



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sheena Thiruselvan | st@urbangreencouncil.org | 212.514.9385 x 121

**WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE ENGINEERING & MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT
AWARDED FOR ITS INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING**

Facilities team receives the first ever Excellence in Action Award from Urban Green Council, recognizing the creation of a state-of-the-art Learning Lab focused on energy efficiency training

New York (March 31, 2021)— Weill Cornell Medicine’s Engineering & Maintenance department is being recognized for making energy efficiency training and best practices—and associated energy savings—a top priority. As part of Urban Green’s [GPRO@Work](#) initiative funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Engineering & Maintenance team created a Learning Lab for staff to practice maintenance techniques on equipment, develop in-house trainings and deepen their culture of learning and commitment to sustainability.

“Weill Cornell’s Learning Lab is a best-in-class example of how important it is to prioritize operations and maintenance training,” says **John Mandyck, CEO of Urban Green Council**. “And the results can be extremely impactful, especially in this era of stringent energy efficiency compliance.”

Created almost entirely by a group of in-house mechanics and electricians, the Learning Lab is outfitted with customized versions of two building management systems that connect to sample HVAC equipment in the room, a large screen for educational presentations, a fume hood to mimic the Weill Cornell Medicine’s laboratory environments, and examples of the daylighting and occupancy sensors that comprise the complex lighting system.

Spearheaded by Angela Mu, Weill Cornell Medicine Energy Manager, and Michael Murphy, Weill Cornell Medicine Senior Director of Engineering & Maintenance, along with the department’s team of supervisors, the Learning Lab trainings helped the team meet their energy efficiency training goals in addition to each staff member’s newly created professional development goals. This successful effort was made possible through



NYSERDA's Building Operations and Maintenance Training Program ([PON3715](#)), in which NYSERDA contributed \$286,657 to the project.

In anticipation of NYC's Local Law 97 carbon reduction requirements, the team is developing a roadmap for reducing campus carbon emissions, with an emphasis on energy-efficient building operations. The Learning Lab is an important piece of this plan. The team also hopes to expand on-site training offerings with supplementary online materials and a library of presentations to grow technical expertise among the staff.

"Weill Cornell Medicine's Engineering & Maintenance team is responsible for a diverse collection of buildings with equally diverse energy needs, including research, patient care, and educational spaces," said **Patrick V. Gallagher, Assistant Vice Provost of Operations and Support Services at Weill Cornell Medicine**. "Robust staff training is vital to meeting our campus energy and sustainability goals, and I'm thrilled that the team is being recognized for the creation of this innovative, forward-thinking program."

NYSERDA Acting President and CEO Doreen M. Harris said: "NYSERDA is proud to partner with the Urban Green Council to support its GPRO@Work initiative, and congratulates the Weill Cornell team on not only this award, but also on their innovative, forward thinking approach to prioritizing and implementing sustainability training. Under Governor Cuomo's growing clean energy economy, the energy efficiency sector is one of the leading sectors for clean energy jobs and it's critical that we continue establishing public and private partnerships to help grow the skilled workforce needed to meet the State's clean energy goals."

Urban Green is proud to present the first *Excellence in Action Award* to the Weill Cornell Medicine Engineering & Maintenance team for undertaking the creation of this innovative hands-on training space, as well as their continued success in energy efficiency improvements. The Learning Lab is a unique space for staff training that could inspire the creation of similar spaces for operations teams at hospitals, universities and other large facilities.

Urban Green Council's *Excellence in Action Award* honors organizations, groups, and individuals who are working with Urban Green Council to advance our mission of transforming buildings for a sustainable future. This award celebrates those who have shown exemplary dedication to building sustainability and energy efficiency through innovation, effectiveness, and leadership.



#####

Urban Green Council's mission is to transform buildings for a sustainable future in New York City and around the world.

We focus on buildings because they account for two-thirds of the city's carbon emissions. We **convene** stakeholders to seek consensus; we **research** solutions that drive change locally and globally; we **advocate** for cutting-edge policy; and we **educate** a broad range of industry professionals. www.urbangreencouncil.org