



Sep 21, 2023

Chair Dan Garodnick
City Planning Commission
120 Broadway New York, NY 10271

Re: City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality

Dear Chair Garodnick,

I am writing on behalf of Freelancers Union to express our enthusiastic support for the Adams administration's proposed City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality (CoYCN) text amendment. In light of the pressing climate crisis and the urgency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally, we commend New York City's proactive efforts to lead by example.

New York City has long been at the forefront of climate action, setting ambitious decarbonization goals through its 80x20 Roadmap. To achieve these goals by 2050, the city must undergo a significant transformation in its energy grid, building infrastructure, and transportation systems. However, current zoning regulations present obstacles that hinder our ability to meet these objectives effectively.

One critical area of concern is the retrofitting of buildings to reduce their carbon footprint. Updated zoning regulations could empower property owners to engage in more extensive retrofitting activities, thereby accelerating progress toward sustainability targets. Moreover, compliance with Local Law 97 and its ambitious emission reduction goals requires clear regulatory guidance and incentives for the real estate sector. We urge the city to provide such support.

Freelancers Union also recognizes the substantial impact of transportation on our climate goals. Transportation is a leading contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, with approximately 27 percent of total emissions originating from this sector. To address this issue, New York State's mandate for all vehicles to be electric by 2035 is commendable. However, the lack of electric vehicle charging facilities in some commercial districts poses a challenge. We support the proposed text amendment, which would facilitate the siting of EV charging stations in accessible locations, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles and advancing the city's climate objectives.

Additionally, the Carbon Neutrality Amendment presents opportunities to streamline carsharing, car rental, and commercial parking rules, further reducing the city's carbon footprint. We applaud the amendment's focus on renewable energy, including the removal of zoning impediments for rooftop solar installations. As the cost of solar energy continues to decline, these changes are essential to encourage its widespread utilization.

We believe that the City Planning Commission's proposed Carbon Neutrality Text amendment holds immense potential to advance New York City's sustainability goals. By addressing zoning challenges and embracing renewable energy, we can continue to lead in reducing emissions and fostering a greener, more sustainable future.

Thank you for your dedication to combating climate change and your commitment to a more sustainable future for all New Yorkers. Freelancers Union stands in strong support of this vital initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rafael Espinal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rafael" and last name "Espinal" clearly distinguishable.

Rafael Espinal
Executive Director
Freelancers Union INC.