

URBAN
GREEN

2022

Annual Report



Our mission is to decarbonize buildings for healthy and resilient communities.



Dear Friends,



2022 was our 20th anniversary, and it brought with it many new challenges, opportunities and accomplishments. We've come a long way from our beginnings as an entirely volunteer-run organization in 2002, but we have so much work to do to realize a carbon-free future for New York.

In the past year, we explored equitable electrification and expanded our Grid Ready analysis to NYC's Environmental Justice Areas. We published industry-leading analysis of the latest NYC benchmarking data, showing how the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered energy and water use. We trained over 3,000 students through our Energy Code and GPRO courses, and in November we hosted a record breaking webinar with the Department of Buildings to unpack the proposed rules for Local Law 97. And we did it all while updating our website and brand to ensure that we remain at the forefront of the changing sustainability landscape.

Thank you for your continued support—it's what makes our work possible. Let's continue to build solutions for climate change.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Kanner

Urban Green Council Board Chair
Executive Vice President, Development,
Design and Construction
Brookfield Properties

John Mandyck

CEO
Urban Green Council

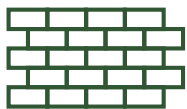
Our Three-Year Strategic Plan

Over the past 18 months, our staff and board came together to take a critical look at our work and set a course for the next three years. As our window to avert the worst effects of climate change rapidly closes, we've identified four strategic areas in which we can better equip our organization to respond to the needs of the present and future.



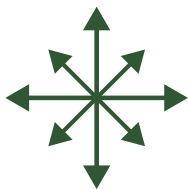
Grow: Leverage funding opportunities to scale growth and impact

In order to address NYC's climate change challenges, our team will need to expand. To achieve this necessary growth, we're increasing our fundraising capabilities by developing and adding resources and staff. At the same time, we're re-examining our organizational structure for better cross-team collaboration and fundraising support that will help us scale up and make a greater impact.



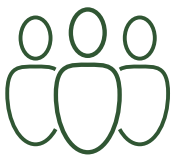
Strengthen: Maximize areas of strength

In the last two decades, we've established ourselves as a leading voice in NYC's green building community. From our flagship Energy Code and GPRO trainings to our industry-leading work on electrification, resiliency and Local Law 97, you can continue to count on Urban Green as your go-to green building resource.



Expand: Expand into new mission-critical decarbonization areas

To ensure that our work remains visionary and cutting-edge, we're expanding the scope of our work to encompass additional decarbonization areas. Specific focuses include smaller buildings, one- to four-family homes, workforce training in new decarbonization technologies, and increased policy work at the state level. We're also aligning to global science-based climate frameworks.

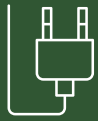


Prioritize: Prioritize equity internally and externally across all our work

We're committed to fostering a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment for our staff and community. We'll continue to implement our DEI Action Plan and expand our program development and member engagement to increase the accessibility and impact of our work, and ensure that environmental justice is central to all of our work.



We Research



Extending our Grid Ready analysis

Our 2021 Grid Ready report found that building electrification poses almost no immediate risk to NYC's electrical grid. Last year, we extended our analysis to see how increased power demand from buildings could impact the grid in NYC's Environmental Justice Areas.

Highlights include:

- The 15 NYC grid areas that may see the fastest electrification of heat and hot water systems and the earliest grid constraints are primarily Environmental Justice Areas.
- Many Environmental Justice Areas are dominated by smaller buildings that are easier to electrify but are served by lower-capacity power infrastructure.
- Heat pumps and other building upgrades can provide health, comfort and resilience benefits to New Yorkers who are disproportionately impacted by climate change.



How did the pandemic change energy and water use?

We dove into the latest NYC benchmarking data to find out how the COVID-19 pandemic affected energy and water use in the city's large buildings.

Three trends stood out:

- NYC site energy dropped 9 percent but resulted in only a 7 percent emissions decline because the electricity buildings used got dirtier in 2020.
- Occupancy and energy use fell in offices and hotels.
- Multifamily buildings varied widely in occupancy and energy use depending on their location.

We Advocate

Local Law 97 Rules

In December, the NYC Department of Buildings finalized rules for Local Law 97 specifying details on property types, emissions limits, and renewable energy credits. In addition to our continued role on the Advisory Board and Working Groups, we led testimony on the new rules.

DOB webinar draws 800+

On November 1, we hosted a webinar with the NYC Department of Buildings to unpack the proposed rules for Local Law 97. It was our highest-attended public program ever, with over 800 attendees!

Named to Mayor's Sustainability Advisory Board

In December, Mayor Eric Adams appointed our Senior Director of Research & Policy, Chris Halfnight, to the NYC Sustainability Advisory Board. The 26-member board will be tasked with guiding NYC's long-term sustainability and resiliency goals.



We Educate

We reached a broad sector of the building community in 2022

- Hosted **2,320** attendees at our Public Programs
- Trained **1,581** building professionals in the New York Energy Code
- Educated **1,706** tradespeople, building operators and other professionals across the U.S. and Canada on GPRO, our green training program for trades and contractors.

Launched Heat Pump Water Heater course with Local 1

Heat pump water heating systems will play a crucial role in reducing carbon emissions from buildings. This half-day course will provide unionized plumbing and heating industry workers and union-affiliated contractors with the knowledge and skills they need to successfully navigate this growing field.

Back in person at our 2022 Conference

Our annual conference was back in person at NYU! On June 15, in front of a sold-out crowd of 300+ people, Electri-fiction to Electrification: Overcoming Barriers, investigated how we can overcome the remaining roadblocks to electrification and pave a path to net zero.



20th Anniversary Gala

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers on September 29. It was a special evening to celebrate our first 20 years and look ahead at the future of green building.

We were proud to honor Gary LaBarbera and present the Héctor Figueroa Leadership Award to Seanelle LeeSang.

New Website and Brand

In 2022, we were hard at work updating our brand and building a new website to ensure that we remain at the forefront of the changing sustainability landscape. Our new site is more friendly and accessible, centering the people who live and work in New York's buildings while still delivering the cutting-edge analysis and programming you've come to expect.



Thank you!



Board of Directors

Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors for their commitment to Urban Green and our work. [See our Board of Directors.](#)



Our Supporters

Thank you to everyone who made our work possible in 2022. [See our supporters.](#)

Thank you for helping us build solutions for climate change. **Here's how you can get involved:**



Individual Membership

Get discounts on events and exclusive access to special programs and tours with an Urban Green membership. [Become a member.](#)



Corporate and Organizational Support

Urban Green's Corporate and Organizational Supporters are a distinguished community of industry leaders and green building advocates who enable our critical work and share our commitment to ensure a sustainable future for all. [Become a Corporate or Organizational Supporter.](#)

For more ways to support us,
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