

**The American Institute of Architects New York  
Testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Environmental  
Protection on Intro. 478  
January 15, 2016**

The American Institute of Architects New York (AIANY) represents over 5,200 registered architects and associated design and construction professionals. The AIANY Committee on the Environment (COTE) aims to lead, inspire, and educate our members on design and sustainability. AIANY COTE organizes engaging programs that focus on outstanding green buildings, current technologies and product research, and sustainable design practices by leading architects. Our efforts are based on the belief that sustainability should be an essential part of the design process and be fully integrated with all aspects of a building, including form, function, site, structure, systems, and construction.

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AIANY is partaking in a sustained push for initiatives that reduce carbon emissions in the built environment and create healthy spaces for New Yorkers to live and work. In order to achieve the Mayor's 80x50 goals, both public and private sectors must undergo large-scale changes. AIANY supports Intro. 478 in its effort to encourage the elimination of fossil fuels and the implementation of photovoltaic systems by seeking to determine how NYC can better utilize solar to help reach sustainability objectives.

Intro. 478 successfully emphasizes the urgency of reducing carbon emissions in NYC's building stock and suggests a possible tool. At this point, however, AIANY has concerns about advocating for an individual technology across the board. In an effort to make this legislation as widely applicable as possible, we suggest that the best approach to achieving this would be to focus on a whole building analysis.

Instead of surveying every City-owned building for solar potential, we would advise that the survey focus on all energy efficiency and renewable generation strategies that reduce fossil fuel energy-use to zero. This would prevent the expenditure of resources on surveying City-owned buildings, such as the Municipal Building, for solar potential where the roof area to floor area ratio obviously makes that building unsuitable for solar. However, spending money to survey the building's overall energy consumption and searching for the appropriate renewable technologies given its attributes, the City would invest in worthwhile research.

We are excited for NYC to take the lead on this effort and build a strong case for all of the benefits that photovoltaic systems offer under the proper departmental leadership. Large stakeholders are experimenting with a wide range of energy saving solutions, so the time is ripe to think holistically about our next steps. We look forward to working with you on this.

*Submitted on behalf of the AIANY Committee on the Environment*



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COTE