

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RECOVERY AND
RESILIENCY

Jointly with

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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December 14, 2015
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HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Mark Treyger
Chairperson

Costa G. Constantinides
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rosie Mendez
Margaret S. Chin
Donovan J. Richards
Carlos Menchaca
Eric A. Ulrich
Steven Matteo
Stephen T. Levin
Rory I. Lancman

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Daniel Zarrilli
Director of Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Nilda Mesa
Director of Office of Sustainability

Eric Goldstein

Ya-Ting Liu
New York League of Conservation Voters

Laurie Schoeman
Enterprise Community Partners

Michael Menser
Science and Resiliency Institute at Jamaica Bay

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Christopher Erikson
Local 3

Allison Ziogas
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Josh Nachowitz

Downtown Alliance

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Gigi Li
Chair of Community Board Three Manhattan

Catherine McVay Hughes
Manhattan Community Board One

Ahmed Tigani
Gale Brewer's Office

Marcy Benstock
Clean Air Campaign

Marc Matsil
Trust for Public Land

Allison Tupper
Sierra Club NYC

Cecil Corbin Mark
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Jacqueline Espinal
El Puente

Ling Tsou
United for Action

Lisa DiCaprio
Professor at NYU

Elizabeth Malone
Brooklyn Long Term Recovery Group

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Jessica Roth
Catskill Mountain Keeper

Mark Dunlea
People's Climate Movement NY

Alice Slater
People's Climate Movement NY

Catherine Skopic
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Annie Wilson
New York Environmental Law Project

Anna Palaoi [sp?]

Kim Fraczek
Sane Energy Project

Patrick Robbins
Sane Energy Project

Clare Donohue
Sane Energy Project

Sheila Guist
Rights Activist

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Good morning and
3 welcome to this joint Oversight Hearing on the OneNYC
4 Plan. I am Mark Treyger, Chair of the Committee on
5 Recovery and Resiliency. I want to thank my
6 distinguished colleague and Co-chair, Costa
7 Constantinides who is Chair of the Committee on
8 Environmental Protection for both his leadership and
9 advocacy which have made this hearing possible. The
10 Committee on Recovery and Resiliency will also be
11 giving a first hearing to Resolution 909 of 2015
12 sponsored by Council Member Margaret Chin, which
13 calls on HUD to approve New York City's application
14 for national disaster resiliency competition funding,
15 seeking additional resources of funding to support
16 our resiliency plans was one of the items called for
17 in the OneNYC Plan, and I hope that this is only the
18 beginning of efforts, our efforts in that area.
19 Today we'll be discussing the portions of the OneNYC
20 Plan covering resiliency and sustainability. At a
21 hearing in October, the Committee on Recovery and
22 Resiliency discussed the city's current coastal
23 defense plans in depth, but the resiliency portion of
24 OneNYC covers many additional areas, not just the
25 physical resiliency, such as resiliency planning,

2 which I hope will be discussed in more detail today.

3 I was pleased to see OneNYC embrace some ideas that

4 originated with this council, such as studying the

5 recovery of houses of worship and charitable

6 organizations, and I was similarly pleased to see

7 issues such as social vulnerability and heat risk

8 being addressed, but it has been eight months since

9 the plan came out. What I'm hoping what we'll hear

10 today is not just a summary of what is contained

11 within it, but updates and concrete proposals on how

12 to meet the plan's goals. In terms of resiliency I

13 will be interested to hear exactly how the city hopes

14 to meet its goal of eliminating disaster-related

15 long-term displacements in the future. Are we making

16 plans to retain the knowledge and capacity we have

17 gained through the creation of the Build it Back

18 Program, or are we merely hoping the city's buildings

19 will be so resilient that it won't be needed? So

20 often the resiliency planning experts that we meet

21 are from the Gulf Coast states like Louisiana or

22 Texas and some from the Netherlands, and I understand

23 why considering the history of storms in those areas,

24 but what are we doing to ensure that the next

25 generation of experts and planners are also from New

2 York? Similarly, what steps have been taken to
3 increase the rate of volunteerism among New Yorkers
4 to the stated goal of 25 percent by 2020, and aside
5 from the seeking additional Home Energy Assistance
6 Program, HEAP funding from the state, what concrete
7 steps has the Administration proposed to protect
8 vulnerable persons from extreme heat? By way of
9 comparison in 2014 there were 248 traffic deaths in
10 this city and a tremendous amount of time, effort and
11 thought was rightfully gone in to trying to save
12 those lives. Meanwhile, the OneNYC Plan reports that
13 extreme heat kills over 100 New Yorkers annually with
14 hundreds more hospitalized. Have we dedicated even
15 half the amount of effort that went into preventing
16 traffic deaths into preventing heat-related deaths,
17 especially when you consider the potential future
18 dangers of climate change we should be no less
19 dedicated to protecting people from heat than we are
20 in any other area of resiliency? I also just want to
21 just note that one area of focus that I'm personally
22 very interested in is certainly the community
23 engagement piece of OneNYC, how we have a plan that
24 capitalizes on local planning and local stakeholders
25 and to hear them and to make sure this is a plan

2 that's bottom up and not top down. Secondly, how do
3 we invest in human capital in our children and in our
4 school system to make sure that they are equipped
5 with the knowledge, the skills and with the correct
6 school infrastructure to help us address the
7 challenges of today and tomorrow? So, those are some
8 areas of focus as well. I want to thank everyone here
9 for joining us today, my colleagues, the advocates
10 who have dedicated so much time and effort to helping
11 our city make good choices and the members of the
12 Administration who will be testifying, Director of
13 the Office of Recovery and Resiliency, Dan Zarrilli,
14 and Director of the Office of Sustainability, Nilda
15 Mesa, and I think that my Co-chair has an opening
16 statement as well.

17 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you,
18 Chair Treyger, and I want to thank you for your
19 leadership and advocacy, not only to get this hearing
20 happening, but from the minute you were elected, you
21 made resiliency a core principle of who you are and
22 what you work for, so thank you for your advocacy.
23 You know, good morning and welcome. I am Council
24 Member Costa Constantinides and I share the
25 Evacuation Protec--Chair of the Committee on

2 Environmental Protection. Today, the Committee will
3 hold jointly to this hearing on Oversight on OneNYC,
4 New York City's blueprint for change, long-term
5 planning and sustainability in the next century.

6 This weekend, 190 nations made a promise to attempt
7 to keep temperature increases below two degrees

8 Celsius for the balance of the century in order to

9 address climate change. The first time ever every

10 major nation agreed to do its part to work on climate

11 change. This is huge, but making a promise is not the

12 same as keeping a promise. We have a duty of

13 stewardship of our planet and to keep that promise.

14 On Earth Day, Mayor de Blasio released OneNYC which

15 made a promise to New Yorkers with overarching

16 unifying themes of growing--of growth, equity,

17 sustainability and resilience. The Mayor made it

18 clear that ours is a city constantly working to stay

19 ahead of climate change curve, and we do this by

20 addressing growth and income inequality at the same

21 time that we address sustainability. However, first

22 and foremost, to address climate change, our energy

23 use has to be wise and efficient. We must

24 dramatically increase the use of renewable energy.

25 New York City has already taken a number of

2 aggressive steps to advance these goals and keep the
3 promise. New York City passed Local Law 66 of 2014,
4 which requires the city to reduce citywide greenhouse
5 gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050. Buildings
6 through the use of heating fuel, natural gas,
7 electricity, steam, and biofuel are responsible for
8 over 70 percent of citywide emissions. Given this
9 and the fact that the vast majority of existing
10 buildings are to remain well beyond 2050, the city's
11 stock of one million buildings represents the
12 greatest potential source of citywide greenhouse gas
13 emission reductions. It is therefore necessary for
14 the city to reduce emissions from the building
15 sector. Renewable energy can be utilized to reduce
16 emissions from buildings by increasing reliance on
17 renewable energy, technologies onsite within
18 buildings to supplant the current role of fossil
19 fuels in heating, cooling, hot water, and cooking.
20 Intro 609 unanimously passed just last week by the
21 City Council, require the city to use a screening
22 tool whenever for constructs or retrofits to city
23 owned building, and if the tool determines that
24 geothermal system may be cost effective taking quick
25 count of not only the cost of installation, but also

2 the savings on utility bills and the social costs of
3 carbon, such as the benefits of reduced greenhouse
4 gas emissions, then geothermal must be installed and
5 solar must also be considered for the specific
6 project at that time, and I'm very pleased to hear
7 this morning that we were taking huge steps on
8 OneNYC, having one a third of our city building stock
9 already retrofitted. So, it's great news to hear
10 that. However, the council's other legislative
11 measures that can be introduced that may help us to a
12 sustainable future, Intro 478 that's a required
13 installation of solar, photovoltaic systems in all
14 city buildings not just schools, Intro 844 which
15 requires solar parking canopies on all public parking
16 lots and electric vehicle charging stations for 50
17 percent of those parking spots, and other
18 benchmarking goals as part of to set forth for local
19 law 66. The committee is also interested in hearing
20 introduced legislation that would address methane
21 leaks and mitigation as an impact on the New York
22 City urban forest, and introduce legislation that'll
23 improve green roofs and set standards for permeable
24 sidewalks. Six years ago the Council enacted green
25 building laws effecting buildings over 50,000 square

2 feet. That legislation has a potential to be
3 strengthened to celebrate retrofits of large
4 buildings. The Chair and the Environmental
5 Protection Committee are currently working with the
6 Mayor, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and the
7 technical working group to improve the efficiency of
8 operations of large buildings. We also remain
9 committed to working with the private sector, whether
10 through in incentivization [sic] or through mandates.
11 We know that we have to move forward when it comes to
12 large buildings and buildings throughout New York
13 City. this is the challenge that's presented to us,
14 but the city and this council and the Mayor's Office
15 has never shrunk from a challenge before, and I look
16 forward to working with them to getting this task
17 done of having buildings both private and public be
18 part of this process. OneNYC's vision on
19 sustainability outlines six goals, reduce waste from
20 landfills to zero by 2030. The city will clean up
21 contaminated land to address disproportionately high
22 exposure in low income communities and convert land
23 to safe and beneficial use. The city will have the
24 best air quality among all large cities by 2030. The
25 city will mitigate neighborhood flooding and other

2 high quality water services. The city's greenhouse
3 gas emissions will be 80 percent or lower by 2050, in
4 2005 [sic], and the city will assure that all New
5 Yorkers will benefit from useful, accessible and
6 beautiful open spaces. These measures, when
7 undertaken, will make New York City a national
8 sustainable leader in a city that keeps its promise
9 to future generations to reduce greenhouse gas
10 emissions to protect our earth. I look forward to
11 hearing the testimony from Office of Resiliency and
12 Dan Zarrilli in Recovery and also Nilda Mesa from the
13 Mayor's Office of Sustainability. Thank you for your
14 partnership both and thank you for your great work,
15 and I look forward from hearing from all of you
16 today, and if there's something that you really like
17 here's how you express that in the City Council. We
18 don't do applause. It's kind of counterproductive,
19 stops us from working. This is going to be a long
20 hearing, but that's what it should be. We're here
21 today to talk about a very serious subject, so we are
22 looking forward to hearing all of your testimonies
23 today and moving our city forward to the greener
24 sustainable future, and again, thank you Chair
25 Treyger.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you, Chair,
3 for your leadership and constant advocacy. Also,
4 we've just been joined by the Minority Leader,
5 Council Member Steve Matteo, and I believe that's it
6 for now, and with that we'll hear now from the
7 Administration, again, Director of Office of Recovery
8 and Resiliency, Dan Zarrilli, and Office of
9 Sustainability, Nilda Mesa. I'd just like to swear
10 you both in. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the
11 whole truth and nothing but the truth in your
12 testimony before this committees and to respond
13 honestly to Council Member questions? Please, you
14 may begin. Thank you.

15 NILDA MESA: Good morning, Chairpersons
16 Constantinides and Treyger and members of the
17 Committees on Environmental Protection and Recovery
18 and Resiliency. My name is Nilda Mesa and I'm the
19 Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of
20 Sustainability and the Project Director for OneNYC.
21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about
22 Vision Three of One New York, the Plan for a Strong
23 and Just City. As you know, OneNYC is the city's
24 long term integrated plan for growth, equity,
25 sustainability, and resiliency. It built upon the

2 path-breaking work done by the Bloomberg
3 Administration and PlaNYC. Under Local Law 17 of
4 2008, the City of New York is required to create a
5 long term sustainability plan every four years with
6 progress reports annually. We will release a
7 comprehensive progress report on Earth Day next year.
8 I'm here today to give you an overview of
9 sustainability portion of OneNYC since its release.
10 This hearing could not be more timely. Over the
11 weekend, a comprehensive climate agreement was
12 reached in Paris, truly a historic turning point that
13 sets a path towards limiting carbon emissions to two
14 degrees centigrade or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above
15 pre-industrial era temperatures, with a stretch goal
16 of 1.5 degrees, the level at which the most serious
17 impacts from climate change are anticipated to be
18 averted. The agreement calls for transparency as
19 well as five-year check-ins at which new targets may
20 be established to keep us as a nation on the path to
21 meeting our goals. There were several factors this
22 round of negotiations that contributed towards a
23 successful push to an agreement. One of the primary
24 factors was the heightened role of cities and other
25 subnational governments in the run up to Paris.

2 Cities came together as never before, not waiting for
3 national governments, but rather leading the way
4 showing how this can be done. As we in this room all
5 know, cities are where the rubber meets the road.
6 For all the targets that may be set by national
7 governments, cities are where the impacts of climate
8 change are felt and where the day to day decisions
9 are made that effect the course of our climate. We
10 joined our fellow cities and subnational governments
11 on a series of collective actions that commit us to
12 regular reporting and transparency, including as part
13 of the Compact of Mayors and the Under Two MOU. With
14 these subnational frameworks in place, cities are now
15 able to their goals and methodologies consistent with
16 each other, and these provide as well a valuable
17 series of networks within which NYC may exchange best
18 practices and engage in collective action with cities
19 all over the world. As evidence of how our approach
20 is viewed internationally, I'm proud to announce that
21 the One City, 80 by 50 Buildings Plan and the
22 Buildings Technical Working Group One, the C40
23 Climate Leadership Groups Building Energy Efficiency
24 Award in Paris at the annual C40 awards. Thank you
25 to Council for your participation in the Buildings

2 Technical Working Group, and we think that you are in
3 part sharing that with us. On April 22nd, 2015 Mayor
4 de Blasio released OneNYC. At the time, he said,
5 "The very process of addressing our environmental
6 challenges is part of how we address our economic
7 challenges. The process of addressing the
8 sustainability needs of our city is how we also
9 battle inequality." OneNYC launched 200 initiatives
10 spanning areas such as workforce development,
11 premature mortality, healthcare and transportation
12 access, as well as the areas mandated by charter,
13 including energy, transportation, solid waste, parks,
14 and resiliency. OneNYC also carries forward the 200
15 or so existing PlaNYC initiatives. Since we released
16 OneNYC, the initiatives were funded in the budget
17 process and an extensive internal performance
18 management tracking system has been established to
19 track progress of our implementation. Today I'm
20 pleased to update you on the progress the city has
21 made towards the environmental sustainability goals
22 we outlined last spring. OneNYC was developed with
23 input from the Mayor's Sustainability Advisory Board,
24 and we are grateful for the input and support of
25 Council Member Richards as Co-chair of the Advisory

2 Board as well as Council Member Treyger, as Chair of
3 Recovery and Resiliency Committee. While we feel
4 the absence of Council Member Richards since he has
5 moved on to Chair the Committee on Zoning and
6 Franchises, we are delighted to have such a strong
7 partner on the Advisory Board in Chairman
8 Constantinides. We look forward to working with him
9 in the years ahead in greening our city and value our
10 work together to date. On a side note we also extend
11 our congratulations to Council Member Richards on the
12 birth of his son and wish him and his wife and family
13 health and happiness in the years to come. In
14 addition, I'd like to acknowledge the valuable
15 insights and ideas provided by the Council borough
16 delegations and the Speaker's Office as well as other
17 elected officials as we developed OneNYC. There were
18 many times along the way when you made us aware of
19 issues that led us to a deeper understanding of the
20 challenges in your districts and the initiatives that
21 we should consider. OneNYC is stronger as a result,
22 and we look forward to continuing our collaborative
23 efforts. When the Mayor announced the bold target
24 last year that New York City would reduce greenhouse
25 gas emission 80 percent by 2050 the world took note.

2 When we released OneNYC on Earth Day, the world took
3 note. We have a special responsibility here in New
4 York when it comes climate and environment. As so
5 many times the question is posed, "What is New York
6 City doing?" With the release of OneNYC we reset the
7 bar and OneNYC has become the new model for
8 sustainability plans, as I have been told over and
9 over again by my colleagues in other cities and,
10 well, the consultants they are hiring to do their own
11 versions. With OneNYC we became the first major city
12 to integrate environmental sustainability with
13 economic and social sustainability. This model
14 complements the one adopted by the UN this fall with
15 its sustainable development goals. When we began
16 pulling it together, we noted that 10 years from now
17 New York City will be celebrating its 400th
18 anniversary as a city. We ask ourselves, what does
19 the city need to thrive in the next century, not what
20 can we do as a city government, but rather what does
21 the city need? This made all the difference. We
22 looked at the underlying foundations, at trends over
23 the last few years. We saw that population growth is
24 rising fastest in the boroughs outside Manhattan and
25 so are jobs. That has a host of implications for

2 everything from access to jobs to air quality to
3 housing and schools. One key fact that we saw was
4 that while New York City has more jobs than it has
5 ever had, 42.1 percent of our population lives either
6 in or near poverty. Incorporating equity into OneNYC
7 is a critical piece of what we are doing and infuses
8 the plan in many ways. For example, as we looked at
9 patterns of air pollutants and asthma
10 hospitalizations, we saw that some of the worst
11 asthma corridors are in the poorest neighborhoods.
12 If we improve air quality that means children don't
13 miss school, parents don't miss work, and their
14 parents stay out of the hospital more. That puts
15 everyone on a better path to share in the economy of
16 this city and strengthens quality of life for all.
17 The environment and the future are all
18 interconnected. With the release of OneNYC, the
19 Mayor pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80
20 percent by 2050 over a 2005 baseline with an interim
21 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 40
22 percent by 2030. The city has made great progress to
23 fulfilling this commitment in the past six months,
24 and we anticipate making even more progress in the
25 next year. This morning, the Mayor announced that of

2 the nearly 3,000 public buildings with any
3 significant energy use, almost one-third already have
4 retrofits in place or underway. Those buildings
5 represent 50 percent of greenhouse gas emissions from
6 city municipal buildings, and we've made huge strides
7 with solar installations too. The city has installed
8 nearly four megawatts of solar on its buildings in
9 the last year alone, bringing the total to nearly
10 five megawatts. The city recently released a request
11 for proposals for 15 megawatts more of solar on
12 public buildings that includes 66 schools across the
13 five boroughs, Bellevue Hospital, Hostos Community
14 College, the Bronx Hall of Justice, the Queens
15 Museum, and the Abe Stark Ice Ring among others.
16 Emissions from buildings make up 71 percent of New
17 York City's greenhouse gas emissions. Given this
18 large share, our teams started working on reducing
19 greenhouse gas emissions from buildings with the
20 release of One City Built to Last during Climate Week
21 2014. The projects initiated or completed in city-
22 owned buildings since the release of One City are
23 projected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more
24 than 90,000 metric tons and avoid nearly 40 million
25 dollars in the city's annual energy costs. The city

2 has upheld its commitment to make public buildings
3 models of sustainability by initiating or completing
4 retrofits in 770 buildings or more than a quarter of
5 all city-owned buildings greater than 10,000 square
6 feet. Earlier this year, we launched the Buildings
7 Technical Working Group with 50 expert stakeholders.
8 It includes building owners, architects, engineers,
9 labor and the key sectors from the building industry.
10 The organizations represented include REBNY, the Real
11 Estate Board of New York, Urban Green, Align, BOMA
12 [sic], and key city agencies. The Technical Working
13 Group is taking a comprehensive analytical approach
14 in formulating recommendations for the city to adopt
15 next year. It is relying on data collected for the
16 last five years from our benchmarking laws and
17 breaking down patterns of energy use and best
18 practices by building age, size and type. This is
19 why C40 gave us the award. Nothing else like this
20 exists in the world. What we developed out of this
21 group will serve as a model worldwide and lay out a
22 game plan for us that will have benefitted from a 360
23 input citywide. The mayor has said that we look at
24 voluntary approaches, but that we will institute
25 mandates if that is what it will take to meet our 80

2 by 50 goals. Our approach is informed by the
3 incredible success of the clean heat initiative; 99.5
4 percent of all number six fuel oil burning boilers
5 have switched to cleaner fuels, either natural gas or
6 number two for the most part. What is left of the
7 number four boilers we are addressing so that they
8 will be converted before the 2030 deadline? The way
9 we got there with this program is that we conducted
10 extensive outreach to building owners in advance of
11 the deadline for conversion providing building owners
12 with the resources and information they needed to
13 meet the deadline. We are more interested in
14 performance than in fining building owners so that
15 they have the resources to make the conversions and
16 run their buildings. In September of this year, the
17 city launched the NYC Retrofit Accelerator, a one-
18 stop resource that provides one on one assistance to
19 private building owners and operators to help them
20 undertake energy and water efficiency upgrades. The
21 program is anticipated to reduce citywide greenhouse
22 gas emissions by rough one million metric tons per
23 year by 2025 by accelerating retrofits in up to 1,000
24 properties per year by 2025, the equivalent of almost
25 200,000 passenger vehicles taken off the roads while

2 saving New Yorkers an estimated 350 million dollars a
3 year in utility costs and generating over 400 local
4 construction-related jobs. With respect to solar, we
5 have seen private solar installations in New York
6 City more than double since the end of 2013 from less
7 than 25 megawatts to more than 54 megawatts today
8 across 3,500 installations. The response to our
9 community solar pilot in Brooklyn's Community Board
10 Six was well beyond what we expected. Private solar
11 installations are growing enormously in all five
12 boroughs, with one and a half megawatts installed in
13 Manhattan and nearly 10 megawatts in the Bronx and
14 Brooklyn each, nearly 14 in Queens, and more than 19
15 megawatts in Staten Island. This includes nearly
16 3,000 installations on residential properties and
17 over 600 installations on nonresidential properties.
18 Separately, there was another nearly 18 megawatts of
19 private solar installations scheduled to be
20 installed. The city is also leading by example by
21 installing solar on our own buildings. As of
22 December 1st, 4.8 megawatts of solar has been
23 installed on city-owned property across 34
24 installations and 2.8 installed across 17 public
25 schools. Separately, there is another 18 megawatts

2 of private solar installation scheduled to be
3 installed. Other solar sites include City Hall and
4 major facilities like the Port Richmond Wastewater
5 Treatment Plant. To further encourage solar
6 adoption, the city will dramatically reduce wait
7 times to receive a permit to install solar for most
8 types of solar projects. Professional self-
9 certification for simple solar projects will be ready
10 on January 1st, 2016. Self-certification will
11 simplify the process for low-risk solar operations so
12 that DOB, Department of Building, resources are
13 efficiently allocated to more complex projects. New
14 York City can't achieve 80 by 50 by only reducing
15 greenhouse gas emissions however from the city's
16 building stock. We will not reach our goals that
17 way, and we can't put this effort all on the backs of
18 building owners. With the launch of OneNYC we added
19 the missing sectors, transportation, energy supply,
20 and waste. Earlier this month--on transportation.
21 Earlier this month, the Administration released NYC
22 Clean Fleet, our roadmap to achieve a 50 percent
23 reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from municipal
24 fleet operations below 2005 levels by 2025 and an 80
25 percent reduction by 2030. With Clean Fleet, NYC

2 will have the largest municipal electric fleet in the
3 US and possibly the world, 2,000 vehicles. The
4 transportation sector accounts for nearly one-quarter
5 of citywide greenhouse gas emissions and the city
6 owned and operated vehicle account for approximately
7 four percent of citywide transportation emissions or
8 13 percent of the city government's emissions. NYC
9 Clean Fleet enables the city to one, buy more
10 electric vehicle, and two, expand the use of anti-
11 idling, hybrid and stop/start technologies in medium
12 and heavy-duty vehicles. This will help reduce
13 emissions and gasoline while trucks are rest. These
14 technologies can reduce a vehicle's fuel consumption
15 by up to 33 percent and total fleet emissions by five
16 percent. The city will also be looking at phasing
17 out traditional diesel fuel in city vehicles by 2035.
18 These diesel alternatives are estimated to reduce
19 emissions by 34 percent. On December 1, DOT,
20 Department of Transportation, launched the newest
21 select bus service route connecting the Bronx,
22 Flushing and Jamaica. This corridor currently serves
23 42,000 customers daily from the Bronx and Queens and
24 covers 13.9 miles with Main Street in Queens being
25 the highest ridership section. The Q44SBS marks the

2 ninth SBS route in the city. The launch of the Q44
3 SBS route is the latest step towards the Mayor's
4 commitment to reach 20 routes citywide, providing
5 reliable and sustainable transit options as well as
6 better connections to retail and job centers. In
7 September, DOT installed the one-thousandth mile in
8 the city's bicycle network. DOT is building 50 miles
9 of bicycle network every year, including at least
10 five miles of protected bike lanes. In 2015, DOT is
11 on pace to install more than 12 miles of protected
12 bike lanes, the most ever in a single year. With
13 respect to energy supply, this summer the
14 Administration released a request for information or
15 an RFI to run our operations on 100 percent renewable
16 electricity. New York City spends between 600 and 650
17 million dollars on municipal-related operations and
18 uses between four and five terawatt hours of
19 electricity a year. It is about 10 percent of the
20 city's electricity demand. The associated greenhouse
21 gas emissions are about 1.3 million metric tons of
22 CO2 equivalent. The RFI is the city's first step to
23 engaging all entities involved in or supporting the
24 renewable energy sector to deliver reliable and cost
25 effective goals. Right now, we only have about two

2 percent of the city's electric supply powered by
3 renewables. This number needs to go up and we are
4 sending the clear signal that we want to spur the
5 market into action. We are also participating in the
6 state's REV [sic] proceedings. By our calculations
7 New York City's greenhouse gas emissions make up
8 about 40 percent of statewide emission and we want to
9 do our part to ensure we all meet 80 by 50. We are
10 also working on projects that are smaller in scale. I
11 was pleased to work with the Council on the passage
12 of Intro 609 which will be signed by the Mayor in the
13 coming weeks. We look forward to clearing the way
14 for more geothermal systems in New York City at less
15 cost and planning time for building owners and to
16 finding ways to use this strategy even more often in
17 our own municipal buildings where we can. We are
18 also actively working on a micro-grid initiative and
19 other distributed energy strategies including solar
20 as described above. With respect to waste, the city
21 has made great progress on our goal of sending zero
22 waste to landfill by 2030. We're expanding the
23 organics program by adding 53,000 households in
24 Brooklyn, Queens and two routes for high-rises in
25 Manhattan. There are now 41 districts served by

2 curbside collection or drop-offs, including 734
3 schools and 225 community composting sites. DSNY is
4 collecting recycling as well from close to 500 NYCHA
5 buildings and has trained more than 70,000 residents
6 at NYCHA facilities. We are on track to have
7 recycling at all NYCHA facilities by the end of 2016.
8 With respect to parks and natural resources, through
9 the community parks initiative, the city is
10 strengthening the network of parks and public space
11 in under-resourced high poverty and growing
12 neighborhoods. In October, the Mayor and
13 Commissioner Silver announced that capital funding
14 for community parks initiative would be doubled,
15 enabling complete community-driven renovations of
16 approximately 30 additional neighborhood parks over
17 the next four fiscal years, reaching a total of over
18 60 parks through this initiative. The city will
19 break ground on 35 parks through this initiative.
20 The city will break ground on 35 parks in the first
21 phase of CPI parks in fall 2016. Additionally, New
22 York City Parks announced in September that targeted
23 physical improvements in 60 of the city's parks and
24 playgrounds were complete. In FY16, New York City
25 Parks will complete an additional 25 targeted

2 improvement projects. These parks were selected
3 because they had higher than average concentrations
4 of poverty. And last but not least, earlier this
5 month Mayor's de Blasio and Bloomberg planted the
6 one-millionth seventh--sorry--1,017,634th tree. On
7 air quality we've made strides towards having the
8 cleanest air quality of any big city in the US. Some
9 of these highlights include enhanced enforcement of
10 the updated DEP Air Pollution Code through increased
11 and more flexible deployment and implementation of a
12 registration fee waiver for mobile food trucks and
13 refrigeration trucks using clean technologies for
14 auxiliary power units. As you know, the Mayor and
15 Council collaborated successfully to pass Intro 712,
16 a new requirement that DOHMH, the Department of
17 Health and Mental Health, conduct a community air
18 quality survey on an annual basis. The law gives
19 DOHMH discretion as to exactly where and when
20 pollutants are measured at street-level monitoring
21 sites but requires the research to identify patterns
22 of pollutants by geographic area, by source and by
23 season, and to produce maps of these findings. With
24 respect to water, one of the major goals of OneNYC is
25 reducing the risk of flooding in the most affected

2 communities. DEP is developing an action plan to
3 resolve long-standing flooding conditions that affect
4 over 400,000 city residents in southeast Queens. The
5 area has more 311 flooding and confirmed sewer back-
6 up complaints than any other area of the city, and in
7 certain neighborhoods experiences recurring flooding
8 conditions. The plan includes construction of almost
9 10 miles of new or reconstructed sewers as well as
10 five miles of water main replacement. The one and a
11 half billion dollars of capital construction in the
12 10-year plan to address southeast Queens flooding
13 includes building out the storm sewer system
14 throughout southeast Queens at an accelerated pace,
15 and utilizing green infrastructure and innovative
16 sewer construction to bring relief to the worst
17 affected areas faster. For faster relief to areas
18 with repeat flooding, DEP will also build sewer
19 extensions at a rate of about six per year, at a cost
20 of about 20 to 30 million dollars annually. Mayor's
21 Office of Sustainability and DEP are developing in
22 addition an interim floatable and settleable [sic]
23 trash and debris reduction campaign. This includes a
24 public education campaign. A multi-agency taskforce
25 has also been working on meeting the goal of OneNYC

2 to install 500 new or repaired fountains across the
3 city over the next 10 years. DEP has allocated five
4 million dollars towards that effort, and we expect to
5 be one-fifth of the way to the OneNYC goal after the
6 first year. With respect to brown fields, the city
7 has made progress on cleaning up contaminated land
8 through the Office of Environmental Remediation. The
9 adopted FY16 budget included funding Brownfield
10 Jumpstart, which will provide higher levels of city
11 funding for environmental investigations and clean-
12 up. OER also launched the Financial Assistance
13 Search Tool, an online Brownfield financial incentive
14 locator, and the pro-bono environmental assistance
15 program in conjunction with the NYC Brownfield
16 Partnership to assist community developers, faith-
17 based developers and small and mid-sized developers
18 to clean up and redevelop brownfield sites. As I
19 mentioned earlier in my testimony, the full OneNYC
20 annual update will be out on Earth Day 2016. The
21 update will provide detailed progress on all the
22 initiatives and the metrics, and as you can see, we
23 are well on our way. Thank you again for this
24 opportunity to testify before both of your committees
25 and I look forward to working together to reach our

2 goals. I will now turn this over to my colleague Dan
3 Zarrilli to provide an update on Vision Four: Our
4 Resilient City.

5 DANIEL ZARRILLI: Thanks, Nilda. Good
6 morning. My name's Daniel Zarrilli. I'm the Director
7 of the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency. I
8 want to thank Chairpersons Treyger and Constantinides
9 as well as all the members of the Environmental
10 Protection Committee and the Recovery and Resiliency
11 Committee for this opportunity to speak about Vision
12 Four, OneNYC, which is the City's comprehensive
13 resiliency program, preparing our neighborhoods, our
14 economy, public services to withstand and emerge
15 stronger from the impacts of climate change and other
16 21st Century threats. The importance of this program
17 was underscored in a global way with this weekend's
18 Paris Climate Acord [sic] which beyond that which
19 Nilda mentioned also committed nearly 200 nations to
20 an additional and new global goal to strengthen
21 resiliency and reduce our vulnerability to the
22 impacts of climate change. This Paris agreement is
23 indeed timely and necessary. By the 2050's according
24 to just the middle range projections of the New York
25 City Panel on Climate Change, average New York City

2 temperatures are projected to increase between four
3 degrees and 5.7 degrees Fahrenheit. Annual
4 precipitation is projected to increase between four
5 and 11 percent, and sea levels are projected to rise
6 between 11 and 21 inches on top of a foot of sea
7 level rise that we've already witnessed since 1900,
8 and extreme events like flooding are becoming more
9 frequent and intense. Hurricane Sandy highlighted
10 the reality of all of these risks tragically killing
11 44 New Yorkers, causing nearly 19 billion dollars in
12 damages and lost economic activity. Many
13 neighborhoods were devastated, over 88,000 buildings
14 were flooded. Over 23,000 businesses impacted, and
15 over two million residents were without power for
16 weeks, and gas shortages persisted for over a month.
17 In response, the city proposed a 20 billion dollar
18 resiliency program to address not only the risks of
19 another Sandy, but to broaden our approach to the
20 risk of climate change and other threats more
21 broadly. In April of this year, Mayor de Blasio
22 released the ground-breaking OneNYC which expanded
23 this multilayered resiliency program and accelerated
24 its implementation. In October of this year I was
25 here before the Committee on Recovery and Resiliency

2 to provide an extensive overview of the de Blasio
3 Administration's actions and accomplishments with
4 respect to our resiliency plan. Today I'll more
5 briefly describe the city's multilayered resiliency
6 vision of OneNYC comprised of neighborhoods,
7 buildings, infrastructure, and coastal defense with a
8 few key highlights of our accomplishments. With
9 OneNYC, our neighborhoods, the places where we live,
10 work and play are the first layer of our resiliency
11 efforts. Our goal is to make every single New Yorker
12 safer by strengthening the social and economic
13 resiliency of their communities. How are we doing
14 this? In partnership with the City Council we are
15 working with houses of worship and community-based
16 organizations to build their capacity for emergency
17 and resiliency planning. We're launching new efforts
18 to evaluate and mitigate climate health impacts.
19 We've improved risk communication and emergency
20 preparedness by updating our evacuation maps,
21 releasing a new comprehensive hazard mitigation plan
22 and expanding neighborhood-based programs, and we're
23 investing to make emergency shelter sites accessible
24 to New Yorkers with disabilities. Furthermore, we're
25 focused on small business recovery and resiliency.

