

**Testimony on PLANYC 2030
New York City Council
Committee on Environmental Protection
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**Nancy Anderson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
The Sallan Foundation**

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Good morning. I am Nancy Anderson, Executive Director of the Sallan Foundation. Our mission is advancing useful knowledge for a greener city. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about PLANYC 2030, the goal of reducing global warming emissions by more than 30%, and how best to achieve this in the context of a growing and thriving City.

Let's start by looking at what others are doing since some scientists are calling for an emissions reduction target of 50 – 70% over the next 50 years in order to avoid intolerable global climate changes. In 2004, Ken Livingston, Mayor of London announced a plan to rethink and shrink his mega-city's energy use, in an overall context of growth and fairness. The European Union's market-based Emissions Trading Scheme, that kicked off in 2005 now must get stricter with the emissions caps imposed on participating nations in order to reduce carbon emissions by 20% compared to 1990 levels. In 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger committed California to cutting global warming emissions to 2000 levels by 2010.

The goal of reducing New York City's global warming emissions by 30% while adding an additional one million residents is good, but not good enough. Emission reduction targets must be set higher and wider given the PLANYC 2030 twenty-three year timeframe as well as the need to slow down the rate at which the Earth is heating up. The City's goal should be carbon neutrality — which would match the U.S. Conference of Mayor's goal — while creating the foundation on which to forge real, practical strategies for getting there.

Close to home, in light of historic commitments to emissions reductions that flow from New York

State's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which commences in 2009, and the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard with its goal of generating 25% of its electric power from clean, non-carbon sources, emissions from power plants in City will be declining and City climate policy should use these State-lead advances as a base for greater achievements. In fact, the City is now undertaking a big step forward with the implementation of Local Law 86, the green building law and, it's fair to say, that the roll out of Local Law 86 should be identified and evaluated as the first major deliverable in Mayor Bloomberg's sustainable development initiative. Remember, it's the only part of his initiative that has the force of law. I am certain that smart implementation and rigorous monitoring can achieve meaningful emissions reductions that will result from constructing a new generation of very energy efficient buildings, which consume less fuel and use less electricity. As such, all eyes will be on the impact and efficacy of this statute now and for years to come.

The next giant step for New York should be passage of a comprehensive green, high performance building law that would make green building into New York's new normal. A comprehensive green building law, like every other component of the 2030 plan should advance specific actions for reducing global warming emissions in all public and private sectors, even as the City grows. In fact, a green development plan will foster 21st Century economic development and job growth here at home keeping New York competitive in a world that's focused on global warming.

Speaking more generally about elements of a successful PLANYC 2030, it must start now to build public support for local action on global warming. The City should use the clout of its pension funds as well as the programs of the Economic Development Corporation to support green growth in new businesses and new jobs in our City. PLANYC 2030 should be performance based and include incentives to stimulate development and commercialization of low carbon technologies. Together we must forge policies to facilitate their widespread adoption and ensure affordability of low carbon and clean energy

technologies across wide ranges of New York's economic activity and residential development.

As well, the big picture projected in PLANYC 2030 must be translated into enforceable laws and become integral elements of the City's Building Code and Zoning Resolution. Mega-projects like the rezoning and redevelopment of Manhattan's west side, the rezoning of the Greenpoint – Williamsburg waterfront and the proposed Atlantic Yards project should have had high performance design built into their very bones. These are major missed opportunities. Looking ahead, a PLANYC 2030 worth the name must be able to ensure that all future mega-plans and rezonings are sustainable and adopt designs, technologies and operations that are geared to reducing global warming emissions. The next green building law should become part of the Building Code in order to capture the climate contribution potential of the City's entire built environment and the infrastructure that sustains it. Such an ambitious law will work best if it is linked to a City-based energy policy.

I focus my remarks today on nuts and bolts recommendations like changes to zoning and the Building Code because these are quintessential home rule jurisdictions since either federal nor state law operates at such a fine-grained level, yet they rely on the aggregate success of such efforts. While comprehensive federal global warming legislation would be most welcome, it does not absolve New York City from acting now.

Let me conclude with this hope: Mayor Bloomberg uses the global platform of the May 2007 C 40 conference hosted in New York City to spell out how the Big Apple will become the Green Apple and how it will work with the other 39 cities in attendance to save the planet. Mr. Mayor, how can we help?