

# CAMPAIGN FOR NEW YORK'S FUTURE

## Climate Change

**“On average, each New Yorker generates 7.1 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, compared to 24.5 metric tons from an average American lifestyle. That means that making the city a more appealing place to live – through affordable housing, easily accessible parks, or cleaner air and waterways – radically reduces environmental impacts.”**

*– PlaNYC”  
—Daily News Editorial,  
April 23, 2007*

*Mayor Bloomberg has proposed reducing New York City’s global warming emissions by more than 30 percent by 2030. The approach as outlined in PlaNYC includes avoiding sprawl, improving the city’s electricity supply through the promotion of clean power, reducing the energy consumption of buildings and supporting sustainable transportation. This fact sheet is prepared by the Campaign for New York’s Future – a coalition of civic, business, environmental, labor, community and public health organizations – to answer some common questions about climate change.*

### **How will climate change impact New York City?**

New York City has already started to experience increased temperatures, unpredictable weather patterns, and rising sea levels. By the end of the century, scientists predict that New York could have 40 to 89 days a year where temperatures reach upwards of 90 degrees. In Lower Manhattan, the water at the Battery has risen more than a foot during the last century. As a result, “hundred-year floods” are likely to occur every 80 years and may take place more frequently as conditions worsen.

### **How does New York City contribute to global warming?**

The sheer scale of our city means that New York emits nearly 0.25 percent of the world’s total greenhouse gases. From 2000 to 2005, our city’s greenhouse gas emissions increased by nearly 5 percent. This growth can be attributed to the prolific use of cell phones, computers, and air conditioners, in addition to new construction. If these trends continue, by 2030 New York’s greenhouse gas emissions will increase 27 percent over our 2005 emission levels.

### **How will PlaNYC reduce global warming emissions by more than 30 percent by 2030?**

The 30 percent reduction target (33.1 million metric tons per year) would be achieved through three primary means:

1. Clean Power – Improvements in New York City’s electricity supply will save 10.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year through replacement of old power plants, promotion of distributed generation, and promotion of renewable power.
2. Efficient Buildings – Reduced energy consumption in buildings will save 16.4 million in metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year through improvements in existing buildings’ efficiency, requiring new buildings to be more efficient, increasing appliance efficiency, greening the City’s building and energy codes, and increasing energy awareness through education, training, and quality control.
3. Sustainable Transportation – Enhancing New York City’s transportation system will save 6.1 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year through reduced vehicle use due to improved transit, improved efficiency of private vehicles and taxis, and decreased CO<sub>2</sub> intensity of fuels.

**“Energy efficient homes, offices and power plants are the key to meeting our growing energy needs, lowering energy bills and reducing global warming pollution.”**

*– Ashok Gupta,  
Air and Energy Program  
Director, Natural Resources  
Defense Council*

**If New York is predicted to add nearly one million more residents by 2030, won't it produce more global warming emissions?**

On average, Americans emit more than three times the CO<sub>2</sub>e per capita than New Yorkers. By absorbing 900,000 new residents, the city will achieve an additional annual reduction of 15.6 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year through avoided sprawl.

**Will reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030 sufficiently address climate change?**

No. Scientists agree that far deeper cuts (60-80 percent) will be necessary by mid-century if we are to stabilize global temperatures. With this understanding, the City – through three initiatives – will embark on a broad effort to adapt to the unavoidable impact of a changing climate:

1. Create an interagency task force to protect vital infrastructure – The City will expand adaptation strategies to include all essential city infrastructure - not just the protection of our water supply, sewer, and waste treatment systems.
2. Work with neighborhoods to develop site-specific strategies – The City will create a community planning process to engage all stakeholders in community-specific climate adaptation strategies designed to deal with flooding, heat waves, and other direct effects of climate change.
3. Launch a citywide strategic planning process for climate change adaptation – The City will begin to develop a comprehensive climate change adaptation policy that will assess the risks, costs, and potential solutions for adapting to our changing environment.

**For more information, visit [www.CampaignForNewYork.org](http://www.CampaignForNewYork.org).**

*The Campaign for New York's Future is a coalition of civic, business, environmental, labor, community and public health organizations that support the goals and strategic direction of PlaNYC. Our goal is to make every neighborhood in NYC a great place to live and work, as well as make a significant contribution to fighting climate change. The coalition aims to encourage public debate — as well as fair and effective action — now and in the years to come. We recognize the need to both seize the opportunity for immediate action and to insure that this long-term plan evolves with continued dialogue and changing conditions.*