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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Environment Committee
June 14, 2022 – 6:30pm
This meeting was conducted via Zoom

Minutes

CB8 Attendance: Alida Camp, Dov Gibor, Barbara Rudder, Judith Schneider, Lynne Strong-Shinozaki, and Marco Tamayo

1. Presentation by Cornell Tech set up by Jane Swanson the Community Liaison about their work to reduce carbon footprint, such as their Passive House, GeoThermal energy.

2. Diana Allegretti, Director for Design and Construction for Cornell Tech, discussed the ground source heat system. Renewable alternative sources of energy were studied and solar energy and geothermal sources of energy were employed. Research was done over a year and a closed loop system was designed. Solar energy is employed in both the Bloomberg Center and the Tata Center. Use of geothermal energy needs to be a collaborative effort with the architects to plan a successful system. It needs to meet all the intended uses of the building it is being built for. This system can be implemented in existing buildings. One of the more famous NYC landmarks this system is being utilized for is St. Patrick's Cathedral. NYC Mayor's office has a booklet that was produced in 2015 about the viability of using this system in NYC.

3. Andrew Fowler CPA and certified passive house consultant. Passive house refers to a tested standard of insulation and construction that meet the standard. The House the residential building on the campus is a certified passive house. It is 26 stories and has the level of Passive House and LEED Platinum Certification and was the largest Passive House in the world when it was built.

NYC has two new buildings in the Bronx and one in Harlem that are bigger than "The House", that was being discussed. The goal of a Passive House is to significantly decrease the operational energy by reducing energy needs. There are five things that need to be considered to create or modify a building:

1. Insulation you need what they call a high R-value which means that all heat release gaps are closed and no heat escapes.
2. Airtight to the level prescribed and tested U-value has to be low and specific materials need to be employed.
3. High performance windows.
4. Reduced Thermal Bridging.
5. The up-front capital cost is one of the limiters but there are long term high cost that get mitigated and long term life of the building will cost less.

Existing building can retrofit there building with capital loans to have Geothermal heat and become certified as a Passive Buildings. These ideas are not only for residential buildings but could be used in all buildings. The city local law 97 was intended to push buildings to electrify and move away from fossil fuels.

Barbara Rudder and Lynne Strong-Shinozaki, Co-Chairs