2 To date, we've helped more than 800 Sandy-affected
3 businesses with loans and grants and expect to
4 implement innovative resiliency technologies in
5 thousands of small business locations. We've also
6 created nearly 2,000 jobs and hired over 900
7 residents from Sandy-impacted areas, continuing our
8 commitment to ensure that New Yorkers have
9 opportunities to participate in the recover process
10 in their neighborhoods. Our second layer is working
11 to upgrade the city's buildings to withstand climate
12 change impacts. Sandy showed us that structures
13 built to the latest code perform well in storms and
14 better protect their inhabitants. We've learned from
15 this and have already upgraded the city's building
16 codes, including 16 new local laws to account for
17 vulnerabilities related to extreme weather and
18 climate change. We're also fighting to protect the
19 affordability of flood insurance. We're working to
20 correct errors in FEMA's flood maps, advocating for
21 measure to make FEMA's national flood insurance
22 program work better in dense urban environments, and
23 informing New Yorkers about flood risks and flood
24 insurance changes. The third layer of the city's
25 multilayered strategy is adapting the city's

2 infrastructure and supply chains to climate impacts.

3 We are directly investing billions of dollars into

4 the city's infrastructure and we are collaborating

5 with our many regional infrastructure partners to

6 ensure that their investments align with the city's

7 vision for resiliency and affordability. Finally,

8 the fourth layer of our OneNYC Resiliency Program is

9 strengthening our coastal defenses against sea level

10 rise, wave action and storm surge. When Sandy struck

11 our coastal defenses were nearly non-existent. In

12 response to the devastation the city released and

13 began implementing its first-ever comprehensive

14 coastal protection plan. Using this as a foundation,

15 OneNYC aims to further reduce the city's coastal

16 vulnerabilities. We believe there's no silver bullet

17 solution to these risks and that a tailored local

18 approach is best. Communities also need to play a

19 vital role in the development of these projects, and

20 the de Blasio Administration is committed to working

21 with communities, whether in Red Hook, Staten Island,

22 Breezy Point, Coney Island, the Rockaways and Jamaica

23 Bay, lower Manhattan, the Lower East Side and Hunt's

24 Point, or across the city to implement this vision.

25 Since my last testimony we have hit several new

2 critical milestones on this program. Work at Coney
3 Island Hospital and across the HCC portfolio is
4 proceeding and design for the new Coney Island
5 facility is starting soon. we've completed our first
6 phase of pre-design and community engagement in both
7 the lower East side and in Hunt's Point and are
8 aggressively advancing the implementation of the
9 city's rebuild by design projects in partnership with
10 both communities. We've launched the design process
11 for an integrated flood protection system in Red
12 Hook, and we'll be in the community often as that
13 project develops. The city just recently broke
14 ground on a 22 million dollars Blue Belt [sic]
15 Project in Staten Island to reduce local flooding,
16 and we came to agreement with LIPA [sic] and PSENG to
17 undertake a storm hardening collaborative process to
18 bring resiliency to the electric grid in the
19 Rockaways similar to a successful model that assisted
20 a one billion dollar investment in Con-Ed's electric
21 grid across the rest of the city. Before I conclude,
22 I'd like to also thank our partners in the City
23 Council, including Council Members Chin, Treyger,
24 Eugene, Gentile, Johnson, Richards, and Rose for
25 supporting and introducing the city's application to

2 HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition. I
3 also want to thank Manhattan Borough President Gale
4 Brewer, State Senator Squadron, our entire federal
5 delegation, and many important local and citywide
6 stakeholders such as the Downtown Alliance, the Trust
7 Republic Land, both Community Boards One and Three
8 for their support of this application. Our NDRC
9 application offers a compelling resiliency vision, a
10 focus on neighborhood affordability and connectivity
11 through integrated water management for the Lower
12 Manhattan and Two Bridges neighborhoods, which remain
13 vulnerable to flooding, sea level rise and other
14 threats. These communities are home to vulnerable
15 populations, economic activity of national importance
16 and critical transportation and utility
17 infrastructure which we are committed to protecting.
18 The de Blasio Administration has shown our commitment
19 to these communities and all across the city, and we
20 put over 100 million dollars on the table toward this
21 application and have already launched a public
22 planning and design process to move this project
23 forward. In an impressive display of collaboration,
24 the City Council, local business organizations and
25 community residents and stakeholders have come

2 together to call on HUD to continue its close
3 partnership with the city and fund this 500 million
4 dollar game-changing application, which will help
5 ensure that Sandy funds stay in our region. Now is
6 the time to call on our friends in Washington, D.C.
7 to ensure we win this competition and we thank you
8 for your support and for this resolution. Thank you
9 again for this opportunity to testify before both
10 committees, and I look forward to working with you to
11 adapt the city to the risks of climate change and
12 other 21st century threats. Your partnership is
13 critical to building a stronger more resilient New
14 York. We'd be happy to take your questions at this
15 time. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you to the
17 Administration. I just want to note we've also been
18 joined by Council Members Brad Lander, Council Member
19 Donovan Richards. We got a nice shout out to the
20 addition of your new family members.
21 Congratulations, Council Member Richards. And
22 Council Member Margaret Chin, who I think has a few
23 words for us about her very important Resolution 909.
24 Council Member Chin?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair.

3 Good morning. I'm Council Member Margaret Chin, and
4 I represent District One, which includes Lower
5 Manhattan's neighborhoods such as the Sea Port [sic],
6 the Historic Battery and two bridges. I want to
7 thank the Chair of the Committee on Recovery and
8 Resiliency, Council Member Mark Treyger, and the
9 Chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection,
10 Council Member Constantinides, for hearing Reso 909.
11 This resolution urges the United States Department of
12 Housing and Urban Development to support New York
13 City's application for the National Disaster
14 Resiliency Competition, which could potentially award
15 the city with up to 500 million dollars. The federal
16 dollars from this competition has a potential to not
17 only fortify but revitalize a large part of Lower
18 Manhattan from the Lower East Side to Battery Park
19 City. Whenever I speak of resiliency, I can't help
20 but remember feeling powerless during Sandy as the
21 water rose over the barriers and flooded into homes
22 and businesses in my district. After it passed, my
23 office and I did what we can delivering supplies and
24 ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our
25 community, such as the elderly were accounted for and

2 taken care of. I will never forget seeing the unlit
3 street and ruined storefronts in the aftermath of the
4 storm. I know my fellow colleagues here and I share
5 the same goal, be ready for these type of natural
6 disasters, which are expected to happen more often as
7 our sea levels continue to rise. It's not a matter
8 of if, but when. While city has identified many ways
9 to protect our 520 miles of coastline, the project
10 underway will cost nearly 3.7 billion dollars. The
11 city is still trying to find ways to fund half of
12 these projects. The NDRC is not only a large source
13 of potential funding, it can help attract new
14 investment to cover the cost of these projects.
15 Furthermore, the federal funds for protect and
16 connect will reaffirm the city's commitment and
17 strengthen our momentum to increase investment in
18 resiliency for the City of New York. Once again, I
19 want to thank the Chairs Treyger and Constantinides
20 for this Oversight Hearing and for hearing Reso 909.
21 I look forward to hearing everyone's question and
22 comments, and I hope you will join us to ensure that
23 New York City is prepared to weather any storms and
24 face the impact of climate change. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you, Council
3 Member Chin. We've also been joined by Council
4 Member Rosie Mendez, and I just want to just say to
5 Council Member Chin we thank you and also I believe
6 Borough President of Manhattan Brewer and others for
7 raising an issue that I think is very legitimate,
8 that the federal government sets these very ambitious
9 goals, and historically they have not provided the
10 resources to help cities and states meet these goals,
11 and I think that's exactly what I think her
12 resolution speaks to. So, I'm very proud to be a co-
13 sponsor of your bill, Council Member. So, just I
14 thank the Administration for your testimony, and
15 hopefully we'll have a very, as you can see by the
16 good attendance here, we have a lot of interest and
17 questions coming up. But just to begin that saying
18 that one of the criticism of PlaNYC, which was the
19 former plan before OneNYC, was that it was very top
20 down. There really was not in my view and the view
21 of many others that not a grassroots approach to
22 resiliency, sustainability planning. I recall that
23 Administration's--I call that the era of Power Points
24 and where people were just being told information
25 rather than being solicited for information and

2 having that data on the ground shape our city's
3 blueprints for resiliency sustainability. I just,
4 and I want to say as far as Brooklyn delegation we
5 did meet with Director Mesa. We appreciate that, but
6 can you weight out specifically what are the
7 Administration's plans to make sure that we don't
8 repeat the mistakes of the past and we do get input
9 from local communities? I just want to note that the
10 Community Board that overlaps my district, Community
11 Board 13 in Coney Island and Brighton Beach, actually
12 formed a Resiliency Committee just to focus on this
13 issue since we were one of the hardest hit
14 communities by Super Storm Sandy. So, what are the
15 Administration's plans to make sure that there is an
16 aggressive, sustained grassroots approach to these
17 very important policy goals?

18 NILDA MESA: Thank you. It's an
19 excellent question. Just by way of background, when
20 we were developing OneNYC, we did it with over 70
21 city agencies. It was very much an integrated plan
22 and cross-cutting with all of the agencies. So it's
23 far from being top down, you know, internally. The
24 benefit of that sort of an approach is that the
25 agencies really own what we've put in OneNYC since

2 they helped develop it and they're shaping. So, much
3 of what's going on now is really at the, in part, at
4 the agency level. There are also meetings that have
5 been occurring and they tend to be more geared
6 towards the specific topics that are coming up. I
7 don't have the calendar in front of me of what's, you
8 know, what's coming up, but a lot of it's being
9 handled by another office within the Administration,
10 but within the agencies they're doing extensive
11 outreach. I know that, for example, DSNY is doing a
12 lot of community, you know, outreach as it's rolling
13 out its various roots, for example, for organics
14 collection, and that's--that tends to be how we've
15 been doing it. And we did a lot of outreach, as you
16 know, before we announced the plan and the ideas that
17 that would continue, but it's much more specific
18 these days.

19 DANIEL ZARRILLI: Yeah, let me add a few
20 specifics to that as well. As we've been
21 implementing programs, in particular the two rebuild
22 by design programs that were awarded by HUD. On the
23 Lower East Side and in Hunts Point, we were facing
24 the decisions on how to invest hundreds of millions
25 of dollars. We wanted to do that in a way that did

2 not come across as top down. We wanted to engage
3 communities in that process, and we wanted to find
4 ways to do new engagement practices to really bring
5 those local voices to bear, because really we're all
6 breaking new ground in how we adapt our city to
7 climate change, and we want to make sure we're
8 bringing all the voices to bear on that. We spent
9 probably what might have seemed like an extra-long
10 period of time, but spent nearly a year on the Lower
11 East Side doing a consensus building community
12 engagement process. Community Boards Three and Six
13 came together on a joint taskforce. There was a lot
14 of public engagement, and we've gotten to the point
15 now where we've just launched into environmental
16 review and we're about to start a final design
17 process, but it's been informed by this year-long
18 building process with the community. It was really
19 important for us that it not be top down, that we
20 bring those voices out from the community because the
21 projects are better. in Hunts Point even more
22 recently, just Friday, we concluded what I think is a
23 very successful process in a neighborhood that had
24 some historic tensions, if you will, between the city
25 and the residents and the businesses and the

2 stakeholders in there, and we built trust through an
3 engaged process to really decide how the dollars that
4 we had in that neighborhood were going to be spent,
5 and we did it by bringing all the right voices to the
6 table, hearing their recommendations and making sure
7 we were going to be able to move forward together.
8 That is, I think, the hallmark and maybe two great
9 recent examples of the changes that we've been making
10 and how we're adapting ourselves to doing projects
11 and adapting our city to the risk of climate change
12 by bringing those voices together, and it's been
13 incredibly important both in the development as you
14 heard of OneNYC as a plan, but also in how we're
15 implementing that plan, and we're looking to doing
16 that--sorry--in ways all over the city as we're
17 launching a process in Red Hook, and we'll be in that
18 community often over the next several months and
19 longer as we develop that project. We're going to be
20 doing it there, and we're going to be doing it
21 everywhere we have projects, and I think it's really
22 important.

23 NILDA MESA: I just want to add one point
24 of clarification. So, our Community Affairs Unit is
25 reaching out and meeting with Community Boards on

2 OneNYC sort of overall. We can get you the schedule
3 if you'd like.

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I certainly would
5 appreciate that schedule. I just think it's--I think
6 it's good that agencies are having discussions, you
7 know, within agencies and they're having interagency
8 discussions. I think that should be happening, but I
9 just want to make a note that I read there was a New
10 York Time piece about some of the flaws with regards
11 to what happened in New Orleans from Hurricane
12 Katrina. I think I referenced this at our last
13 hearing, Dan, about physical resiliency was that
14 ultimately they felt there was not enough local input
15 on resiliency planning and sustainability planning,
16 you know, from residents in New Orleans. So, I don't
17 want to just repeat--I don't want to repeat the
18 mistakes, of course, of the last Administration or
19 even of other cities that we need to make sure that
20 we have an aggressive community engagement component
21 to OneNYC. This is supposed to be the opposite of
22 what we saw in the past, and you know, the
23 Administration when it wants to get the word out it
24 knows how to. I think they had a very aggressive
25 outreach with regards to universal pre-k. that was

2 seen everywhere, train stations, Community Boards,
3 everywhere you went you saw a poster or flyer, which
4 was great and very much needed, but this is also very
5 equally, I think as mentioned in your testimony, a
6 very important issue. This is the challenge of our
7 time, and I think that we do need to somehow have a
8 concrete community engagement piece here, and again,
9 not just agencies talking to each other, but actually
10 having direct resident engagement and stakeholders,
11 and also appealing to our academia in our city that
12 are very much well equipped and trained.

13 NILDA MESA: If I may--

14 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] Yes.

15 NILDA MESA: If I may, you know, add to
16 that, it's the same folks who did UPK who are doing
17 our outreach on OneNYC. Those are the folks who are
18 going to be--who are setting up a schedule and have
19 already begun the process of meeting with the
20 Community Boards and getting the word out. So, it's
21 the exact same people. So, if you like that
22 approach, you know, that's a good sign, I guess.

23 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And is there a
24 budget number for the outreach plan?

2 NILDA MESA: I don't have it, but we can
3 get it for you.

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Yeah, I would--

5 NILDA MESA: [interposing] and with
6 respect to the agencies, you know, I don't need to
7 give the impression that the agencies are only merely
8 talking to each other. They are also heavily engaged
9 with the communities where their programs are being
10 implemented and being initiated, and it's, you know,
11 agencies from DOT to, you know, DSNY to, you know,
12 whoever all of them out there, OER, Enrollment
13 Remediation, certainly. And we do engage quite a bit
14 with the academic community and in part through the--
15 we did in the development of OneNYC through the
16 Sustainability Advisory Board, but we have a number
17 of other venues as well, and you know, they're not
18 shy either about contacting, which we really
19 appreciate.

20 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And I'll just give
21 you one micro-example of where local input, I think,
22 makes an impact with regardless for resiliency
23 planning for example. So, I've been to a number of
24 briefings and presentations to your credit, Dan,
25 about the flooding, for example, in my end of

2 Brooklyn, Coney Island Creek, for example, and that
3 is correct that we got flooded from all ends. But
4 just to tell you, the local community residents
5 actually could pinpoint the exact entry point of that
6 flooding. They would say by West 33rd Street by the
7 Creek there was a breach in a lot of water came in.
8 So, they can actually pinpoint where because they
9 were there. They saw it. So, I think local input is
10 absolutely critical in shaping our resiliency and
11 sustainability plans. Just to move a couple more
12 questions, I'll turn it over to my Co-chair as well.
13 OneNYC says the city will release a 2025 action plan
14 laying out specific steps to reduce emissions from
15 the power, transportation, solid waste sectors. When
16 will this 2025 action plan be released, and can you
17 provide any details about it at this point?

18 NILDA MESA: We're in the process of
19 developing it. as you know, the situation with, you
20 know--there's so much fluidity and so much movement
21 over the last few months and we're anticipating more,
22 and what we're doing is we're participating in all of
23 these other processes, whether it's at the federal
24 level or with the state through the rep proceedings,
25 and we are doing our part as well by issuing, you

2 know, the RFI, for example, so that we can kind of
3 galvanize the market that's out there. But in the
4 next year is when we are planning to release a
5 strategy and then a more detailed action plan.

6 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I think it's
7 important that we bolster the plan with goals,
8 targets, benchmarks, because--

9 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: otherwise--and
11 that's what the Administration did with regards to
12 Build it Back, for example.

13 NILDA MESA: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Before it was just
15 at some point we'll build things back.

16 NILDA MESA: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: But then Amy
18 Peterson to her credit came in and put specific
19 targets and benchmarks with regards to check
20 reimbursements and homes getting rebuilt. I think
21 here we need to move from the abstract to the detail.

22 NILDA MESA: Which is what we're doing in
23 this next year.

24 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And that's for
25 next--

2 NILDA MESA: [interposing] So there's--
3 yeah, there's a lot of--a lot of what happens with
4 the energy supply sectors is dependent on what the
5 feds and the state is doing, and so we are working
6 closely with them, but it's within the next year. A
7 lot of the fluidity, a lot of the change in that
8 should become much more clear by the early part of
9 the year. We don't want to come out with something
10 that's going to be out of date instantly. So, it's
11 important for us to get that developed, but it's a
12 high priority, because you know, as I was saying, we
13 don't want to put everything on the backs of the
14 building owners on this. It's a big challenge
15 because we only have--like I said, it's about two
16 percent or so of renewables that are going into the
17 grid right now. So, we're doing what we can to spur
18 that, to get that number to go up.

19 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And which leads me
20 to my next question, what specifically is the
21 Administration planning if it does not get voluntary
22 cooperation from building owners and what is the time
23 table for deciding our next steps?

24 NILDA MESA: As I mentioned, the building
25 technical working groups has been meetings, about 50

2 stakeholders broadly representative of many, many
3 parts of the city, you know, building community, and
4 they're working fast and furiously to come up with
5 recommendations. We expect to get those
6 recommendations at the end of January, and then at
7 that point we will be taking those recommendations,
8 and the recommendations are being developed based on
9 the data that we've already been collecting over the
10 last five years with respect to buildings, the types
11 of buildings, their ages, how they perform, their
12 uses and so forth. And so what we're expecting to
13 have is a set of very targeted and specific and
14 effective recommendations that then we can figure out
15 how to time them, and you know, look at the bud--
16 we're also looking at the budget implications and so
17 forth. We expect to have those from the buildings
18 technical working group by the end of January, and
19 it's been a very lively and detailed and extensive
20 process, but very productive.

21 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And do you know, do
22 you have data, whether Director Mesa or Director
23 Zarrilli on what is the percentage of the carbon
24 emissions or the carbon footprint that comes from
25

2 privately owned buildings compared to city owned
3 facilities? Is there a data on that?

4 NILDA MESA: I think the city is at about
5 10 percent, but I'll get you the exact number. On
6 electricity we're certainly at 10 percent citywide,
7 so and I think it's pretty similar on greenhouse gas
8 emissions, but I'll get you the exact number.

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: But is fair to say
10 that carbon emission from the privately owned
11 buildings are responsible for the biggest
12 contributions to carbon emissions in New York City.

13 NILDA MESA: I mean, just by the numbers,
14 you know, it's 71 percent overall citywide of
15 greenhouse gas emissions come from building, and that
16 also is affected by things like the power supply,
17 since that's what's coming into, you know, the
18 buildings as well. So, you know, just by the numbers
19 that's true.

20 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And I've also
21 learned that when it comes to energy efficiency
22 standards, there's similar--forgive me for drawing
23 analogies, it's the teacher in me, but they're
24 similar to like cable packages. There's the
25 standard. There's the silver. There's the gold.

2 There's the platinum package. So, is it fair to say
3 that there are different standards of energy
4 efficiency standards? It's LEED standards, and then
5 there's international standards. What is the gold
6 standard or the platinum standard of energy
7 efficiency that you're aware of?

8 NILDA MESA: So, it's so much more
9 complicated. So, LEED does not actually address
10 energy directly. LEED is a comprehensive system that
11 looks at everything from the content of recycled
12 materials that are going into a building to the level
13 of lighting. It doesn't particularly--it can look at
14 things like water reclamation. It doesn't
15 specifically address energy. There is--so one of the
16 things that the city's been requiring buildings to
17 do, over 50,000 square feet. We would like to see
18 that number drop, but is to benchmark their energy
19 and water use. And so, buildings are over 50,000
20 square feet are required to provide that data through
21 EPA's portfolio manager, which then can assign a sort
22 of a score to it, but there's not like a sort of set
23 package like that. Buildings are also required to do
24 energy audits and to implement a number of those, and
25 this is private as well as city, to implement those

2 numbers of recommendations, and the--so it's going to
3 be different, you know, by building and by age and by
4 use. So one of the things that, you know, we
5 struggle with for example is on the use part of it,
6 okay? We have many data centers for example,
7 throughout a number of buildings. We would not
8 necessarily want to see those data centers go away,
9 because they are also a big part of the economic, you
10 know, vitality of this city, and so one of the things
11 that, you know, we have to address are things like,
12 you know, within the various usages, you know, the
13 type of building that you've got, what are the best
14 strategies to use, and that's what we're doing
15 through the Building Technical Working Group. We
16 have something like 19 or so building typologies. I
17 don't know if that's the number that we're going to
18 stick with by the end of January, but it's looking at
19 that kind of targeted approach so that we don't do
20 something like say, "Oh, great, you've got this very
21 low energy use intensity. It's because you're a
22 warehouse, you know, rather than because you've got
23 this, you know, other intensive economic activity
24 going on."

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: But what energy
3 standard are we aiming towards, and is that standard
4 good enough and high enough and respected by those
5 that are pushing for serious action--

6 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Well, we did
7 receive an international award from C40 for building
8 energy efficiency. So, and it was a third party jury
9 and we were selected amongst every major city in the
10 world.

11 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Right.

12 NILDA MESA: So, I think, you know, they
13 respect our approach, which is an approach that
14 includes the major stakeholders, blood we also don't
15 want to be coming out with something that is
16 impossible to achieve, you know? And so what we are
17 aiming to do is look at what are the third order of
18 consequences, for example. If we come out with
19 something, is it actually achievable? Is it actually
20 implementable? Is it going to, you know, kill the
21 budget for private owners as well as, you know, the
22 city, and that's exactly the work of the technical
23 working group.

24 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: No, I mean, I'm very
25 sensitive to hearing that because obviously the

2 government has a history of mandates and not really
3 providing resources to meet mandates, and I'm very
4 sensitive to that, but I think it's important that we
5 set a standard--

6 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: that is--that will
8 truly make an impact and is not just simply there for
9 cosmetic reasons, and I also think that if the
10 government is very serious--federal, state, all
11 levels of government, if they're very serious about
12 this, then we need to step up with resources to help
13 us meet these needs, and they should not just be on
14 the backs of one person. We need to also be very
15 mindful and realistic about where our carbon
16 footprint is coming from and what we're doing to
17 tackle this. The government uses public tax dollars
18 to leverage its push for affordability of housing,
19 for example. Are we in a position to use public tax
20 dollars to leverage our push for sustainability and
21 energy efficiency? Can you speak to that?

22 NILDA MESA: Yeah, and that's exactly
23 what we're going towards. So we have an overall, you
24 know, you sort of start from, you know, the 30,000
25 foot level. So you have the overall 85/50 goal, the

2 interim of 40 by 30, but then below that what we have
3 to do is come up with the concrete measures and the
4 concrete targets and goals as well as the funding and
5 the support whether it be training, you know, or
6 removing some of the obstacles from soft cost like
7 we're trying to do with the retrofit accelerator.
8 So, and to do that you really have to get pretty
9 granular with things. And so it's the type of thing
10 where you go, okay, you know, you can't just sort of
11 take this blunt instrument across and expect to get
12 to 80 by 50, which is why we've developed these, you
13 know, sort of building typologies in this, you know,
14 more targeted strategy. And so, you know, what we
15 will be looking at in the next year is something
16 that's very targeted and much more specific, along
17 with a pathway to get there.

18 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: The last point I'll
19 make, I'll turn it over to my Co-chair, is that one
20 area that I think OneNYC does not focus really enough
21 on in my opinion, really build on, is how do we make
22 sure that our children who are all working towards
23 making sure they have a safe, secure bright future,
24 how are they going to be enlisted to address, help us
25 address the challenges of today and tomorrow? IN the

2 sense where how are we using our school system to
3 invest monies to build up career technical education
4 programs? And you and I have discussed this, how can
5 we invest in our schools today to come up with
6 resiliency curriculums and to come up with
7 sustainability curriculums and to help equip them
8 with the skills, the knowledge base to help us come
9 up with the answers to the challenges of today and
10 tomorrow? To me, this should not just be a pay day
11 for consultants from all over the world to come into
12 New York City and say we have answers for you. We
13 could tap into the human talent and resources we have
14 right here at home. We have the best kids I'd argue.
15 We have the best, you know, city, and what are your
16 plans to enlist our public school system, to enlist
17 our schools and to invest public dollars to equip
18 them with 21st century career technical education
19 programs geared towards areas of sustainability and
20 resiliency to help get us the answers today and
21 tomorrow? Can you speak to this?

22 NILDA MESA: So, we have farther to go on
23 this than I would like, but as an initial sort of,
24 you know, starting, we are going to be announcing or
25 we're going to be launching Zero Waste Schools

2 Initiative. We also have solar panels that are going
3 on many, many of our schools, and so for all of those
4 schools that have those kinds of initiatives and
5 programs that are being put into place, the ideas
6 that they would also have a curriculum that would go
7 with them so that they could learn, you know, right
8 at, you know, the location of their schools about the
9 importance of this, but my understanding is that the
10 Mayor has directed the Department of Education to
11 develop something on this, but we can get you more
12 information.

13 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Yeah, and I would
14 just add that it's not just about placing solar
15 panels on schools.

16 NILDA MESA: Right.

17 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I want to equip our
18 students with the knowledge to build the solar panels
19 and to make them and to get--because many of the
20 impacted communities from Sandy, for example, also
21 were not vulnerable just to storms, but also
22 vulnerable in terms of their economics, and so how do
23 we make this a goal of also transforming lives and
24 building up their skills to get good paying jobs and
25 turning this into a situation where we're actually

2 building up human capacity, and again, I want our
3 kids to be equipped with the knowledge base and the
4 skills and qualifications to really turn a win/win in
5 terms of our city sustainability plans, but as also
6 addressing our economic inequities that we see all
7 too often across New York City. I'll turn it over to
8 my Co-Chair for questions.

9 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you,
10 Chair Treyger. It's great to see you both again.
11 So, I have--just kind of circling back. So, the
12 Technical Working Group is one that we're looking
13 forward to seeing those answers in the early next--
14 you're saying early next year, January you'll have
15 the recommendations back and then soon after we'll be
16 able to sort of--

17 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Exactly.

18 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: start parsing
19 through those and to developing next steps, because I
20 know throughout my district, I think districts
21 throughout New York City we're seeing a building
22 boom. So we currently have a million buildings in
23 New York City, but if you walk through Astoria or
24 probably any city district you see buildings going up
25 every day, and they're under the impression with LEED

2 that they're as energy efficient as they can be.

3 They don't even realize that the energy efficiency's

4 not part of it. They think that they're--you know,

5 LEED, we're right where we need to be

6 environmentally, and really what we need is a LEED on

7 steroids in the energy sector.

8 NILDA MESA: Yeah, pretty much. So, I

9 mean, LEED does--I don't want to give the wrong

10 impression. LEED does have an energy component, but

11 that's not really a central focus. One thing that I

12 should note as well is that the energy code is up for

13 revision, and so that will be coming out next year.

14 That will be much more aggressive than past energy

15 codes, and there's also--and there's another one

16 that's due to come up, you know, sort of two years

17 from then. And so part of what we're trying to do is

18 time, you know, what we're doing with the release of,

19 you know, the new energy codes which are on sort of a

20 state timeline and to make sure that we integrate,

21 you know, all the technical information we're getting

22 with the technical information that the Energy Code

23 Taskforce and Department of Buildings and you know,

24 the state and so forth are developing as well so that

25 we can infuse, you know, so we can make sure that we

2 get the best approaches within the next rounds of
3 energy code.

4 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: I'm glad to
5 hear that. Looking forward to working with you on
6 that as well. So, as far as the clean heat, we
7 talked about how 99.5 percent of all buildings now
8 have sort of cycled, sort of gotten rid of six oil.
9 What is that remaining 0.4 percent represent as far
10 as number of buildings that are left?

11 NILDA MESA: I believe it's only a few
12 hundred.

13 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: A few
14 hundred.

15 NILDA MESA: It's not very many.

16 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: And those
17 buildings will be coming into--

18 NILDA MESA: [interposing] So, they're
19 rolling out--

20 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: [interposing]
21 compliance soon?

22 NILDA MESA: Yeah. So, they're--so now
23 that program is going--has gone into the retrofit
24 accelerator. So, the retrofit accelerator is taking
25 a similar approach on reaching out to building

2 owners, and so one of the things that we're doing
3 with that is reaching out to the building owners
4 that--this is only a few, you know, who still have
5 the number six fuel, but also number four fuel, which
6 is the next, you know, kind of level, and providing
7 them with technical assistance and, you know, support
8 so that they cannot just transfer, not just convert
9 from those but also think of energy retrofits and
10 plan for energy retrofits in a more expanded way.

11 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: So, the
12 Administration's open to sort of possibly
13 accelerating the number four fuel phase out as well,
14 and--

15 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah,
16 absolutely.

17 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: And that we
18 can utilize the retrofit accelerator as well to try
19 to start moving buildings out of four and into more
20 renewable fuel.

21 NILDA MESA: Yeah, exactly, and what we
22 saw was that the vast majority of buildings that were
23 transferring from number six went straight to either
24 number two or natural gas if the infrastructure was
25 in place for them to be able to convert to natural

2 gas or dual fuel. So, number four, there aren't even
3 all that many buildings, you know, left and we think
4 it's a very doable goal to have them convert as well.

5 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Yeah, I mean,
6 I've heard so many stories about the different--when
7 it comes to biofuel about the warranties. So, I know
8 moving that forward and getting that done is
9 important. As well, just to go quickly back when it
10 comes to the technical working group, as you said
11 before, mandates are something that we can think
12 about as well, not, you know, carrot on a stick,
13 finding financial incentives and incentivizing in the
14 private sector and moving them forward, but also we
15 have to mandates are on the table as well?

16 NILDA MESA: What the Mayor said is that
17 we are looking at this, you know--I mean, we're
18 looking at this in a comprehensive way. So, we're
19 going to look first towards, you know, incentivizing
20 and so forth, but at the end of the day we have to
21 meet our 80 by 50 goals, and so you know, whatever
22 it's going to take to get there ultimately is what,
23 you know, we're going to wind up doing. We're in a
24 little bit of--not quite, but a little of the
25 position of sort of the early days of the space

2 program, if you will, where we've got something--
3 we've got this wonderful goal that we're committed to
4 meet, but we still have to develop the technology and
5 the resources and the infrastructure in order to get
6 there. we're on our way and through things like the
7 updates to the energy codes and the Building
8 Technical Working Group, then we can provide even
9 more of the technical background and support, and you
10 know, the strategy that we're going to need to have
11 in place in order to reach it, but it's not the kind
12 of thing where, you know, I'd say in, you know, 1961
13 President Kennedy said we're going to put a man on
14 the moon by 1969. It wasn't like 1963 they had
15 everything in place to do it, you know? It's just--
16 it's taken a while to have buildings develop in this
17 certain, in a way that they have here in New York
18 City, and it's just going to, you know, be a bit to
19 put the systems in place and to get the technical
20 information we need to, you know, turn this around.

21 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: No, I
22 completely hear that. You know, as we--you hear
23 about different technologies being utilized like
24 geothermal, you hear about Saint Patrick's Cathedral
25 and the Queens Botanical Garden and you hear about

2 Passive [sic] House and you hear about the new, you
3 know, Haddock [sic] Building coming online in Queens.
4 You hear about all the great stuff that's solar, but
5 we need to make it more ubiquitous. So, it's--we
6 can't just name these technologies on our hands and
7 talk about these great examples, because so many that
8 we can't name them any longer. So, it comes to
9 solar, what else--I see that this new self-
10 certification will start January 1st?

11 NILDA MESA: Yes, that's right.

12 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: And about how
13 many buildings do you--simple installations, what
14 does that sort of entail for simple installation?

15 NILDA MESA: It's mostly one and two
16 family buildings and it's of a certain pitch on the
17 roof, you know? So it's buildings that are, you
18 know, really pretty standard. The Buildings
19 Department is already very comfortable, you know,
20 with what's needed in order to make, you know, solar
21 panels go on effectively and they have the confidence
22 that the building professionals can self-certify, and
23 then that frees up DOB resources then to go into more
24 complicated things.

2 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: And how do
3 we--how are we going to do the outreach to one and
4 two-family homeowners and sort of that sector and
5 sort of let them know this is an option, that
6 there's--that we've sort of simplified things, that
7 we're making it easier for them to go green? Because
8 one of the big challenges for small homeowners is
9 that, you know, they want to go green and then
10 they'll run into different challenges, and they'll be
11 like, "Why did I even start?" So how do we sort of
12 give them that piece of mind saying, "Hey, we're
13 making--we're streamlining this, we're making it
14 easier starting in January."

