

Women in Waste: Turning Trash into Opportunity

Join WISE for an inspiring conversation featuring women leaders from across the sustainability industry who are transforming how we think about waste—unlocking new opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and climate action. Through presentations and a moderated discussion, we'll examine how to shift the perception of waste from an unavoidable cost to a valuable asset, what it will take to move circular solutions beyond pilot projects, and the conditions needed to drive broader adoption.

speakers:

Celeste McMickle, Director, Market Transformation & Development, USGBC

Jane Atkinson Gajwani, Director, Office of Energy and Resource Recovery Programs, NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Emily Gove Lekic, Vice President, Sustainability, Vornado Realty Trust

Ora Kemp, Senior Policy Advisor, NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy

Sydney Mainster, Vice President of Sustainability & Design Management, The Durst Organization

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building
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exchange

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women in
sustainability
and energy

31 Chambers Street
New York, NY

Sep 24th, 2026
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

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NYSERDA

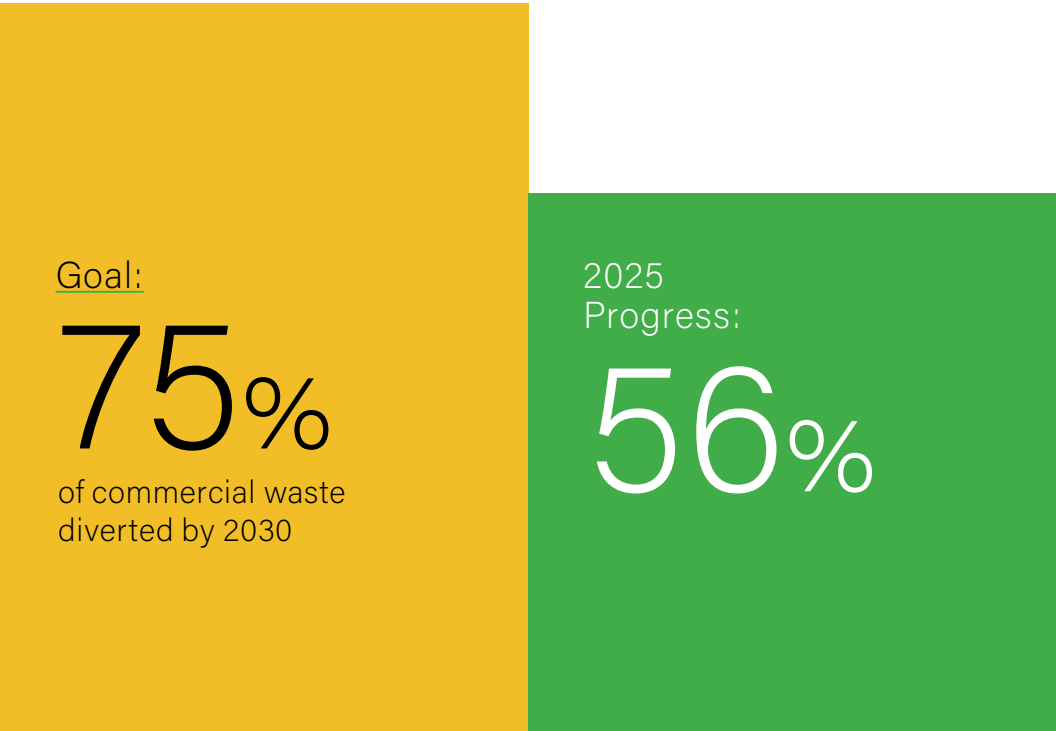
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Vornado Sustainability: Zero Waste Program

