



# Q4

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October – December 2021

## ● BE-Ex team



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**In the last quarter of 2022, we were pleased to provide a variety of educational offerings, including vibrant panel discussions in both our Climate Mobilization Act and Beyond Zero Series, and through new courses and expanding users on our on-demand learning platform, BE-Ex Ed.**

October 6, 2021

## Beyond Zero Series: Big Buildings, Big Impacts

As the first event in the new Beyond Zero Series supported by NYSERDA, Big Buildings, Big Impacts showcased two high-impact, large-scale affordable housing projects in New York City: Sendero Verde and 425 Grand Concourse. The Beyond Zero Series celebrates low carbon projects across the State of New York that improve the health, affordability, and resiliency of communities.





**October 13, 2021**

## **Modeling the Future: Integrating Energy Performance for Carbon Reduction & Compliance**

In collaboration with AIA New York and ASHRAE New York, BE-Ex convened energy modeling experts to discuss the necessity of integrating energy modeling into architectural practice as a tool for high-performance design, construction, and compliance. Hosted at the Center for Architecture, this workshop followed actionable steps outlined in the BE-Ex Architect Advisory Council vision document, *Who Cares About Energy Codes? The Architect's Guide to New York City's Aggressive Carbon Reduction Code*.

► <https://be-exchange.org/modeling-the-future-integrating-energy-performance-for-carbon-reduction/>

**November 3, 2021**

## **Climate Mobilization Act Series: What About Affordable Housing?**

In response to additional guidance for affordable housing compliance with Local Law 97, BE-Ex convened policy experts to discuss these new considerations, and how compliance can act as a springboard to comfortable, healthy, and low carbon buildings for underserved communities.



► <https://be-exchange.org/climate-mobilization-act-series-what-about-affordable-housing/>

# column:

## You're (No Longer) on Mute!

by Richard Yancey

Executive Director

Building Energy Exchange

**Daffodils are blooming!** The first glimmers of spring are arriving, and, as the last (though likely not the final) wave of the pandemic recedes, New York City is emerging from our isolation, our alienation, and, perhaps even, our recession. I realize that in the hallucinogenic attenuation of COVID time, one season unremarkably running into the next, 2021 concluded without reflection. Yet, daffodils are blooming, starlings are making a racket, and New Yorkers are taking back our streets, our parks, and —wait-for-it— our workspaces, with gusto, so it's now finally time to mark a new beginning, and celebrate surviving, if not thriving, another year.

2021 was an emotional roller coaster. Despite constant headwinds, and only ephemeral hints toward normalcy, Building Energy Exchange (BE-Ex) had a phenomenally productive year advancing our mission to create compelling and effective tools to reduce carbon emissions. Our organization's nimble resilience —and talented

crew— allowed us to quickly and gracefully pivot to meet the changing demands of the moment, while nurturing the needs of our community.

'Exchange' is not only part of our name, but fundamental to our core mission —meaningful, catalyzing, impactful exchange. During the sequestrations forced by the pandemic, BE-Ex expanded into new and effective channels to engage our community. Our young podcast, [Radio BE-Ex](#), produced twelve captivating conversations with sustainability leaders, streamed to over 22 countries across the globe; our new on-demand e-learning platform, [BE-Ex Ed](#), delivered over 1,500 energy efficiency courses and trainings; and our updated [LL97 Carbon Calculator](#) helped over 15,000 active users better understand the greenhouse gas emissions related to their buildings, and how to take action.

Meanwhile, our live events continued to thrive in 2021, bringing our community together to exchange ideas

and learn from one another. Our Climate Mobilization Act Series hosted amazing speakers who demystified PACE financing, posited green roofs as equity infrastructure, and explained LL97's affordable housing rules, while our WISE (Women in Sustainability and Energy) series provided new formats, like Media Clubs and Ask Me Anything spotlights. The launch of our Multifamily Retrofit Playbooks drew an engaged crowd of over 500 building decision-makers. Even our 'remote' 2021 Daylight Hour social media campaign succeeded with nearly 400 registrants, representing 28 U.S. states and 19 countries.