15 NILDA MESA: I mean, we're doing
16 everything we can, you know, sort of to get the word
17 out on that, and I think Department of Buildings is a
18 big partner in that as well, but their applications
19 for--so, you know, applications for solar panels have
20 just shot the roof. I think they're up like 1,000
21 percent, you know, in the last couple of years,
22 something like that. So--

23 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: [interposing]
24 Something you could also--

2 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Somebody's
3 getting the word, you know?

4 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Okay, I
5 definitely look forward to partnering with that and
6 reaching out to Community Boards locally and letting
7 them know.

8 NILDA MESA: That would be great.

9 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Because I
10 know that my community has many one, two, three-
11 family homes that would probably make the most sense.
12 As far as the--what is the city doing to increase its
13 share of wind power in the city's power mix?

14 NILDA MESA: We've been--so, okay. Wind
15 in the city--okay, let me-- so I'm going to put on
16 like my teacher hat for a minute just like Council
17 Member Treyger. So, right now wind can either be
18 onshore or offshore. Onshore wind tends to come, it
19 would be from like say Upstate. The transmission
20 lines aren't really set up to carry whatever is, you
21 know, the onshore wind all the way downstate at this
22 point and for a whole host of complicated reasons,
23 but in offshore right now does not exist off of, you
24 know, near enough to New York City. The first
25 offshore facility is being built in Rhode Island off

2 of Block Island, and that's expected to be operating
3 by next September. We're working intensively with
4 the federal government as well as our partners in the
5 state as well as, you know, others to try to figure
6 out what else can we be doing, and part of the reason
7 that we issued the RFI on renewables for the electric
8 supply for the city municipal operations is because
9 we wanted to send a clear signal that the city was
10 ready to buy, you know, renewables from whatever
11 source. You got the right price and so forth, you
12 know, in the coming years because what we want to do
13 is achieve, you know, the 100 percent renewable goal
14 without breaking, you know, the citizen's budget, of
15 course, but you know, that is exactly, you know, what
16 we want to do. So wind right now, and I should say
17 wind within the city on buildings we don't--we're not
18 that windy of a city. It's not like Chicago, you
19 know? We just don't have enough to be able to--with
20 the technology that's available now to be able to
21 generate enough power from wind to make a huge
22 difference on the most of the buildings that are in
23 the city. So, our best shot at this are, you know,
24 working to see if we can get some offshore wind or
25 additional onshore from Upstate into the City.

2 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: And also,
3 hydropower, I know there was a local law a few years
4 ago there was going to be a report either through
5 rivers. It's these water supply infrastructure.
6 Will that have a role in creating power and reducing
7 our city's emissions as well?

8 NILDA MESA: Yeah, hydro is also an
9 important strategy, and you know, again, with the
10 issuance of the RFI that's certainly one that has
11 come up to, you know, been brought to our attention,
12 and it's receiving a lot of attention, you know,
13 throughout the northeast in Massachusetts as well as
14 here as people are looking for cleaner sources of
15 energy.

16 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: And we
17 definitely are positioned here in New York City with
18 our water tunnels and we're a city surrounded by
19 water. We have an opportunity there--

20 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah.

21 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: to sort of
22 capitalize on that.

23 NILDA MESA: It's more--I mean, right now
24 hydro would be coming from, again, you know, sort of
25 some Upstate, some projects that are built, some that

2 are not that are just conceptual, and then there's
3 also hydropower that's generated by Quebec [sic].
4 Right now, one of the big obstacles is just the
5 delivery system. It's just the transmission and
6 distribution lines are not adequate to take, you
7 know, all--or they just haven't been built yet, and
8 so it's something that is very much part of the
9 proceedings going on with the state, and it's
10 something that needs to be addressed.

11 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: I have two
12 questions left, and I'll turn it over to my
13 colleagues. I may come back for a second round.
14 We'll see how things progress. But, the FAD, which I
15 know it's mentioned in Plan OneNYC, was issued by the
16 EPA. It's up for renewal in less than two years in
17 2017. Can you update us on the FAD watershed
18 programs, and do you expect the city to receive a FAD
19 renewal in 2017 and void the expensive water
20 filtration infrastructure that we'd have to build if
21 it wasn't renewed?

22 NILDA MESA: So, DEP will be issuing a
23 report. We expect it to be March of 2016 that is
24 reviewing the FAD and the whole watershed protection
25 system that's in place, and then it'll be a year

2 after that that we would expect the EPA to issue, you
3 know, the renewal of the FAD. Right now, everything
4 seems to be on course. We continue to acquire, you
5 know, easements and so forth Upstate to continue to
6 protect our watershed, and so everything so far, you
7 know, knock wood, everything seems to be on track
8 there.

9 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: That's great
10 to hear. I mean, you know, we have the greatest
11 water in the world, and--

12 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah, we do.

13 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: People are
14 coming here when they eat the bagels and the pizza,
15 they wonder why it's so great. It's our water.

16 NILDA MESA: It's true.

17 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: And then
18 actually, I'll put on--I was never a public school
19 teacher, but I'll put on my teacher's hat for a
20 minute, but--well, fake teacher's hat. My mother
21 was--my sister's a teacher, so I'll borrow hers. But
22 as far as teaching sustainability in the schools and
23 developing that curriculum, you know, we have a
24 resolution, the City Council Reso 375 which will
25 require a--ask the state to add K through 12 climate

2 change education to make sure that it's not part of
3 just one science lesson, but it's part of, you know,
4 political science and economics and a larger part of
5 the science, because it--climate change touches
6 everything we do, and I guess that's something we can
7 work together on and something you were supportive of
8 already.

9 NILDA MESA: Yeah, absolutely. I mean,
10 and you know, to the extent that, you know, all of
11 these can serve as lessons as well to improve
12 literacy and, you know, STEM curriculum all the
13 better.

14 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Yeah, I mean,
15 it's--our children are the ones who are going to have
16 to, you know, deal with this. You know, you heard
17 President Obama say this over and over, we're the
18 first generation to feel the effects and the last
19 generation that can do anything about it.

20 NILDA MESA: Yeah, it's true. I mean, I'll
21 often look at this stuff and say, you know, we're
22 really at a critical crossroads right now where we've
23 got, you know, sort of the--we're at a point that we
24 have not been in in the past, you know, with the
25 signing of the Paris Agreement, that's a very big

2 turning point, but in addition the technology now is
3 so much more advanced than it was even, you know, say
4 five years ago, even three years ago. The pace of
5 change, the gains in efficiency in, you know, the
6 strategies that are coming forth on buildings are
7 tremendous. And so, we're getting--it's a very
8 exciting time to be in this field, and it's very
9 important that we keep moving forward on all of these
10 things, and at the same time, that we don't sort of
11 lock ourselves into technology that is existing today
12 so that, you know, without being open to what's going
13 to be coming, you know, say three years from now, but
14 we're really at a crossroads now in this field. I
15 think it's very important to keep moving forward.

16 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: I'm looking
17 forward to moving forward with you, and with that
18 I'll turn it over to one of my colleagues who--and my
19 colleague Brad Lander has some questions.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chair, in absentia to our other Chair, and I really
22 appreciate your being here and the hard work you're
23 doing, and I want to say I personally appreciate both
24 of you coming out to the Park Slope Town Hall we had
25 back in the summer to focus on OneNYC. I thought it

2 was a really great conversation, and you know, I
3 share Chair Treyger's belief that the more we do to
4 engage New Yorkers in these questions, the better off
5 we're going to be. so, I want to say thank you for
6 doing that, and I really think the things, you know,
7 the tone you have that, you know, what happened over
8 the weekend in Paris like what's happening here are
9 just absolutely essential not only because they are,
10 you know, good goals, but because they mobilize our
11 ability to set and take even more ambitious action,
12 which we know is absolutely necessary. This is not a
13 choice between those two things. Both are true.
14 This is ambitious action and much more is needed and
15 we have to find a way to use it to push ourselves
16 even harder. You know, and that's the vein I think
17 that those of us that believe we really should just
18 start doing building retrofits in a mandatory way
19 sooner than later, that's what motivates us, and I'll
20 tell you, my main information on this topic comes
21 from you, right? The pathways to deep carbon
22 reductions report that came from the City in December
23 2013 is just, it's very clear on this topic, right?
24 New York City could achieve 80 by 50, but it would be
25 exceptionally difficult, theoretically feasible, but

2 will require change at an unprecedented and
3 technologically untested scale regardless of the
4 economics. Market barriers would need to be overcome
5 at every step of the way. Buildings reductions are,
6 you know, as you say, buildings emissions are 75
7 percent and existing privately owned buildings are
8 the biggest part of that by far. You know, I think
9 it's well known that Mayor Bloomberg in his time was
10 open to doing mandatory retrofits rather than
11 benchmarking and backed off in the face of pressure.
12 I guess my question really is, what evidence is there
13 that it could possibly be achieved through a
14 voluntary approach? I mean, I appreciate them. And
15 let me say, I appreciate the Mayor's indication that
16 if and when it can't be achieved through a voluntary
17 approach, then we'll move to a mandatory approach,
18 but I just don't see any reason to believe that it
19 possibly--I mean, it's a big ambitious goal that's
20 not small. It's going to take extraordinary action
21 to mobilize. It is economically rational for people
22 to do and yet we know that by itself won't get us
23 there. So, can you help me feel more optimistic,
24 more confidence, give me any reason to believe that

2 we actually could get it done through voluntary
3 approaches?

4 NILDA MESA: I don't think I'm saying
5 that we absolutely could get it done.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Even maybe. I
7 don't have any evidence--

8 NILDA MESA: [interposing] But here's
9 what--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing] that
11 we might.

12 NILDA MESA: we're looking at. Yeah.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So, I don't
14 understand why we're pretending that we might get
15 there. It's urgent. We passed a law in 2009. We had
16 that report in--

17 NILDA MESA: [interposing] No, no, but
18 we're looking--

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing]
20 2013. Now it's 2015.

21 NILDA MESA: The question is how do you
22 deem--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing] We
24 go to get going.

25

2 NILDA MESA: So the question is how do
3 you do it in a way where you're not wasting money, in
4 a way where you're using the best technology that's
5 available. You're not bankrupting building owners
6 and tenants, you know, who then are going to have to
7 be paying for this stuff ultimately. So you have to
8 do it really smartly.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Yes.

10 NILDA MESA: One of the reasons, and
11 that's what we're focusing on is like how do we do
12 this in a way that, you know, pre--I mean, rents are
13 high enough as they are, you know, for folks, and you
14 know, how do we do this in a way that it makes sense
15 and we don't just like blindly throw money at things
16 that don't work. But on the voluntary side of it, we
17 do have--you know, we have achieved tremendous
18 success with clean heat, and so that's the kind of
19 program where it's like, what we want to provide is
20 the training. We want to provide, you know, the
21 resources so that things can be done effectively
22 rather than going and sort of finding, you know, the
23 building owners and playing "gotcha," you know?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: But clean heat
25 wasn't voluntary.

2 NILDA MESA: No, ultimately it wasn't, but
3 there was a run-up to it, right? There was a long
4 enough run-up to it so that building owners knew how
5 to get it done.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: But that piece of
7 it--if what you're coming here saying is we have to
8 take the time to get it right. I'm not asking
9 questions about--

10 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: do we need the
12 technical work group. I'm not asking questions about
13 do we need the time to set benchmarks. I'm not
14 asking the question, you know, do we need to figure
15 out how to better align incentives so that the
16 savings actually flow back in the appropriate way.
17 Those are hard and we don't have the answers today.
18 So, I'm not saying how come tomorrow you don't have
19 the answers to all those questions. So, if your
20 point is we have to develop those answers, then
21 you're right, and even though--

22 NILDA MESA: [interposing] That's what
23 we're doing.

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: the need is
3 urgent, that doesn't mean tomorrow we have the
4 answers to those questions.

5 NILDA MESA: Right.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So, on all of
7 that, I am persuaded that we, you know--but I don't--
8 none of that persuades me that there's any reason to
9 be even the least bit optimistic that voluntary
10 approaches will get us there if we know we need
11 mandatory approaches, rather than have a period of
12 time. This is my concern, every one of the things
13 you outlined has to happen. So, I agree it has to
14 happen. It's going to take time, but I don't want to
15 take all the time to do that and then set up
16 benchmarks that we say if it's achieved in a
17 voluntary way by this amount of time if we don't have
18 any reason to believe the benchmarks are going to get
19 us there.

20 NILDA MESA: Yeah.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And then we're
22 going to wait that amount of time--

23 NILDA MESA: Of course.
24
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: and then decide
3 the benchmarks aren't getting us there, and then set
4 the mandatory. We're going to lose another--

5 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Of course.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I don't know. How
7 much--let me ask that question, how much time do you
8 think we'll--so, let's imagine the process. We do
9 the things you just said, and we set out benchmarks
10 for seeing whether voluntary approaches are working.
11 How long a time do you think we're going to give to
12 that to see, once we solve the Technical Working
13 Group issues, how long are we going to take to see if
14 voluntary approaches are working to achieve the
15 reductions we--

16 NILDA MESA: [interposing] I mean, part
17 of what--part of the charge of the Technical Working
18 Group, and part of our charge is going to be, you
19 know, where are we, you know, on this stuff, and what
20 are the steps that we need to be taking now in order
21 to, you know, to reach that. I don't have the
22 answers for you today on that. That's all being
23 considered.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Is it conceivable
25 that the Technical Working Group could conclude that

2 a mandatory approach, we should do a mandatory
3 approach from the beginning rather than have a period
4 of time while we're trying a voluntary one?

5 NILDA MESA: Absolutely.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Because that's
7 my--

8 NILDA MESA: [interposing] That's conceiv-

9 -

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing] That
11 is my concern. My concern, the Technical Working
12 Group work has to happen, but if we set up a we're
13 going to try a voluntary approach, obviously that
14 means some amount of time to seeing how--we go to
15 figure, still got to figure out all those questions
16 you just said.

17 NILDA MESA: But it's, yeah, I mean, it's
18 really--you know, it's sort of a--it's a strategy
19 issue, right? What's the best--you know, what's--
20 what are all the tools that we have in our tool box?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Yes.

22 NILDA MESA: You know, in order to reach
23 this very ambitious and critical goal that we have to
24 make, right?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Yes.

2 NILDA MESA: And so, you know, so part of
3 what--part of the, you know, the joy and the
4 difficulty of doing this is really figuring out what
5 are the best tools for what segment, for what type of
6 building for what type of building system, you know,
7 like that, and so--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing]
9 Absolutely. So, and again, and I don't want to--it's
10 easy for us in a hearing to ask a question and you
11 know the work of doing that is really hard, that deep
12 reduction report--

13 NILDA MESA: [interposing] You'll see.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: also goes into
15 each element. So, not only don't I mean to
16 trivialize it. the hard, deep and time consuming
17 work of figuring all of that out, I really respect
18 and it has to be done, and I don't mean to be saying,
19 you know, solve those problems tomorrow, but I--and I
20 don't think that saying it'll be--we should make it
21 mandatory means we don't have to do all that work. If
22 we chose a mandatory approach, we would also have to
23 do all of that work anyway.

24 NILDA MESA: Right.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So I'm--I got you
3 on that, but I hope you hear me. What I'm nervous
4 about is that by saying we're going to give voluntary
5 a try, in addition to doing all those things, we're
6 going to set up a period of time of I don't know how
7 much it's going to be, one, two, three years where
8 we're seeing if voluntary works. Now, if there was
9 any reason to believe it would, maybe that would be
10 worth it, but I don't see any reason to believe it
11 would--

12 NILDA MESA: [interposing] But sometimes--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing] at
14 the end of that we're going to say now it's
15 mandatory. We're going to have to come back to the
16 Working Group or back to us and make it mandatory.
17 So, that--anyway, I--

18 NILDA MESA: [interposing] But we--see a
19 part of our tool kit is the market, okay? And so
20 part of our tool kit is incentivizing the market, and
21 so that has to be in our, you know, strategic set of
22 options, and so what are the things that we can do to
23 set up? And you can call it voluntary or not, but
24 it's a very powerful force, particularly in this
25 city. So we don't want to squelch something that

2 could just come up. I mean, part of the reason that
3 the technology has advanced as much as it has in the
4 last, you know, 10 years, five years, two years is
5 because the market has risen to that--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing]

7 First--

8 NILDA MESA: [interposing] and so that
9 gives us--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing] I
11 guarantee you the market will accelerate faster--

12 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: if we require it
14 than if we make it voluntary. So no one is saying--
15 I mean, a mandatory approach is also a better market-
16 generating approach.

17 NILDA MESA: Potentially, yeah. So, it's-
18 -and we're not ruling it out. I don't want to give
19 you the impression that we're saying no, because
20 we're not.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: You're not giving
22 me the impression you're saying no, but you are
23 giving me the impression that there's no--you haven't
24 done one thing to persuade me voluntary approaches
25 will get us there. so, I just feel like this time--

2 I'll conclude this line of questioning, but I--you
3 know, I think you hear not just my urgency, but my
4 skepticism that--I feel that the voluntary part of
5 this is just a charade. If we don't think it's
6 going--and it doesn't solve. It is market-based.
7 Look, what's going to be mandated? How many years
8 payback? Which technologies?

9 NILDA MESA: Right.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: All those
11 questions absolutely have to be answered. I don't
12 have the answers to them. They're going to take time
13 to develop. So, but if they're going to take time to
14 develop I'd rather get started. So,--

15 NILDA MESA: [interposing] That's what
16 we're doing, yeah, with the Technical Working.
17 That's exactly what we're doing is, you know, what's
18 the toolkit, what's the, you know, because we don't
19 have time to waste. You know, where it's like the
20 city's already--we don't have time for this.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: All I just want
22 to--I really would let it go, but it's not exactly
23 what we're doing, because if we were saying we're
24 going to mandate it, then the Technical Working
25 Group's work would look a little bit different.

2 NILDA MESA: We haven't come out with the
3 work yet of the Technical Working Group. So, what
4 you see at the end of January, you'll have to see the
5 work product at that point.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Okay.

7 NILDA MESA: But their work has not
8 concluded and it's tough, you know. There's 50
9 stakeholders. It's a 360--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing]
11 Hard, and their task is enormously difficult.

12 NILDA MESA: It's crazy, it is, you know--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing] If
14 it weren't absolutely urgent--

15 NILDA MESA: [interposing] putting a man
16 on the moon.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: for the survival
18 of the plant, we would give them the weekend off, but
19 you know, here we are. So, alright, and I appreciate
20 that we're not, no one's taking the weekend off. We
21 had a weekend of great progress in Paris and here we
22 are Monday morning working--

23 NILDA MESA: [interposing] That's right.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: together to figure
25 out what we're going to do next, and I really

2 appreciate the work that you're putting in and this
3 committee's putting in. So, alright, thank you very
4 much.

5 NILDA MESA: Thank you. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chair.

8 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you, Council
9 Member Lander, and next Council Member Richards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you so
11 much, Chairs, and Nilda, thank you so much for your
12 leadership, and it was an honor to co-chair OneNYC
13 with you and obviously I've moved on, but I haven't
14 moved far. Since last time you saw me I've had a
15 newborn.

16 NILDA MESA: Yes, congratulations.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Which has been
18 very interesting, because it--you know, just spending
19 a day in my household now can actually solve this
20 issue. Yes, because my wife now mandates that I take
21 the garbage out every night, not the next morning,
22 every night, and I can assure you--

23 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Wise woman.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: she did not
25 mandate--

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: That doesn't sound
3 like you're contributing to Zero Waste NYC.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I agree,
5 especially with the Pampers, well organic Pampers are
6 working out well. But that gets me into the mandate
7 conversation. I know even as a co-chair it was
8 something that I was saying that the only way we
9 would technically reduce 71 percent of those carbon
10 emissions coming from buildings is on a mandatory
11 basis, and point of information, many people may not
12 know this, but France now mandates solar panels and
13 green roofs on all their new construction. I wonder
14 if New York City's thinking about that a little bit.
15 You know, and we should move in that aggressive
16 fashion because we don't technically have--we don't
17 have the time to waste. For that newborn I just had,
18 he's going to grow up in a world that is a much
19 different that we're moving towards without mandatory
20 retrofits. So, I do want to commend the
21 Administration and commend you for all the hard work
22 that you put in, but we have a long way to go. I
23 don't want to keep beating the dead horse, but we're
24 not going to--

2 NILDA MESA: [interposing] And we
3 appreciate--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: get there--drum,
5 sorry. No horse, sorry. Wrong language in this
6 chamber. We're not going to get there voluntarily.
7 Clean heat is a prime example of that. How many
8 buildings are still left burning number six oil
9 today?

10 NILDA MESA: It's a few hundred. It's--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: [interposing]
12 Still [sic] bad.

13 NILDA MESA: 99 point slot [sic].

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: So, when was
15 New York City's deadline to phase out number six oil?
16 When was that--

17 NILDA MESA: [interposing] It was over the
18 summer, but it's a higher rate of compliance than
19 just about any other law that we're aware of.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Right.
21 Understandable, but we got there legislatively, and
22 the only reason we're closer to zeroing out that
23 number is because we had mandates. So--

24 NILDA MESA: So, and also the clean heat
25 program which was extensive, you know, in

2 aggressively reaching out to building owners and
3 showing them the path to do it.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Agreed. But was
5 there--but was there a law that was passed that said
6 you had to phase out--

7 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah,
8 absolutely.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: number six?

10 NILDA MESA: It was a big incentive.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Exactly.

12 NILDA MESA: Right. And there was a
13 website that showed where all those puffs of black
14 smoke were coming from. So, you know, we had a mutli-
15 pronged approach.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Agreed.

17 NILDA MESA: And one of those would not
18 have done it all by itself.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Agreed, agreed.
20 So, my question is, and then I guess it's the same
21 question that Council Member Lander alluded to, are
22 there any thoughts around a mandatory with or some
23 sort of retrofit program, incentive program, that
24 could push and would push our private--the worst
25 emitters into retrofitting their buildings?

2 NILDA MESA: Yes, there are plenty of
3 thoughts and they're all being considered right now
4 through this working group that's coming out with
5 recommendations at the end of January, and it's just
6 the work hasn't been completed yet, you know? But
7 yeah, sure, there are thoughts of it.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay. Alrighty,
9 so we will do that. I have some other questions.
10 So, there was some--and we obviously took some very
11 ambitious, set some ambitious goals and in particular
12 in the plan. So there were a few things that stick
13 out, and I just wanted to see where we're at on them.
14 So, I know we mentioned sort of lights out in
15 particular in OneNYC. Where are we at with that?
16 Any new thoughts on how we can turn off lights in the
17 middle of the night that we're not using here?

18 NILDA MESA: So, we are--you know, as we
19 said in OneNYC, we're supportive of this goal for
20 many reasons. One is energy efficiency, but also
21 another one has to with the number of migratory birds
22 that wind up crashing into buildings because they get
23 confused with, you know, the lights being on, and
24 this being one of the major points along the way of
25 the migratory, you know, pathway for birds on the

2 East Coast. It's a serious thing. So, we've--so,
3 right now we've had several internal meetings with
4 the relevant agencies and what we're trying to do is
5 figure out, and we'll be back to the Council, you
6 know, with our best, you know, assessment of this,
7 but figuring out like how do we actually implement
8 something like this, you know? So, you can't--it
9 doesn't necessarily work to have this goal without a
10 way of, you know, being able to enforce it, and so
11 what's what we are developing now internally, you
12 know, because you can't just like stand--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: [interposing]

14 So, the enforcement--

15 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah, you can't
16 like just stand on the sidewalk and look up and know
17 if somebody's actually in the building or not. So,
18 it's those kinds of issues right now that we're
19 trying to work through, but we're definitely
20 supportive.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: So we're going
22 to see a compromise somewhere on--

23 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Oh, yeah.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Some movement
25 on it.

2 NILDA MESA: I sure hope so. That's what
3 we're working towards.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: We also spoke
5 of electrical vehicle infrastructure. So, obviously
6 I know there's certain companies who would love for
7 their fleet to go totally electric, and obviously
8 there's not enough infrastructure in place even if
9 they wanted to. Has there been any thoughts? I know
10 we had some legislation to expand EV infrastructure
11 across the city to allow that for that particular
12 reason. Are we anywhere with that since we last--

13 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah, so I'm
14 happy to report that on Friday that it was announced
15 that our own Department of Transportation got a
16 massive grant from the State as well as the Feds to
17 develop a workplace electric vehicle program, and so
18 they will be flushing that out, but it was just
19 Friday that, you know, we got this wonderful news.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Right.

21 NILDA MESA: That we got this grant. So,
22 that should really help.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: So we'll be
24 putting planning into place--

25 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yep, exactly.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: to ensure we can
3 move forward. Office of Solar Energy--so Department
4 of Buildings even if they--I don't believe that they
5 have the capacity to actually work out. So there are
6 a lot of people, and we hear it in our local
7 communities, who are interested in solar energy, and
8 it's sort of--the Department of Buildings has a lot
9 going on. Has there been any thought to supporting
10 an Office of Solar Energy and a solar ombudsman
11 person coming into the Department of Buildings,
12 because we often get a lot of questions, I'm sure my
13 colleagues do as well, from constituents who are
14 interested in installing solar, but sort of hit this
15 brick wall when they go to Department of Buildings or
16 just have questions in particular and can't really
17 get them answered. So, has there been any thought,
18 especially as we expand solar infrastructure across
19 the city?

20 NILDA MESA: Yeah, I think part of the
21 reason that DOB has moved towards self-certification
22 is to try to get rid of, you know, some of those
23 barriers, except for--especially for, you know, the
24 smaller buildings owners. Right now, there is--we
25 have like a consortium that's CUNY, or office, EDC,

2 and then we work with Department of Buildings, you
3 know, on this. I'm going to take this back and see
4 what, you know, folks think about it, because we have
5 also heard, you know, these kinds of observations
6 that it's difficult and it shouldn't be quite as
7 difficult as it is.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Yeah, and I
9 understand CUNY has their program, and I don't want
10 to take away from what they're doing, but there needs
11 to be someone internally dealing with this issue and
12 constituents, you know, want to get information.

13 NILDA MESA: Yeah.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Or if, you know,
15 in particular they're installing and they're having
16 problems with the--with like a PSEG or a Con-Edison
17 Utility Company as well, so there needs to be more
18 coordination along. Okay, I'm going to wrap up. So,
19 DEP obviously got a sizable amount of money and I'm
20 grateful to Mayor de Blasio and to the Administration
21 for their commitment to resolving the Southeast
22 Queens water issue. So, I know they've been working
23 on a comprehensive plan. Any timeline you're aware
24 of when that plan will be ready?

2 NILDA MESA: I believe it's sometime next
3 year, but let me get back to you exactly on that.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay.
5 Alrighty. So my constituents are anxious, because--

6 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah, sure.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: once we've made
8 all these great announcements they are really looking
9 for these issues, too.

10 NILDA MESA: And they've waited long--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: And I
12 understand they're not going to be resolved
13 overnight, but they're--

14 NILDA MESA: [interposing] No, they've
15 waited long enough.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Yes, exactly.
17 And Dan, just the last question for you on Auvergne
18 [sic] in particular, and I know we're going to--
19 having a meeting I believe this week or next week in
20 particular on coastal communities and protection.
21 So, obviously the bigger conversation is for the Army
22 Corps, but where are we at in terms of, you know,
23 minors or city relief that can be put into play?

24 DANIEL ZARRILLI: Sure. So, we are
25 continuing to push on you're--the aside or on the

2 Army Corps. We're continuing to push that we
3 actually get to a tentatively selected plan for the
4 Rockaway reformulation, Jamaica Bay work, making sure
5 that we spin off the beach investments, which are
6 critically important while we're also solving the
7 more system wide Jamaica Bay issues that the Army
8 Corps is pursuing. But more specifically, the city's
9 working very collaboratively with your office, with
10 the communities in Edgemere and others across the
11 Rockaway peninsula, and one, so what we're coming in
12 to brief you on later in the week is our raised
13 shoreline study where we have specific funds to
14 invest to reduce coastal risk, particularly against
15 sea level rise in very vulnerable communities that
16 are seeing an increased incidence of tidal flooding.
17 So we're heading forward. I think we went over the
18 last year. We told you we'd be making some decisions
19 on that before the end of this year. We're coming
20 into the committee later this week to talk through
21 those specific recommendations of where we're
22 heading, and then we'll be able to move forward next
23 year into actual implementation.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: In Move New York
25 Plan, along the lines of transportation, has the

2 Administration taken a stance or thought of adopting
3 the Move New York Plan?

4 DANIEL ZARRILLI: We'll get back to you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Alrighty. I
6 want to thank you, and it was honor working with you,
7 and look forward to continuing to work with you, and
8 congratulations on the progress. I don't want to
9 undermine or say that there's not been progress.
10 We're very appreciative of the progress that this
11 Administration has taken and the goals that you have
12 set and are looking to achieve and we don't want to
13 undermine that, but we also know that we have to get
14 even more serious for Donovan Richards the III, D3 we
15 call him, for his future. So, thank you.

16 NILDA MESA: Thank you.

17 DANIEL ZARRILLI: Great and
18 congratulations.

19 NILDA MESA: And, you know, again, really
20 appreciate all your collaboration and support as
21 we've been developing this. It's been absolutely
22 critical.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Just, I
25 heard something in your testimony, Director Mesa,

2 that when Council Member Lander was asking about the
3 issue of whether or not mandates are a part of the
4 mix, and you mention this is being work--this is
5 being discussed with this Working Group. I'm just,
6 very quickly, curious and then I'll turn it over to
7 Council Member Chin. In these discussions are there
8 also internal discussion about who in fact will be
9 doing this work with regards to installing energy
10 efficient technology, and I'm also still very unclear
11 if there is a universally set agreed to standards
12 about what--and I see you saying there's not, and
13 that concerns me. Coming again from the teaching
14 world, the standards are a big hot topic, and I think
15 that if there's no agreement on the gold standard of
16 energy efficiency that's the problem, but secondly I
17 just wanted to say that for the record is that we
18 have a workforce that has worked very hard and gone
19 through intense training to get license and
20 credential to do this work, and that is a part of the
21 organized labor movement here in New York and across
22 the country. And if they are not at the table, and
23 if they are not doing this work, we've invested so
24 much capital to help equip them and train them with
25 skills and qualifications, how could they not be a

2 part of the mix? I just wanted to hear your thoughts
3 on that and what's--

4 NILDA MESA: [interposing] They are part
5 of the mix. They're in our Technical Working Group.

6 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Right, but--

7 NILDA MESA: [interposing] We have a
8 number of representatives from labor how are there.
9 And so it's--we agree. It's critical.

10 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Well, I just want
11 to state for the record, if we're going to be
12 leveraging public tax paying dollars with regards to
13 incentivizing these types of program, it's not just
14 being at the table, they should be really doing this
15 work as well.

16 NILDA MESA: Yeah.

17 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Because, you know,
18 quite frankly, tax payers pay a lot of money to
19 invest in human capital, in expense [sic] of human
20 capacity, and these are people who are trained and
21 skilled and credentialed and have qualifications to
22 do this work, and if they are left out, then quite
23 frankly we've lost. And secondly, I think that
24 we're, as you mentioned, we're trying to deal with
25 sustainability and economic inequality at the same

2 time. I think there should be a win/win for both
3 the environment and for labor at the same time. With
4 that, I'll turn it over to Council Member Chin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair. I
6 just have a quick question. I think I asked about
7 this in the last resiliency hearing, the issue of
8 individual, all of us, you know, how we can really
9 participate and get involved in this whole building
10 of a more resilient city, and part of it is like now
11 we're going to be passing a lot of laws, and so how
12 do we monitor and to make sure that people are
13 complying with the law? Like for example, recently
14 we just passed the Local Law 92 which prohibit
15 businesses from having their doors open while they're
16 operating air condition, and some of these business
17 they still do that. They keep their doors wide open,
18 and if they get a summon or a ticket, just the cost
19 of doing business. So, how did the city, you know,
20 see really how to go about making sure that the laws
21 that we passed people are complying? And also, how
22 to involve every New Yorker? Like, if this one
23 company or one businesses keeping their doors open,
24 their customer needs to know that that's not good,
25 and they have to complain to them. So, how do we see

2 really getting individual involved in this whole One
3 New York process?

4 NILDA MESA: With respect to the doors
5 open air conditioning bill, which we were really
6 delighted to have come about this summer, it's a
7 Department of Consumer Affairs that's going to be in
8 charge of doing the enforcement on that, and it's a
9 fairly--they tell us. It's a fairly straight forward
10 thing for them to be able to go and see, you know, if
11 the doors are opened or not, and part of what they're
12 doing is an outreach campaign. It's pretty dormant
13 right now because no one's really using that air
14 conditioning, but they started even over the summer
15 with putting clings in the windows of businesses and
16 so forth, and I would anticipate that they would be
17 doing even more of that. They're very committed to
18 enforcement of that. We also have a--one of the
19 sections of my office is GreenNYC, and you may have
20 seen our mascot, Birdie, the African Grey Parrot,
21 there we go, around--you know, in the subway and on
22 sides of buses, and you may have heard some at coffee
23 mugs and grocery bags and so forth. So, one of the
24 things that we do is for example, over the summer we
25 had a very extensive campaign called BYO, BYO coffee

2 mug, grocery bag, water bottle, you know, reusable
3 water bottles, because one of the things that we
4 found was that in the research that we do is that by
5 in large the reason most--the reason New Yorkers
6 don't bring things like this around with them is
7 because they forget, and so this sounds pretty
8 straightforward, but low and behold the data upheld
9 that, and so what we did was we used that and crafted
10 this, you know, very extensive and successful
11 outreach campaign. We launched another one last week
12 for weatherization of our buildings. It's geared
13 mostly towards one and two family homes and, you
14 know, places where residents can actually take out
15 the caulking gun, can you know seal up their windows,
16 can turn down the thermostat, you know, whatever it
17 is. And we have on our website we have, you know,
18 suggested, you know, strategies for doing that. So,
19 you should start seeing Birdie our mascot wrapped up
20 in like a hat and a scarf with a caulking gun
21 throughout the city and particularly in those zip
22 codes. So, we have a floatables campaign that's
23 going to be starting, I believe it's in the spring
24 that we're doing DEP and DSNY to make New Yorkers
25 aware that if they, you know, throw down trash it

2 winds up in our combined sewer system and then winds
3 up in the Hudson River. So that's actually a pretty
4 active part of what we do.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, I think I'm
6 getting a briefing this week on it, but I think it's
7 really important to involve all the Council Members,
8 Community Boards, that it really needs to be a
9 citywide campaign for us all to work together,
10 because each one of us can do so much to really help,
11 you know, turn off the light, turn off the water
12 while you're brushing your teeth. So we need to
13 really kind of have that kind of urgency that all of
14 us need to get involved, and I look forward to
15 working with you on this. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Mark, I'm
17 jumping back in here for a second round. So, on
18 solar, you know, we're seeing a great start for city
19 owned buildings and schools in particular. So
20 there's--we're close to 1,200, 1,300 school
21 buildings. What sort of benchmarks are we looking
22 for to sort of see how we ramp up moving forward to
23 sort of capture as many city owned buildings and
24 schools as possible? See announcement this morning,
25 a third of the buildings have already been

2 retrofitted. How do we look at solar to go from that
3 where we are now to the 100 megawatts?