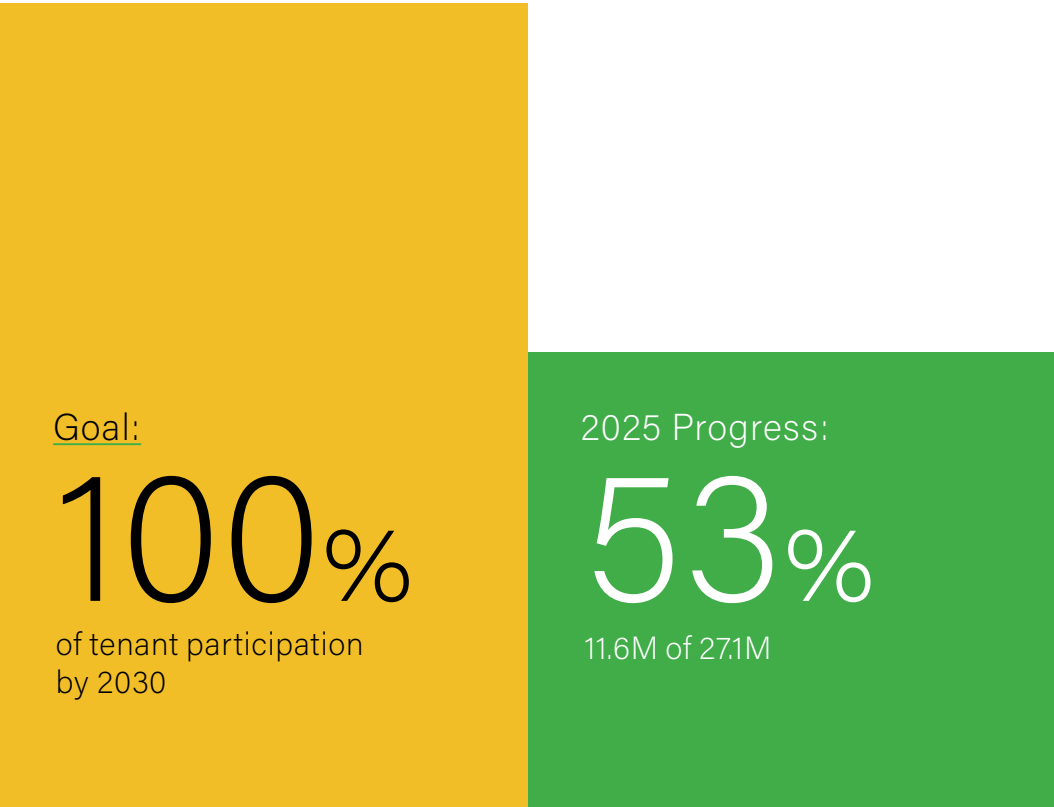
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Goals & Progress

Portfolio Waste Diversion



Tenant Organics Participation



How the Program Works

Organics & Waste Infrastructure

- ▶ Organics collection is available to 100% of the in-service office portfolio.

Data Tracking & Audits

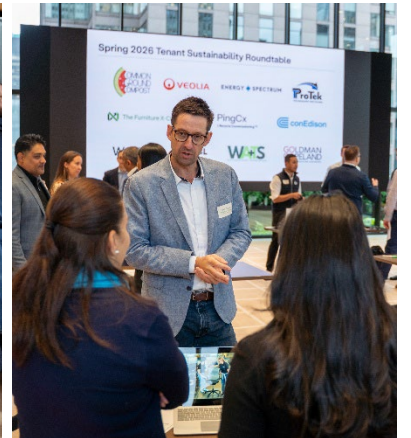
- ▶ Annual waste auditing and a centralized waste-data platform standardizes monthly reporting across 30 properties.

Tenant Engagement

- ▶ Annual roundtables, hands-on “sort-a-thon” events and move-in onboarding equip tenants to sort waste correctly from day one.

Janitorial Training

- ▶ VNO Sustainability works closely with our in-house janitorial team, BMS, to deliver annual zero waste training and waste audit support.



2025 Achievements



2,563
METRIC TONS

of food waste diverted from
landfill in 2025

15,678
MTCO₂e

in avoided emissions from
organics diversion

TRUE
CERTIFIED

555 California Street achieved a
diversion rate of 90%



MAXIMIZING FOOD

DESIGNING SYSTEMS TO UTILIZE SURPLUS

SEPTEMBER 2026

NYC MAYORS OFFICE OF FOOD POLICY

The NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy works to increase food security; promote access to and consumption of healthy foods; and support economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and equity in the food system.

