

Background

New York City is legally required to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050. In order to achieve this goal, the Mayor and City Council have enacted ambitious legislation requiring emissions reduction in the private sector.

Principles for Reviewing NYC Energy Legislation

(prepared by the ACEC New York Metro Region Energy Codes Committee)

New York City should strive to be a leader in sustainability, green building, energy efficiency and carbon emissions reduction. In doing so, the City must take into account scientific principles, operational uncertainties within buildings, and must have reasonable expectations regarding future advances in technology.

Because of this, any new City policies should include:

- proof of concept through City-owned demonstration projects;
- deadlines that are aspirational, but not so aggressive that they set the program up for failure; and
- evaluation of unintended consequences, such as creating new and potentially uninsurable legal liability exposure for design and other professionals.

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