4 NILDA MESA: I mean, I think we're on our
5 way on that. The--you know, we have an internal sort
6 of competition that's run by Department of City and
7 Administration Services that gives grants to agencies
8 that propose energy retrofit projects for, you know,
9 various buildings and so forth, and so we've--and we
10 have several rounds a year on that. And so that is,
11 you know, one way to incentivize the agencies,
12 because it's Department of City Administrative
13 Services that pays the bill on it, and the agency has
14 its capital budget which is separate of course from,
15 you know, the energy bill. So we have an issue of
16 sort of split incentives. So we're trying to address
17 that. On solar, I think we've got a pretty
18 aggressive program now to roll out to as many schools
19 as we can. There are some places where solar doesn't
20 necessarily make sense because there may be shadows
21 falling on the building or trees overhanging and so
22 forth, and so in that kind of an instance, you
23 wouldn't really want to spend the money on solar, and
24 there would probably be, you know, other kinds of
25 approaches that you could take that would make more

2 sense given the amount of funding that's available.

3 But my understanding is that right now something like
4 half of all school buildings are either being
5 assessed or having solar put on them, and you know,
6 sort of just marching through the buildings as we go.

7 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: So we're
8 grabbing as much low lying fruit--

9 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Absolutely.

10 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Because I
11 mean, I know there are schools that just don't make a
12 lot a sense. I can think of a number in my district,
13 but I can think of some that have a large roof and
14 have opportunities, knows already where--half of them
15 are already being assessed or being--

16 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: It's being
18 placed on schools.

19 NILDA MESA: Yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: And that,
21 there's money in the budget for that just to move
22 those forward. Once we find that it makes sense for
23 solar, we can go ahead--there'll be money there to go
24 ahead and implement.

25 NILDA MESA: Yeah.

2 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Great. And
3 as far as EV, I think Donovan touched on that, but as
4 far as public infrastructure, even on city streets as
5 far as setting up a pilot program possibly to set up
6 par--you know, spaces on public streets, that would
7 be--is that something that I think we could work
8 through and get to, not only in parking garages, but
9 just right there on city streets setting up charging
10 stations and providing opportunities for people to
11 come and charge their cars beyond.

12 NILDA MESA: Yeah, we're begi--like,
13 internally we're beginning to have those
14 conversations, and we're at the stage where we're
15 coming up with all of the problems and the obstacles
16 to doing that. So, we would welcome your input and,
17 you know, observations, you know, along those lines,
18 because it is something that we're talking about
19 internally, and we're think--and you know, the more
20 we look into it the more we go, "Oh, wait, we got to
21 take care of this. We got to take care of that,
22 too." But, you know, the workplace, the program that
23 we just got, you know, the grant for that I think
24 will go a long way towards incentivizing workplaces,

2 but, you know, that doesn't necessarily include
3 streets at this point.

4 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: I know,
5 because I mean, in Queens, and I'm sure in many
6 boroughs I mean, parking's at a premium, but we need
7 to start carving out those spots. We need to start
8 finding places to put on central business drags,
9 bringing that incentivized--figuring out a way to get
10 those charges out there and whether that's--however
11 we carve it up, to getting them out there and at
12 least trying it and saying, you know, this is a
13 charge. This is a spot; only freebie charging, and
14 then so people feel more comfortable buying those
15 types of cars if they don't own a home and don't
16 have, you know--if you live in an apartment and you
17 want to still buy an EV car, it's like what are the
18 challenges; how do I charge it?

19 NILDA MESA: Sure.

20 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: So making it
21 easier. We're definitely looking forward to working
22 with you on as well.

23 NILDA MESA: Yeah, I would welcome that.

24 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you.
25

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I think Council
3 Member Lander had a follow-up question.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
5 much. Not exactly a follow-up, but a different line
6 of questioning that I couldn't--but thank you. I want
7 to just drill down a little more on the energy supply
8 RFI and the goal of the moving the city itself to 100
9 percent renewable electricity and power, clean power,
10 purchasing. Now, I hadn't seen before the stat that
11 only two percent of our current supply is purchased
12 from renewable. So, to get from two percent to 100
13 percent requires going through a lot of percents
14 [sic] along the way.

15 NILDA MESA: You got it.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So, just walk me
17 through timeline a little more on that. I mean, I
18 know the RFI was out. I don't know if you have
19 responses back. Just, how--what are the next steps
20 in developing and starting to implement that plan?

21 NILDA MESA: Yeah, so we received about 43
22 responses to the RFI. We were delighted at how many
23 we received, and we're still--we're reviewing that
24 we've since had others come to us because this field
25 is moving so rapidly. So, we've since had in fact

2 other, you know, information come to us that's like,
3 you know, updated from the responses that we
4 received. You're right. It's a lot of percentages
5 to move to. You know, what we are hoping to do is in
6 a way, you know, by issuing the RFI and then, you
7 know, hopefully ultimately coming out with an RFP is
8 to be sort of the magnet for all of the filings to
9 line up because we're such a big part of the city's
10 electricity demand that--and we aren't going
11 anywhere. We're a big, steady, stable customer, and
12 so it's the kind of thing that we have heard people
13 say, you know, this is what we need in order to
14 start, you know, making the investments in order to
15 start planning ahead for, you know, putting more,
16 getting more renewables into the New York City grid.
17 It's not something that's going to happen instantly,
18 obviously, by a long shot, which is why we're also
19 looking at other, you know, strategies like micro
20 grids and solar, you know, and so forth, but we-- I
21 mean, I don't think we're going to be able to get--I
22 don't think the state is going to be able to reach 80
23 by 50. I don't think the city's going to be able to
24 reach 80 by 50 without more renewables coming into
25 the grid, and it's, you know, a very complicated

2 legislatively and financially, you know, and so
3 forth, but you know, participating in the REV [sic]
4 process, participating with the Federal Government as
5 well as other states in the region, you know, we're
6 all kind of going in the same direction on this, and
7 that's exactly what it's going to take, but it's
8 going to be--it's going to be a while before the
9 whole city gets there. We don't have easy access to,
10 you know, steady, stable renewables. You know, and
11 part of it--okay, to get really geeky on you, but you
12 know, part of the challenge is also that you have to
13 have--renewables provide intermittent energy. So, at
14 some points, you know, the wind stops blowing, the
15 sun doesn't shine all the time, and so you also have
16 to have a stable underlying base, you know, for
17 energy in order for the city to keep having reliable
18 energy and affordable energy. Affordability is also
19 one big piece of this. When we file our comments
20 with the Public Service Commission on any number of
21 proceedings, we, you know-- I mean, generally our
22 mantra is pretty much like it has to be reliable. We
23 have to have--we have to maintain the reliability of
24 the grid. In New York City is also has to be--you
25 know, we need to bring in more renewables into the

2 grid and it has to be affordable, and we're always,
3 you know, mindful of that, and that, you know, for
4 example when it comes to, you know, as we're looking
5 at the 42.1 percent of, you know, city residents who
6 are living in poverty we cannot ignore that their
7 electricity has to also be affordable, and you know,
8 the same for the city government. So, it's going to
9 take a lot, but the good thing is that everybody's
10 pretty much, you know, when it comes to, you know,
11 sort of us, you know, our partners in the region as
12 well as the Federal Government, everyone's really
13 pretty well aligned towards us. There's not really
14 any dispute at all on, you know, the fact that this
15 is where we need to go. It's more a matter of how in
16 the world are we going to get there, but we need to.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And so just what
18 is the next step, an RFP? Is their next step a plan?
19 Like, what's the next thing we should look to see to
20 take the RFI information and move it into the
21 marketplace and eventually, you know, start
22 purchasing it and keep growing our purchases?

23 NILDA MESA: Yeah, I mean, ultimately
24 we'll come out, you know. At this point, what we're
25 thinking is that we'll come out with an RFP at some

2 point, you know, in the near-ish [sic] future, but
3 we're waiting to see the results of a couple of
4 different proceedings, like the state's rep
5 proceedings and so forth, and so it wouldn't make a
6 difference if we issued an RFP today because
7 everything's going to be changing.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: When's the REV--

9 NILDA MESA: [interposing] It's projected
10 to be the early--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing]

12 process?

13 NILDA MESA: part of next year, but you
14 know, it's a little bit uncertain, you know? So even
15 if we were to issue an RFP today it would be kind of
16 meaningless, you know?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: But you envision
18 essentially a sort of rolling RFP where people are
19 able to propose to sell us renewables, clean power,
20 and we can--

21 NILDA MESA: [interposing] I don't know
22 about rolling, but it's--but something so that we
23 can--and of the responses that we've received on, you
24 know, the 43 responses that we received, there wasn't
25 one that took care of 100 percent--

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing] No,
3 no.

4 NILDA MESA: of the, you know, of what we
5 were looking for, which also told us a lot, you know?
6 That it's just--technically it's just not there right
7 now, but there were a lot of really good strategies
8 and really good proposals or, you know, I should say
9 information, you know, that came our way, which gave
10 us the notion that this in fact is achievable if we--
11 if all of--if everything sort of lines up right,
12 partic--and the next year is really going to be very
13 crucial for this.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Now, one idea I
15 know people have proposed and if it's in an RFI
16 response maybe you can't share, but I know people are
17 pushing to look at an offshore wind farm off the
18 Rockaways. Is that something the city's looking at?

19 NILDA MESA: Well, the Federal Government
20 is--so they're beginning the process. It's the
21 Federal Government that gives, that hands out the
22 leases for the offshore wind energy areas. They are
23 beginning the process of looking at sort of the next
24 round of that including off of the southern portion
25 of Long Island. They don't yet have that area mapped.

2 They don't have the environmental impacts assessed.

3 So they're really at the early stages of that, and

4 what they're saying is that it'll be probably a

5 couple of years before they're ready to come out with

6 an auction for those leases, and so that's--you know,

7 right now we're a little--we're working with them.

8 They know of our keen interest in, you know,

9 purchasing 100 percent renewables, and that in fact

10 is something that has enabled them to focus more

11 intensively on, you know, offshore wind in the

12 coming, you know, year or so.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So, I mean, Mr.

14 Chair, let me just add, this may be something that we

15 want to have the Council, if this is a Federal

16 Government decision, perhaps we could communicate our

17 desire to the Federal Government.

18 NILDA MESA: That would be great.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Let it move

20 forward faster rather than slower. Following up on

21 Chair Constantinides' question about charging

22 vehicles, you know, because Paris has been so much on

23 our mind, both in the Climate Summit and of course

24 the attacks, before that, you know, they have that

25 Auto Lieb [sic] system. It's like city bike for

2 plug-in electric cars, which strikes me as a great
3 way not only to reduce our carbon footprint from
4 cars, but also to get our charging infrastructure
5 built out. They franchised it and the private sector
6 build out the charging infrastructure. Are we--any
7 thoughts about that as a piece of what we might do in
8 order to build out a charging infrastructure?

9 NILDA MESA: It's a-- I mean, it's a great
10 idea, and you're right, the charging infrastructure
11 is sort of the big, you know, obstacle right now,
12 sort of out on the streets, but you know, like I
13 said, we're in the early stages of this, but it's
14 something that we're keenly interested in--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [interposing] In
16 my district--

17 NILDA MESA: [interposing] pursuing.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: what people want
19 is to see whether they could turn the city bike
20 stations into some kind of like community generated
21 power by people just sitting there--

22 NILDA MESA: [interposing] That's
23 interesting.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: and riding the
25 bikes.

2 NILDA MESA: It doesn't generate that much
3 power.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: No, no.

5 NILDA MESA: It's like enough to charge an
6 iPhone [sic].

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Okay, yeah, I
8 have Zero Waste questions, but maybe I'll save those
9 for a sanitation hearing where we can focus a little
10 more on the Zero Waste NYC pieces of the plan. So,
11 thank you very much.

12 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you, Council
13 Member Lander. And just, I mentioned this before,
14 but I really think it's worth repeating and worth
15 stressing, and I really think that it has to get into
16 the fabric of our city's agenda. We're hearing all
17 this nice talk about renewables, energy efficiency,
18 sort of a green renaissance revolution, but I am very
19 much still concerned that we're not tapping into our
20 local communities to be a part of this and to build
21 this and to be a part of the planning of this. Some
22 of the commu--again, I mentioned this before. If we
23 don't have residents from Coney Island or Canarsie or
24 Sheepshead Bay or Rockaways or Red Hook or parts of
25 Lower Manhattan or the Bronx, if they're not a part

2 of the planning and the making and the building of
3 these resiliency plans, then this is not in my
4 opinion a win, I really need to see and hear a firm
5 commitment and a plan, not just a vision but a plan,
6 because when we set goals without benchmarks, it's
7 sort of like MapQuest without the map. It's just a
8 quest, and I really want to see how are we tapping
9 into and building up the human capacity in
10 communities that have historically been underserved,
11 in my opinion ineffectively represented, and where we
12 have basically exacerbated economic conditions for
13 the most vulnerable families. Because if we're
14 pushing towards this green revolution which I hear
15 more and more that we're doing, this should not just
16 be a payday for international consultants or
17 consultants from other parts of the country, we
18 should be tapping into human capacity here, building
19 up capacity here at home, and so I really want to
20 again emphasize that we need to make sure that we are
21 working with our labor force, we are working with our
22 school system, we're making sure that our schools and
23 their curriculums are aligned not just to some random
24 tests, but to the needs and challenges of the 21st
25 century, and that's where I think OneNYC needs to

2 really get better on. Come up with firm, definitive
3 benchmarks and goals and a firm concrete plan to tap
4 into and build up the capacity at the local level,
5 particularly in communities that have been
6 historically underserved and under-represented in my
7 opinion, and I just want to hear again your thoughts
8 on that and can we expect to see a plan to
9 specifically address this very serious concern.

10 DANIEL ZARRILLI: Thanks for those
11 comments. I think there's a couple different ways I
12 think we should be thinking about and responding to
13 this. One is in the planning of OneNYC itself, and I
14 know that I think I described the activity that we
15 undertook to bring thousands of voices into the
16 process through engagement sessions, through polling,
17 through surveys and a number of different ways to
18 bring that voice in, and we've been then living that
19 in the implementation of the plan in a lot of
20 different ways. The taskforce that we're launching
21 is bringing community-based organizations, houses of
22 worship more directly into the planning process and
23 implementation of projects as we move forward. Many
24 of the coastal planning projects that I mentioned on
25 the Lower East Side in Hunts Point, all across the

2 city we are bringing people into that conversation
3 around how we're building consensus and developing
4 projects in a much more direct way. Around workforce
5 development there are ways that in particularly in
6 the post-Sandy world that residents who were hardest
7 hit from the storm or have new opportunities to
8 participate in the recovery of their communities, of
9 the 2,000 jobs that have been created so far in the
10 20 billion dollar resiliency program, over 900 of
11 those are going towards residents that come--that
12 live in Sandy-affected neighborhoods. So, there's
13 many different ways that we can bring people into
14 this process and make sure that it is locally driven,
15 it is community driven, and that we're bringing the
16 best to bear from both yes, experts from all walks of
17 life and global perspective and expertise but also
18 the local knowledge of what needs to happen in our
19 communities to make that marriage effective and make
20 sure we're moving projects forward. Nilda mentioned
21 also some of the things we're doing and looking into
22 on schools. So, there's a whole range of things that
23 we're doing to make sure that there are voices from
24 local communities into this process. It's not top
25 down, and I think we're demonstrating that in the

2 implementation of the programs we have now. And then
3 the last point is--and you're talking about metrics
4 and indicators, and we did publish this, the goals
5 that we laid out, the indicators, the targets. We've
6 set targets for ourselves on where we want to get to
7 and what it's taking us to get there. Every year
8 we're required, of course, to report on the progress
9 of those of the entire OneNYC program, including our
10 metrics and indicators. We're going to continue
11 doing that, and we're laying out the plans throughout
12 our entire OneNYC program in order to make sure that
13 we're hitting those targets. So, I think it's
14 comprehensive the way that we are both tracking
15 ourselves, holding ourselves accountable all across
16 the program, but also how we're bringing local
17 community voices, not only into the planning, but
18 into the doing, and I think that's the most powerful
19 way that we can make this successful.

20 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I hear what you're
21 saying, and I appreciate, you know, words. I just
22 want to emphasize that I am still concerned that
23 we're outsourcing on the implementation of these
24 initiatives. I--

2 DANIEL ZARRILLI: [interposing] But it's
3 not just words, with all due respect.

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Right.

5 DANIEL ZARRILLI: It is hiring local
6 residents to participate in the recovery. It is
7 making sure that we are working with organizations
8 that know their communities the best in the
9 implementation. Where we do need to look, you know,
10 for global and national expertise, we do that, but we
11 make sure that it is tailored and brought to bear
12 with local community voices so that we are--we
13 continue to be a world-leading city on implementation
14 of both resiliency and sustainability programs.

15 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: No, I just--and I'll
16 give you that that we're--there have been--there have
17 been aggressive, I think, plans to do outreach in
18 local communities with regards to recovery from
19 Sandy, but I'm talking about resiliency
20 sustainability, the OneNYC ultimate big goal and big
21 picture. I am not seeing a plan right now in my
22 opinion. I'm not seeing a plan right now to tap into
23 and building up human capacity at the local level.
24 I've had that conversation with Director Mesa when we
25 met about investments in our schools. For example,

2 we have some schools that in Southern Brooklyn that
3 build car parts and build homes. I believe--and
4 these are by kids supposedly who have IEP's. In
5 reality, many politicians can't even build a car part
6 or build a home with their hands. So, why can't they
7 be tapped into and invested in with regards to
8 building up these batteries or building up these
9 solar panels, or building up? Why do we have to
10 rely--you know, cities around the world are not just
11 taking the lead with regards to this climate change
12 action, but they're also rapidly looking to see how
13 they themselves can be part of the manufacturing of
14 these resiliency measures, and I think that that's
15 where we're lagging behind. I think New York City
16 should be a leader not just in setting a vision, but
17 in setting the benchmarks and in building up human
18 capacity here in our city so our residents, our
19 children, particularly from historically underserved
20 communities who have faced the brunt of income
21 inequality, that they are trained and equipped with
22 the skills and knowledge base to be implementing
23 these plans. I think that is where we have still a
24 lot of work to do. And there was one question I had
25 with regards to in the plan. It says that the goal is

2 that we're not going to allow for long term
3 displacements from future disaster. So the question
4 I have is how do you propose to eliminate disaster-
5 related long-term displacements of more than a year
6 of New Yorkers from homes by 2050? Because obviously
7 from Sandy, there have been people who have been
8 displaced for well over a year.

9 DANIEL ZARRILLI: No, absolutely. I think
10 the lesson from Sandy--the lessons from Sandy, many
11 of which are still being learned but have been
12 applied through whether it's our Build it Back
13 Program, all of our recovery/resiliency programs, the
14 point of setting that target is making sure that we
15 are continuing to put in place both the physical, the
16 social, the economic resiliency measures that we've
17 laid out in OneNYC so that when those things are in
18 place we are reducing the damage from whether it's
19 flooding events or, you know, other sort of things
20 that might knock you out of your home, making sure
21 those are in place so that we have reduced damage,
22 and that we've also learned on the lessons on how to
23 stand up the recovery programs so that we can get
24 people back in their homes more quickly, and it's--
25 when we put this program in place, the 20 billion

2 dollars, when we've done the work that we've laid out
3 to strengthen community-based organizations, continue
4 to build upon and improve our emergency planning and
5 recovery programs, all of that taken together can
6 help us achieve that goal. That's the aspiration, if
7 you will, the target that we want to eliminate that
8 long term displacement because we've seen how
9 devastating that can be, and we don't want to see
10 that happen again. It's an aggressive goal, but it's
11 something we need to do.

12 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Well, I'd like to
13 have some follow-up on that goal, because that's an
14 issue that's very personal to--

15 DANIEL ZARRILLI: [interposing] To all of
16 us, yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: my district in this
18 as well. I think Council Member Menchaca has joined
19 us and also has questions as well.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
21 Chairs, and welcome again to this very, very
22 important hearing, and what I want to do is
23 concentrate on a couple of areas that are on the
24 ground in neighborhoods. Can you share with us any
25 success stories thus far in helping integrate that

2 local community sustainable system of communication?

3 What we saw right after Super Storm Sandy hit our

4 neighborhoods is the activation of and the creation,

5 we were building the bridge while we were crossing it

6 in our neighborhoods, and so can you point to any

7 successes today you can tout that help build that

8 fabric?

9 DANIEL ZARRILLI: Sure. I'll start with

10 the, you know, with two projects I mentioned earlier,

11 and I think this tees up a conversation in Red Hook

12 in particular that is very important that's launching

13 now. The work we've done on the Lower East Side. We

14 could have just launched right into environmental

15 review with our Rebuild by Design Award a year ago

16 and started doing design and just telling the

17 community here's what we're going to do. We

18 deliberately took the time to bring together the two

19 affected Community Boards, CB3 and CB6, their joint

20 Waterfront Taskforce. We deliberately fought through

21 a nearly year-long process of consensus building and

22 education both for the residents on sort of the risks

23 that as we see them, but also education for us the

24 city on the very local considerations that we need to

25 bring to bear, and so the parts of the neighborhood

2 that are important to the community, specific ideas,
3 the sharing of knowledge back and forth between, you
4 know, outside experts, yes, but also local experts as
5 well to make sure that there's a dialogue, got us to
6 a point where we are now in a position to launch an
7 environmental review process and start final design
8 that is so much more powerful and informed by that
9 local coordination. A different scenario played out
10 in Hunts Point where we needed to do even a little
11 bit more in-depth work with community stakeholders,
12 businesses, residents on what a project might look
13 like there for the amount of funding that we had,
14 what were the key priorities. We thought we knew
15 what they were, but we knew that there was some--
16 maybe there wasn't full consensus a few months ago in
17 the community on what those priorities were going to
18 be, but we went through a facilitated process that
19 ultimately identified here are the priorities for the
20 community, here are the ways that we want to spend
21 this money, education for all involved including the
22 city on what it was going to take to make that
23 community more resilient, and I think we've gotten
24 now to a point in just a couple of days and have gone
25 back out to the community to have this discussion

2 around here's how we're taking the next steps
3 forward. I think, you know, maybe no one's 100
4 percent happy, and I think that's probably the--maybe
5 a successful outcome that we've brought together the
6 right voices to make sure that we're moving forward
7 together, and that's going to be so much more
8 powerful than if we had just said we know what we're
9 going to do and we're going to move forward. I think
10 that way is over. And that also then tees up an
11 incredibly important conversation as we've just
12 signed the first design contract for work in Red Hook
13 and we want to work with your office and the entire
14 community in Red Hook on what that integrated flood
15 protection project means for the community, how to do
16 that, and I think every community's going to have its
17 own version of that sort of engagement. It's not
18 going to be a cookie cutter sort of approach, but the
19 fundamental underlying philosophy is that we want to
20 bring those community voices to bear, because it
21 makes the projects better. It makes them more
22 successful and because it makes it of the community
23 and is that much more powerful.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Great. And thank
25 you for those scenarios that you've been in a lot of

2 ways leading in the community with that special
3 attention to creating consensus, and we're all proud
4 in Red Hook. We're all doing it together to get that
5 project into fruition stage. What I want to also
6 kind of just drill down, in so many ways we've
7 learned that communities are resilient when they can
8 work together and create that fabric. What I
9 continue to see a gap and I'd love to figure out if
10 we can get to the bottom of this is the education
11 component that allows for communities that aren't all
12 speaking the same language and really bridge the gap
13 of literacy. So much of what we're seeing today, the
14 people who are engaging are engaging, but I see a
15 bigger plan for all our communities to be able to
16 engage, and when I look at in my district in Sunset
17 Park and Red Hook, we have a lot of gaps in literacy,
18 and this knowledge to not just stay within a very
19 particular kind of community member, does the plan
20 speak to a real attention to the literacy gap in our
21 city and also the language gap?

22 DANIEL ZARRILLI: So, I'll start with
23 maybe how that impacts some of our projects, and I
24 think we'd love to work with your office to think
25 through some different strategies, because what we

2 do, and we did this for the NBRC application, we've
3 done this for all of our outreach, we try to
4 translate all of our materials into all the local
5 languages that we know, or most relevant in any given
6 community, but I still think that there's more that
7 we can be doing to make sure we're reaching the right
8 people, because sometimes the flyer that's in three
9 or four languages it's a good start, but I think we
10 need to be doing more. We'd love to have a longer
11 conversation with you about how to make that more
12 successful.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Could the plan,
14 the action plan, include a real commitment to a
15 literacy for all campaign where everybody in our city
16 should have access to an education class that allows
17 them to learn English. So, we want to get people to
18 learn, understand English, to be able to come to
19 these meetings to be able to engage as part of a
20 plan, as part of a kind of core component, and then
21 two, while we get there, to really commit to
22 understanding the need in different communities and
23 be able to resource a kind of multilingual approach
24 beyond just translating, but really having active
25 members within the planning stages to have

2 communities brought in and to learn a little bit
3 about the resiliency measures of our city.

4 DANIEL ZARRILLI: You know, I think it's
5 things we're very interested in. It has an easy
6 equity angle to make sure that all New Yorkers are
7 able to participate in this process and inform this
8 process. Specific commitments, I think I'm going to
9 need to follow up with you on, you know, what sort of
10 things might be in the realm of possible here and we
11 would love to hear more of your ideas on this.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Great. So, I
13 hope to get to that point. The next two questions
14 are about Red Hook specifically. Do you see any
15 challenges coming up? You know, there are multiple
16 levels of kind of approvals that we're moving
17 through, but are you anticipating any challenges, for
18 example, the micro grid project or any of the other
19 projects that we're working on together as we move
20 forward?

21 DANIEL ZARRILLI: So, I mean, there's a
22 lot going on in Red Hook right now, and I think, you
23 know, we want to recognize the folks at NYCHA for
24 their aggressive implementation of their program and
25 how that's going to be brought to bear in Red Hook,

2 which is one of the biggest public development
3 complexes receiving FEMA funds. I think they've done
4 great work. The--I'll leave the micro grid. Maybe
5 Nilda has a few more things to say on that. But in
6 particular, the integrated flood protection system is
7 going to be a complicated challenge to solve, I
8 think, with and in the community because of the
9 different land owners, because of the different
10 subservice conditions, all the sort of drainage
11 interaction that you might have with a coastal
12 investment project. We have a lot of things to
13 solve. We're just at the beginning of that process,
14 but we've been learning some things in other
15 neighborhoods in the Lower East Side and Lower
16 Manhattan and other places that we can bring to bear
17 on that, and I think we have a new way of working
18 with our agencies in the city to bring those
19 disparate conversations into really one conversation,
20 which is where they belong. So, I'm looking forward
21 to getting into it. I think it's taken us a little
22 longer than I would have liked to get to that point,
23 but we're now just launching that design process and
24 the community engagement's going to be fundamental to

2 that in order to make sure we can bridge all those
3 gaps.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: There was a
5 decision that was made, and I think it was a great
6 decision, and NYCHA has so much of the credit in
7 pushing this forward, to move the senior center from
8 the original location in Sunset Park and move it over
9 to essentially a region that's outside the flood zone
10 A, and we're in construction and we're really excited
11 about that. This plan can help us mitigate some of
12 those issues and really remove vulnerable populations
13 from flood zones. Will the plan and action items
14 that we'll see in the future kind of really help
15 create citywide policies to kind of remove vulnerable
16 populations from our flood zones and kind of stand
17 around policy, strong policy around those issues?

18 DANIEL ZARRILLI: I think in every project
19 we're learning those sort of things that we want to
20 make sure we can export to the rest of the city as
21 policy, and that's an important one. In some places,
22 parts of the city, we are making specific investments
23 where we have known vulnerable populations, adult
24 care facilities, nursing homes and things. It's not
25 just as easy to pick everything up out of a flood

2 plain of course, but to at least reduce that
3 vulnerability, but where we have the investment and
4 the opportunity to reduce the flood risk entirely
5 that's great. Other very specific examples we have
6 to get into as they come up.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Great. Looking
8 forward to working with you on that. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Yes, I think Council
10 Member Steve Levin has joined us and has a question.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
12 much Chairs Constantinides and Treyger. Thank you
13 very much. I know you've been here for a long time
14 so I'll keep my questions brief here.

15 DANIEL ZARRILLI: All in a days' work.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I wanted to ask
17 about the city's efforts with regard to green roofs
18 in our buildings both in our public buildings and in
19 new construction and retrofitting. Can you speak a
20 little bit about what the city is doing to either
21 incentivize or mandate green roofs and how that
22 compares to other cities? So, for example, I was on
23 a panel a few months ago with representatives from
24 Washington D.C. and Toronto, and their efforts, you
25 know, percentage-wise are yielding significantly

2 greater results than we are yielding here in New York
3 City, and I was wondering if you're looking at that
4 and what type of measures you're exploring for that?

5 NILDA MESA: So let me give a little bit
6 of background on green roofs. So they're--so green
7 roofs and solar panels don't usually go together, you
8 know, because there's usually not enough roof space.
9 We've been focusing a lot on solar, and green roofs,
10 so just as a, you know, just by way of background, so
11 green roofs, you know, a lot of it depends on the age
12 of the roof, the condition of the roof and so forth.
13 So it's, you know, it can be fairly tricky, you know,
14 to do, and there's any number of--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [interposing] For
16 retrofits, yeah.

17 NILDA MESA: Yeah, absolutely. And you
18 know, most of our buildings are already up for new
19 buildings. You know, it's a slightly different
20 thing, and with that I'm going to turn it over to
21 Dan--

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [interposing] Okay.

23 NILDA MESA: who's been doing a lot on
24 white roofs, and--

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [interposing] And
3 in particular I want to focus on new construction. I
4 represent downtown Brooklyn and Greenpoint
5 Williamsburg where we have a significant amount of
6 new construction happening now, and it seems as if
7 we're kind of missing an opportunity to get green
8 roofs as part of new construction throughout the
9 city.

10 DANIEL ZARRILLI: Yeah, and some of this
11 we'll probably have to follow up on, but in
12 particular, your colleague Council Member Lander
13 asked some questions around the mandatory green roofs
14 that are happening in other parts of the world. You
15 know, there's a lot of interesting things that I
16 think we need to learn from. Our Department of
17 Environmental Protection has been doing, I think,
18 fantastic work in stimulating different ways to
19 reduce, you know, CSO overflows, whether through
20 investments in green infrastructure, green roofs, and
21 incentivizing private owners even to make those
22 investments. Where we haven't gone at this point is
23 that sort of mandatory every new roof has to be a
24 green roof, and for some of the reasons that Nilda's
25 mentioned, that it conflicts with other sort of

2 goals, and you know, we've been also--you know, we've
3 coated over six million square feet of roofs white
4 over the last several years to make sure we're also
5 reducing energy usage, and a whole range of things
6 that I think we're trying to do that we just want to
7 make sure we're doing it in a coordinated way.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Well, if you're
9 going to stack up those measures against one another,
10 what's the most effective one if you were going to,
11 you know, kind of compare whether it's, you know,
12 between green roofs, solar panels--

13 DANIEL ZARRILLI: [interposing] White
14 roofs.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: and white roofs,
16 how would you--

17 DANIEL ZARRILLI: [interposing] Good
18 question.

19 NILDA MESA: Yeah, I mean, it's a great
20 question. It's, you know, because roof real estate
21 is, you know, hard to come by. So, I mean, I'm just
22 going to say, it sort of depends. It depends on the
23 building. It depends on how much shadow falls on the
24 building. It depends on the condition of the
25 building, whether it's new, whether it's retrofit. I

2 was at--so before, you know, this job I was actually--
3 --when I was at Columbia University and running a
4 sustainability program, I was actually the person who
5 launched the green roof program there, and it was--
6 and one of the things that we did was also set up a
7 sort of a lab to measure the effectiveness of green
8 roofs, because at that time there were really very
9 few that existed. Some of the considerations that we
10 looked at were sort of like the ease of maintenance,
11 because what you don't want to have is like you plant
12 a green roof and then have all the plants die. And
13 so, and you also don't want to plant something where
14 it's, you know, going to compromise the integrity of
15 a roof. So, there were--you know, we did all these
16 extensive studies. The thing that's great about,
17 that we saw that's great about green roofs, is that
18 it was a little hard to measure sort of on the energy
19 side of it how much it actually effect--how much it
20 actually kept a building cooler in the summer,
21 although we could see that there was a difference,
22 but where we saw more of a difference was on actually
23 like the biodiversity of the area and what it did to,
24 you know, all of the sort of natural areas that were
25 nearby. And so, with us we were between Morningside

2 Park and, you know, Central Park and Riverside Park,
3 and so what we saw was that in fact it helped,
4 believe it or not, promote, you know,--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [interposing]
6 Biodiversity.

