



April 22, 2023

Chair Dan Garodnick
City Planning Commission
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Subject: Support for City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality citywide zoning proposal

Dear Chair Garodnick,

Urban Green Council, American Institute of Architects-New York, and the New York League of Conservation Voters are writing to express our shared support for Mayor Eric Adams' proposed citywide zoning text amendment, *City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality*.

The proposed changes in the amendment are critical because they will update New York City's zoning regulations to make our world-leading efforts to prepare for climate change easier, and ensure that zoning is not standing in the way of climate progress.

Climate change is an existential threat to the future of New York City.

New York City is [already at risk](#) from the increasing threats of climate change – coastal flooding, extreme heat, and heavy rain events are all too familiar to most residents. To prevent the worst impacts of climate change in the future, the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) urges a rapid shift away from burning fossil fuels.

New York has been a global leader in this charge to combat climate change with ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets, the nation's first carbon cap for buildings, and aggressive statewide renewable energy goals. But NYC's zoning regulations were created before these climate priorities became evident, and outdated elements in the city's current zoning resolution are preventing progress on key decarbonization activities.

***City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality* will help us reach NYC's climate goals by removing outdated barriers in our zoning code.**

Our organizations support the Department of City Planning's overall zoning proposal outlined in *City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality* because it will remove the existing barriers to

and expand new opportunities for decarbonization projects in the NYC zoning code. There is growing awareness that we need to modernize the code so New Yorkers can fully implement what's required to lower carbon and improve energy efficiency in buildings, install solar and storage onsite, and offer adequate electric vehicle charging.

The proposal includes [recommendations supported by industry experts](#) to reach those goals, and will help reduce emissions from the buildings, energy, transportation, and waste sectors. We are particularly supportive of the elements that enable and reward:

- Energy efficient design and retrofits;
- Building electrification and associated equipment;
- Rooftop and other elevated solar;
- Battery storage;
- Electric vehicle charging; and
- Infrastructure to support bicycles and other micromobility options.

These measures will be essential to meeting our climate targets, decarbonizing our building stock, deploying renewables, and enabling New Yorkers to access a wider variety of low-carbon transportation options.

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We applaud DCP's leadership and staff for bringing forth the proposals within *City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality*. We hope that the Community Boards, Borough Boards, Board Presidents, Planning Commission, and City Council vote to approve this strong zoning text amendment that enables New York City to fulfill our climate targets.

Sincerely,

Urban Green Council

John Mandyck; CEO

American Institute of Architects-NY (AIA-NY)

Matthew Bremer, 2023 President

New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV)

Alia Soomro; Deputy Director, New York City Policy