

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NYC IS “GRID READY” FOR BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION

*Latest Report from Urban Green Council finds that grid can accommodate near-term electrification, with room to grow*

**New York (December 7, 2021)**— New York City’s electrical grid is ready for building electrification, according to a new report from Urban Green Council. Electrification will be vital to achieving a low-carbon future, as fossil fuels used in New York City buildings emit 40 percent of the city’s carbon annually, more than all uses of electricity.

[Grid Ready](#) examines the impact of converting boilers and hot water heaters to heat pumps in NYC’s million-plus buildings. Energy models were created to predict power demands based on actual monthly energy use from benchmarked data and found that almost half the citywide building area could be electrified before NYC’s peak power demand shifts from summer to winter.

Other key takeaways:

- Building electrification poses no immediate risk to the grid, and will stay below local grid capacities in most areas until nearly half of NYC’s building area has electrified;
- Buildings may need upgrades to electrical capacity, and that process should be improved and incentivized to scale electrification;
- Heat pumps could level out demand, making power delivery more predictable, and
- Low-cost energy efficiency and demand flexibility measures are highly effective at shaving peak demand.

“The findings of Urban Green Council’s *Grid Ready* report validate that the electric grid can support the State’s nation-leading energy transition and shows we are on the right track guided by Climate Act mandates and our carbon neutral buildings roadmap work. This is important and useful data that will help inform NYSERDA’s work to advance building electrification while ensuring electric grid reliability for New York’s residents,” says **Doreen Harris, President and CEO of NYSERDA.**

“We applaud Urban Green Council’s vital work in driving the electrification of buildings, which will be a pillar of our renewable-powered future. Commercial and residential buildings are New York City’s largest source of carbon emissions today, but through the adoption of electric heat pumps, energy efficiency, and other distributed energy

resources, they will transform into a critical asset in the fight against climate change. Con Edison aims to support the electrification of heating in 150,000 buildings by 2030, and we see big opportunity for green job creation in this sector,” says **Vicki Kuo, Vice President of Energy Efficiency and Distributed Resource Planning at Con Edison.**

“The grid is ready now for substantial building electrification, which is good news for decarbonization and public health. There’s no need to wait,” says **John Mandyck, CEO of Urban Green Council.**

A shift to a winter peak is not imminent and depends on the rate and scale at which buildings electrify. This will likely occur first in residential areas of the outer boroughs, where heating demands are high and local grid networks have lower capacities.

The report also examines the impact that energy efficiency measures will have on power demand when combined with electrification. Multifamily buildings should be able to implement these measures for as little as \$3 per square foot. It also examines the potential for energy storage options, like batteries, and controls to shift demand to times when the grid is less stressed.

The report includes an illustrated breakdown of how NYC’s power grid works—from electricity being generated at power plants to powering the lights in our homes. *Grid Ready* is also accompanied by an interactive online map where users can explore various electrification scenarios and their effect on peak power demand throughout the city.

All-electric buildings can improve the consistency of our power demand while helping to lower costs and dramatically reduce carbon emissions. Converting to heat pumps will immediately start cutting citywide emissions, and once New York achieves a zero-carbon grid by 2040, electrification will decarbonize buildings. This report strengthens our understanding of how buildings should electrify and what steps should be taken to ensure that the city’s grid can handle the increased power demand.

[Join Urban Green on 1/27](#) to learn more about the report and its findings.

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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 focus on buildings because they account for 67 percent of the city’s carbon emissions from onsite fuel consumption and overall building electricity footprint. 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](http://www.urbangreencouncil.org)