7 NILDA MESA: Exactly. So, and you know,
8 there would be--you know, we just saw all of the
9 sudden many more butterflies coming, you know? It
10 was like that kind of thing, which is not what we
11 expected as a result, but I think it sort of--you
12 know, part of it depends on budget for a building
13 owner. So, green roofs are, you know, generally, you
14 know, can be really expensive, particularly if you're
15 putting in a new roof, and you know, it depends on
16 the extent to which you want to--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [interposing]
18 Right.

19 NILDA MESA: Or not so much, you know?
20 The cheapest by far are white roofs, you know, where
21 you just go in and paint the roof white, and that
22 also, you know, in our studies what we showed was
23 that the--as far as the energy side went that that
24 actually was at least as effective as a green roof
25 for a fraction of the price. So, it's, you know,

2 it's sort of--part of it depends on, you know, what
3 is it that the building owners or tenants, you know,
4 would like. Some places it's seen as an amenity.
5 Some places it's just, you know, purely ecological
6 services, but it's something that I think is--it's a
7 really good strategy and one that has not, you know,
8 been taken advantage of.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Right. I mean, so
10 two things that I want, two measures that I want to
11 bring to your attention. I think one that they're
12 doing in Toronto is they have a mandatory green roof
13 for any large-scale residential building with an
14 opportunity if a developer does not want to take
15 advantage of that that they have to then pay into a
16 reserve fund, and what we heard from the folks in
17 Toronto was that of the--I believe it was of the 300
18 new construction buildings that have, you know, gone
19 underway since this measure has been implemented, 270
20 have done it, and 30 have paid into the reserve
21 funds. So, obviously a preponderance of new
22 buildings have opted to go ahead and do that. And
23 the other measure that I think that we've heard from
24 the folks in Washington D.C. is that in terms of the
25 tax abatement, tax incentive that is in place, they

2 have I believe 15 dollars a square foot where we have
3 five dollars a square foot, and in D.C. obviously
4 more developers are--this is for new construction
5 where developers are taking advantage of that because
6 there's a greater incentive. So that's something
7 just to look at as well.

8 NILDA MESA: Happy to look into this more
9 and work with you more on this.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: And then lastly,
11 not as a question, but just really something that I
12 think is so important to look at is how we can get
13 all new construction, municipal buildings, schools,
14 fire houses, what have you, to be passive house net
15 zero I think is such an important thing that we can
16 do. I know of a affordable housing developer in
17 Bushwick that does passive house affordable housing
18 now, and if that can be made to work where we have
19 affordable housing with low rent levels, if that's
20 able to be passive house, then really anything could
21 be passive house. So, we should really be exploring
22 that and making sure that that's the standard for
23 every new building that the city finances.

24 NILDA MESA: So, one of the--it's a great
25 point. Passive house, the standard itself was--and

2 this is something we've been kicking around, you
3 know, for a bit, and it's very much central to the
4 work of the building's Technical Working Group,
5 actually, but one of the things that, you know, we've
6 been trying to figure out and we're big supporters of
7 getting our buildings to this point where they're net
8 zero passive housing or whatever it is, but the
9 models right now for the city, there are few examples
10 of residential passive house, but not all that many.
11 There aren't really any great models for commercial.
12 The models that were developed, the models in the--
13 the ones that have been developed in Europe, they
14 look at a different energy load because their summers
15 are not as hot as ours, and so that presents special
16 challenges for us, because not only do we have to
17 heat the buildings we have to make sure that they're
18 cool in the summertime, and so that creates special
19 challenges for the building facades and for sizing of
20 the equipment that's going on internally, and it's
21 something that we have to address, and it's something
22 that we are, you know, moving forward with, but right
23 now we don't have a great way of doing it, but we're
24 on the way to doing that. So, it's a perfect
25 question.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: And as you know, I
3 mean, there's professional associations here and in
4 the states that are, you know, between architects and
5 engineers that are always looking at all of this
6 stuff, and so you know, I encourage--

7 NILDA MESA: [interposing] And we work
8 very--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: you to--

10 NILDA MESA: [interposing] Yeah, we work
11 really closely with them. They're on our Technical
12 Working Group, and in fact we received an award this
13 fall from the Passive House Institute here in New
14 York City for our support of development of Passive
15 House for New York City.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you so much.
17 Thank you Chairs.

18 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Yes, thank you very
19 much, and I think--are there any other questions? I
20 think just to close with the Administration part, is
21 that I think that obviously there's still a lot of
22 work and a lot of things to flush out from the OneNYC
23 Plan. I think that as far as the vision, I think
24 that many of us share the Administration's views that
25 we have a moral imperative to act now. There's no

2 time to wait. We have to act now. I think the areas
3 that we still need to work on obviously are the
4 benchmarks that are within our reach while we're
5 still in office and not beyond the years 2025 or
6 2050. I think also we need to tap into the workforce
7 that we have today to be a part of the implementation
8 of this plan. I think we have to continue to build
9 and increase human capacity in our people as well,
10 and I think that just to the point I made before,
11 Director Zarrilli, about with regards to displacement
12 of people is that the people that would be under the
13 Mayor's order to evacuate in the event of an
14 emergency are the same people who have difficult time
15 evacuating for a variety of reasons, one of which are
16 economic factors. So, the people who are really
17 facing the brunt of climate change and really who are
18 really I think are effected the most are the most
19 vulnerable today right now. And that is why we have
20 to act and we have to act, I think, with a sense of
21 urgency today. So, I just will close out by saying
22 that I think this is the beginning, not the end, of
23 this very serious discussion. I'm very interested in
24 hearing more about the Working Group's findings and
25 conclusions. I think that we need to move from a

2 place of from voluntary action to urgent action, and
3 I think again, the government from the Federal level,
4 state level, local level need to be on the same page
5 with regards to the sense of urgency, because again,
6 if we're leveraging public money with regards to the
7 affordability of our housing stock, but not
8 leveraging public money for the sustainability of our
9 people, that's a problem and that's also a gap. And
10 right now, I know that there are discussions under
11 way with the state, city and the building trades and
12 real estate executives with regard to the future of
13 the 421A program. I'm not sure why this can be a part
14 of those conversations as well, because if you're
15 saying affordability and sustainability are equally
16 important, why aren't we treating them as equally
17 important in these types of conversations? With
18 that, I will--I think that concludes the
19 Administration's testimony, and just to make a note,
20 there's a triple committee hearing in this room at
21 1:00 p.m., so for the convenience of the public, we
22 want to hear every single person's testimony and
23 feedback, we will be moving our committee hearing
24 right next door to the committee room to our left
25 here. That's because at 1:00 p.m. there's a triple

2 committee hearing that needs a lot of space. So, I
3 appreciate the Administration's testimony. I look
4 forward to continuing working together.

5 DANIEL ZARRILLI: Thank you, and just a
6 thank you for your support of the National Disaster
7 Resiliency Competition Application as well.

8 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you.

9 NILDA MESA: Thank you.

10 [break]

11 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: We're just waiting
12 for the Sergeant at Arms to give us the okay to
13 start, and we'll also set the clock to three minutes.
14 Okay, we'd like to call up our first panel. Begin
15 with Eric Goldstein, Natural Resources Defense
16 Council, Doctor Michael Menser [sp?], Juan Camilo
17 Osorio from New York City Environmental Justice
18 Alliance, Ya-Ting Liu, New York League of
19 Conservation Voters, and Laurie Schoeman from
20 Enterprise Community Partners. Okay, so we've set
21 the clock at three minutes per witness, and I guess
22 we can begin this way. That's fine, Mr. Menser,
23 Doctor Menser, if you want to begin that way. Thank
24 you very much. Make sure the mic is on.

2 MICHAEL MENSER: Got it, alright. Well,
3 hot topic, cold room. Thank you to the Council
4 Members for this very important hearing today, and
5 I'm going to get right to it. So, my name is Doctor
6 Michael Menser. I teach philosophy and urban
7 sustainability studies at Brooklyn College in the
8 CUNY Graduate Center and work with the Science and
9 Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay. I'm also an
10 active member of the faculty and staff union at CUNY,
11 the Professional Staff Congress, and President of the
12 Participatory Budgeting Project. My testimony is
13 informed by all these connections, but is on behalf
14 of myself as an individual. My theme today is that
15 making New York City more resilient is going to
16 require a true commitment to establishing regular
17 channels of community participation, not just one-
18 shot events at various levels of government, and if
19 that is not done, well-intentioned top-down proposals
20 could actually further displace and endanger people
21 and even entire neighborhoods. And if OneNYC has a
22 public participation plan, then I would say that it's
23 a top secret one, which is a little bit ironic. This
24 past weekend in Paris, almost 200 world leaders put
25 respond to the climate crisis. The time is right for

2 major action, and New York City has already begun to
3 take it. Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC put NYC at the
4 course to reduce its recovery by 30 percent and now
5 we have 80 percent by 2050 as a goal in the SIR [sic]
6 aims to spend 20 billion to enhance resilience. But
7 as Mayor de Blasio's One New York Plan makes
8 perfectly clear, a truly sustainable and resilient
9 New York City requires inclusion in equity. Compared
10 to PlaNYC in the SAR, One New York makes significant
11 improvements with respect to both those inclusion in
12 equity. However resilient requires addressing
13 climate change in economic inequality, and One New
14 York's focus on affordable housing, workforce
15 development and transportation offer hope if not only
16 specifics in actually creating a more equitable city
17 with respect to the physical and social
18 infrastructure. However, One New York gives much
19 less attention to community participation despite
20 some other things we heard earlier. Without robust
21 and regular community participation, the One New York
22 plan could waste millions of dollars on projects that
23 don't respond to community needs. Even worse, it
24 could put hundreds of thousands of people at risk of
25 displacement, not just from rising sea levels, but

2 rising rents. To put it bluntly, without robust and
3 regular community participation, the One New York
4 plan could make us less safe, less resilience and
5 more unequal. Yet, unlike the problem with global
6 climate change, the problem of local public input is
7 solvable in a short term framework. There are
8 elements of One New York, to give it credit, that do
9 offer glimpses of such democratic resilience. The
10 plan mentions community participation on two
11 different levels. The first is at the level of
12 community institutional infrastructure, just to quote
13 from the plan, "The goal is that all New Yorkers have
14 access to high quality, convenient located community-
15 based city resources that promotes civic engagement
16 and enables residents to thrive." And we can see
17 that with the focus, and this was mentioned earlier.
18 Libraries weren't actually mentioned, but there's lot
19 of community infrastructure from libraries to schools
20 to workforce development centers, small business
21 services and community health hubs. Does that mean--
22 okay. So, what the thing I really want to call
23 attention to, though, is at the level of planning and
24 implementation that we are most concerned. Community
25 participation is necessary to make sure the community

2 priorities are being addressed, projects are
3 developed with community needs and aspirations in
4 mind, and the process implementation does not
5 displace, as I was saying. That's going to require
6 community participation in terms of project review
7 and monitoring, regular feedback and also at the
8 level of budget allocations. And so to give one
9 example, the DEP right now is currently constructing
10 bio-swirls [sic] throughout Brooklyn and Queens. For
11 these flood mitigation and biodiversity enhancing
12 spaces to function well, the sites must be properly
13 maintained, the planning cared for and sites kept
14 free of trash and debris. This requires community
15 vigilance and skill. Also community members will
16 possess and report information about how these sites
17 function during rain events. For this to happen,
18 agency community communication must be well supported
19 in long term. So we're not calling for public
20 participation in every decision. We don't think
21 there should be a series of public meetings on the
22 proper width of sewage pipes, but there are many
23 programs and projects that should be vetted by the
24 public at the beginning of the process. Others
25 should be commenting during the proposal generation

2 stage as in participatory budgeting. This is not
3 only democratic, it can potentially save the city
4 millions of dollars by avoiding implementing projects
5 that don't meet community needs. In other cases, it
6 might be appropriate for public to choose the project
7 to ensure the project is in sync with community wants
8 and aspirations.

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Doctor Menser, can
10 you just quickly have a wrap up line. We'll take
11 your testimony and put it in the record as well to
12 review it.

13 MICHAEL MENSER: Sure.

14 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Because You've been
15 very active and we appreciate this.

16 MICHAEL MENSER: Got it. So, my--just to
17 conclude, the idea is that the Science and Resilience
18 Institute at Jamaica Bay, I think, offers a really
19 powerful model of how you can put community input
20 with public agencies, with academic researchers and
21 community-based researchers to actually have a
22 community-driven agenda integrated with the city to
23 do a regular participation process. This is a ten--
24 One New York itself is a ten year plan. So that,
25 having that trial of those public engagement with

2 community organizations, with public agencies going
3 forward and the researches is something that I think
4 it could really offer democratic collaboration that
5 would make New York City a global leader in that
6 dimension of resilience. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
8 much. Thank you. Next speaker?

9 JUAN CAMILO OSORIO: Good afternoon. My
10 name is Juan Camilo Osorio. I'm going to be
11 testifying today as Director of Research with the New
12 York City Environmental Justice Alliance. We are a
13 citywide membership network linking grassroots
14 organizations from low income neighborhoods and
15 communities of color in their struggle for
16 environmental justice. We have submitted longer
17 testimony which I will summarize as follows. Recent
18 [sic] research findings emphasizing the liability of
19 the city's industrial waterfront neighborhoods for a
20 significant amount of time in industrial areas to
21 various climate change impacts, including flooding,
22 storm surge and sea level rise, but also wind and
23 potential hazardous exposures in the event of severe
24 weather. While the initiatives in OneNYC represent a
25 significant step forward, the complexity of these

2 challenges require a more detailed implementation
3 plan balancing the approach to various types of
4 climate change impacts, a long term plan to address
5 the needs of all vulnerable communities and a robust
6 community engagement plan for transparent decision-
7 making and community oversight. In order to address
8 these challenges, we urge the City Council to
9 consider the following recommendations. One, require
10 a robust implementation plan for OneNYC. There is
11 ambiguity on the policies required to implement goals
12 and a need for strong mandates. For example, a
13 voluntary retrofit program like the Retrofit
14 Accelerator alone is not sufficient to meet the 80 by
15 50 goal, and therefore, the city should require large
16 buildings to undergo energy efficiency retrofits. In
17 addition, there's a need for a full renewable energy
18 and energy efficiency assessment of public buildings
19 to determine potential for keen energy generation,
20 particularly related with solar panels in schools
21 located in low income neighborhoods and communities
22 of color. New York City also requires a balanced
23 long term mechanism to address the needs of all
24 vulnerable communities so vulnerable neighborhoods
25 like the South Bronx or Sunset Park that did not

2 experience the highest levels of flooding during
3 Sandy receive comparable levels of resiliency
4 investment. Number two, require a comprehensive
5 assessment and response to climate change impacts.
6 Current resiliency efforts have an almost exclusive
7 focus on coastal flooding. The city hasn't addressed
8 the impacts of high winds, and it hasn't fully
9 addressed the public health risks associated with
10 potential hazardous exposures that can occur in
11 industrial facilities under severe weather. And
12 number three, require the city to create a genuine
13 community engagement process to inform and oversee
14 the implementation of OneNYC. With our own inclusive
15 and long term decision-making process to engage
16 grassroots efforts in resiliency building plans with
17 clear opportunities for community oversight, OneNYC
18 remains a primarily top-down effort. Such an is--an
19 effort--sorry. Such initiative can be built upon
20 proposals submitted to the City Council by the City
21 University of New York and the Science and Resiliency
22 Institute of Jamaica, of Jamaica Bay, in partnership
23 with NEJA [sic]. We commend you for inviting public
24 comments on the city's resiliency and sustainability
25 plans. The City Council really plays a critical role

2 in ensuring that New York City fully takes advantage
3 of the opportunity to increase its sustainability and
4 resiliency. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very much
6 for your testimony. Next?

7 LAURIE SCHOEMAN: Good afternoon. On
8 behalf of Enterprise Community Partners, I would like
9 to thank Chair Treyger and Chair Constantinides for
10 the opportunity to comment today. My name is Laurie
11 Schoeman and I direct the Green Communities Program
12 at the New York Office of Enterprise. For more than
13 30 years, Enterprise has worked to create opportunity
14 for low and moderate income people through the
15 creation of high quality affordable housing in
16 diverse thriving communities. To us, green has
17 always been about more than energy efficiency. It's
18 about social justice. From Sandy's disproportionate
19 impacts on low income renters to the high
20 concentrations of asthma in communities with poor
21 housing quality, it's clear that low income
22 communities have the most to gain from healthy,
23 sustainable and resilient building. That's why
24 OneNYC is a visionary plan. It seeks to make the
25 city a more equitable place by linking people,

2 economic development and the environment. Economic
3 development and sustainability must go hand in hand.
4 Ten years ago we launched Enterprise Green
5 Communities criteria to prove that it was possible to
6 bring the health, environmental and economic benefits
7 of green building to affordable housing. The
8 Enterprise Green Communities criteria is the leading
9 national housing standard for green and healthy
10 affordable building adopted by more than 22 states
11 and municipalities around the nation, promoting high
12 performance, efficient, healthy and resilient
13 affordable housing. In New York City, all affordable
14 housing developments receiving funding from HPD for
15 new construction and substantial rehab must comply
16 with a version of each EGCC [sic] tailored to New
17 York City affordable housing stock called the HPD
18 Overlay. In New York to date we have almost 36,000
19 units of affordable housing in the Enterprise Green
20 Communities pipeline alone. After Hurricane Sandy we
21 launched a resiliency program through which we've
22 supported many of New York City's leading portfolio
23 affordable housing owners with TA, grants and tools
24 to promote long term opportunities and infrastructure
25 resilience in low income communities. Resilience

2 measures are now incorporated into the EGCC standard.

3 We would like to particularly highlight the recent

4 program by HPD which--and HGC, called the Green

5 Housing Preservation Program, which assists when

6 owners of small and mid-sized multifamily properties

7 across the city to undertake intensive energy

8 efficiency and water conservation measures. The

9 program indeed advances the goals of the Mayor's

10 Housing Plan as well as the city's 80 by 50 carbon

11 reduction program. Importantly, the Green Housing

12 Preservation Program and other initiatives like the

13 Retrofit Accelerator are reaching owners of small and

14 mid-size buildings, which is a part of their housing

15 stock not well served by other programs. Enterprise

16 commends the steps taken by this Administration, the

17 City Council and the affordable housing community to

18 make New York City a green and equitable place to

19 live. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to

20 testify here today.

21 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very

22 much. Next?

23 YA-TING LIU: Good afternoon, Chair

24 Tregyer, Chair Constantinides, Council Member Chin.

25 Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify on

2 behalf of the New York League of Conservation Voters.

3 My name is Ya-Ting Liu. I'm the New York City

4 Program Director, and we have over 25,000 members

5 here in New York City and we want what you want,

6 which is to make New York City a more sustainable

7 city, something that would make our people, our

8 neighborhoods, our economy more sustainable, more

9 resilient. So, we definitely applaud this

10 Administration's ambitious agenda in ONENYC, and we

11 echo a lot of the comments that Council Members made

12 earlier about the need for another layer of

13 specificity in order to make the plan stronger. I

14 mean, the bottom line is that we can't assess and

15 track progress or holding anybody accountable if we

16 can't measure it. So, as part of my testimony, which

17 I won't read, but I've attached two copies of

18 documents. One is an implementation plan from the

19 Sustainability Update in 2011 to just show you the

20 layer of detail, specificity and specific concrete

21 action that the city's going to take by date served

22 [sic]. So, just for example, if you turn to PDF page

23 194 in the implementation plan under air quality from

24 this 2011 sustainability update, you'll see things

25 like, "Install over 60 electric vehicle charging

2 units at city owned facilities and garages. Complete
3 upgrades of 400 vehicles. Install diesel particulate
4 filters on 685 buses. Complete boiler conversions at
5 15 schools." That is the level of detail, and also
6 be date serin [sic], right? So, this implementation
7 said that these actions will be accomplished in two
8 years from 2011. So, compare that to what we have
9 currently in OneNYC which is the indicators and
10 initiatives table. So if you turn to page 275 also
11 looking at sort of what they have spelled out under
12 air quality, you get things that are, again, a little
13 bit more broad and not specific in terms of actions
14 that the city will take. So, air quality initiative
15 three under current OneNYC says, "Accelerate
16 conversions of residual heating oil boilers in
17 buildings." And you guys touched upon that earlier
18 in your exchange with Director Mesa, how many
19 buildings are left have yet to convert. She said a
20 few hundred. How many buildings will be converted by
21 day surin [sic]? So, what is the city aiming to
22 convert by the end of next year and the year after
23 that? Some specific numbers would really help us all
24 assess whether or not we're getting to this goal.
25 Look, I'll just end with that we do want to applaud

2 the Administration for all these great initiatives,
3 but it's really hard to see the total for the sum of
4 its parts, where all these different initiatives fit
5 into the overall plan, and we think that the next
6 update can be strengthened with something more
7 concrete and more specific, and thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you.

9 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Chairman
10 Treyger, Chairman Constantinides and Council Member
11 Chin. I'm Eric Goldstein from the Natural Resources
12 Defense Council. Excellent hearing, terrific
13 questioning, right on target. By his appointments,
14 his statements and his goal setting such as those set
15 forth in New York in OneNYC, the Mayor is showing
16 that environmental issues form climate change to
17 what's going on in neighborhoods are issues that he
18 cares about and where he wants New York City to be a
19 national leader. Never the less, fulfilling such
20 ambitious goals and promises won't be easy.
21 Intermediate goals and timetables are necessary.
22 There's much work that remains to be done in the next
23 two years. In our written testimony we'll set forth
24 in detail the 10 recommendations, I'll just quickly
25 mention now. One, mandate energy efficiency

2 retrofits, and by the way, many of these issues
3 you've discussed. A number of them, the city has
4 indicated they're heading in the right direction and
5 narrowing down and nailing down the commitments to
6 implement them, or what will be telling what we hope
7 will come out in April version of OneNYC. One,
8 mandate energy efficiency retrofits for New York
9 City's largest privately owned buildings. The best
10 way to get cooperation from building owners from the
11 city is to send them clear signals now about the
12 Council's expectations for the future and provide
13 them with feasible, reasonable time tables. Two,
14 expand the conversion to renewables by issuing an RFP
15 for offshore wind that will allow for demonstrated
16 early success of this clean energy technology. There
17 are ways that the city can be aggressively working
18 with the federal government. Three, scale up energy
19 efficiency in affordable multifamily housing by
20 adopting realistic milestones for steps that must be
21 taken to turn this promise into a reality. Four,
22 facilitate, and again, details on all of these in the
23 written testimony. Four, facilitate the shift to
24 electric vehicles by building upon local law 130 of
25 2013 in directing the doubling of new charging

2 stations created in all five boroughs over the next
3 four years. Five, advance exclusive zone system for
4 the collecting of commercial waste that will result
5 in a more equitable, less polluting and more
6 sustainable trash hauling system for all city
7 neighborhoods. Six, address the most troublesome
8 elements of the city's waste stream which are
9 polystyrene foam and plastic bags, which we know
10 Council Member Chin has been working on; more details
11 in my testimony. Seven, strengthen recycling at NYCHA
12 by more fully engaging and employing residents in the
13 program that the city is now rolling out to reach
14 400,000 residents. Without, as you have said,
15 Chairman Tregyer, without engaging city residents in
16 the communities, many of these programs won't be the
17 success we need them to be. Eight, I think, advance-
18 -the existing funding for the rebuild design projects
19 won't be nearly enough to get the job done and
20 someone needs to stand up and say, "The emperor is
21 only wearing his underwear." Significant additional
22 sums from federal, state and city sources will be
23 necessary to see these resiliency projects through
24 their conclusion. Nine, if we want to make our
25 neighborhoods more resilient, we need to expand the

2 city's energy distribution network, paving the way
3 for energy efficient micro grids is one of the most
4 important specific actions the Council, the
5 Administration could take. And finally, ten, the
6 Council and the Mayor should work cooperatively to
7 create a permanent buy-out program in which the city
8 and state agencies acquire from willing sellers their
9 homes and businesses located in the most dangerous
10 and vulnerable flood zones and keep those parcels in
11 an undeveloped state, providing recreational
12 opportunities and natural buffers to protect city
13 neighborhoods. Unfortunately, fortifications and
14 defensive infrastructure alone won't be enough to
15 protect every city neighborhood. We thank you for
16 convening this hearing. We hope you do it
17 semiannually. Huge amounts of material to cover, but
18 your questioning was terrific. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
20 much, and just a quick note and just a quick question
21 as well, because we have a lot of people here, I just
22 want to be mindful of everyone's time. The former
23 Mayor, Mayor Mike Bloomberg, who has been very vocal
24 on this issue of climate change, as someone who
25 chairs the committee on recovery and resiliency I

2 could tell you that with our public housing stock in
3 Coney Island and Red Hook, Rockaways and elsewhere
4 that they had their boilers flooded by Sandy. The
5 temporary boilers that they installed were fossil
6 fuel oil burning boilers that could not even operate
7 during cold weather. So, number one, they were
8 faulty, and number two, for people who claim to be
9 champions of climate change, they were still
10 advancing procurement processes that actually help
11 advance the factors of climate change. So, we need a
12 bottom-up analysis of all of our procurement and
13 contracting as well, making sure that we're not being
14 hypocritical on government saying that we care about
15 this issue, but yet but we are contributing to these
16 issues. I just want that to be part of the record.
17 Now, they are moving away from them now. They're in
18 the process, but that should have been the part of
19 their preparation planning long before. We heard the
20 issues during the Administration's testimony. I'm
21 very curious to hear some of your thoughts, and I
22 respect--we respect, greatly respect your input and
23 your expertise on these matters. There doesn't seem
24 to be consensus about what is the gold or platinum
25 standard of energy efficiency standards. We heard

2 the International Passive House Association as one
3 set of standards. We've heard of LEED. Is there
4 consensus in the environmental sustainability
5 community about what set of standards we should be
6 working towards in New York City, because it's
7 obviously by the testimony from the Administration
8 they are grappling with this? It'll be helpful for
9 us and the City Council to know from the
10 environmental community, is there a consensus about
11 what standards we should be working towards. I
12 appreciate anyone to chime in on that.

13 LAURIE SCHOEMAN: If I could just note,
14 the housing community has made a strong commitment to
15 the Enterprise Green Communities Standard because
16 it's a standard that's been developed to be made
17 relevant for affordable housing developers. It's
18 responsive to the needs of the housing development
19 community, and so this is a standard that for this
20 particular segment of the community works. So, you
21 know, every single community has a specific set of
22 needs, but I just want to say for the record that
23 Enterprise Green Communities Standard is firmly
24 ensconced in the city's--

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Anyone
3 else to chime in? Yes, please.

4 MICHAEL MENSER: I'll just say that there
5 are a variety of different standards, LEED covers
6 energy as well as a whole host of other
7 sustainability questions. There are various
8 categories of that. Obviously you're balancing the
9 desirability of affordable housing versus some of
10 these other things. So there are trade-offs in all
11 of them, but I think we can get you both an answer to
12 that specific question, as well as, and we could
13 probably all agree on this panel, of the benchmarks
14 that we all would think would be most significant for
15 New York City to be seeking to achieve.

16 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Yes?

17 JUAN CAMILO OSORIO: The only thing that
18 I would add is that while the Technical Working Group
19 has placed a little emphasis on both reviewing
20 research on the subject and advancing research to
21 understand the specificity of New York City, I think
22 that it's really important to not disconnect the
23 identification of the standards with the actual
24 policies to implement them, and that's where we feel
25 that the Administration is falling short.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Very
3 helpful. Yes, Co-Chair?

4 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Great to see
5 you all. Great to see you as always. So, we heard
6 the Administration talking about their goal of, in
7 the private sector, 250 megawatts worth of solar
8 being installed throughout the city and they laid out
9 some of their ways to get there, that there are
10 already 54 megawatts have been installed in the
11 private sector. I think 14 of those in Queens, and
12 now they're going to have a sort of simplified DOB
13 process for self-certification beginning on January
14 1st. What other policy recommendations would you
15 make? Because we talk about different energy
16 sources. I mean, we talked about geothermal, and we
17 can name on one hand all the great instances and
18 Passive House. What policy implementations would you
19 make, we can make solar more ubiquitous throughout
20 the city and other technologies as well? How do we
21 take this from the tens or hundreds to the thousands
22 and hundreds, you know, tens of thousands of
23 buildings that are utilizing these technologies? I
24 know, a big question.

2 JUAN CAMILO OSORIO: I can answer that
3 question. Some thoughts include the following. As
4 the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance is a
5 member of the Climate Works for All Coalition, which
6 has been structuring recommendations around the need
7 to create a full renewable energy and energy
8 efficiency assessment of all public buildings that
9 both identifies the potential for clean energy
10 generation on resilient distribution of energy. But
11 prioritizing opportunities to expand the number of
12 schools that can actually receive solar panels and
13 other types of technologies. Beyond that, I think
14 that New York City is facing a really interesting
15 opportunity to make sure that every dollar spent on
16 creating resilient energy distribution is also
17 incorporating renewables. Right now this is a role
18 that is receiving interesting attention from various
19 levels of government and that more and more can
20 become a citywide priority.

21 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: I agree, and
22 we have a bill in the Council, 478, that requires a
23 cost benefit analysis for every city-owned building,
24 and if so, if that cost benefit analysis comes back,
25 it will have to install solar, whether or not they're

2 doing any construction or not, those city-owned
3 buildings will have to install solar. Schools are
4 part of that portfolio. So, I agree with you there.
5 But how do we sort of get the private sector
6 involved? Because that's really, you know, we have
7 three or four thousand city-owned buildings and there
8 are a million buildings in New York City. So how do
9 we get those other, the private sector involved, to
10 sort of take on renewables in a way beyond, you know,
11 just solar, geo, you know, all those different
12 technologies.

13 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Well, we would just say,
14 echoing the questioning of Council Member Lander in
15 the earlier round, that this is an area where
16 mandates are necessary, and starting with the largest
17 buildings and providing sufficient lead time, no pun
18 intended, for buildings to address these needs, and
19 their opportunities for solar and many other steps
20 that the--many of these large buildings can take, but
21 why wait two, one, two, three years before we get
22 rolling on that. We believe that the Council could
23 play a very effective role, and ultimately, just
24 advancing that legislation even before it passes will
25 send a signal to the real estate community that the

2 city is serious about getting them to move forward
3 and jump on the band wagon, because you're right
4 Chairman Constantinides, no matter what the city does
5 at its buildings--and it's doing a lot and moving in
6 the right direction. Unless we get the private real
7 estate industry to cooperate, we won't make the
8 progress we want to and won't achieve the Mayor's 80
9 by 50 goal.

10 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Okay.

11 LAURIE SCHOEMAN: Chair Constantinides,
12 one thing I think it'd be important to point out,
13 this is a particularly a truth [sic] for the
14 affordable housing community, let us not forget the
15 need to support efficiency at the building level,
16 because if you're going to be installing renewable
17 energy, it's precious energy and like any other kind
18 of energy system, you want to make sure it's being
19 used efficiently and effectively and additionally
20 investing in operations in maintenance practices that
21 will support efficiency at the building level can go
22 a long way and can be very cost-effective way to
23 drive and accelerate efficiencies in sustainability
24 at the city level.

2 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Thanks.

3 Would you say also, I mean, there's sort of a
4 proposal out there that for a lot of the--for
5 nonprofits and so on for city buildings, what
6 incentive is there if they're not going to see that
7 savings if, you know, if the library, just to sort of
8 throw it out there, if you're working in a for-profit
9 hospital, what's your incentive for turning off that
10 light or being more energy efficient? How do we sort
11 of move that education process to understand
12 efficiency and say, oh, there's a benefit I can sort
13 of bring back to the hospital, and how do we sort of--
14 -what are your thoughts maybe structuring some sort
15 of, you know, if they're saving in a public
16 institution maybe they should, you know, use that
17 money for operation, something like that? I've heard
18 that talked about in different committees as well. I
19 know it's a little--that's a lot there.

20 JUAN CAMILO OSORIO: I can respond to
21 that. So, on one end, the New York City
22 Environmental Justice Alliance is in partnership with
23 Block Power and others have been exploring the need
24 to create, to begin thinking maybe [sic] about what
25 are the business models that can actually connect the

2 public sector, the private sector and the nonprofit
3 sector in creating, for example, special purpose
4 vehicles that actually can allow the co-ownership of
5 the infrastructure that actually can re-direct
6 revenues resulting from the management of the energy
7 infrastructure. This is the case with a micro grid
8 proposal that is being sought for Central Brooklyn
9 where the community can actually receive shares of
10 the infrastructure and actually be able to be paid
11 for any that benefits savings or for returning energy
12 to the grid. On the other end, I wanted to say that
13 providing clean sources of energy to feed emergency
14 shelters, schooling centers or other types of
15 critical infrastructure, communities could also have
16 on the ground a really important incentive to
17 decommission polluting energy infrastructure like
18 pico-units [sic] that are still the primary source of
19 energy when the grid hits its peak.

20 YA-TING LIU: I was just going to say
21 that, you know, clean heat was used as a such a--it
22 is a success story, and it is what the city is
23 modeling their Retrofit Accelerator program after,
24 but I think as Council Member Lander, you know,
25 brought that point home is that there was a, sort of,

2 legislative mandate before the clean heat program
3 went into effect to help build in and incentivize
4 building owners to do that conversion. So, it's a
5 public policy question and whether and when
6 government chooses to intervene or send a signal to
7 the private sector that if you're not going--you
8 know, you're going to have to change your behavior if
9 you don't do it on your own.