Ora Kemp, Senior Policy Advisor



NYC FOOD AND CLIMATE STRATEGY

- Goal 1: Mitigate the climate and environmental impacts of food consumed by New Yorkers
- Goal 2: Reduce food waste and divert all food waste from landfills
- Goal 3: Adapt NYC's food system to be resilient to shocks and disruptions due to climate change



NYC FOOD AND CLIMATE STRATEGY

REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND DIVERT ALL FOOD WASTE FROM LANDFILLS

- **Strategy 1: Reduce citywide and per capita food waste by 50% by 2030.**
 - Reduce food waste from agency-served meals while maintaining high quality and nutritional standards.
 - Reduce food waste from private sector food retail, service and wholesale operations.
 - Support redistribution and consumption of surplus food across the City.
 - Reduce household food waste.
 - Support efforts to reduce single-use foodservice items.
- **Strategy 2: Divert 100% of food waste from landfills.**
 - Successfully divert 100% of food waste generated at home and City properties.
 - Enable and incentivize increased food waste diversion from businesses.
 - Expand food waste processing capacity locally and regionally.



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 10-year planning exercise required by DEC
- Goal of eight program areas is to reduce waste and maximize recycling, composting, and recovery while maintaining a safe, effective disposal system in NYC

1. Waste Prevention and Reuse	2. Organics Diversion and Recovery	3. Residential Recycling	4. Residential Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
5. Commercial Waste	6. Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste	7. Special Waste	8. Education and Outreach



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2. Organics Diversion and Recovery Program
 - 2.1 Increase the quality and quantity of organics diverted citywide.
 - Reduce contamination by researching alternatives to plastic bin liners and encouraging paper bags for leaf and yard waste.
 - 2.2 Increase the recovery rate of DSNY-managed organics.
 - Monitor new technologies to reduce contamination and increase recovery of compostable products.
 - 2.5 Promote food donation and rescue.
 - DSNY will work with MOFP to increase amount of food donated in the City
 - NYCPS will expand food rescue initiatives and improve data collection
- 5.2 Expand commercial organics law to include more businesses and prioritize donation in line with the State law

MAXIMIZING FOOD: a waste reduction workgroup

- Purpose:
 - Convene leaders in food rescue, logistics, tech, food service, and policy to rethink how surplus food moves through the system.
- Goals
 - Improve efficiency
 - Address food insecurity
 - Advance food equity
 - Cut emissions from landfills
 - Strengthen local businesses



BREAKOUT SECTORS

TRANSPORTATION

Explore shared recovery infrastructure, including storage, transportation, and aggregation hubs.

COMMUNITY BASED SOLUTIONS

Increase collaboration across stakeholders and the supply chain.

TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY

Develop centralized resource hub with digital and analog alternatives.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Mandate requirements for donation in NYC food waste policy.

COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Strengthen education around food safety guidelines and date labels, working with community partners.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Convened Breakout Groups:
 - Transportation Breakout: 5/4/26
 - Community Based Solutions Breakout: 5/18/26
 - Tools and Technology Breakout: 6/1/26
 - Policy and Advocacy Breakout: 6/15/26
 - Communications and Education Breakout: 6/29/26
- Full Convening to review synthesis of contributions

PARTNER PRIORITIES

- Curricula – collaborating with OFNS to implement education and pilot food waste reduction program
- Training – how to safely divert surplus, pre-consumer food from school settings based on existing policies in place
- Hauling – expanded rollout of CWZs and consolidation of contracted hauling providers in wake of Intro 31
- Technology – opportunities for a streamlined database that meets the needs across the full spectrum of partners



NEXT STEPS

- Continued Synthesis of Findings reflecting priorities of the group
- Shared folder for resources supporting diversion efforts
- Development of Maximizing Food Action Steps in alignment with Food and Climate Strategy and Solid Waste Management Plan
- Comprehensive Partner Mapping
- Convening of Maximizing Food Workgroup on Quarterly Basis



