

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Environment Committee
Monday, January 30, 2023 – 6:30pm
This meeting was conducted via Zoom

Minutes

CB8 Attendance: Sahar Hussain, John McClement, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider, Rami Sigal, and Russell Squire

1. Discussion of Local Law 97 that requires buildings to limit greenhouse emissions

Community Board 8 Manhattan hosted speakers Danielle Manley Policy Manager at Urban Green Council, Gina Bocra Chef Sustainability Officer at New York City Department of Buildings, and Simon Mugo Deputy Program Manager at the New York City Accelerator. They informed the committee about ambitious and monumental Local Law 97 which is part of the city's initiative to fight climate change.

Buildings in New York are responsible for two-thirds of greenhouse emissions and therefore in 2019, the city enacted Local Law 97, which sets limits on buildings; greenhouse gas emissions over 25,000 square feet to help reach the goal of a carbon free city by 2050. Previous laws have required buildings to become more climate-friendly by changing to more efficient lighting, adding insulation, building green roofs, etc. and this had an impact.

Since 2010, emissions have diminished by twenty-four percent, but more needs to be done. Starting in 2025 any building that does not have reduced emissions from the previous years will be subjected to a steep fine. It is therefore imperative that building upgrades start immediately.

Carbon limits depend on building limits and usage type. Landmarked building are exempt from any work that would impact its landmark status.

New York City's Accelerator Program is a one-stop resource, free of charge, that provides technical and financial guidance to owners and operators of private buildings. When the Accelerator is contacted, an Account Manager is assigned to provide expertise throughout the pre-process, helps set targets, recommends service providers, and informs about financial support.

Some community members indicated that the cost of the changes to older buildings is exorbitant and disruptive, and it is cheaper to pay the fines. Our speakers understood the concerns, but stressed, climate change is expensive but necessary, natural gas is expected to get more expensive, health will be improved, and the City is working with the Public Service Commission to lower electric costs.

2. Old Business – None discussed
2 New Business – None discussed

Sahar Hussain, Barbara Rudder, and Lynne Strong-Shinozaki, Co-Chairs