10 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: We certainly
11 haven't closed that door. That door's wide open.
12 So, we're definitely looking at mandates or, you
13 know, incentivizing and any other carrot on the stick
14 making sure that the private sector understands that
15 they have an obligation to be part of making our city
16 more green, and I think the Technical Working Group
17 once their report comes out in January, their
18 recommendations come out, we're going to have a very
19 quick turnaround time to evaluate those and look at
20 next steps.

21 JUAN CAMILO OSORIO: If I would add one
22 last thing is that I think it's really important to
23 think creatively about what are the type of
24 incentives to make these investments financially cost
25 effective, but there are going to be cases where

2 these interventions will not be financially cost-
3 effective, and therefore, you know, we really rely on
4 the ability of the Council to be able to encourage
5 the city to prioritize environmental decisions.

6 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: We
7 absolutely will.

8 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Well, I just want
9 to just say, I mean, I raise this myself during, you
10 know, the--with the Administration that right now
11 there's a discussion underway or a negotiation under
12 way with regards to the future of 421A, and there's a
13 discussion and debate underway about mandatory
14 inclusionary zoning as well, and so--and the
15 discussion so far have been about, you know,
16 affordability, scale of buildings, how high, density,
17 parking, and nowhere in the discussion are we talking
18 about environmental sustainability. So, the
19 government does have, yes, carrots and sticks, but I
20 have not seen it advance to the highest levels of
21 government in these types of discussions and
22 negotiations, and we're very interested in hearing as
23 well from the private sector, because they have a
24 very big role to play, there's no question, but I
25 think that we should try to work constructively

2 together and not demonize one another, but to
3 certainly say that, you know, what do we need to do
4 to get there. I think there should be universal
5 agreement that we have a problem. I hope there's
6 agreement on that, but quite frankly, I think that we
7 still need a lot of work to do with regards to not
8 just talking about these things, but actually seeing
9 them in writing in government policies proposals and
10 decisions, and again, I repeat this one more time.
11 There is a discussion underway at the conclusion of
12 this year the future of 421A, and we're not hearing
13 the discussions of environmental sustainability and
14 affordability. We're hearing affordability. We're
15 not hearing environmental sustainability, so it's a
16 key point. I thank the first panel. Thank you very
17 much. Next panel I'd like to call up, Anthony
18 Thomas, New York City Central Labor Council, Daisy
19 Chung from ALIGN, Brigid Flaherty from ALIGN, and
20 Chris Erikson with Allison Ziagra [sp?] from Local
21 Three. Great. I think we'll start this way and move
22 our way--actually, sir? Missing someone? Anthony
23 Thomas is--

24 : I'll be speaking on Mr. Thomas'
25 behalf.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Okay, very good.

3 So--okay. Want to start this way? Yes, Mr. Erikson?

4 Sure.

5 CHRISTOPHER ERIKSON: I'm on the clock

6 [sic]. Thank you--

7 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] Oh,

8 just--

9 CHRISTOPHER ERIKSON: Chairs

10 Constantinides and Vice [sic] Treyger for holding

11 this important hearing on New York City's--

12 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] Is

13 microphone on?

14 CHRISTOPHER ERIKSON: On, there you go.

15 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you.

16 CHRISTOPHER ERIKSON: Thank you again,

17 Chairs, for holding this important hearing on New

18 York City's sustainability plan. My name is Chris

19 Erikson. I'm the Business Manager of Local Three

20 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

21 represented with 28,000 members engaged in various

22 occupations in the electrical industry in New York

23 City. OneNYC is particularly relevant because of the

24 goal to put 100 megawatts of solar on municipal

25 buildings and to pull power municipal operations with

2 renewable energy by 2050. This is the work that
3 Local Three members do. The membership has already
4 installed sizable photovoltaic systems in New York
5 City at Stiwell [sic] Avenue Subway Station and
6 Museum in Jewish Heritage and Solaire [sp?] at Batter
7 Park, and most recently at PS 62R, which is the Net-
8 Zero Energy School in Staten Island. These are only
9 a small snapshot that the renewable energy projects
10 that my members have performed, and at this time, if
11 I can introduce a rank and file member of Local
12 Three, Allison Ziogas just to give some remarks on
13 the 62R

14 ALLISON ZIOGAS: As Mr. Erikson stated,
15 my name is Allison Ziogas, and I was recently the
16 foreman at PS 62R, the Net Zero Energy School
17 recently completed in Staten Island. To tell you a
18 little bit about the work that we did at the school,
19 myself and a crew of 15 Local Three journeymen
20 installed the buildings photovoltaic system and wind
21 turbine, which produced 650 kilowatts of power. In
22 practical terms, that translates into a football
23 field size array of over 2,000 solar panels and 62
24 power inverters. The solar panels cover the entirety
25 of the two-story building's rooftop, the southern

2 facing façade, as well as a separate parking canopy.

3 PS 62R is the first school in the five boroughs and

4 in the Northeastern United States that claim to be

5 net zero, meaning it produces as much energy as it

6 consumed. In addition to these expansive

7 photovoltaic system, the school also features energy

8 generating exercise bikes, a geothermal heating and

9 cooling system, and a highly-efficient LED lighting

10 system with daylight harvesting and dimming

11 capabilities. The work that went into construction

12 at PS 62R is evidence that Local Union Number Three

13 IBW is a right choice for delivering cutting-edge

14 green jobs with a level of professionalism and

15 craftsmanship that is unmatched anywhere in our city.

16 CHRISTOPHER ERIKSON: Thank you, Allison.

17 Again, this project is a clear indication that the

18 city can afford to use union, pay union wages on

19 these projects and it's so important. I want to just

20 acknowledge that reducing the emissions isn't the

21 only part of making our city more resilient, that we

22 have to create, preserve the jobs, good jobs, for New

23 Yorkers, and the well paid workforce at an affordable

24 price point for developers, it has to happen. Good

25 jobs are a vital element for sustaining the healthy

2 middle class within the city. When workers are paid
3 well they add to the overall economic growth of the
4 city. this is not sadly what's going to happen in
5 the next round of solar installations, because the
6 RFP as we understand it is to use purchase power
7 agreements, and we take exception with purchase power
8 agreements, because there are no wage standards, no
9 project labor agreements, no local hire provision, no
10 training standards through apprentice programs and no
11 plans for integrating students in vocational programs
12 into the type of work, into the future. So, the
13 magnitude of the task at hand for the City Council
14 gives an opportunity to provide job growth for
15 citizens in New York. The members of the Council
16 should compel those producers and suppliers as you
17 said earlier that are going to put these components
18 on our city buildings to manufacturing them here in
19 New York. This is such an important point that you
20 made earlier this morning, to make those
21 manufacturers, make the products and assemble the
22 products here in communities that are disadvantaged
23 is a key part to leverage that you have in this whole
24 project, and I hope that that goes forward, clearly.
25 This morning we also heard briefly about testimony

2 about transmission lines not being feasible for
3 whatever was the reason, and basically the failure--
4 the reason is the failure of privatized energy
5 companies to upgrade and main [sic] the systems.
6 That's why our grid is in such trouble here. So, I
7 don't want to see that happen on these power purchase
8 agreements. You know, that's what you're going to
9 get. There'll be no maintenance. Those projects
10 will go into disrepair, and we'll be replacing them
11 and spending bad money over and over again. So, we
12 hope that you can address the issue of bringing it
13 home for the electrical workers here in the City of
14 New York. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you and thank
16 you for the work of your members as well. Next?

17 DAISY CHUNG: Thank you Committee Chairs
18 for holding this important hearing. My name is Daisy
19 Chung and I'm the Campaign Director at ALIGN, The
20 Alliance for a Greater New York. ALIGN is a
21 community labor coalition dedicated to creating good
22 jobs, vibrant communities and an accountable
23 democracy for all New Yorkers. ALIGN also co-
24 coordinates the Climate Works for All Coalition that
25 works to reduce initiatives and create good jobs here

2 in New York City. Just to broadly and summarize my
3 comments that I'll be making here, ALIGN both
4 supports the comprehensive sustainability agenda of
5 OneNYC, but also wants to see more detailed action
6 plans and legislative introductions that moves us,
7 that move us boldly to the 80 by 50 goal. More
8 specifically, we believe that there are two very
9 actionable areas that the city has yet to address
10 comprehensively, but that immediate action could be
11 taken. One is requiring that privately owned large
12 buildings over 25,000 square feet reduce energy use.
13 Two, conducting a full assessment of all New York
14 City public school buildings to determine which
15 renewable energy options, not just solar, all
16 renewable energy options are feasible and practical
17 and plan out and begin to fund system wide
18 installations. Both of these initiatives are
19 essential to meeting 80 by 50 because buildings
20 produce over 70 percent of our city's emissions. In
21 fact, buildings over 50,000 square feet make up just
22 two percent of our building stock, but use an
23 astonishing 45 percent of our city's energy. So,
24 going to the first actionable item, requiring energy
25 efficiency in large buildings, you know, there have

2 been, you know, voluntary measures that were
3 mentioned earlier, but you know, as we can--we can
4 measure from the greener greater buildings plan since
5 that time, you know, the vast majority of buildings
6 in privately owned buildings in New York City have
7 failed to take action, and I think that is an--that
8 is an indication of where we need to move to next.
9 You know, in New York City, you know, buildings will
10 need more than information and encouragement to
11 invest in energy efficiency upgrades. These are
12 significant upgrades. We need a mandate and coupled
13 with technical and financial support. This is why
14 we're urging City Council and the Administration to
15 move legislation to upgrade our building code, and
16 you know, we can't wait any longer because new
17 buildings are going up and buildings are being
18 renovated every day. Every single day this is
19 happening, and you know, its enormous task. Eighty
20 percent of our current buildings will be standing
21 2050. Finally, in terms of the assessments in
22 schools, we would really like to see a full
23 comprehensive assessment of the renewable energy
24 potential on the 1,400 public school buildings here
25 in New York City, and you know, just going to, you

2 know, the OneNYC's, you know, proposed establishment
3 of a triple bottom line of how we make investments in
4 the city I think is really, really crucial. You
5 know, how we look at projects and their impacts on
6 our economy, our environment and society are
7 crucially important and, you know, the RFP issued
8 very recently around solar installations here in the
9 city without any sort of labor standards, not
10 outlining any process for community engagement and
11 decision-making and any process for sharing the
12 benefits derived from energy savings is concerning to
13 us. You know, for these reasons I encourage the
14 council to seriously consider leading on these
15 initiatives. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. And if
17 you could just--I appreciate the passion and the
18 energy. If you just try to be mindful of time,
19 because we have a lot of people still to provide
20 testimony today. So, thank you very much.

21 ALEX GLEASON: Good afternoon. My name
22 is Alex Gleason, I'm the Policy Associate at the New
23 York City Central Labor Council. I'll be giving
24 prepared testimony on behalf of Anthony Thomas, our
25 Political Director. Representing 1.3 million workers

2 across 300 affiliated unions, the Central Labor
3 Council Recognizes the importance of tackling climate
4 change for our communities in places of work. OneNYC
5 created a strong framework for curbing climate change
6 and preparing the city to reduce emissions 80 percent
7 by 2050. This is the 80 by 50 goal and was enacted
8 into law at the end of 2014. OneNYC has been a
9 catalyst to spark the important conversation on
10 linkages between emission reductions, resilient
11 communities and well-paying jobs. It is now our
12 responsibility to build on this framework and use
13 climate change as an opportunity to lift up the
14 working people of New York City and prepare in a
15 proactive manner for our future. As a member of the
16 Climate Works for All Coalition, the Central Labor
17 Council implores the city to take two specific policy
18 actions; one, retrofitting the city's largest
19 buildings, and two, installing renewable energy
20 assets on our local schools. Energy efficient
21 buildings are more resilient buildings as they better
22 prepare us for the changing climate around us. Large
23 buildings, those over 50,000 square feet use nearly
24 half of the city's energy. While helpful, the
25 retrofit--while helpful, the retrofit accelerator

2 program alone is not enough to adequately address the
3 problem and more aggressive policy actions are
4 required, specifically, targeted emission mandates.

5 Mandated retrofits are a common sense way to reduce

6 the greatest source of emissions and will create

7 thousands of opportunities for new climate-related

8 jobs. Without dealing with large buildings, it will

9 be merely impossible for us to reach the 80 by 50

10 goal. Another great opportunity for a proactive

11 climate action is with our diverse public school

12 buildings. Currently, New York City spends an

13 estimated 220 million dollars annually on utilities

14 for the public schools. While we applaud the

15 Administration's initiative to install 100 megawatts

16 of power on municipal buildings, solar power on

17 municipal buildings, we encourage a greater scale and

18 pace to address the problem. The Central Labor

19 Council supports the development of a comprehensive

20 plan for expanding renewable resources across the

21 entire system. It's also worth noting that the

22 current RFP for the existing 24 schools does not

23 contain a project labor agreement. A full renewable

24 energy assessment of our school system could

25 determine all potential for renewable energy across

2 the building stock. While there are numerous
3 strategies for the city to take in addressing climate
4 change, mandatory large building retrofits and solar
5 on schools will make a great impact on reducing
6 emissions to the 80 by 50 target. These policies
7 will protect our communities from future storms,
8 reduce our impact on climate change and create tens
9 of thousands of well-paying jobs for the members of
10 our community. Thank you for your time and
11 consideration.

12 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Thank
13 you for your very powerful testimony, and just to
14 give a quick thoughts and--there's much respect here
15 for the people here and for your very, I think,
16 powerful and informative testimony. I had a mo--I
17 have a moto in my district with regards to Sandy
18 recovery, that my constituents should not just be
19 witnesses to the recovery, they should be active
20 participants in it as well. So, we worked very hard
21 to make sure that we bring together labor, bring
22 together industry stakeholders, housing recovery, a
23 number of city agencies down to my district, and
24 they've been to the Rockaways as well and other parts
25 of the city to enlist people who have the skills and

2 interest or want to develop the skills and interest
3 to be a part of this work, and we're making some
4 progress, and there's still more work to do. The
5 same thing I think goes for this issue, that I think
6 that all of us share the goal of making sure that our
7 schools are equipped with modern days,
8 environmentally friendly sustainable technology, but
9 I just, I don't want our students to be witnesses to
10 that. I want them to be a part of that. I want them
11 to be helping in building that, and the students of
12 today will be the Local Three people of tomorrow.
13 They will be the members of labor tomorrow. So, just
14 as fast as--just as is urgency to discuss this issue
15 of mandates and not just voluntary programs, we
16 equally have to make sure that we're building
17 capacity today right now, and there are, recognizing,
18 there are people in our workforce today with the
19 skills already, because even if we did a mandate
20 right now, there's no--as you pointed out, Mr.
21 Erikson correctly, as you pointed out, there's no
22 assurance that this will be done by people who we've
23 already invested in who are skilled and who have the
24 credentials and the qualifications, there's no
25 assurance that they'll be doing this work. Is that

2 correct? So, how are we saying that we're looking to
3 create a win/win to create a more resilient, just
4 environmentally friendly society while we're not
5 still addressing the economic challenges of our city
6 and of our community? So, it's clearly not a win/win
7 at this point. And so I think that I just want to be
8 very mindful of that, and I again ask this panel the
9 same question I asked the previous panel, are there a
10 set of standards that ALIGN or Local Three have that
11 we should be working towards that you think is the
12 gold standard? Because this is something that we
13 need to be better informed about so we could push
14 with the Administration. Thank you.

15 CHRISTOPHER ERIKSON: I'm glad you asked
16 that question again because I was chomping at the bit
17 back there. The standard is the union standard.
18 That is the standard for good jobs in the City of New
19 York, and that's the one that I hope that the city of
20 New York embraces as we move forward. When you
21 talked about solar installers making 10 or 12 dollars
22 an hour and locked into that type of repetitive work
23 forever and ever, that is not a good job. That is
24 not a good career, and that's not where we want to
25 go. Local Three is prepared to discuss with the

2 Administration in recognizing the need to keep the
3 cost of solar installations low so that they happen
4 in the city. you know, to somehow transition a
5 workforce out of communities in need into those low-
6 rated solar installer positions for a period of time,
7 but then to transmission [sic] into our apprentice
8 programs where they go on to become full blown
9 journeymen electricians and journeywoman electricians
10 like we have here with a career ahead of them. And
11 so there's a lot of stuff in play here, and we
12 represent diversity within the City of New York.
13 More than 50 percent of our apprentices are from our
14 city and are minorities and women, and we're
15 embracing the City of New York in order to bring them
16 in for careers, good jobs, union jobs. Again, I
17 believe that is the standard that we should all
18 aspire to because it's important.

19 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. I'm
20 curious to hear your thoughts as well. Thank you.

21 ALEX GLEASON: I would say that the
22 Climate Works for All Coalition has been working
23 aggressively to ensure that installing solar panels
24 on our school system, that any savings that are
25 generated don't simply go back into the pockets of a

2 couple of select vendors who happen to get the
3 agreements to do the installation and the PPA, but
4 rather that we're able to take those savings and
5 supplement rather than supplant the budgets of those
6 schools and use those dollars and reinvest them in
7 such a way that we can create a whole myriad of new
8 programs that may or may not be a pre-apprenticeship
9 program, that may or may not be STEM funding, that
10 may or may not be something else that the
11 administrators and that the school's teachers who
12 ultimately are the professionals can decide is the
13 best way to be talking to the kids about these issues
14 and about resiliency, and I think that specifically
15 when we're talking about what we can do tomorrow,
16 that is the most important element. It is taking
17 whatever savings we get, retaining them and using
18 those to create something new and to create new
19 opportunities.

20 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Let me just give you
21 a specific example and then we'll move on to the next
22 panel. There's a school called Grady High School in
23 Southern Brooklyn, 700 students. The DOE labels that
24 most of them have IEP's, and I will challenge that by
25 saying that these are kids who have a talent who are

2 actually building a home with their hands. A part of
3 their project or curriculum is to build homes with
4 their hands. So, I don't understand why the City of
5 New York cannot--and industry stakeholders and
6 partners partner with a school like Grady High School
7 and say, "If you're already building homes with your
8 hands as part of your curriculum, why not--why can't
9 we teach you how to build an environmental
10 sustainable home with your hands? Why can't we train
11 you and equip you and give you the skills and work
12 with the Local Three and work with different labor
13 industry to say you are the future?" Everything that
14 we're talking--this whole hearing is about the next
15 gener--protecting the next generation, protecting us
16 today and our future, right? So, why not invest in
17 them right now and not just prophesize 50 years from
18 now, but invest in them right now, and I think that
19 is what is missing in my opinion, a lot, and making
20 sure that we're tapping in and building capacity as
21 we're moving towards these, you know, whether it's
22 mandates, or--I hear you, a hundred--I think that all
23 of you make very valid and strong points, but I think
24 equally important is making sure that our residents,
25 our people are doing this work and are being trained

2 and equipped with the skills to do this work and not
3 to outsource it to other countries on a thing like
4 that. So, I thank you very much for your powerful
5 testimony. Thank you. Okay, we have a contingent
6 from Lower Manhattan here who have been very patient,
7 Catherine McVay Hughes, Gigi Li, the Chair of
8 Community Board Three Manhattan, Josh Nachowitz from
9 Downtown Alliance.

10 UNIDENTIFIED: Gigi Li, I have submitted
11 her testimony to Council Member Chin.

12 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Sure. Absolutely.

13 UNIDENTIFIED: Because she had to go.

14 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Yes. I think it's
15 Marc Matsil, Trust for Public Lands and Ahmed Tigani
16 from Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale
17 Brewer. And we can add one more person since someone,
18 I think, left. Marcy Benstock from the Clean Air
19 Campaign? Okay, next group, that's fine. Okay.
20 Sure.

21 CATHERINE MCVAY HUGHES: So, great.
22 Thank you so much. I want to thank the Chairs of
23 this committee and the Council Members and our
24 Council Member Chin. My name is Catherine McVay
25 Hughes. I'm Chair of Manhattan Community Board One.

2 You are in Manhattan Community Board One as you know.

3 We are surrounded by water on three sides at a height

4 of seven feet. CB1 experienced one of the highest

5 inundation levels in Manhattan during Super Storm

6 Sandy. Two people drowned in CB1 and we suffered

7 extreme damage to residential and commercial

8 property, tunnels, public transit,

9 telecommunications, and our electric grid. CB1 is in

10 immediate need of resiliency and hardening measures.

11 It has been three years since Sandy and we are very

12 concerned about both the short term and long term

13 timeframe. Lower Manhattan remains largely

14 unprotected while we face an increased potential for

15 suffering extreme weather events and subsequent

16 damage. CB1 is encouraged that progress is being

17 made and thanks the city and state for a combined

18 roughly 15 million dollars in resiliency funding for

19 CB1 which was announced in March 2015 as well as a

20 recent commitment from the city to contribute 100

21 million to leverage potential funding from the

22 Manhattan tip portion, which is south, north of CB1

23 starting on Montgomery Street, but now it also

24 includes Battery Park City and Tribeca in the

25 National Disaster Resiliency Competition Phase Two.

2 We look forward to hearing who the city will choose
3 from their recently released request for proposal for
4 an engineering and planning study to be awarded
5 January 2016 so that the roughly two yearlong
6 engineering study, which we understand will include
7 the community, can finally begin. CB1 is encouraged
8 and supports the New York City Council Member
9 Resolution 909 calling upon the Department of Housing
10 and Urban Development to support New York City's
11 application for National Disaster Resiliency
12 Competition funding. In September 2015, CB1
13 unanimously adopted the resolution and we also
14 submitted a letter of support on October 2015. WE
15 also want to point out in the testimony there's a
16 colored picture here, and the top one was from your
17 report in April 2015 about the potential development
18 for Sea Port City. We're very worried about it and
19 we would like an update, but we were thrilled to see
20 in October 2015 it was no longer there in the
21 picture. So, just for the record we want to put that
22 in there, and we also want to make sure that you know
23 that Community Board One has adopted resolutions
24 supporting the Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines
25 known as WEDG by the Metropolitan Water Alliance.

2 Now, it's the Waterfront Alliance, which also
3 submitted testimony, but I think they've already
4 left. You'll also later be hearing from the Downtown
5 Alliance to my left, but I just wanted to remind you--
6 -I will stop on that note and thank--okay. just
7 wanted to let you know that even though Lower
8 Manhattan encompasses only 0.3 percent, that's three
9 one-thousandths of New York City's land area, it
10 contributed 2.4 billion dollars to New York State and
11 another 2.4 billion to New York City tax revenue and
12 provided 9.2 percent of New York City's GDP in 2014.
13 So, roughly 70 percent of all lower Manhattan workers
14 live in the five boroughs of New York City as well,
15 and so therefore it's really important to secure the
16 three edges of the waterfront for CBI. So, thank you
17 again very much, and keep up your excellent work. We
18 really appreciate everything you're doing.

19 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Thank
20 you very much, and kudos also to my colleague,
21 Council Member Chin, who's been very active and
22 champion for her district on this issue as well.
23 Yes, Mr. Nachowitz?

24 JOSHUA NACHOWITZ: Good afternoon, Chairs
25 Treyger and Constantinides. My name is Josh

2 Nachowitz and I am the Assistant Vice President for
3 Economic Development and Planning at the Downtown
4 Alliance, the Business Improvement District for the
5 Financial District and Lower Manhattan south of
6 Murray Street. I'm happy to be here this morning to
7 offer the Alliance's strong support for Resolution
8 Number 909 and for the de Blasio Administration's
9 ongoing efforts to protect our region's most critical
10 employment hubs. On behalf of the Alliance and the
11 thousands of businesses we represent, I'd like to
12 thank Council Member Chin, Borough President Brewer
13 and State Senator Daniel Squadron for their ongoing
14 exceptional and continued support on this issue.
15 Lower Manhattan is home to over 94 million square
16 feet of commercial real estate and over a quarter
17 million jobs and generates billions of dollars in
18 economic impact for the New York region every year.
19 Despite our setbacks and tragedies over the last
20 decade and a half, Lower Manhattan continues to
21 attract new residents, new business and new cultural
22 institutions. Hurricane Sandy had a devastating
23 impact on our community with 39 percent of commercial
24 buildings in Lower Manhattan being damaged by the
25 storm and 320 small businesses being closed for at

2 least a week. Low-lying areas in Lower Manhattan,
3 particularly Water Street Corridor which is home to
4 approximately 19 million square feet of commercial
5 real estate on its own and over 90,000 workers on a
6 daily basis as well as of course the World Trade
7 Center Complex with approximately 10 million square
8 feet of commercial real estate remain highly
9 vulnerable to flooding and catastrophic storms as
10 well as critical infrastructure elements that are
11 used by the entire city. Numerous subway stations,
12 the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, the Battery Underpass,
13 and the White Hall Ferry Terminals remain vulnerable
14 to flooding. In the wake of the hurricane's
15 devastation, several projects were identified to help
16 protect Lower Manhattan. The projects included in
17 the city's application to the Department of Housing
18 and Urban Development's National Disaster Resiliency
19 Competition, the NDRC Competition, if fully funded
20 would provide substantial protection to the people
21 and businesses that rely on Lower Manhattan. The
22 City's commitment to ongoing consultation with
23 community stakeholders will help ensure that the
24 project remains sensitive to the unique design
25 context of our community. Earlier this year, Mayor

2 de Blasio announced a substantial commitment of 100
3 million dollars for resiliency initiatives in Lower
4 Manhattan. We applaud this commitment but recognize
5 that it is not enough to protect the island's
6 southern tip and meet Lower Manhattan's resiliency
7 needs. The city's NDRC's application will provide
8 sufficient funding to complete the Coastal Defense
9 Project's plan for Lower Manhattan. As we grapple
10 with the ever-worsening realities of climate change
11 and sea level rise, it is important, it is more
12 important than ever that we fund these essential
13 projects. As a critical component of New York
14 region's transportation network and the major
15 employment center of Lower Manhattan must be
16 protected from both rising sea levels and the
17 possibility of another catastrophic funding event.
18 The unmet resiliency needs of this community are
19 great and glaringly apparent. We strongly encourage
20 the City Council to pass Resolution 909 and continue
21 with advocacy on behalf of the City's NDRC
22 application, and again, we thank Council Member Chin,
23 Borough President Brewer and our other elected
24 officials for their continuing support. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
3 much. Next please. Next panelist? Next speaker,
4 please. Thanks.

5 MARC MATSIL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
6 afternoon. My name Marc Matsil. I'm the New York
7 State Director for the Trust for Public Land. For
8 more than 40 years, the Trust for Public Land, the
9 national nonprofit organizations with a robust
10 presence in New York City has conserved land for
11 people to enjoy as parks, playgrounds, gardens, and
12 other natural spaces ensuring livable and resilient
13 communities for generations. More than four million
14 New York City residents now live within a ten-minute
15 walk of the Trust for Public Land park, playground,
16 garden, and natural area. We're very pleased to
17 partner with the city and applaud the city on their
18 timely application for a national disaster resilience
19 competition grant to HUD, which builds on the
20 important work of OneNYC. In the advent of more
21 severe climate-driven weather events in recognition
22 by the city and global leaders of the threats and
23 devastating impacts of sea level rise and episodic
24 weather events on our neighborhoods and regional
25 economy. The city is better prepared to address many

2 of the challenges. The role of land conservation and
3 resilient green infrastructure park land development
4 is buffers that protect our communities, and water
5 quality has never been important. As the Trust for
6 Public Land's return on investment study shows, every
7 dollar invested on land and water conservation
8 produces more than seven dollars in economic return
9 for New York that supports local businesses and
10 better protects neighborhoods. Trust for Public Land
11 has a long history of working with the city on a
12 multitude of projects, including the community and
13 student driven design and construction of more than
14 70 inner city playgrounds. These include award-
15 winning green infrastructure playgrounds designed and
16 constructed by TPL in partnership with the New York
17 City Department of Education, School Construction
18 Authority and DEP, and in the community. TPL also
19 worked with the Port Authority and New York City
20 Parks to require remediate, design and construct New
21 York City's first new post-Sandy resilient waterfront
22 park. These new and older green infrastructure sites
23 are examples of innovative design that provide
24 significant multiple benefits to the community.
25 Cumulatively, tens of millions of gallons of storm

2 water are absorbed, and at our waterfront park sites,
3 the new designs incorporate bioswells [sic] with
4 flood tolerant plants, underlaying [sic] topography,
5 dune buffers, and permeable pavers that help buffer
6 and reduce storm impacts to our neighborhoods. As
7 importantly, the new and enhanced parks provide
8 millions of children an opportunity to recreate in
9 new park spaces helping to reduce obesity and
10 diabetes and provide shading through enhanced tree
11 plantings that reduce urban heat island impacts and
12 the carbon foot print. As part of the NDRC process,
13 TPL will undertake green infrastructure park and open
14 space projects that will be capable of managing storm
15 water, reducing flooding, buffering vulnerable
16 neighborhoods and protecting existing vulnerable
17 infrastructure. TPL projects are always completed
18 with robust community input through its hallmark
19 participatory design and stewardship process. All of
20 our programs provide multiple benefits from its
21 educational programs, recreation opportunities, and
22 they were all completed in a timely manner and under
23 budget. We recently developed in New York City
24 decision support tool in cooperation with the City,
25 Columbia and Drexel [sp?] Universities. This web-

2 based GIS tool supports and assesses high priority
3 areas for green infrastructure investment to reduce
4 the impact and damage on critical infrastructure and
5 social vulnerable populations. The development of
6 this tool has been funded by Rockefeller University,
7 NOA and private donors and incorporates--

8 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] If we
9 could just ask a quick wrap up statement. The full
10 testimony will be given to the record as well. I
11 appreciate it.

12 MARC MATSIL: Okay. Anyway, you know, in
13 conclusion, we--the city should be extremely proud of
14 its post-Sandy progress. Expressed in OneNYC, the
15 NDRC application and the necessary steps that will
16 help to address very real threats to the city's
17 infrastructure and neighborhoods. It's the multiple
18 benefits that really add to the mix, and your support
19 and vision and ideas will translate into a more
20 resilient New York City. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Thank
22 you. Yes.

23 AHMED TIGANI: Good afternoon. my name
24 is Ahmed Tigani. I'm the Community Development
25 Officer for the Office of the Manhattan Borough

2 President. While she could not be here herself today,
3 she'd like me to provide this testimony in support of
4 Reso 909 and the work that you're doing. We want to
5 thank the Chairs and the members of both committees
6 for the opportunity to testify today. One of the
7 most important responsibilities as public servants is
8 comprehensive planning for the impact of climate
9 change on dense coastal urban cities like ours. Human
10 activity is causing dramatic shifts in the earth's
11 weather patterns and temperatures, increasing the
12 likelihood of super storms like Hurricane Sandy and
13 rising sea levels that threaten coastal cities. As
14 we saw in Paris this week, climate change requires
15 significant commitment of government resources and
16 coordination. Local threats require local
17 leadership, and useful governments must develop their
18 own resiliency plans. According to a 2014 study from
19 the organization Local Government for Sustainability,
20 a body comprised of over 1,000 cities, towns and
21 metropolises dedicated to building a sustainable
22 future, 75 percent of cities now see climate change
23 as an essential element in their overall planning
24 strategies. Cities are not only vulnerable, they
25 produce almost 70 percent of the greenhouse gasses

2 that cause global warming. So, whether it's by
3 reducing carbon emissions or creating natural
4 shoreline buffers like sand dunes and wetlands and
5 improving storm drainage systems or building
6 protective barriers, we must act now. Research by
7 the New York City Panel on Climate Change suggests
8 that by mid-century, sea levels could rise to 30
9 inches, threatening most of Manhattan. As Hurricane
10 Sandy showed, the impacts will alter life in the city
11 as we know it. Time is short and the cost of
12 remediation and prevention is huge. Thankfully, we
13 have a Mayor and a City Council committed to reducing
14 our impact on global climate change and to protecting
15 our most vulnerable areas. The Mayor's OneNYC plan
16 outline an ambitious vision for a sustainable,
17 resilient and equitable city, and the City Council
18 has acted in its own plans to incentivize energy
19 efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint. Most
20 recently, the city has submitted its Lower Manhattan
21 Protect and Connect proposal to HUD as part of the
22 NDRC competition. In addition to other coastal
23 resiliency efforts around the edges of Manhattan, the
24 Lower Manhattan Plan proposal weaves together housing
25 and small business preservation with coastal

2 protection in a strategic alliance addressing the
3 significant economic and human risks caused by
4 climate change. The allocation of over 100 million
5 of city funds to this project highlights the
6 Administration's commitment. Because the costs are
7 huge, the Federal Government must take the lead in
8 integrated coastal protection and storm water
9 management, improved urban design and preparedness,
10 but locally, support has come from both the private
11 and public sectors. Resolution 909 introduced by the
12 Borough President and Council Member Chin calls on
13 HUD to support New York City's application. Its
14 passage would be a strong signal to our federal
15 partners that our city's leaders are unified and
16 committed to strengthening our defenses against
17 climate change. We want to thank the members of the
18 committee for the commitment, Council Member Chin for
19 her leadership, state and other elected officials,
20 community leaders, Community Board One and Three for
21 the work they're doing, and we stand ready to
22 commitment the Office of the Borough President to
23 working alongside you.

24 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
25 much, and please send our regards to Borough

2 President. We thank her for her support. Yes,
3 Council Member Chin, did you have a question or
4 comments? Very good. Thank you very much. Thanks
5 to the panel. I'd like to call up Allison Tupper
6 from Sierra Club NYC, I believe Risa DiCaprio [sp?],
7 Cecil Corbin-Mark, WE ACT for Environmental Justice,
8 Jacqueline Espinal from El Puente, Ling Tsou, United
9 for Action, and Marcy Benstock from Clean Air
10 Campaign. We'll make sure you're on the panel.
11 Okay. I think we'll--should we start this way and
12 work our way down?

13 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, sure.

14 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: You may begin.