THANK YOU

Urban Mining as Standard Practice

BE-Ex | September 24, 2026

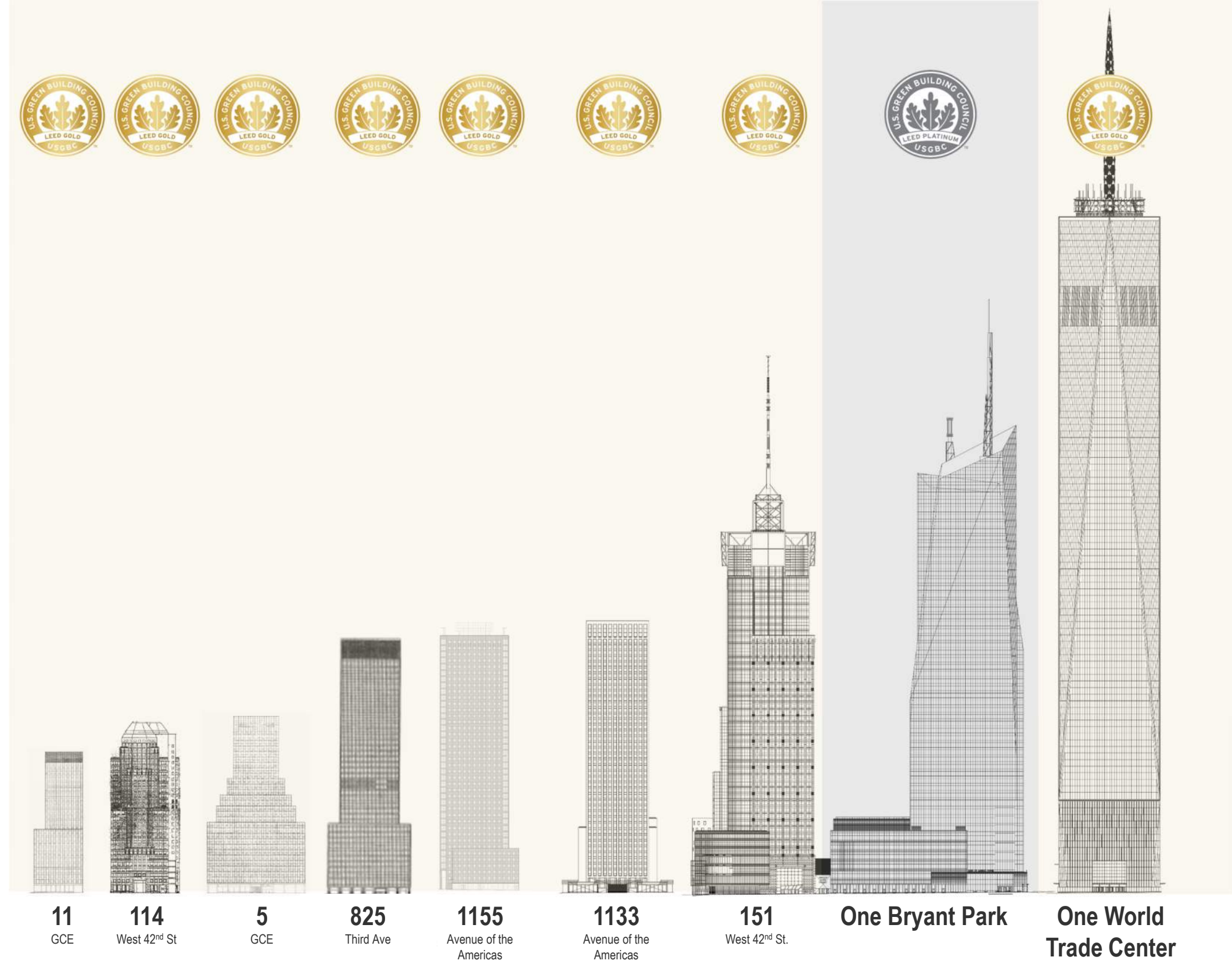
Sydney Mainster

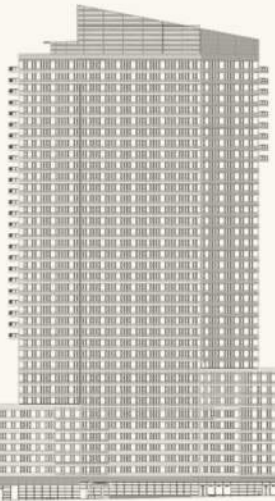
VP of Sustainability and Design Management