In 2021, our industrious staff also created a bounty of stunning resources to activate change; to name just a few:

- *Who Cares About Energy Codes? The architect's guide to New York City's aggressive carbon reduction code*, and three related live events from the work of the BE-Ex Architect Advisory Council.

- Easy to use Heat Pump Planners for five different home types.
- Five inspirational Low Carbon Multifamily Retrofit Playbooks.
- A groundbreaking study, Multifamily Passive House: Connecting Performance to Financing.
- A Post-pandemic Vision for City Office Buildings that speaks to our housing crisis, in collaboration with the 2020 AIA firm of the year, Architecture Research Office.
- A high performance building Envelope Showcase exhibit, and five related case study that demonstrate enclosure best practices in real building projects.

All this hard work did not go unnoticed. Building Energy Exchanged received the American Institute of Architect New York Chapter's (AIA NY) first ever

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Climate Action Citation. We were also recognized for our contributions to the United Nations ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy and our leadership in helping to found the International Centres of Excellence on High Performance Buildings, at COP26, where I spoke about the power of this global knowledge-sharing network. Additionally, we hosted the Irish Trade Minister Robert Troy and his delegation, at BE-Ex, for a meaningful international exchange of

decarbonization ideas, technologies, and opportunities between forward-thinking Irish and US companies.

So here's to 2021 and all we accomplished, together. And now, with a new president, a new governor, and a new mayor, 2022 promises to be a year of growth and impactful engagement. I invite you to celebrate spring with a renewed sense of hope and what's possible. ■

## 2021 in review

programs:

**4,406 attended**  
**57 programs**

offsite primers:

**396 attended**  
**15 Programs**

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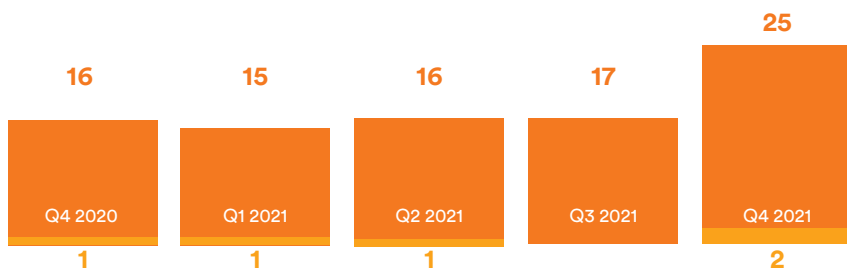
**4802 attended**  
**72 Programs**

## ● programs

In 2021, BE-Ex is proud to have hosted over 70 programs averaging 65 attendees each, while navigating a fluctuating landscape of online and in person programming. We are thrilled to have hosted 25 programs in Q4, and look forward to continuing to offer a hybrid format (online and in person) for our events in future months.

### BE-Ex hosted events

Q3 2020 – Q2 2021 events took place virtually, due to Covid-19 restrictions. Q3-Q4 events included some hybrid programming (online and in person).



### BE-Ex developed events

#### diversity goals

1.

No all male panels

Q4 number: 1

2.

50% female speakers across

BE-Ex events

Q4: 63%

42

average number of  
days on calendar, BE-Ex  
events

53

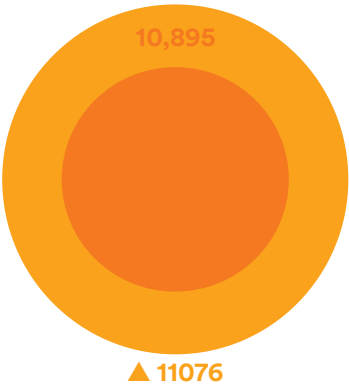
average attendance,  
BE-Ex events



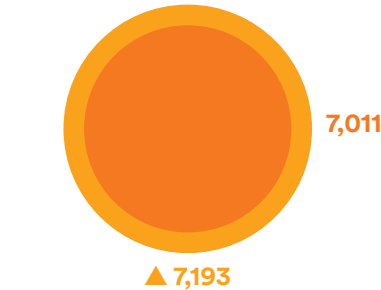
● audience

The BE-Ex audience continued to expand this quarter, surpassing 11,000 newsletter subscribers and adding over 100 new social media followers. We are proud to close out 2022 with over 80,000 total website sessions and an ever-growing international audience.

