

Securing New York City's Economic Future



By Kathryn Wylde

The Partnership for New York City is a staunch supporter of the Bloomberg Administration's PlaNYC, a master plan for infrastructure investment and environmental actions that are vital to New York's future. The New York of tomorrow will have a significantly larger population and a more diverse economy. Demands for generation and transmission of clean energy will multiply.

To accommodate a million more people and 900,000 new jobs, New York City will need to implement a comprehensive energy plan that includes effective utilization of existing energy production resources as well as efficient approval of new generation facilities, alternative energy programs and expanded investment in upgraded transmission infrastructure.

One state asset that is essential to achieving these goals is the Indian Point Energy Center, which provides 1/3 of the electricity in the Metropolitan region. Its low-cost and non-polluting electricity production is in line with PlaNYC while employing thousands in the area. Anti-nuclear scare tactics notwithstanding, Indian Point is a safe, well managed facility that the region must maintain and support.

New York State also needs a renewed Article X power plant siting law in order to encourage investors to finance new power production facilities. This will add more electricity to the grid and help to stimulate job creation and economic development. Additionally, New York's aging transmission systems must be replaced with "smart grids" that conserve power and allow suppliers to predict and prevent energy outages. All these actions are needed to maintain a stable and reliable energy supply during the period of rapid economic growth that will most certainly follow the current recession.

Today, more than ever, New York City needs to keep a competitive edge and not allow electricity supply constraints and costs to chase away businesses. The economic downturn presents an opportunity to get ahead of the energy challenge. Let's act now, to insure a stronger and greener future for the city and state.

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