



New York City Apollo Alliance

Convened by Urban Agenda



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
November 19, 2008

Contact: Joanne Derwin, 917 7490682
joanne@urbanagenda.org

MEETING NEW YORK CITY'S ENERGY NEEDS Public Forum Discusses the City's Energy Future and its Impact on New Yorkers

November 19, 2008, New York City – A public forum held yesterday highlighted how different energy strategies – using conventional, renewable and nuclear sources – would meet New York City's growing energy needs, and how they would impact job creation, the environment and community health. The public forum was organized by Urban Agenda, as convener of the NYC Apollo Alliance, a coalition of labor unions, environmental justice advocates, business leaders, community organizations, and educators that promotes green jobs and clean energy solutions for New York City.

A panel of speakers from the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Con Edison New York, and Safe, Healthy, Affordable, Reliable Energy (SHARE), discussed meeting the City's growing energy needs. Every year, New Yorkers collectively spend about \$13.4 billion on energy, which is responsible for roughly 80% of local global-warming emissions and more than 40% of all locally generated air pollution. According to Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC 2030, New York's City long term plan, the City's energy demands are going to increase exponentially, and by 2018 outstrip supply generated by the City's existing power system. Furthermore, over the next two decades, population and economic growth, combined with inefficient buildings and a straining electrical delivery infrastructure are going to put enormous pressure on the City's energy grid. New Yorkers are likely to face much higher energy bills and a more significant environmental impact unless strategic action is taken now.

James Gallagher, Senior Vice President for Energy Policy at the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) gave an overview of the City's energy usage and required supply and demand side resources both now and into the future. He said that the NYC government alone spends nearly \$1 billion annually on energy costs, and needs to reduce that figure substantially. He shared how the City is aggressively pursuing energy efficiency projects within its own buildings stock in order to "lead by example". He also explained that because of transmission limitations and the need to meet specified reliability targets, New York City needs to meet at least 80% of its generation capacity needs with supply and demand side resources located within the five boroughs.

According to Joanne Derwin, Executive Director of Urban Agenda, the fact that New York City needs to generate the majority of its energy within the city limits is both a challenge and an opportunity. "It's undeniable we have to use a mix of energy sources. However, I believe that our transmission

constraint is in fact an opportunity to drive innovation. No community wants a new power plant in their neighborhood. Therefore, in order to meet growing demand we are going to have to be creative. Our constraint will drive new investment in energy efficiency and renewable power. An investment in clean energy will create thousands of green collar jobs," she said.

"An important part of this mix is the use of nuclear energy," said Craig Wilson, Executive Director of the Safe, Healthy, Affordable and Reliable Energy (SHARE) coalition. "Nuclear energy, and the Indian Point Energy Center in particular, is a critical source of energy for New York City, meeting up to 40% of the City's energy needs with clean and affordable power."

Jennifer Harvey, Senior Project Manager, from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) agreed about the potential for green jobs. "Conservation and energy efficiency improvements such as building retrofits and solar energy could create thousands of jobs," she said. "In fact, solar energy in particular has great potential for New York City. We have so many flat roofs that can be 'solar friendly', and we also have a high level of 'coincidence', meaning that the periods of peak demand for energy in the City coincide with the period when the sun is at its strongest."

Peter Meloro from Con Edison highlighted that the company is committed to making the continued investments necessary to enable it to meet the ever-increasing demand driven by more housing, more computers and office equipment, and more air conditioning. "Our energy efficiency and conservation programs, along with our annual investments in the electric system, are essential for keeping pace with the region's growing energy needs while protecting the environment," Meloro said.

"We convened this public forum to put some hard questions on the table and to encourage ongoing discussion about how to meet our energy needs," said Edward F. Ott, Chair of NYC Apollo Alliance Steering Committee and Executive Director of New York City's Central Labor Council. "By planning now, we can preserve New York City's competitive edge and status as a world class city."

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About Urban Agenda

Urban Agenda is an action-oriented public policy, research and advocacy organization dedicated to building a socially, economically, and environmentally just New York City. As convener of the NYC Apollo Alliance, the organization is connected with business, labor, advocacy, workforce development, and environmental justice organizations. In addition, a close working relationship with the NYC Central Labor Council (CLC) enables Urban Agenda to tap the knowledge and reach of the CLC's 400 affiliated unions representing 1.3 million workers.

For more information, please visit www.urbanagenda.org

About New York City Apollo Alliance

The NYC Apollo Alliance is a dynamic coalition of labor unions, environmental justice advocates, business leaders, community organizations, and educators. NYC Apollo seeks to transform the way New York City is powered in order to create jobs, improve residents' health and productivity, promote equity, and ensure New York maintains its status as a preeminent global city.

For more information, please visit <http://www.urbanagenda.org/nycapollo.htm>