

**The American Institute of Architects New York Chapter
Testimony before the New York City Council Committees on Recovery and
Resiliency and Environmental Protection on OneNYC
December 14, 2015**

The American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY) represents over 5,200 registered architects and associated design and construction professionals. The AIANY Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee (DfRR) fosters awareness of the necessity to anticipate risk for communities, buildings, and regional plans. The committee educates professionals and the public on designing to mitigate natural and man-made disasters through preparedness, relief response and recovery, and reconstruction. DfRR advocates for improving the ability of the built environment to aesthetically, functionally, technically, and economically serve and protect the health, safety, and welfare of inhabitants.

The American Institute of Architects

AIA New York
536 LaGuardia Place
New York, NY 10012

T (212) 683 0023
F (212) 696 5022

www.aiany.org

The AIANY Committee on the Environment (COTE) leads, inspires, and educates our members on design and sustainability. AIANY COTE organizes engaging programs that focus on outstanding green buildings, current technologies and product research, and sustainable design practices by leading architects. Our efforts are based on the belief that sustainability should be an essential part of the design process and be fully integrated with all aspects of a building, including form, function, site, structure, systems, and construction. AIANY is partaking in a sustained push for initiatives that reduce carbon emissions in the built environment and create healthy spaces for New Yorkers to live and work.

With OneNYC, New York City is a leader in planning for a sustainable and resilient future. It recognizes that in order to achieve these goals, both public and private sectors must undergo large-scale changes. We have identified the challenges, and now we must adopt the necessary policies and implementation strategies. Moving forward, AIANY has the following recommendations to further strengthen OneNYC's Resiliency and Sustainability plans to ensure a safe and equitable NYC.

Implementation

- Engage the broadest array of stakeholders – public, private, educational institutions, etc. – and map out how each sector can support the changes proposed by OneNYC. We must leverage the energy of all players in order to achieve our goals.
- Create timelines for this work that go beyond the length of a Mayoral administration and publish those timelines. For example, the 80x50 timeline should be further broken down into measurable milestones.
- Stress the relationships between resiliency and sustainability. They are inseparable. We cannot make strides in one area without the other.

- Work with New York State and the utility companies to examine the supply side of clean energy as part of the solution.

Funding

- Differentiate between what will be publicly funded and what will be privately funded.
- Tie the timelines and deliverables to specific funding streams that, again, go beyond the length of the current administration.

Transportation

- Emphasize the need to reduce reliance on automobiles, which will decrease pollution and improve equity for all communities.
- Promote seamless connections between different transportation systems.

Existing Buildings

- Commit to a strong and dedicated effort to incentivize and implement building retrofits.
- Restructure how energy costs are paid for and shared between building owners and tenants.

Education and Training

- Provide case studies and examples of projects that have achieved ambitious sustainability goals.
- Prioritize education, branding, and awareness of the general public and professionals, which is critical to success.
- Train tradespeople for advancement in technical/vocational fields. Training is fundamental to success and opportunity.

We are excited for NYC to take the lead in supporting vibrant communities that are productive, sustainable, resilient, and equitable. AIANY looks forward to working with community stakeholders and governing bodies to achieve this.

Sincerely,

Lance Jay Brown, FAIA
Co-Chair and Founder, DfRR

Ilana Judah, Int'l Assoc. AIA
Co-Chair, COTE