15 LING TSOU: Chair Treyger and Chair
16 Constantinides, and Council Member Chin has left,
17 thank you for holding a hearing on OneNYC. My name is
18 Ling Tsou. I'm a Co-founder of United for Action. It
19 is critical that the city does not achieve its goal
20 of reducing greenhouse gas emission 80 by 50 by
21 continual reliance on nuclear power and/or continued
22 expansion of natural gas or any form of fossil fuel
23 infrastructure. Nuclear power is not clean nor
24 carbon free with its radioactive and toxic waste. We
25 need to close down the aging and dangerous Indian

2 Point Nuclear Power Plant only 25 miles north of New
3 York City. We ask the City Council to schedule a
4 hearing and pass Resolution 694 calling for closing
5 of Indian Point. We also ask Mayor de Blasio to
6 announce that Indian Point needs to be shut down
7 immediately. Every aspect of fracking for natural
8 gas pollutes our air, water and land. Methane is 86
9 times more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide
10 over a 20 year time frame. Spector Energy has
11 started construction of a massive 42-inch potentially
12 explosive natural gas aim [sic] pipeline less than
13 half a mile from the reactors. This combination is
14 deadly. We ask the City Council and Mayor de Blasio
15 to demand that FERC [sic] rescind approval for the
16 pipeline, so all the construction work stops
17 immediately, and to require an independent risk
18 assessment of the proposed pipeline adjacent to
19 Indian Point. We also ask that New York City follows
20 the example set by Portland, Oregon by introducing
21 and passing a bill to ban all new fossil fuel
22 infrastructure. We believe the 80 by 50 goal is not
23 enough to help avert possible climate disaster. We
24 ask New York City to adopt a goal of powering the
25 city by 100 percent renewable energy by 2030.

2 Recently we were successful in defeating the proposal
3 to build the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas Port
4 off the coast of Jone's Beach. Now, it is possible
5 to move forward with building a large scale wind farm
6 in that same area. We urge the city to select
7 offshore wind in its forthcoming RFP to help get the
8 process of building the offshore windfarm off the
9 ground. We know offshore windfarm presents the only
10 opportunities for constructing utilities scale
11 renewable generation in the downstate region. By
12 being the first city in this region to commit to the
13 development of offshore wind projects will help
14 attract large number of businesses to invest in wind
15 technology, thus creating tens of thousands of good
16 paying jobs and economic benefits for the city, not
17 to mention the huge benefit of combatting climate
18 change. As for the zero waste goal, we believe the
19 city can easily reduce the use of plastic bags by
20 having Mayor de Blasio publicly indicating his
21 support for pending City Council Bill Intro 209.
22 This will help get the City Council to vote and pass
23 this bill and have the Mayor sign it into law. Thank
24 you.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very much.
3 Next please.

4 MARCY BENSTOCK: Thank you, Chairs. I'm
5 Marcy Benstock, Director of Clean Air Campaign, and
6 this will be mostly new to you. The OneNYC Plan
7 issued in April included too many bad initiative to
8 implement a ruinous policy, putting more people in
9 harm's way in storms and hurricanes, including first
10 responders by building out into the Hudson River and
11 other waters around the city. Both the April plan
12 and city budgets include too many big ticket items in
13 and over the water that misuse both natural resources
14 and limited public funds. Shifting these poor
15 spending priorities would free up literally billions
16 of dollars for the many proven effective measures on
17 dry land on uplands that would actually protect
18 public safety in natural disasters while meeting
19 essential needs. Three of the best One New York
20 initiatives should be speeded up, making existing
21 buildings on dry uplands more energy efficient, which
22 besides cutting carbon emissions is one of the most
23 effective ways to reduce unhealthy air pollution.
24 Number two, storm-proofing the existing subway and
25 bus system and making services more frequent and

2 reliable, and third, upgrading NYCHA developments,
3 public hospitals and other city buildings. Some of
4 the worse [sic] six initiatives are these: One, the
5 3.7 billion coastal protection plan including 335
6 million for the first two segments of the proposed
7 Big U [sic] Project, plus another 114 million to go
8 up along Battery Park City. Besides harming aquatic
9 resources, the in-water parts of these projects are
10 unlikely to work. Second, expanding the ferry
11 network and building multiple new in-water ferry
12 landings, the existing subway and bus network
13 deserves far, far higher priority. Third, fostering
14 site assemblages in mixed-use development in and over
15 the water with misleading spend in tax payer's money.
16 The vast 490 acre in-water part of the so-called
17 Hudson River Park Project is the worst example of
18 this, far more than Pier 40 is included in this real
19 estate venture in the river. The Council can't
20 protect public safety in this number one highest risk
21 hurricane evacuation zone unless the council resists
22 pressure to approve unprecedented air rights
23 transfers next months to squander 100 million
24 rebuilding Pier 40 and dozens of other piers in the

2 river again and again and again. I have three more
3 bad initiatives.

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: If you could just
5 make sure you just wrap up and we'll take your
6 testimony as part of the record as well, but if you
7 just wrap--

8 MARY BENSTOCK: [interposing] Yeah, I hope
9 it's been distributed, and there's much more detail
10 in it. So the fourth one is using engineered
11 wetlands, mitigations banks and "natural or soft
12 edges" to justify the destruction of existing
13 naturally occurring aquatic habitats. The fifth one
14 is streamlining Army Corps permitting and making in-
15 runs around the Federal Clean Water Act to facilitate
16 building in and over the water. And sixth, there's
17 too much emphasis on designing in-water structure to
18 recess flooding, which doesn't protect people or
19 property against gale-force winds or the
20 precipitation that comes down from the sky as opposed
21 to water rising up from sea level. Siting new
22 development on higher, dryer uplands is the only
23 measure that has proved to be 100 percent affective.
24 Just last point, the big picture, wild fisheries are
25 the single most important source of essential protein

2 for subsistence fishers from New York City to
3 Bangladesh, and without aquatic habitats there can be
4 no wild fisheries. The Times reported yesterday vast
5 migrations in search of food and water and conflicts
6 over natural resources are increasing. Saving the
7 habitats that can help keep subsistent fishers alive
8 is profoundly important. I hope you'll have
9 questions anytime. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
11 much. Next panel?

12 LISA DICAPRIO: My name is Lisa DiCaprio.
13 I am a Clinical Associate Professor of Social
14 Sciences at NYU where I teach courses on
15 sustainability and I'm also a member of several
16 environmental organizations. I am proposing
17 recommendations for achieving the OneNYC goals to
18 reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050
19 and to increase our current rate of recycling. To
20 reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050
21 as has been stated, we must rely on energy
22 conservation, efficiency and renewable energy, close
23 down the Indian Point reactors, and phase out rather
24 than build out our New York City's natural gas
25 infrastructure, and we must also support City Council

2 bills that have already been introduced for
3 benchmarking the reduction of New York City's
4 greenhouse gas emissions, installing solar panels on
5 New York City buildings and solar canopies on New
6 York City parking lots as feasible, and establishing
7 low-energy building requirements for certain capital
8 projects, as is accustom in many global cities. With
9 regard to improving the efficiency of New York City
10 existing buildings, the four bills of the Greener
11 Greater Buildings Plan legislation cover all New York
12 City buildings that are 50,000 square feet or more.
13 As has been said, these 15,000 buildings comprise
14 less than two percent of New York City's one million
15 buildings but are responsible for almost half of New
16 York City's total consumption of energy. Local Law
17 84 requires annual benchmarking for energy and water
18 consumption, and Local Law 87 requires an energy
19 audit and retro commissioning every 10 years. Here
20 are my recommendations. One, amend Local Law 87 to
21 change retro commissioning to retrofitting. Retro
22 commissioning only requires efficiency improvements
23 consistent with the building's original design.
24 Retro fitting by contrast would require substantial
25 changes in the building systems, for example, meeting

2 high standards in energy efficiency such as Passive
3 House and replacing fossil fuel-based heating and
4 cooling systems with renewable energy alternatives as
5 feasible. Two, adding new legislation to reduce the
6 threshold from 50,000 square feet to 25,000 square
7 feet as Mayor de Blasio has indicated will be a new
8 goal, should also require energy audits and
9 retrofitting as outlined above. The 80 percent by
10 2050 legislation concerns our carbon footprint, which
11 is one-third the national average because of New York
12 City's urban density and mass transportation.
13 However, the carbon footprints of cities are not as
14 comprehensive as ecological footprints that include
15 the environmental impact of our consumption patterns.
16 For example, the generation of emissions and the
17 planetary resources required for agriculture,
18 transportation and manufacture outside of New York
19 City. This is why in addition to the cost of land
20 fill fees, we must attempt to achieve the new OneNYC
21 goal of zero waste to landfill. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
23 much. Next speaker?

24 ALLISON TUPPER: Good afternoon. [off
25 mic comments] Good afternoon. My name is Allison

2 Tupper and I'm speaking for the New York City Sierra
3 Club. Our testimony at this time is limited to
4 aspects of the OneNYC plan that are directly related
5 to building in flood plains which may be in open
6 public waterways or in hurricane evacuation zones,
7 and although there are other aspects of the plan that
8 we are concerned about but will not comment on today.
9 The One New York Plan assumes that the city will
10 continue to subsidize new development and
11 infrastructure in the worst possible locations, in
12 flood plains which may be on dry land and in the
13 water, in the open public waterways that provide
14 irreplaceable habitats for living marine resources,
15 and in number one hurricane evacuation zones where
16 there's the maximum danger. The lower Hudson River
17 off Manhattan is a prime example of all three, and
18 the Sierra Club has long opposed all building in and
19 over the river. We strongly oppose massive public
20 subsidies that put more people in danger of
21 hurricanes and storms, and we urge the City Council
22 to remove them from its budgets and from the 10 year
23 capital plan. Build it Back and other programs
24 should encourage existing homeowners to move away
25 from the shore if they want to with adequate buy-

2 outs. Upcoming Land Use and Zoning decisions must
3 also encourage staying out of and away from the water
4 instead of doing the exact opposite as is currently
5 being proposed. We laud the plan's emphasis on
6 improving energy efficiency in existing buildings and
7 on the education of public and building owners and
8 managers on damage prevention measures, but the City
9 Council can prevent much more damage than individuals
10 can by changing its spending priorities and
11 multibillion dollar annual budgets by stopping
12 subsidies of building and infrastructure near the
13 water. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on
14 these important issues.

15 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Next
16 speaker?

17 JACQUELINE ESPINAL: Good afternoon.
18 Thank you, Chairs, for the opportunity to testify
19 today. My name is Jacqueline Espinal and I'm
20 representing El Puente, which is a community-based
21 organization for social and environmental justice in
22 Brooklyn, and El Puente's also a member of the
23 Environmental Justice Alliance. Today, I would like
24 to testify on behalf of Catherine Chicken [sic], one
25 of community members. Her testimony goes as follows:

2 "My name is Catherine Chicken. I live with my
3 husband, two children and two family pets in a house
4 in development for incorporation for low income
5 families. We live in a six-story building on the
6 Lower East Side of Manhattan between Avenue A and
7 Avenue B, about four to five blocks from the East
8 River Park, which was completely flooded by Sandy.
9 When Sandy hit, our building suffered from a total
10 loss of electricity, heat and hot water for entire
11 week. Other public infrastructure in the
12 neighborhood was also affected. The school's
13 basement where my children attended at the time was
14 completely flooded and closed for two weeks. During
15 the first days after Sandy, my husband stood in
16 lengthy lines and neighborhood supermarkets to
17 purchase ice to keep our perishables from spoiling
18 and can foods to hold us over. Luckily for us, we
19 have a gas stove and we were able to cook on it.
20 without electricity to keep our refrigerator going,
21 imperishables from spoiling, it was just a matter of
22 time before we had to throw all of it away. One day
23 turned into two then three days, it became more
24 difficult to find ice and canned food. My husband
25 had to travel to Brooklyn on a bike to get these

2 items. Streets were closed after certain points in
3 the city. There were no traffic lights and began
4 looting in stores in our area. There was no gas in
5 any of the gas stations. On the third day, we
6 decided to use our last half-tank of gas to drop our
7 children off with family in New Jersey so they could
8 take warm showers, eat cooked food, home-cooked food
9 and use electricity instead of candles after 5:00
10 p.m. My husband and I had to stay behind at our
11 apartment to care for our pets. My mother, who also
12 lives in the Lower East Side in a high-rise co-op was
13 forced to leave her home and stay with us as she did
14 not have electricity. She didn't even have running
15 water in her building. For baths [sic] would boil
16 water on our gas stove and mix it with cold water.
17 We feel fortunate to still have cold running water as
18 most people in larger buildings in our area had no
19 water at all. During this entire ordeal I was sick
20 with a flu which made our horrible situation even
21 worse. One week without heat hot and no hot water
22 and no can food felt like an eternity? If all large
23 buildings in New York City in 2012 had already been
24 energy efficient because our aggregate carbon
25 emissions as a city would have been much lower, Sandy

2 wouldn't have been so destructive. It wouldn't have
3 hit ground as a hurricane. It would have been a mild
4 storm. Access to food wouldn't have been such an
5 issue. Our perishables wouldn't have spoiled and we
6 would have been able to carry on for a week or more
7 with food in our refrigerator. We have--we would
8 have had hot water for warm bath and we would have
9 had heat to keep us warm instead of wearing layers of
10 clothing and warm boots at home to keep us from
11 suffering cold. Our children wouldn't have had to
12 live the tense and traumatic experience of Sandy.
13 They wouldn't have continued leaving with their
14 parent--they would have continued living with their
15 parents, sharing with friends and going to school
16 like they normally do. They would have been able to
17 carry on a normal life." Thank you.

18 CECIL CORBIN MARK: Good afternoon,
19 Chairman Constantinides and Chairman Treyger and the
20 members of the Committee on Environmental Protection
21 and Recovery and Resilience. My name is Cecil Corbin
22 Mark and I'm the Deputy Director of WE ACT for
23 Environmental Justice. We are a 27-year-old
24 environmental justice membership organization whose
25 mission is to build healthy communities by assuring

2 that people of color under low income participate
3 meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair
4 environmental health and protection policies and
5 practices. WE ACT also serves on the Mayor's
6 Sustainability Taskforce which has provided advice
7 and guidance on OneNYC Plan, and we also serve on the
8 building's Technical Working Group which is focused
9 on the One City Built to Last. From January to
10 August of this year, WE ACT engaged over 400
11 residents and members of our organization across all
12 four Community Boards in Northern Manhattan to
13 develop a kind of resiliency plan for all Northern
14 Manhattan. We're proud to report that we did that in
15 collaboration with four of your colleagues, including
16 our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito's office.
17 Likewise, we work closely with the Mayor's Office of
18 Sustainability, the Office of Recovery and
19 Resiliency, the Office of Emergency Management, and a
20 host of city agencies including but not limited to
21 DEP and DOH. We see this process that we undertook
22 as a way of engaging those who are experts on their
23 neighborhoods, i.e., the residents who live there,
24 with government and a host of other experts,
25 scientific public health planners, academics, and

2 architects. We've provided copies for all of you of
3 that plan. Through that process we developed a
4 comprehensive plan that is both grounded in and goes
5 beyond OneNYC, and for that reason, we're thankful
6 for the opportunity to testify today. With that
7 said, I also want to sound a note of caution. OneNYC
8 was launched in April, and while WE ACT both believes
9 that government can act more swiftly than it usually
10 does, even we think that we have to allow them at
11 least a year to see real progress, especially given
12 the breadth and ambitious targets laid out in OneNYC.
13 We encourage the committee to not let their oversight
14 responsibility fall off the radar because you've
15 conducted this hearing today. And now, to focus on
16 the reason for the hearing. We believe that Mayor de
17 Blasio's vision of combining both the issues of
18 sustainability and economic equity really is
19 something that will advance us far into the future.
20 We think it is a key to making sure that those
21 neighborhoods most burdened with--

22 UNIDENTIFIED: [interposing] The simple
23 answer is-- [off mic comments]

24 CECIL CORBIN MARK: Excuse me? I'm sorry?

25 UNIDENTIFIED: Oh, the other lady [sic].

2 CECIL CORBIN MARK: Oh, okay. We believe
3 that that will provide the neighborhoods most
4 burdened with environmentally polluting facilities
5 and some of the least efficient and worst managed
6 buildings as well as the worst health outcomes an
7 opportunity to be focused on and to make sure that
8 they are not forgotten as we create more
9 sustainability. There are a number of initiatives
10 that have been launched and we want to point to them
11 as measures of their success, but to also make sure
12 we and you encourage both the Administration to
13 develop a plan that has both actionable metrics as
14 well as clear timelines. At the scale, I think this
15 important at the Community Board level. WE ACT
16 believes that breaking this plan down into broader
17 metrics that are compiled with the Community Board
18 level will allow more local residents to both engage
19 and track accomplishments or shortfalls of OneNYC.
20 We also want to encourage you to continue [sic] past
21 legislation that will ensure that this plan is around
22 for future generations beyond this Administration. I
23 know I've been doing--can I just take back the time
24 for the disturbance? Okay, good. So, some of the
25 initiatives including things at the launch just

2 recently that we hope will be the keys to keeping our
3 city below two degrees Celsius of warming include the
4 One City Built to Last, which is projected to reduce
5 greenhouse gas emissions by 90,000 metric tons and
6 avoid nearly 40 million dollars in city's annual
7 energy cost. Under this initiative the city has
8 moved forward and retrofitted 770 public buildings,
9 and we see that as a good step. We hope that we can
10 continue to work with the city particularly under its
11 New York City Retrofit Accelerator as we did with the
12 previous Administration and this Administration in
13 the Clean Heat Program to engage both tenants and
14 residents in the neighborhoods to push for clean heat
15 and to get the building's energy retrofitted. The
16 New York City Clean Fleet, also a good program. Just
17 recently launched and we look forward to working with
18 the city on that. The Million Trees Initiative, we
19 really congratulate the Administration for reaching
20 this benchmark, but we would urge that the city share
21 with us the neighborhoods that benefitted from the
22 program and how many trees are still alive and doing
23 well, because the value of this program is not in the
24 planting of the tree but in the shade that the trees
25 can bring over their lifetime to help reduce the heat

2 island effect in our city, the amount of pollutants
3 that can be trapped by the leaves instead of going
4 into the lungs of those suffering from asthma and
5 respiratory illnesses as well as the carbon they can
6 capture to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The
7 Home Weatherization Campaign, while that's a good
8 thing and a necessary thing, it's not sufficient. We
9 actually need the city to really be thinking about
10 partnering with the Federal Government to get funding
11 from the State Government and private philanthropy to
12 really work with local groups like Northern Manhattan
13 Improvement Corporation in Manhattan to really help
14 reduce the energy cost particularly targeting those
15 resources to things like HDFC cooperatives and
16 Mitchell-Lama buildings. We would advise that the
17 joint committees and the city consider developing
18 those types of aggressive partnerships with local
19 CBO's because we believe that's where we're going to
20 get the best bang for our buck. WE ACT is a part of
21 Energy Efficiency for all--

22 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] Thank
23 you. Just quickly wrap up, and then we'll--

24 CECIL CORBIN MARK: [interposing] Quickly
25 wrap up.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: take your testimony,
3 sure.

4 CECIL CORBIN MARK: So, I'll just point
5 to two other things. I think it's important to really
6 move on the RFI for renewables. There is a study
7 that I'll call to your attention that was done on
8 behalf of the New York Power Authority, and that
9 really pointed out the amount of jobs that could be
10 generated by really investing in offshore wind. The
11 city can also use other tools at its disposal such as
12 its unilateral power purchasing agreements that they
13 can enter into, and we encourage the City Council and
14 this committee to actually really push them on that
15 as well. The solar--the reform of DOB rules is
16 excellent, and the stuff going on with NYCHA around
17 recycling, we encourage the city to actually focus on
18 looking at what residents have done in terms of
19 programs. We have one of our member that co-founded
20 an organization called the West Harlem Morningside
21 Height Sanitation Coalition, and we are looking for
22 more programs like that and encourage the committee
23 to really question the city about those types of
24 programs and evaluate what they're doing against what

2 residents have done and take the best practices from
3 both. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
5 much. Thank you to the entire panel. Thank you very
6 much. Next? Next panel, Elizabeth Malone [sp?],
7 Jessica Roth, Catherine Skopic, I believe, Mark
8 Dunlea, and Alice Slater.

9 MARK DUNLEA: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Sure.

11 MARK DUNLEA: My name is Mark Dunlea and
12 I'm speaking on behalf of the People's Climate
13 Movement New York. We were the host committee for
14 the 400,000 people last year, had 5,000 people march
15 last week on behalf of 100 Percent Clean Energy by
16 2030. Like a lot of the speakers today we [sic] did
17 not have a climate change for New York City, that's
18 not what OneNYC is. I agree we need to have a lot
19 more details, a lot more benchmarks. I certainly
20 agree with Council Member Treyger that there is not
21 adequate public input into the development of OneNYC,
22 and I hope we can now move to actually transform
23 OneNYC into a real plan. Unfortunately, OneNYC is
24 not adequate in terms of trying to avoid catastrophic
25 climate change. Coming out of Paris last weekend,

2 the one really positive note was that the industrial
3 nations agreed to support the developing countries in
4 lowering the goal for a global warming from two
5 degrees centigrade to 1.5 degrees centigrade. Now,
6 given that we lowered that, to make that real we have
7 to change what we previously agreed upon. So, the
8 idea that we stay with 80 by 2050 is not an adequate
9 goal at this point, and the previous goal estimated
10 that reduced annual emissions needed to be about
11 three percent annual reduction. I'm sorry, 3.5. With
12 the 1.5 degrees, we need to be seven percent average
13 reduction. I think a number of people have spoken
14 already about the issue of the need to develop
15 offshore wind. Certainly we were very disappointed
16 by the comments by Nilda Mesa about it. Apparently,
17 seems to be the one thing that the Governor and the
18 Mayor disagree upon, which is to go slow on offshore
19 wind. The people who wrote the NYSERTA [sic] Report,
20 University of Delaware, recently stated that we've
21 actually moved backwards in the last 10 years on
22 development of offshore wind in the United States all
23 because we relied upon market forces, and I know that
24 Council Member Constantinides who recently taken real
25 leadership at the City Council level on geothermal.

2 We need to do the same with offshore wind, which
3 would be a real economic development and job creation
4 program. I'm sure some of my colleagues up here
5 right now are going to say we need to say no to
6 natural gas, we need to say no to fossil fuels. What
7 Paris was saying was we're coming to the end of the
8 era of fossil fuels, and yet, if you listen to what
9 Nilda was saying today, if you read what Governor
10 Cuomo writes in his own energy plan, they are looking
11 to expand natural gas. It was wonderful that we
12 stopped fracking, but fracking is one particular
13 extraction methods. Methane short term is 87 times
14 more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon. So,
15 thank you very much, and not just divest [sic] the
16 city pension plans from coal, but from all fossil
17 fuels. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
19 much.

20 CATHERINE SKOPIC: My name is Catherine
21 Skopic. I'm Chair of the People's Climate Movement
22 New York, Legislating Co-chair and Executive Action
23 Committee in the Setanini [sic] Point [sic] now, WE
24 ACT and the United Nations Representative for the
25 Anglican Community Office. I want to thank the New

2 York City Council for holding these hearings and in
3 particular the Progressive Caucus who's done so much
4 to help the environment. I just got back from Paris
5 last night. So, I was there, and it was extremely,
6 extremely exciting. I'm just going to make a few
7 comments. One of the most interesting things was a
8 meeting with 700 mayors from around the globe, and
9 word is that the mayors could do more than a lot of
10 the other organizational governmental level people
11 can, and one of the things that came out of that was
12 that they have an education network. So even though
13 NYC would like to think of ourselves as one, we can
14 learn from what other people have done. There was a
15 fellow there from Sacramento who he said it took them
16 nine years to develop--this is starting in the 70's--
17 building regulations because he found that voluntary
18 participation in retrofitting did not work. So, just
19 the same as Brad Lander's question this morning.
20 Let's not waste any more time with voluntary. We
21 need regulation. Some people are calling it
22 mandatory, but based on the experience in California,
23 there's no reason why we can't learn from their
24 experience. We need regulations for the
25 retrofitting. So, that's one point. And I thank the

2 New York City Council. I mean, I thank of course
3 you, but I also thank Nilda Mesa and Dan for the
4 presentation, for the Mayor and for the 70
5 organizations who worked on OneNYC, but there are
6 some discrepancies that I'm a little troubled with.
7 In according--in addition to what Mark just said,
8 Nilda Mesa continually called clean heat, and you
9 know, from extraction to delivery methane natural gas
10 is more greenhouse gas producing than is coal.
11 Methane is more. So, we can't call natural gas clean
12 heat. That is a misnomer, and we have to stop that
13 thinking if we're going to get to our goal. Another
14 thing she said, I couldn't believe it, and I'm sorry
15 Nidla wherever you are, renewable energy is
16 intermittent. Not true. Right here in the East
17 River it's actually a tidal straight. It's not
18 technically a river. We have tidal going on right
19 now, tidal energy being produced. That's non-
20 intermittent. We have geothermal. During our
21 theological seminary they have--but the council [sic]
22 had the most excellent geothermal heating a while
23 back. Both of those are not intermittent. So,
24 anyway, I'm sorry. And then she said you can't have
25 green roofs and solar; not true, because it puts

2 solar up on a pedestal so you can have both. So,
3 I've been a little concerned with one of the people
4 who's working on this has some of these
5 misconceptions. So, I have a whole bunch of other
6 things I wanted to say. Just one other thing if I
7 may just very briefly indulge. One of the most
8 fascinating meetings I went to at Copper [sic] 21
9 [sic] was on community energy, and I hadn't realized
10 that Denmark there's 20 offshore wind farms. That
11 was done by community energy. And Spain, UK both had
12 solar, both had community energy, and you know what,
13 the big utilities do not like this so much, and they
14 cut back FIT, Feed in Tariffs, which allow the
15 development of solar. So, I think something that
16 we're going to have to look at is what is our
17 relationship with the big utility companies, because
18 they have a vested interest in not us having micro
19 grids and solar. So, that's just something I bring
20 up because other countries around the world have
21 experienced cutbacks on renewables because of the big
22 utilities. I could say lots more, but I'm over my
23 time. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very much.
25 Thank you for your testimony. Next speaker?

2 JILL CORNELL: Thank you. Good morning.

3 I'm Jill Cornell. I'm a Board Member of the Brooklyn
4 Long Term Recovery Group and I'm reading comments
5 that Elizabeth Malone, our Co-vice President for the
6 Board prepared for this today's hearing, and we
7 appreciate the opportunity to give comments.

8 Regarding Resolution 090 2015, the Board supports the
9 resolution calling on HUD to approve New York City's
10 application for the National Disaster Resilience

11 Competition. Climate change threatens to swamp

12 literally our longstanding coastal neighborhoods home
13 to many of our most vulnerable populations and much

14 of our shrinking middle class and working class

15 families. The recovery templates for both HUD and

16 the National Flood Insurance Program do not reflect

17 the complexity of our dense urban environment, and

18 New York City needs funding to develop innovative

19 approaches that would serve as a new template for

20 urban resiliency rebuild needed by across the nation.

21 Regarding OneNYC, on the whole our experience with

22 the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency has

23 been positive. We're especially appreciative of the

24 resiliency team as they address the crucial National

25 Flood Insurance Program issues and the special study

2 areas. They have welcomed and sought out
3 opportunities to engage the residents we serve,
4 frequently presenting at our general assemblies and
5 engaging our grassroots organizations to inform the
6 public. Several of our members were partners in the
7 development of Flood Help NY, the interactive website
8 that explains much of the flood mapping process and
9 impacts. Their collaborative approach bodes well for
10 community engagement should they win the resiliency
11 competition, and our expectation of an inclusive
12 process is the basis of our support for resolution
13 090 2015. Regarding the recovery arm of the Office
14 of Recovery and Resiliency, the Board is concerned
15 that the sunset target for Build it Back, December
16 31st, 2016 is unrealistic. We realize this is not on
17 today's agenda, but due to recent Build it Back
18 policy decisions we ask that this committee carefully
19 review the process by which mission accomplished is
20 declared. Attrition due to client fatigue remains
21 rampant in the Build it Back Program. While the
22 Board sympathizes with the challenges created by HUD
23 templates that do not fit our situation, HUD cannot
24 be placated at the cost of our residents. Last week
25 Build it Back sent short deadlines for clients with

2 complex problems, discretionary elevation, pathway
3 determination and outstanding transfer amounts among
4 others. These clients, as well as those with
5 outstanding appeals, may be dumped from the Build it
6 Back reducing the applicant base by eliminating
7 complex and difficult clients. The number of Sandy
8 survivors who are unable to access or complete the
9 process will make true resiliency even more difficult
10 to achieve. Our communities are aware that this
11 daunting challenge must be met and that the rebuild
12 will be long and complicated. The Brooklyn Long Term
13 Recovery Group is composed of organizations committed
14 to our neighborhoods and intends to remain engaged
15 for the foreseeable future, and our 2016 strategic
16 plan includes both continuity of our recovery
17 services and transition to resiliency collaborations.
18 Build it Back should be accountable to those they
19 fail to serve. We cannot leave our neighbors by the
20 wayside and declare victory for the lucky few.

21 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Jill, all I'll say
22 is I could not agree more that it will not be
23 presentations and press conferences that determine
24 how this recovery will be judged. It will be judged
25 by the number of people who have received their

2 reimbursement checks to people who have gotten their
3 homes rebuilt, their apartments reimbursed for,
4 renters reimbursed, people displaced back home. Until
5 those people are made whole again, this recovery is
6 far from over, and that's why I have been very
7 cautious and not attending these announcements or not
8 participating in them because I want to make sure
9 that the people on the ground will dictate this
10 recovery and not just press conferences and
11 announcements. So, thank you for your advocacy.

12 Yes?

13 JESSICA ROTH: Good afternoon. Thanks
14 for holding this hearing and allowing me to speak
15 today. My name is Jessica Roth. I'm the Programs
16 Manager for Catskill Mountain Keeper, and since most
17 people have covered a lot of issues and will continue
18 to cover a lot of issues and in hoping to avoid
19 repetition I'm going to talk about some stuff that's
20 a little bit different. Given the six goals of
21 Vision Three of OneNYC, I just wanted to make crystal
22 clear that all the goals are integrally connected to
23 the need to stop all fossil fuel infrastructure
24 build-out now. And by fossil fuels I'm talking about
25 everything from oil and gas, from Balkan shale oil

2 being transported by train rail, barged down and
3 pipeline to greenhouse to the natural gas, sorry,
4 which is obviously a greenhouse gas up to 86 times
5 more potent than carbon dioxide. For goal one it's
6 critical that everyone understand that any reliance
7 on natural gas to cut emissions is sending further
8 down--cut emissions, I put that in quotes, sorry--
9 it's sending us further down the wrong path to
10 climate disaster. The first goal is a percentage
11 decrease, which means that if we don't actually stop
12 building out infrastructure, our increases are--we're
13 going to increase our emissions and then we're going
14 to have to figure out ways to make even more drastic
15 cuts that nobody's talking about. Not to mention the
16 fact that all natural gas infrastructure build-out is
17 committing us to a future that continues to
18 exacerbate climate change puts us at risk especially
19 the communities that are the most vulnerable to
20 climate change impacts. In any aspects of this plan
21 that depends on replacing aging natural gas pipelines
22 as opposed to investing in renewable energy build-out
23 is putting us all at more risk. In fact, new
24 pipelines are failing at rates even greater than
25 those from before 1940, which is five times greater

2 than rates in the 2000's. We have to stop fossil
3 fuel infrastructure build-out to support goals two
4 through six as well, but there's a back story that
5 needs to be addressed. While we're talking about all
6 these issues, we also need to understand and be
7 responsible for the interconnected aspects of fossil
8 fuel development, extraction and transmission. I
9 want to flag two things in particular. One is that
10 as we strive to improve our greenhouse gas emissions,
11 get to zero waste, improve air quality, remediate
12 brown fields, improve and manage water resources, and
13 improve and support parks and natural resources, we
14 cannot do it at the expense of those things in places
15 like Pennsylvania and North Dakota. Of course, I
16 understand New York City Council's responsibility is
17 to New York City, but if we're to be the global
18 leader that we're claiming to be in this plan in the
19 fight against climate change and considering these
20 issues are all pieces of the same puzzle, we have to
21 consider all of it as we move forward. If we're not
22 putting all of our political role and resources into
23 immediate effective and just transition to renewable
24 energy sources, then we're continuing to power our
25 city and our lives to the detriment of our neighbors

2 and to our friends, the same ones who were just cut
3 out of the binding language in the Paris Agreement,
4 but the way, that everyone keeps talking about.

5 Which brings me to the second point that fossil fuel
6 infrastructure as currently proposed built and
7 operating is often not actually running directly
8 through New York City, but it will all directly
9 affect New York City. If we're not talking about the
10 issues of the Algonquin Pipeline running through
11 Rockland, Westchester and Putnum and winding up
12 within 105 feet of critical structures of Indian
13 Point Nuclear Facility, then we are ignoring a
14 problem that is in our back door, and even though
15 it's 43 miles from where we're sitting right now,
16 obviously that's a pretty big blast zone for a
17 nuclear facility that is aging and operating without
18 a license and has had more than five actual mishaps
19 in the past year, including shut-downs, disruptions
20 and explosions. In addition, we have millions of
21 gallons of Balkan shale oil transported along and on
22 the Hudson River every week. These exacerbate
23 climate change and transport oil that comes from
24 destruction of communities across the country
25 directly affecting our oil and water. Plus, New York

2 still has no fracking waste ban bill, which means
3 that New York is potentially open for business to
4 take in all kinds of toxic solids and waters all of
5 which will greatly undermine the goals of OneNYC.
6 Fracking waste may not be solid waste produced within
7 New York City but would clearly impact air quality,
8 weather quality and effect natural resources. All
9 these fossil fuel projects must be stopped as part of
10 this plan in order to adequately protect our
11 community and other communities directly connected to
12 us and to move us to a real sustainable and renewable
13 future. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
15 much. Thank you. Next?

