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**PROMINENT ADVOCACY GROUPS, NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
ANNOUNCE CAMPAIGN TO BAN GAS IN NEW CONSTRUCTION**

(New York, N.Y.) Alongside members of the City Council, environmental justice, community, and advocacy groups announced a campaign to pass legislation banning fossil fuel hookups in new construction and gut renovations in New York City. A gas ban would lead to more energy-efficient, all-electric construction, reducing air pollution and creating jobs in clean energy.

Large cities including San Jose, Seattle, Oakland and San Francisco, as well as more than 50 localities in California, have enacted gas bans and all-electric new construction. On the East Coast, Brookline, Massachusetts has already adopted a similar ban.

The recording of the news conference and rally can be viewed [here](#). Passcode: *X@U+i8w

“Low-income communities and communities of color bear disproportionately higher energy and pollution burdens as well as disproportionately greater impacts from climate change,” explained **Sonal Jessel, Director of Policy at WE ACT for Environmental Justice**. “We must prioritize these communities when transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy, ensuring that they can afford the new energy and benefit from the jobs, infrastructure, and reduced local air pollution that will be created by this shift.”

“According to global climate scientists, the world must rapidly phase out fossil fuels to avert total catastrophe,” said **Liz Moran, Environmental Policy Director for NYPIRG**. “Banning fossil fuel hookups for new construction and major renovations by 2022 in New York City is both common sense and necessary to cut greenhouse gas emissions. As a city on the frontlines of the climate crisis, New York City must lead the charge on climate action and act as a model for the rest of New York, and the nation, to follow.”

“A gas ban for New York City creates jobs in electrical work. These are good, green jobs. This would provide thousands of jobs for us electricians. Those of us already getting work will see more work,” said **Kevin Jackson, an electrician and member of New York Communities for Change**.

This new campaign and legislation builds upon the City’s landmark climate and jobs law, Local Law 97, which requires large buildings, 25,000 square feet and larger, to slash their climate pollution. Buildings are the source of 70% of New York City’s climate-heating emissions.

“Air pollution adds to the environmental injustice that constituents in my district experience every day. A gas ban will help clean the air in Brooklyn. Now is the time for New York City to lead,” said **Councilmember Alicka Ampry-Samuel**.

In January 2021, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced his support for a ban on gas for new construction and gut renovations by 2030. Advocates, who welcome de Blasio's support for a gas ban, are calling for a ban to go into effect in 2022 on all new permitting, matching other cities' bans, which went into effect within one year after their new laws passed.

"We don't have time," said departing **Councilmember Costa Constantinides**. "Every building that goes in with a fossil fuel boiler locks us in for decades. The time is now to close the door on fossil fuels by banning this in new buildings. Enough is enough!"

Emissions associated with electricity, heating, and cooling for residential and commercial buildings account for a large portion of climate emissions. In New York City, 70% of the city's climate pollution is from buildings. Additionally, communities of low income and color deal with highest levels of air pollution across the city. Preventing future local air pollution is vital to the health of neighborhoods.

"New York City needs to play catch up with other cities around the country and enact a gas ban immediately," said **Council Member Antonio Reynoso**. "NYC is a center for innovation, but we are failing to lead when it comes to climate change. Pairing a green jobs program with the enactment of a gas ban would send a clear signal that we're acting aggressively to protect our climate, remove toxins from our air, and deliver economic justice to thousands of New Yorkers. I'm proud to have pledged my support to this critical environmental initiative that furthers the goals of the Green New Deal and I look forward to working with the advocates and my colleagues to make it a reality."

"Now is the time to start phasing away from fossil fuels, not build new utility infrastructure that will lock us in to them for years to come. Banning gas hook ups in new units now will help bring about a transition to clean energy in our city's buildings. New York City has a chance to lead that transition to a clean energy infrastructure, and we can't afford not to. I'm grateful to organizers and colleagues for leading this charge," said **Councilmember Brad Lander**.

"Over the last two years, New York City has made good progress in becoming more environmentally friendly and understanding the seriousness of the climate crisis we face. First by passing landmark legislation to green our worst polluters in the form of big buildings and then by formally declaring a Climate Emergency in the City Council," said **Council Member Ben Kallos**. "Banning gas hookups on new construction and gut jobs is just the next very logical step we must take if we are serious about helping in the fight against climate change. We cannot continue to depend on fossil fuels for everything and pretend the environment is not going to be affected. How we get our energy and where we get the energy that runs New York City matters in this crisis. Right now is the time to take strong, bold steps away from fossil fuels and look toward renewables as much as possible."

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The new campaign is organized by New York Communities for Change, New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), and WE ACT for Environmental Justice, and is supported by other organizations and activists.