newsletter subscribers



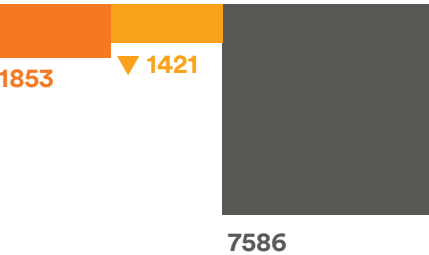
social media followers



■ Q3 2021   ■ Q4 2021   ■ 2021 total



resource downloads



website traffic



program audience geographic distribution



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## **Radio BE-Ex**

Radio BE-Ex is a live podcast series by Building Energy Exchange that features industry leaders working at the intersection of buildings, energy, and sustainability. The Radio BE-Ex theme for 2021 is **Radical Scale: the people, processes, and technology that will ensure the built environment meets the needs of the future.**

- Social Equity and Daylighting with Lisa Hescong
- The Power of Daylight with Susan Ubbelohde
- The Future of Heat with Don Chahbazpour
- Zeroing in on Embodied Carbon with Kate Simonen

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## **Women in Sustainability and Energy (WISE)**

The Women in Sustainability and Energy (WISE) series, founded in 2015, is an inclusive platform for all people to learn from experienced leaders, to share knowledge, and to advance equity in the workplace. WISE has been received with overwhelming support from the sustainability & energy community, and continues to adapt its programming to meet the needs and interests of community members.

- **November 9, 2021:** WISE Media Club: Gender Bias and Urban Design
- **December 15, 2021:** WISE Holiday Party

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## **Climate Mobilization Act Series**

With support from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice and the NYC Accelerator, the Climate Mobilization Act Series demystifies New York State's leading climate policy and connects building industry stakeholders with relevant solutions.

- **November 3, 2021:** CMA Series: What About Affordable Housing?

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## **Beyond Zero Series**

The Beyond Zero Series, supported by NYSERDA, celebrates climate friendly projects across the state of New York that improve the health, affordability, and resiliency of communities. With the first program scheduled for Q4 2021, this educational series will highlight successes, strategies, incentives, and goals for accelerating building decarbonization and optimizing carbon neutral design and construction.

- **October 6, 2021:** Beyond Zero Series: Big Buildings, Big Impacts
- **December 15, 2021:** Beyond Zero Series: Practicing the 2030 Challenge

# What Mass Timber Construction Means for NYC

On October 7th, 2021, New York's City Council passed a Local Law to update New York City's construction codes, including allowing the use of Cross Laminated Timber for buildings up to 7 stories tall.

Cross Laminated Timber is a net-negative building material, made from laminated wood stacked in alternating directions, and comparable in strength to concrete and steel.

Stas Zakrzewski, Principal at ZH Architects, wrote about what this news means for New York City's buildings, and how his firm has proven the environmental, financial, and structural benefits of constructing with mass timber.

**Read the full insight from Stas Zakrzewski of ZH Architects here: <https://be-exchange.org/insight/what-mass-timber-construction-means-for-nyc/>**

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**February 3, 2022**

**High Rise / Low Carbon  
Series Launch**

BE-Ex and NYSERDA are pleased to announce the launch of the High Rise / Low Carbon Series, promoting the market for low carbon retrofits of tall buildings across New York State. This inaugural event will highlight the Empire Building Challenge program and the work of four real estate partners pioneering innovative models for deep efficiency in tall buildings in cold climates: Hudson Square Properties, Empire State Realty Trust, L&M Fund Management, and Omni New York.



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**January 6, 2022**

## **WISE Ask Me Anything with Con Edison's Caroline Kopp**

During this Ask Me Anything event from the Women in Sustainability & Energy (WISE) series, Con Edison's Manager of Multifamily Energy Efficiency Programs, Caroline Kopp spoke with BE-Ex Manager of Projects Katie Schwamb, about the challenges and successes of helping multifamily building owners reduce emissions and pursue goals for energy equity, efficiency, and affordability.

