
New York Solar Energy Industries Association (NYSEIA)

Solar thermal development lags behind PV, but the New York State Solar Thermal Roadmap, released earlier this year, identifies the roadblocks and creates a path to spur increased development, investment, manufacturing, sales and deployment of solar thermal technologies in the state.

The City University of New York is committed to leading the way to a greener future. CUNY is developing and implementing environmentally sustainable practices in every aspect of its operations. Already, the university is one of the top 10 U.S. universities in its use of energy from renewable sources.

Offering green energy and other training programs for individuals, unions, employers and other organizations is a key element of this commitment to sustainability. No single institution offers CUNY's range and depth of knowledge in so many sustainability-related fields. With 23 colleges throughout the five boroughs, serving 230,000 degree program students and over 200,000 continuing education students, CUNY has unmatched capacity to offer credit-bearing courses, certificate programs, degrees, and non-credit training programs.





N. Comments		
	Appearance Card	
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Name: Erika Eitland & Augusta Milliams
Address: 722 W 168th St, New York, NY 10033
1 represent: Mailman School of Public Health
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ance as above.
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Appearance Card
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Date: 9/4/14
Name: Jevemy Sanders
Address: 21 Wayne Ave Stony Point 114
1 represent: DC 37 - Local 1561
Address: 125 Barclay Street NYNY
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1 represent: Environquement, Rivesto a 1936
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Name: BUCK MOOKHEAD
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1 represent: NY PASSIVE HOUSE, DCS, NYHZO
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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No. 356
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1 represent: Citizen Action of NY
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Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No. 356-2014
Resolution to support People's Climate march
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Name: 100 100001 71001a
Address: 438 88" STREET, Droowigh NJ 11208
1 represent: DC 3/1/2010/00/20
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Address: NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN
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1 represent: BYONX CIMATE JUSTICE.
Address: BOOK Park- E141St+ BrookAve
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Name: ALEXIA FILPU Address: 94-253-AVBME
I represent: CUM HUNTER CULEGE+ PEURES CLIMATE MIRCH
Address: 69 Lexinglus Avenue
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Appearance Card
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Date:
(PLEASE PRINT) Name: REBECCA SMITH
Address: 138 WATTS ST NEW YORK N.Y. 10013
I represent: Damascás Citizens for Sustainability
Address:
THE COUNCIL COLORS
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Appearance Card
I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No in favor in opposition
Date: Lept 4. 2014
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: ANNE WILSON
Address:
I represent: New ole Emmanual land & Justice
Address: Il Park Place, Inte 701 Hoped
New York, M 10001
THE COUNCIL
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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No
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Name: Appleton
Address: Jana Bell HURAUR NYC/NY
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Name: JON torster
Address:
1 represent: 6 cal 375/DC37
Address: 125 Banday St., NYC
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Date: 914 2014
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Name: FAMMANDUMY Eddie Bautista
Address: 166A 271cl St 1123B
I represent: NYC Environmental Justice Allians
Address: 166A 27vd St 11732
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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No Res. No. 35 6
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Date:
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Leah Barber
Address: 370 Riverside Dr., Apt. 15
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I represent: 350NYC Address: 19 West 35° St. Fl. 9
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