16 ALICE SLATER: I'm Alice Slater. I'm with
17 People's Climate Movement New York, and the New York
18 State 100 Percent Renewable Now and Shut Down Indian
19 Point, but my whole raise on debt [sic] is to get to
20 a sustainable New York, and we see what came out of
21 Paris as inadequate, and Catherine referred to the
22 fact that it's going to have to come from us. And I
23 mean, we're in the 100 centennial of Frank Sinatra,
24 you know, New York, New York. If we can do it here,
25 we'll do it anywhere, and we really, we have to talk

2 100 percent. I mean, this 80/50 and 30/50, that's
3 like ridiculous. It's got to be like 100 percent as
4 soon as possible, and we have to think about how
5 President Kennedy said we're going to put a man on
6 the moon in 10 years and he did it. I mean, we have
7 to say we're going, you know, we're going to do it,
8 and I was--I'm so thrilled about our City Council and
9 I'm so appreciative of the work you're doing and the
10 questions you asked, and I'm really totally
11 disappointed in the response that we're getting from
12 the Mayor's Office. You know, it's kind of like it
13 sounds like Bloomberg, you know, a little Bloomberg
14 light or whatever. But I--there are so many points
15 that were made I don't want to belabor it except to
16 say please shut down Indian Point. It's like
17 ridiculous. It was in Al Qaeda's targets. It was on
18 the Times. We were lucky they hit the World Trade
19 Center. I mean, it's a stupid thing, but we could
20 have been like Chernobyl or Fukushima. It's sitting
21 there with more radioactive fuel than they had in
22 Fukushima. But the thing that wasn't mentioned that
23 I want to say, there's a study out by Marc Jacobsen
24 [sp?]. I'm sure you're all familiar with his, you
25 know, solutions project, but he did a whole study

2 with the University of Delaware that if you put an
3 array of windmills offshore Rockaway, Brooklyn out
4 you could literally slow down the hurricane winds,
5 that it would like--it would cut down the hurricane.
6 He's got a whole really famous study. I have a
7 footnote to it in my paper, and I think we have to
8 explore it. I'm like, wind is the answer. We're the
9 Saudi Arabia of wind. We have enough wind out there
10 to power the whole state. Oh, and the best news is
11 that we have a very shallow sea bed. So you can put
12 the windmills out over the horizon, so you don't have
13 to look at them, you know? Everybody was so
14 hysterical up in Cape Cod that they didn't want to
15 see the windmill. We don't even have to see them
16 because we hav this very unusual shallow sea bed
17 going far out, and you could put them out where you
18 don't have to look at them, and it would create--so
19 it's just like a miracle. I don't know why we're not
20 doing it. So, I have good questions to the plan.
21 I'll just go very quickly. A lot of them we said
22 already. Well, we have to find out what this
23 commitment to offshore wind is. I mean, talking
24 about two, three years from now that they're going to
25 get--we have to do--I don't know what, but let's

2 figure it out, how New York gets wind going for
3 ourselves. And of course, the retrofits should be
4 mandatory, and the solarizing should be--I have a
5 question about the electric vehicles. I think it's
6 great, but are we going to plug it into a coal-fired
7 electric plant or an oil-fired electric--I mean, are
8 we going to only have electric vehicles that plug
9 into solar or wind or geotherm--I mean, otherwise,
10 we're just perpetuating the problem. And we should
11 have a moratorium on one new pipe, not one piece of
12 pipe. I mean, whatever we got to do to make what we
13 have safe, fine, but I've been talking to some of the
14 union guys, you know. They're talking about it's a
15 bridge thing. We don't need a bridge. We have
16 everything we need now. We shouldn't be spending one
17 dime on anything that would perpetuate any fossil
18 fuel at all. And of course, please--oh, and the other
19 thing, on the divestment [sic] thing, this
20 Comptroller is only talking about coal and how
21 they're going to study it. First we thought they
22 were going to do it. Now they're going to study it.
23 We want to divest from everything, not just coal, you
24 know. I mean, we should be looking at that. And I
25 had put down, set a deadline for no new repairs and

2 installation of fossil fuel infrastructure, and have
3 a mandatory focus on alternate energy possibilities
4 before building any more gas, oil or coal inf--in
5 other words, a lot of this repair stuff is going to
6 perpetuate it. So, let's not do that. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you.

8 ALICE SLATER: Yeah.

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And I just want to
10 just add to this very, I think, informative and
11 powerful discussion just to say that I think you were
12 also an educator and I was a public school teacher,
13 and I pose this challenge to my students and of
14 course to our generation, that if we don't act, if we
15 do nothing because I want to say that sometimes when
16 we talk about climate change people talk about it as
17 if they're prophesizing. I think that language has
18 to change.

19 ALICE SLATER: Right, it's--

20 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] It's
21 happening, and I'm always mindful of saying, well
22 100--you know, when you watch the Al Gore
23 documentary, it says, "Well, 150 years from now this
24 will happen." It's happening, right? So, if we do
25 nothing, first of all, fossil fuels as we know are

2 very harmful to the environment, but it's also a
3 finite source, and sometimes people don't always, you
4 know, know that. It's a finite source. We're not
5 doing with as sustainable means that this is
6 something that could be long-lasting, like, for a
7 long time. So there's a clock that's already ticking
8 and that is what we have to be mindful of. Secondly,
9 the cost of energy now with these non-sustainable
10 resources continues to go up. So, when I hear from
11 critics who say that if we mandate this that you're
12 going to just create unaffordable energy options and
13 un--the cost of energy is already going up using
14 these non-sustainable energy sources. So, I think
15 that historically the government does have the power
16 to also help shape the market and to say that we need
17 to have a 21st century, in my opinion, a 21st century
18 green industrial infrastructure revolution the same
19 way we saw--the same infrastructure we're using today
20 is a product of the industrial revolution of the 18,
21 1900's.

22 ALICE SLATER: It's a new--

23 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] And
24 so yes, it might have led to mass production, but
25 also led to mass production of carbon. And now we're

2 trying to decrease the production of carbon and
3 increase, you know, making sure that we meet the
4 needs of a growing society today. So, I think that
5 this is the challenge of our time, and this is the
6 challenge that we must also address for the sake of
7 our children, our future.

8 ALICE SLATER: Can I--

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And they have to be
10 a part of this, and that's why if you heard my theme
11 with my Co-chair during the course of this that this
12 is going to be--we always say we want to leave behind
13 a better world to the next generation. We're giving
14 them a challenge as well, and that's what we need to
15 invest and work with our youth and work with our, you
16 know, our students, our young people, to make sure
17 that they come up with the answers and implement the
18 answers as well.

19 ALICE SLATER: you know, I just wanted to
20 add to that that we do have all the technology, and
21 there are--we have to say what are the obstacles? I
22 mean, you got the Koch brothers on the New York
23 Ballet, on the Metropolitan Museum of Art, at New
24 York Hospital. You know, there's huge forces
25 fighting this. In Boulder, Colorado they took over

2 their utility. They made it public because the util-
3 -I don't know what Con-Ed is doing, but it can't all
4 be good. We should have like a public utility. It
5 shouldn't be for profit. It shouldn't be traded on
6 the stock market so that they make money selling oil,
7 because how can you make money selling sun? It's
8 free. You know, I mean, there's no money in it. So,
9 it's just all free people power, and we really have
10 to think about some of these things, like get rid of
11 these obstacles, you know, that are slowing us down
12 because the solutions are here and we can do it right
13 away.

14 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Yes,
15 your--

16 CATHERINE SKOPIC: Yes, I just wanted to
17 make one comment if I may, and yes, we do have to
18 close on your point, but even if we stop tomorrow,
19 all greenhouse gases, all methane, what's already up
20 there is going to last 50 to 100 years. So, what you
21 said this morning about getting the adaptation and
22 teaching these schools so their students really know
23 because this is going to be their life. I think
24 sometimes we haven't really processed what that
25 means, that we're going to be living with this for 50

2 to 100 years. So, I just wanted to underscore your
3 suggestion that we really get that into the schools
4 in all the curriculum.

5 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. Thank
6 you very much. Thank the panel for your very
7 informative testimony. Okay, Clare Donohue, Kim
8 Fraczek, Annie Wilson, Anna Paola White [sp?], and
9 Patrick Robbins. I just want to make sure that--
10 there's supposed to be one more panel after this. I
11 just want to make sure people are here or not. Is
12 Sheila Guist [sp?] here? Okay, Sheila, that's okay.
13 Sheila, we're just making sure that you're still
14 here. Alanna Judah [sp?]? Alanna has left? And
15 Lance Jay Brown, is Lance here? So Lance has left,
16 okay. Okay, so then--yeah, Ms. Sheila Guist could
17 just join the panel, because this is the final panel
18 for today, and I guess we'll start this way. Sure.

19 KIM FRACZEK: Great, thank you. Thank
20 you for the opportunity to be heard today. My name
21 is Kim Fraczek. I'm the Co-Director of SANE Energy
22 Project based in New York City. So, today in
23 December the temperature is going up to the mid 60's
24 Fahrenheit. We clearly know what we are facing. We
25 know that the Paris agreements were not firm enough

2 to save our climate that our life balance relies on,
3 and I feel comfortable using "we" here because the
4 New York City Council has been a stellar partner on
5 many of our climate environmental initiatives. We
6 thank you for your thoughtful and thorough questions
7 pertaining to the city on the OneNYC plan today.

8 Sane Energy Project applauds the initiative to work
9 together toward a plan to address the plethora of
10 issues that stem from our climate and the larger
11 system that is not an equitable service to all the
12 residents of New York City and beyond. Building
13 efficiency, micro grids and renewable energy are
14 issues you can count on us to support you with
15 grassroots community education and action steps.

16 Together, we have successfully defeated Port Ambrose
17 Liquefied Natural Gas Port, and now we must complete
18 that equation with a wind initiative in the location
19 off the Rockaways, which we see as part of OneNYC.

20 Aside from the growing the local jobs and community
21 involvement component that we will work hard to
22 mandate, hopefully by partnering with our union and
23 community allies to build wind in service to all
24 residents of New York City, but using our vast
25 resources to shut down the climate changing fossil

2 fuel infrastructure like Port Ambrose would have been
3 and other current infrastructure carrying natural gas
4 like Peaker [sic] Plants and pipelines that are
5 creating disease, pollution and climate changing
6 emissions in our city. In OneNYC the crisis of
7 greenhouse gas emissions is addressed by a suggested
8 80 percent reduction of greenhouse gases by 2050 and
9 we know that offshore wind in the Rockaways is a key
10 to making this happen to reduce our dependence on
11 fossil fuels. In addition, offshore wind turbines
12 mitigate climate change effects according to a peer-
13 reviewed study out the University of Delaware, walls
14 of offshore wind turbines can dissipate outer-
15 rotational near surface hurricane winds by 56 to 88
16 miles per hour and storm surge by 12 to 72 percent.
17 This is a shot at building renewables that New York
18 City cannot miss due to the destruction of Hurricane
19 Sandy. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has
20 identified New York as their top priority in
21 establishing offshore wind, and with the city issuing
22 the recent RFI we feel secure this project is on the
23 table and will have to work together to make sure
24 that we build it correctly with the community and
25 local labor involvement for equitable agreements

2 taken to account our precious ecosystem and marine
3 family and also in a timely fashion as we cannot wait
4 for two years to make an agreement on this project.

5 We want to make sure that we can build this in
6 conjunction with the solar initiatives that OneNYC is
7 addressing as wind, power and solar power work
8 beautifully hand in hand. As we're seeing with the
9 REV process, our institutions need the people to push
10 them to move and mandate the bold initiatives they're
11 proposing, or it will just turn into a bunch of
12 proposals that look good but are not going to move.

13 So we need the space to try the initiatives like the
14 Net Zero School in Staten Island, for instance, to be
15 the examples. We really look forward to working
16 together with the New York City Council on this wind
17 farm off the coast of the Rockaways, and we look
18 forward to supporting the other mandates on building
19 efficiency micro grids and solar to lead this nation
20 in becoming a fossil-free, equitable, accountable,
21 and local-driven city. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very
23 much. Next speaker?

24 PATRICK ROBBINS: Hello, good afternoon.
25 My name is Patrick Robbins. I am the Co-director of

2 Sane Energy Project. I just want to thank Council
3 Member Treyger, Council Member Constantinides for the
4 opportunity to speak. From a big picture, right now
5 we're living in a time that holds enormous potential
6 for a just transition to renewable energy. The
7 director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has
8 declared that New York State is its number one
9 priority for bringing utility scale offshore wind to
10 the United States. This aligns perfectly with the
11 city's own commitment to power all city buildings by
12 renewable energy. Furthermore, the price of solar
13 panels has dropped precipitously over the last
14 several years, and we can expect a similar decline in
15 the price of batteries. Between this combination of
16 economic forces, policy shifts, and the hard work
17 being done to advance community scale solutions
18 across New York City, we know that New York City is
19 preparing for enormous changes not only in the source
20 of energy we use, but a rethinking of how that energy
21 is distributed and who has a say in our energy
22 choices. we hope that the city will stand by its
23 support for a distributed renew--for distributed
24 renewable power generation as specified in the OneNYC
25 plan and makes solid commitments to strong

2 distributed renewable generation benchmarks going
3 forward. We recognize that there are already
4 community scale renewable solutions being advanced
5 all over the city such as generation pilot projects
6 and small scale solar photovoltaics. We hope that
7 this Administration will take these solutions
8 seriously and advance pathways to take them to scale
9 such as securing further energy jobs training and
10 removing structural barriers to renewable energy jobs
11 training, making sure jobless or low income New
12 Yorkers are able to fully participate in a just
13 transition. While the environmental benefits to this
14 approach are considerable, there are also health
15 benefits and economic benefits to consider to as we
16 bring greater renewable energy onto the grid. We hope
17 that we can do so in a way that phases out the dirty
18 peak [sic] power plants that cause health problems
19 for so many New Yorkers for so many years. As the
20 plan notes, there are significant aspects of our just
21 transition that lie outside the jurisdiction of the
22 city, from statewide energy policy to utility
23 structure. This is why we hope that OneNYC can help
24 us work toward our real goals for the reforming the
25 energy vision process that's real renewable,

2 equitable, accountable, and local. We are calling
3 for that at the state level and see many aspects of
4 OneNYC that can help us get there. Lastly, I just
5 want to say, and you know that I say this at every
6 hearing if there's a topic of carbon emissions
7 measuring, we very much hope that as the city
8 proceeds to measure its climate impacts, it include a
9 20-year timeframe for equivalence between methane and
10 carbon dioxide. At that timeframe, methane is 86
11 times as potent a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide.
12 We know that if you use a longer time frame, 100
13 years, it looks differently. We don't have 100
14 years. We have 20 years if that. So, thank you so
15 much for the opportunity to speak, and we look
16 forward to working with you.

17 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very much.
18 Next speaker?

19 CLARE DONOHUE: Thank you, Chair Treyger
20 and Constantinides, for hosting this and for your
21 stamina and holding out for lunch. I'm Clare
22 Donohue. I'm the Senior Advisor at Sane Energy
23 Project. Our focus is on infrastructure. We'd like
24 to see all of the shale gas infrastructure eliminated
25 and moved to renewable infrastructure. We've

2 submitted an outline of several proposals, 10
3 proposals that the city might consider as part of the
4 OneNYC plan. It analyzes the cost of the plan, the
5 carbon benefit and the jobs created. There's three
6 initiatives that are very good that are low-hanging
7 fruit. They are considering waste management and
8 energy efficient retrofits. We're very much in favor
9 of the obvious there. And I'd like to address your
10 question which you asked three different times, what
11 is the gold standard for energy efficiency? It's
12 Passive House. Passive House reduces the need for
13 any energy of any form by 80 percent. It's doable.
14 It's being done now, and you know, there's a big
15 movement actually in New York. It's a technology
16 that started in America, was ignored and is now the
17 building standard in all of the European Union. So,
18 it can be New York City's, you know, building
19 standard, too. And of course, it was disappointing
20 to hear the Administration mention natural gas, shale
21 gas over and over again as a benefit, as having
22 reduced our carbon. The conversion of New York
23 City's boilers to natural gas was a travesty that was
24 pretty much shoved down the throat of landlords and
25 building owners. All is not lost, and in fact, even

2 though the report states that they can't get any more
3 efficiency out of that, it's not true, because if
4 people converted to dual boilers there's still a lot
5 of opportunity for biodiesel, which is zero
6 emissions. So, they can do a lot better than natural
7 gas, which actually creates more particulate matter
8 than the heavy--than the oils. And I just also want
9 to point out that in all of the OneNYC Plan, there is
10 one paragraph that addresses infrastructure and it's
11 very vague. We really need a lot more detail about
12 what is planned, because otherwise we're afraid that,
13 you know, what will happen is that they'll be going
14 for replacing gas pipelines. If you'll see from this
15 chart, replacing gas pipelines is one of the least
16 efficient ways to reduce carbon and one of the most
17 expensive ways each job created by that would cost
18 the city 243,000 dollars. That doesn't seem like a
19 very good investment. Likewise, converting NYCHA
20 boilers to shale gas, you know, this is not going to
21 help anybody. During, you know, Sandy, those
22 buildings are on the ocean. They have exposure to
23 wind. They have exposure to sunlight. If they had
24 been set up with solar panels on the roof they would

2 have been working the whole time. Thank you so much
3 for the time.

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you, and
5 thank you for answering our question that we did ask
6 a number of times to the Administration. Yes, next
7 speaker?

8 ANNIE WILSON: Hi, good afternoon. I'm
9 Annie Wilson. I work with the New York Environmental
10 Law and Justice Project, and I'm a member of the New
11 York City Safe Energy Campaign. So, relating to the
12 One New York City Plan, generally speaking the
13 holistic approach, which includes the quality of life
14 improvements, the income issues, jobs, housing,
15 health seems to be a good incorporation and a vision
16 that we need to incorporate in all of our decisions,
17 and I would add that generally the plant-based diet
18 has been excluded from any considerations for policy,
19 and that possibly along with health issues and
20 emissions issues related to animal agriculture. We
21 could certainly benefit from a widespread campaign of
22 information so people can make informed choices
23 relating to what they eat every day and the impacts
24 on our atmosphere. So, relating to what is the
25 directive by the Governor to the Public Service

2 Commission on Energy and a new clean energy standard
3 which was issued on December 2nd, my concern is that
4 we are revisiting what renewable energy is, and this
5 will trickle down to the choices made in New York
6 City. And given that there must be a clean energy
7 standard produced by June of 2016, I hope that the
8 city will be involved in comments and supporting what
9 real renewable energy standards could be. There seems
10 to be gray zones such as biomass such as gas, such as
11 hydroelectric that would have to be addressed in
12 these proceedings. So, I'm putting you on notice of
13 that. And the other concern is the RFI that the city
14 has issued, public procurement, renewable energy for
15 all city operations. I hope that the review of
16 choices including offshore wind will also take a hard
17 look at what has been a lobbied proposal by the
18 developers, the Champlain [sic] Hudson Power Express
19 that have coupled with Brookfield, EDP Renewables,
20 Ibradrola [sp?], and Burlesk [sp?] Gas Metro. The
21 importation of hydroelectric produce electricity in
22 Quebec to the Champlain Hudson Power Express, which
23 is a 360 mile dual cable system that involves over
24 20,000 acres in the state of New York from the Boward
25 [sic] of Quebec, going along the CXS CP rail lines

2 for about half of the trajectory. The rest is under
3 the Lake Champlain and Hudson Rivers; has a
4 decommissioning plan of abandonment. They intend to
5 leave it there in 40 years, and I don't think that
6 anyone's taken a hard look at the--at that aspect of
7 this project. In any case, it's supposed to land in
8 northern Queens and then come on through to across
9 the street from Ravenswood. And so I hope that the
10 city will not choose to support this type of energy
11 proposal as part of the RFI, and I would like to add
12 briefly that there are 22 unions that are opposing
13 this proposal that has a permit, a profit permit
14 issued by the DOE that is still not fully implemented
15 until several studies have been produced, which will
16 probably be by May/June, I think. So, as for
17 offshore wind, we need to have a good look at what's
18 available. The--I'm sorry. Deepwater One is not
19 being built. Block Island is being built. The
20 Consortium with Nypa Lypon [sic] Con-Ed, nothing's
21 happening, and maybe the city needs to look at the
22 reality of this market and why and how and what kind
23 of subsidies would be necessary. There needs to be a
24 hard look at this option and why it's not advancing

2 itself within the market-based economy, and I will
3 close--

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] If you
5 could just make sure we have your full testimony.

6 ANNIE WILSON: Okay, I'm wrapping up, and
7 I will close it. I hope that the closure of Indian
8 Point and the proposed resolution 0694 will be
9 introduced to have a hearing and that there is
10 absolutely no need for the ongoing operation of
11 Indian Point, and that there are over 3,000 megawatts
12 of transmission systems. We do not need Indian
13 Point. We do not need additional gas infrastructure
14 to support the closure of Indian Point, and I hope
15 that even though it's not a mandate by the city, it's
16 certainly a large city that would be taking a
17 position regarding licensing of a very hazardous
18 nuclear facility nearby. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very much
20 for your testimony. Appreciate it. Next speaker?

21 SHEILA GUIST: Hi, I'm Sheila Guist. I'm
22 an at-large rights activist for the last 60 years and
23 a retired social studies teacher for the New York
24 City system and a member of a number of environmental
25 groups at present. Some of the lessons I thought we

2 might have learned 35, 40 years ago, you know, over
3 shoreum [sic], you know, we have to do the same
4 lessons again. It's really discouraging, but very
5 grateful to you for having this hearing, and I don't
6 want to be too repetitious. I think Ling Tsou and
7 Catherine Skopic and any here have covered the issues
8 about Indian Point, but I'd like to start by saying
9 our timing, we just closed the Paris talks and the
10 time is for cities and states and countries to
11 implement policies that would restrict global warming
12 to one and a half degrees. We have to move to 100
13 percent renewables by 2030, not 2050. We don't have
14 that time, and we have to move away from dangerous
15 fuels, fossil fuels and nuclear, and we won't reach
16 this goal without offshore wind. So, all of those
17 points have been made, but how do we get--unlike the
18 report earlier that it's going to be three years
19 before we even open up some consideration, we have to
20 see how we can move this offshore wind to be
21 realized, especially this wind farm off the
22 Rockaways, especially the wind farm is not only to
23 supply energy, but it will supply jobs and the jobs
24 will supply tax payers who then fund these projects.
25 So, wind really offers a big economic advantage over

2 many of the other things, especially this, you know,
3 large scale production. And you had some points that
4 you made earlier about developing in New York, the
5 people who can carry this forward, and I think that's
6 very important. What I was concerned with was that
7 the issue of power purchasing agreements as the means
8 of getting this started be the issue that we face.
9 Now, when Chris Erikson spoke about the problem with
10 labor standards that was involved in the solar
11 purchasing agreements, I would assume that you could
12 work that out, because I don't want to offer an
13 avenue of development that would counteract those
14 very other concerns that we need to consider.
15 Alright, I--that's it? Alright, just let me--

16 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] Just a
17 wrap up sentence, and then we'll take your take your
18 testimony as part of the record.

19 SHEILA GUIST: I want to thank you for
20 having Resolution 694 open, but it needs to come to
21 hearing in this session. And I've been disappointed
22 by the people who think that it's a resolution not
23 legislation. It's very important because the Mayor
24 thinks that nuclear is the answer to his meeting his
25 renewable clean standards. So the most important

2 thing you can do also is to change your language to
3 make sure clean excludes methane and nuclear. And
4 the other thing that you can do that I think is
5 rather important is to put pressure on FERC [sic] to
6 rescind the permit for the Algonquin pipeline because
7 if Indian Point explodes, you know, like Tom Lara
8 [sic] said, we'll all go together when we go, and
9 there's your case for sustainability. We're not here
10 to sustain. So, I think that these things working
11 together against the build-out of the gas
12 infrastructure, closing Indian Point and seeing that
13 that offshore plant--farm off the Rockaways takes off
14 in the next year, I think we'll get some place.

15 Thanks.

16 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I think we have to
17 bring you back to the classroom and you should
18 develop our resiliency curriculum for the DOE as a
19 opposed to them hiring consultants from, you know,
20 God knows where, but thank you. Thank you. And I
21 was a fellow history teacher and I always give much
22 respect to our educators. Thank you very much. Next
23 speaker?

24 ANNA PALOAI: Hi, I'm Anna Paloai [sp?].
25 I'd like to thank everybody for still being here to

2 listen. So, I was actually encouraged to come here
3 by a couple people that I now consider mentors. I
4 was really sad to hear about this gold standard that
5 kept coming up and about "that we would buy from
6 whatever source that we needed to in order to achieve
7 our goals" which already have not been defined. If
8 possible, I would really like to suggest healthy
9 energy choices as a standard or even like a direction
10 to head. As a future nurse for the State of New
11 York, having served as the President of the Nursing
12 Student Association of New York State, we brought a
13 resolution from 3,000 future nurses in this state.
14 We brought it to 400 future nursing leaders at the
15 National Student Nurse Association level, and the
16 Resolution 50 that we passed in our House of
17 Delegates was environmental health hazards in
18 undergraduate nursing, and one of the main points was
19 really--because at the time when we had developed
20 this resolution we hadn't banned fracking yet in New
21 York State. So, having also been part of CUNY Divest
22 [sic], which got Student Organization of the Year
23 from the University Student Senate, which is the
24 elected government at the City University
25 representing the students including we passed 11

2 student government resolutions including the Doctoral
3 Student Council and also the Professional Staff
4 Congress passed a resolution along with us, and our
5 Board of Trustees has just not heard us. They took it
6 all the way to the Financial Committee Hearing, and
7 they said because it was too complex in terms of like
8 divestment from fossil fuels that they weren't even
9 going to hear--they weren't even going to think about
10 divestment. I was really also sad to hear that on a
11 city level a lot of our City Council Members had
12 pulled out from resolutions to divest from fossil
13 fuels, and I'd just like to point out that this plan,
14 the One New York Plan really doesn't have a, you
15 know--as a future nurse, I'm going to have to be
16 there on the front lines of like FEMA with the
17 climate change, but also there's--in California,
18 October 23rd, Porter Ranch, 700 households--700
19 households were moved and 2,000 people applied, and
20 this was from a natural gas leak. This is just one
21 of the examples of like things that people don't like
22 to point out, but that--if we are going to talk about
23 sustainability, we really need to talk about what our
24 emergency plans are going to be for cases like Indian
25 Point. What happens if that doesn't--like, if that

2 natural gas pipeline that we're allowing--we're
3 giving them two years to sit here and think about
4 wind energy, and we are allowing them to put in a
5 pipeline that could blow up tomorrow. You know? It
6 doesn't make sense to me as a nurse. Also, the
7 natural gas from the Marcellus Shale is going to be
8 piping in 60 to 70 times more of the amount of Radon
9 into our houses. Radon sits on our floor. It's going
10 to affect our children, our pets, our elderly. All
11 these populations are going to be another thing that
12 I feel like we have not considered in terms of
13 sustainability, and I feel like healthy energy
14 choices, not including natural gas and not including
15 nuclear, this is something the American Nurses
16 Association in 2010 already put as a resolution.
17 Nurses and healthcare providers all over have already
18 said that this is not sustainable, not only from a
19 health, like, from a health standpoint, but just from
20 like logical standpoint. So I'm asking that we make
21 that a consideration, and I really appreciate you
22 holding this hearing today.

23 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you for that,
24 and just a quick question also, and my co-Chair who's
25 been so great and so--he's done a great job already

2 in the couple months, six months. It's wonderful,
3 and he's already been full steam ahead on this issue.
4 Just--we've heard from a lot of advocates today about
5 the push for offshore wind, and I'm just--I'm curious
6 to know where are these wind components, these wind
7 farms being made? Are they made in New York? And if
8 they're not, how can we create a regional economy
9 right here that is making the energy solutions for a
10 sustainable future right here in New York as opposed
11 to overseas? If anyone has that information, I
12 greatly appreciate it.

13 PATRICK ROBBINS: I'm happy to speak to
14 that concern. We actually know that there is a
15 potential local supply chain in New York State.
16 Offshore wind could generate 17,000 jobs if you're
17 looking at the 700 megawatt windfarm that's being
18 considered, and it's really a matter of timing. If
19 we wait, then some other area will develop that
20 manufacturing base sooner than we will. So, from a
21 policy standpoint it's really important to get that
22 going as quickly as possible because, you know, the
23 benefits of those 40,000 jobs that could be created
24 for the wind energy industry overall in the

2 northeast, those will go to the states and the areas
3 that act first.

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Alright. So, do we
5 know of any New York-based manufacturer that's making
6 these types of products right now?

7 UNIDENTIFIED: Deep Water Wind is
8 developing Block Island, has the Project One, which
9 is east of Long Island that they're not building, and
10 then there's the consortium, and then there's another
11 Deep Water project off of New Jersey that is being
12 built. And but my understanding is that they are
13 facilitating an assembly location, but I do not know
14 where the parts are actually being made. Does anyone
15 know--

16 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: [interposing] Okay,
17 eys.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: where the turbines are
19 actually being made?

20 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, we--the turbines
21 right now are made in Europe, but the builder, Deep
22 Water, is anxious for them to be made here because
23 we're so much cheaper. So, they're very, very looking
24 forward to having--Long Island would be a perfect
25 place for the Deep Water Port that would support the

2 whole east coast. But the supply chain, we held a
3 wind roundtable in May. We got people from all over
4 the state together, and there are onshore wind
5 manufacturers in Upstate New York that can easily
6 convert those sort of things, all the smaller pieces
7 and technology. So, it would benefit the entire
8 state, not just Long Island and New York City.

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Well, one of the
10 things I'd like to explore working with my Co-chair
11 and this Administration is how do we connect and
12 engage, you know, local-based supply chain
13 manufacturers to our local schools, to our local--
14 because, you know, this is where OneNYC should be
15 connecting all different stakeholders towards one
16 vision, and so for example, I mentioned before, we
17 have programs in some of our high schools to build
18 homes and car parts using old 20th, 19th, 18th century
19 standards. Why can't we teach and equip our young
20 people with the skills to start building towards the
21 21st century, and that is something that I think it
22 was lacking in OneNYC that working together we could
23 certainly work on. But with that, I just want to say
24 thank you to the panel. Thank you to everyone who
25 provided very helpful informative testimony, and I

2 thank my Co-chair and both of our committees. This
3 is--and he'll have a closing remark as well. This
4 has been very, very informative. There's a lot of
5 work to do, and I think that there's agreement that
6 we need benchmarks, actionable goals--sound like a
7 teacher, actionable goals. We need benchmarks and we
8 need them sooner rather than much into the abyss.
9 And I think that we need to create a win/win
10 opportunity to certainly create a more
11 environmentally sustainable city, world, but at the
12 same time address inequities that have plagued many
13 of our communities as well. So, I thank you. I
14 thank you for your powerful testimony.

15 UNIDENTIFIED: I'm sorry to interrupt,
16 but I would like to add just a little detail in the
17 context of what you're stating here. I was at a
18 meeting last week with solar installers that are
19 disgruntled with the existing system for permitting,
20 for example, and now the permitting system with the
21 end of 20--he's coming by with a tax rebate issue,
22 that their installations are facing four to six
23 months stalls because of the existing system. And
24 this is something that an action by the City Council
25 and possibly a removal a 500 dollar fee with the Fire

2 Department's requirements for the variances that are
3 limiting the potential. So, whether it be this
4 smaller installation--

5 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: [interposing]
6 We actually have that bill, not to interrupt you, but
7 we do have a bill that hasn't had a hearing yet--

8 UNIDENTIFIED: [interposing] Okay, and
9 then the wind--

10 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: [interposing]
11 but we do have that bill in, and it is something we
12 strongly are considering.

13 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay. So, I was relating to
14 the --

15 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: [interposing]
16 Not to cut you off, but we--

17 UNIDENTIFIED: [interposing] deployment
18 of both the wind and the solar--

19 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: [interposing]
20 Yes.

21 UNIDENTIFIED: and how we need to have an
22 improvement on the systems. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And with that--thank
24 you. And with that, I turn over to my distinguished
25 Co-chair Costa Constantinides.

2 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you,
4 Mark, Council Member Treyger, for your great work and
5 your stamina as well. This was a long hearing, but a
6 worthwhile hearing, and I think your commitment came
7 through the entire way and make sure we do this
8 right. And there is a lot of work left to do. We've
9 done a lot of work, but there's a lot more work to
10 do. We have to do it much more quickly. We
11 recognize that buildings are the elephant in the room
12 that we have to deal with, both our city owned stock
13 and the private sector, and how we deal with
14 buildings is going to determine how we deal with
15 climate change here in New York City. So, we're
16 committed to that here at the City Council. We're
17 going to be moving things forward in 2016, because
18 2015 is on its way out very, very quickly, but we
19 will be working on issues such as wind, solar panels,
20 hydropower, electric vehicles, light. All of those
21 topics will be coming up in 2016. So I look forward
22 to working with Co-chair. I look forward to working
23 with my colleagues. I want to thank the Staff
24 Attorney for the Environmental Protection Committee,
25

2 Samara Swanson [sp?] who put an extraordinary amount
3 of effort in.

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: And I want to--he
5 actually took the words right out, because I was
6 going to thank Samara, and I also want to thank the
7 Committee Attorney Brad Reed [sp?] from the
8 Resiliency Committee and Bill Murray and Johnathan
9 Seltzer [sp?] as well. They deserve a round of
10 applause as well.

11 [applause]

12 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: All three of
13 them put an extraordinary amount of work to make this
14 hearing run and to make sure that all the information
15 that was testified here today are then actionable and
16 we can work on them, and I want to thank my staff,
17 Nick Wazowski [sp?], my Legislative Director and
18 Chief of Staff Nick Olsen [sp?] and Communication
19 Director Sharhar Sharon [sp?] who was hear earlier
20 today. I wish you all a very happy holidays and look
21 forward to working with you as we move forward into
22 2016 and implementing the work that we must do, not
23 that we want to do, but we must do in 2016. So,
24 thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you. And with
3 that, we adjourn the hearing.

4 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date January 6, 2016