



New York City Apollo Alliance

Convened by Urban Agenda



PRESS RELEASE

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NEW YORK CITY APOLLO ALLIANCE CALLS ON GOVERNOR AND MAYOR TO PRIORITIZE GREEN PRINCIPLES IN STIMULUS FUND DISBURSEMENT

February 25, 2009, New York City – The NYC Apollo Alliance is calling on the Governor, Mayor Bloomberg, and the newly created New York State Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Cabinet to disburse stimulus dollars in a way that is transparent, prioritizes green principles across all levels of stimulus spending, gives New York City its fair share, and creates local green-collar jobs. In letters to the Governor and Mayor on Monday, the coalition offered a set of principles to use when evaluating which projects to fund in order to create good jobs in green industries and help rebuild the middle class.

The principles stress fully transparent disbursement so that citizens can see how their tax dollars are being spent and what results can be expected. Tracking collateral benefits, such as job creation and energy use reduction, and disseminating this information publicly will also help engage partners in advancing the green agenda for the state. Infrastructure projects that meet relevant green standards should be prioritized. Energy efficiency programs for example, should be prioritized because of their wide-ranging impact – they reduce energy use, lower costs, increase consumer liquidity, enhance safety and comfort, and decrease emissions.

For New York State, the stimulus bill means an infusion of \$24.6 billion dollars and the creation of almost a quarter of a million new, desperately needed jobs. The NYC Apollo's principles require that when stimulus funds are disbursed, New York City receive its fair share. For example, funds are sorely needed to address the profound financial troubles of the New York City transit authority, as well as repair the City's vast transit infrastructure system. The principles recommend a 'fix it first' approach that repairs and rehabilitates existing infrastructure before looking to build completely new systems. Road and bridge repair and maintenance create over 47,000 jobs for every \$1.25 billion invested, in contrast to building new roads and bridges, which creates only 43,200 jobs for every \$1.25 billion spent.

Finally, the principles recommend that projects be prioritized according to the types of jobs that will be created. To rebuild the City's middle class, good green collar jobs are needed, that provide healthy and safe work environments, family sustaining wages, benefits, and pathways out of poverty. These jobs will maximize the potential of the stimulus bill's \$116 billion investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, and the \$500 million commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy job training.

The NYC Apollo believes that the stimulus bill is a historic opportunity for New York City. But in acting quickly, we must also act responsibly. For New York City, the best use of the stimulus dollars will be not only in mitigating the current economic crisis, but also in helping to build a more environmentally sustainable city that supports broadly-shared prosperity.

To read the NYC Apollo Alliance letter to the Governor on Effective Stimulus Fund Disbursement, see <http://www.urbanagenda.org/Stimulus%20principles.pdf>

To read the NYC Apollo Alliance letter to the Mayor on Effective Stimulus Fund Disbursement, see <http://urbanagenda.org/bloombergstimulus.pdf>

About the New York City Apollo Alliance

Established in 2004, the New York City Apollo Alliance is a coalition that brings together unions, environmentalists and environmental justice advocates, businesses, educators, and community-based organizations to advocate for public policies that maximize the economic development and job creation potential of greening New York City. The New York City Apollo Alliance is convened by Urban Agenda, a public policy, research and advocacy organization, working to build a socially, economically and environmentally just New York City.

For more information - <http://www.urbanagenda.org/nycapollo.htm>

For more information on the stimulus:

Stimulus Website: www.recovery.gov

Apollo Alliance: <http://apolloalliance.org/rebuild-america/energy-efficiency-rebuild-america/data-points-energy-efficiency/clean-energy-provisions-of-stimulus-are-consistent-with-apollo-economic-recovery-act/>

Center for American Progress: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/02/compromise_map.html/#methodology