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GOING ELECTRIC IS CRITICAL FOR NYC BUILDINGS TO REACH CLIMATE GOALS

New Report from Urban Green Council Urges Key Steps to Begin Electrifying NYC's Large Residential Buildings

New York (April 21, 2020)—A heating revolution is on the horizon for New York City buildings. To meet the city's stringent building emissions law, and the longer-term target of an 80 percent carbon reduction by 2050, buildings will need to go electric. That transition means replacing fossil fuel boilers and furnaces, which contribute 40 percent of NYC's carbon emissions, with highly efficient electric heat pumps. Urban Green Council's new report, [Going Electric](#), identifies nine crucial steps to jumpstart electrification in the city's large multifamily buildings.

Urban Green developed the report over 12 months by convening a 40-member Advisory Board of industry leaders. Representatives from real estate, unions, energy efficiency, HVAC, utilities, and government collaborated to assess why so few large residential buildings have embraced heat pumps. The report explores the technology behind electrification and examines challenges to adopting heat pumps in NYC. It also outlines a range of near-term strategies to start this transition, like pilot projects in public buildings and new incentives for the adoption of heat pumps.

While this report comes at an unprecedented time of challenge for New York City, this Earth Day we're reminded of the importance of sustainable, healthy homes and neighborhoods. Replacing oil and gas boilers with electric heat pumps will lower carbon emissions and improve air quality indoors and out. [Going Electric](#) found that even with today's fossil fuel-dominated electric grid, heat pumps will save carbon in almost all building retrofits. Once renewable energy scales up in NYC, the savings will be dramatic, with electrification becoming a critical path for buildings to comply with the City's groundbreaking [building emissions law](#) (Local Law 97).

Alicia Barton, President and CEO of NYSERDA, said "Electrification of buildings and multi-family dwellings is paramount to achieving Governor Cuomo's ambitious and nation-leading carbon reduction goals outlined by New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and today there is an unprecedented amount of attention on public health. A large portion of all carbon emissions are a by-product of heating and cooling in buildings and the implementation of clean, energy efficient heat pumps in our

world's largest city will lower harmful greenhouse gases, improve air quality, and lower consumer energy bills.”

“We won't get to a low carbon future without electrifying multifamily heat. *Going Electric* provides the essential analysis and next steps we need,” says **John Mandyck, CEO of Urban Green Council**.

Electrification is important because more NYC carbon emissions come from burning fossil fuels in buildings for heating and hot water than the entire transportation sector. And while some commercial and small residential buildings are transitioning to electric systems, deep emissions reductions depend on electrifying NYC's 15,000 largest multifamily buildings. With virtually no progress in this sector to date, *Going Electric* is both timely and essential. The report shines a much-needed light on challenges and offers a suite of policies that can be implemented in the next five years. *Going Electric* will help pave the way for heat pump adoption and prepare the city for 2030 and beyond, when the stricter emissions targets of Local Law 97 kick in.

Going Electric was made possible by the Scherman Foundation's Katharine S. and Axel G. Rosin Fund and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

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Urban Green Council's mission is to transform buildings for a sustainable future in New York City and around the world. We help develop cutting-edge policy, we educate a broad range of professionals, and we research solutions that drive policy and best practices nationally and globally. By working with both the public and private sectors, we leverage our effectiveness. www.urbangreencouncil.org