



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### DCAS Announces "Lights Off" Contest in 6 City Buildings

*— Responding to Citizen Suggestions, DCAS Urges All City Employees  
to Turn off Lights and Save Energy—*

Department of Citywide Administrative Services Commissioner Edna Wells Handy today announced the start of a "Lights Off" competition among six City-owned office buildings in Manhattan, to encourage City employees to turn off unnecessary lights at work.

During the month of February, DCAS will post notices at light switches and lobby areas in each of the buildings to remind tenants to turn off lights. Employees will receive regular reminders about the contest by email. DCAS will be monitoring energy use and participation at the sites in a variety of ways, including by tracking monthly energy use reports. The building and tenant that demonstrates the greatest participation in the contest, as shown by reductions in light and energy use, will receive public recognition.

"Leaving the lights on in municipal buildings overnight and on the weekends costs the City thousands of dollars in unnecessary utility expenses," Commissioner Handy said. "The fix starts at the light switch. We are holding this contest to raise awareness that large savings begin with small changes, and remind city employees to turn the lights off."

"The 'Lights Off' contest simply makes good sense. It will also help us meet our ambitious *PlaNYC* goal to reduce the carbon emissions from City government by 30% over ten years," said Deputy Mayor for Operations Stephen Goldsmith. "Turning out the lights has been suggested to us frequently through our new online Suggestion Box, and I'm glad to say we are doing something about it."

The six buildings participating in the contest are: 1 Centre Street (the Manhattan Municipal Building); 137 Centre Street; 2 Lafayette Street; 49-51 Chambers Street; 253 Broadway; and 280 Broadway. All of the buildings are occupied by multiple City agencies except 280 Broadway, the headquarters of the Department of Buildings.

DCAS is headquartered at 1 Centre Street and will participate in the contest as part of the building's newly formed "Green Team." Key tenants on the Green Team have endorsed the campaign.

"In a tough economy, cutting back on energy consumption is a common sense solution to saving money. The 'Lights Off' contest is a great way for the City to improve on its energy conservation efforts," said Comptroller John C. Liu.

"The 'Lights Off' challenge is a terrific opportunity for New York's municipal government to lead by example," said Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer. "It's imperative for the City to do its part in establishing a more sustainable and environmentally responsible model for energy use, and that starts here. I applaud Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Handy for designing this fun and meaningful challenge for City agencies and employees. The Manhattan Borough President's Office is eager to get started and

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help 1 Centre Street claim the gold.”

“The Department of Buildings is pleased to join the competition, and we hope it will raise awareness about the importance of conserving energy,” said Buildings Commissioner Robert D. LiMandri. “Seventy-five percent of New York City’s carbon emissions come from our buildings, and that’s why it’s so critical that City government set an example for building owners throughout the City. Reducing energy use at the office and at home is the key to improving the quality of life for generations to come.”

“This illuminating contest will no doubt prove that the Landmarks Preservation Commission is as enlightened about conserving New York City’s energy as it is about preserving the City’s historic buildings,” said Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney.

The methods DCAS will use to monitor energy use and participation at the sites include: taking photos of exteriors at night, to check where lights remain on; installing “light logger” sensors in the buildings to electronically monitor interior lighting; and reviewing energy usage and electricity bills for the month.

“The lessons learned from this contest will be applied to larger campaigns, as we strive to make government better, faster, cheaper and greener for all New Yorkers,” Commissioner Handy said.

As the contest began, Commissioner Handy issued a memo to all agencies, asking them to begin a “Lights Off” campaign in their own facilities during February.

DCAS is leading the City’s effort to reduce the energy use and carbon emissions from government operations by 30% by 2017 – a key goal of *PlaNYC*. *PlaNYC* is the City’s long-term vision to create a greener, greater New York by the year 2030. Other related efforts by DCAS include the development of a building metering and monitoring strategy to obtain and monitor real-time energy consumption data, the roll-out of a strategy to encourage energy efficient building operations and preventative maintenance, and implementation of comprehensive energy audits and retrofits.