

Re: Energy Needs Not as Urgent as Anticipated, City Says” (June 26, 2006 by Diane Cardwell)

To the Editor:

Thank you for publishing "Energy Needs Not as Urgent as Anticipated, City Says" by Diane Cardwell.

Although Ms. Cardwell's article reports that New York City may not need to build power plants by 2008, it also recognizes the inevitability of new energy demands for the future.

As the facilitator of NYC Apollo a growing coalition of labor unions, environmental justice advocates, business leaders, and educators I look forward to working with the City to identify strategies to expand green or high performance construction while also identifying ways to retrofit New York City's existing building stock. This combined strategy would enhance energy efficiency, improve the environment, and create much needed jobs. We should also support renewable energy. Just imagine if New York City's roof tops were covered with solar panels harnessing the sun's energy. What's stopping us? Let's not burden another neighborhood with a power plant. Let's instead work together to make New York City more energy independent.

The economic consequences of the Blackout of 2003 and rolling blackouts experienced by many neighborhoods last summer makes the need for safe, reliable, and affordable energy a pressing problem for the City. We can use our four year reprieve to develop a comprehensive strategy to meet our growing energy needs while creating jobs. Our future depends on it.

Sincerely,

Joanne Derwin
Director
Urban Agenda
Facilitator of NYC Apollo
25 W 43 Street, 19 Floor
New York, NY 10036
Phone: 212 827 0200
Email: Joanne@urbanagenda.org