► <https://be-exchange.org/wise-ask-me-anything-with-con-edisons-caroline-kopp/>

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**January 26, 2022**

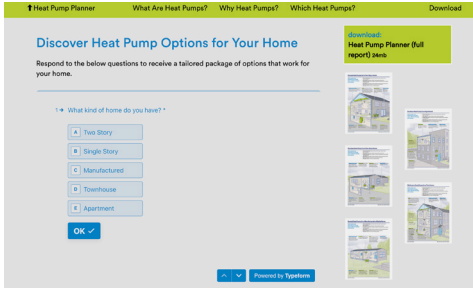
## **A Technical Guide to Heat Pump Installation**

Learn how a multifamily building in New York City was converted to all-electric heating and cooling during this step-by-step training. Project experts will speak to the technical details of installing air source heat pumps, and will detail the impact to cost, energy consumption, and resident wellbeing.



► <https://be-exchange.org/a-technical-guide-to-heat-pump-installation/>

## completed



## microsite Heat Pump Planner Tool

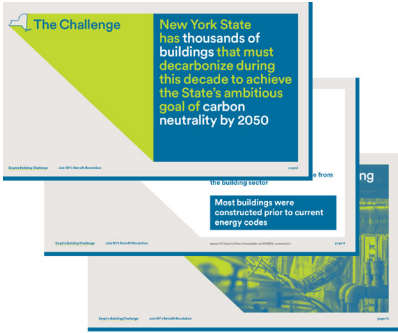
The Heat Pump Planner report developed with Steven Winter Associates and NYSEDA is now available on the BE-Ex website. This tool adapts the content of the Heat Pump Planner into an interactive online format, including a survey that helps determine the best heat pump options for your home based on your building type, duct system, and other parameters.

## module Passive House Construction Primer

Now available on our on-demand learning platform, BE-Ex Ed, the Passive House Construction Primer is a slightly more technical version of the Passive House Primer, providing an overview of key Passive House design and construction principles and offering tips for successful implementation.



## upcoming



### online resource

#### Empire Building Challenge - Outreach Materials

BE-Ex is supporting the NYSERDA Empire Building Challenge program by developing a pitch deck presentation and outreach strategy to attract international solution providers to NY's building decarbonization market, helping to accelerate and scale high-rise, low-carbon building retrofits across the state.

### exhibit

#### NYSERDA Buildings of Excellence Exhibit Refresh

The Buildings of Excellence exhibit at BE-Ex, located in the classroom, will be updated to reflect the latest New York State building decarbonization and climate action goals, as well as progress made by Buildings of Excellence award-winning project teams.

**With the webification of existing materials, expansion of our on-demand learning platform offerings, and continued progress in the development of new resources, we have continued to create, adapt, and revitalize educational resources to best serve our community.**

## programs

Beyond Zero Series: Big Buildings, Big Impacts

**October 6th**

Passive House Primers

**October 19th, November 16th,  
December 14th**

Climate Mobilization Act Primers

**October 21st, November 18th,  
December 16th**

Climate Mobilization Act Series: What About Affordable Housing?

**November 3rd**

WISE Media Club: Gender Bias & Urban Design

**November 9th**

The Building Design Professional's Guide to NYC Climate Action

**November 16th**

Performance-Based Ventilation Design for Health, Efficiency & Compliance

**December 9th**

Beyond Zero Series: Practicing the 2030 Challenge

**December 15th**

WISE Holiday Party

**December 15th**

## project status

### Q3 2021

- Heat Pump Planner Tool microsite
- Passive House Construction Primer
- NYC Accelerator Deep Retrofit Resource Packages
- NYSDA Empire Building Challenge Outreach Materials
- NYSDA Buildings of Excellence Exhibit Refresh

### Ongoing

- Decarbonizing New York City Offices: Resources and Training
- EGC Training: High Performance & Climate Resilient Building Design
- HPD LL97 Affordable Multifamily Roadmap – Case Studies & Best Practices Manual
- Heat Pump Planner Round 2
- BE-Ex Midwest Hubs Support