The Durst Organization

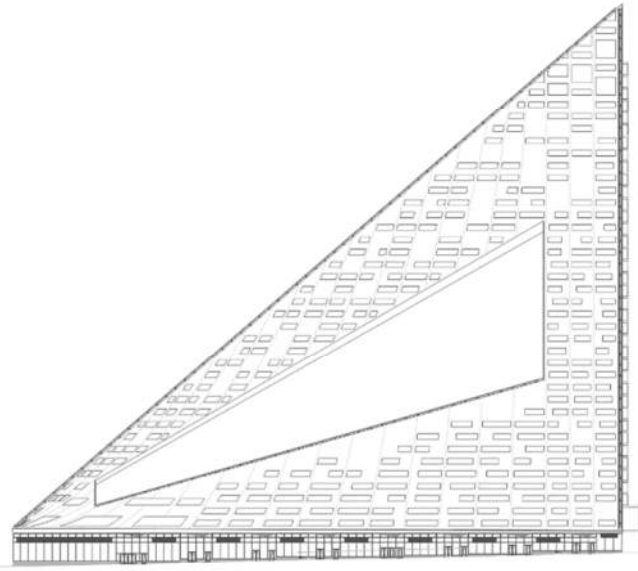


Commercial Properties





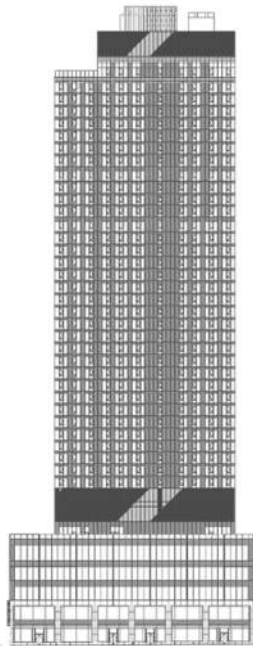
HELENA 57 WEST



VIA 57 WEST



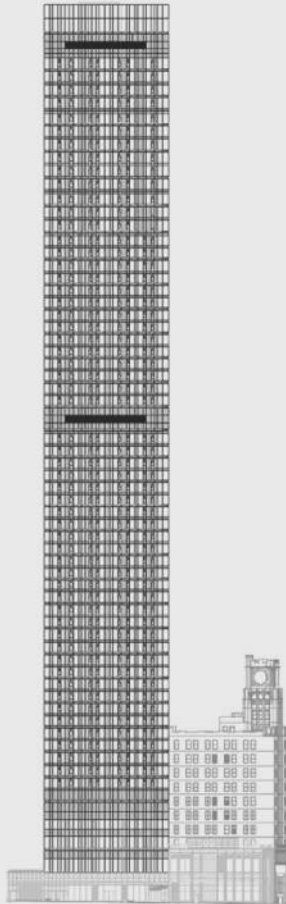
FRANK 57 WEST



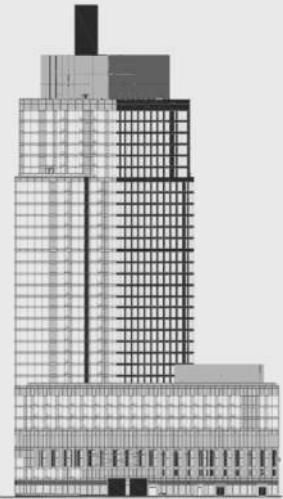
EOS



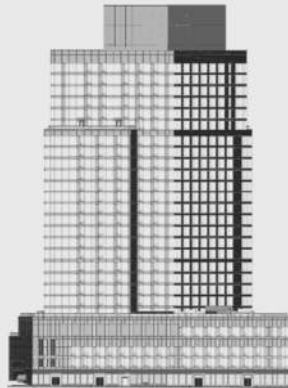
10 HALLETTS POINT



SVEN



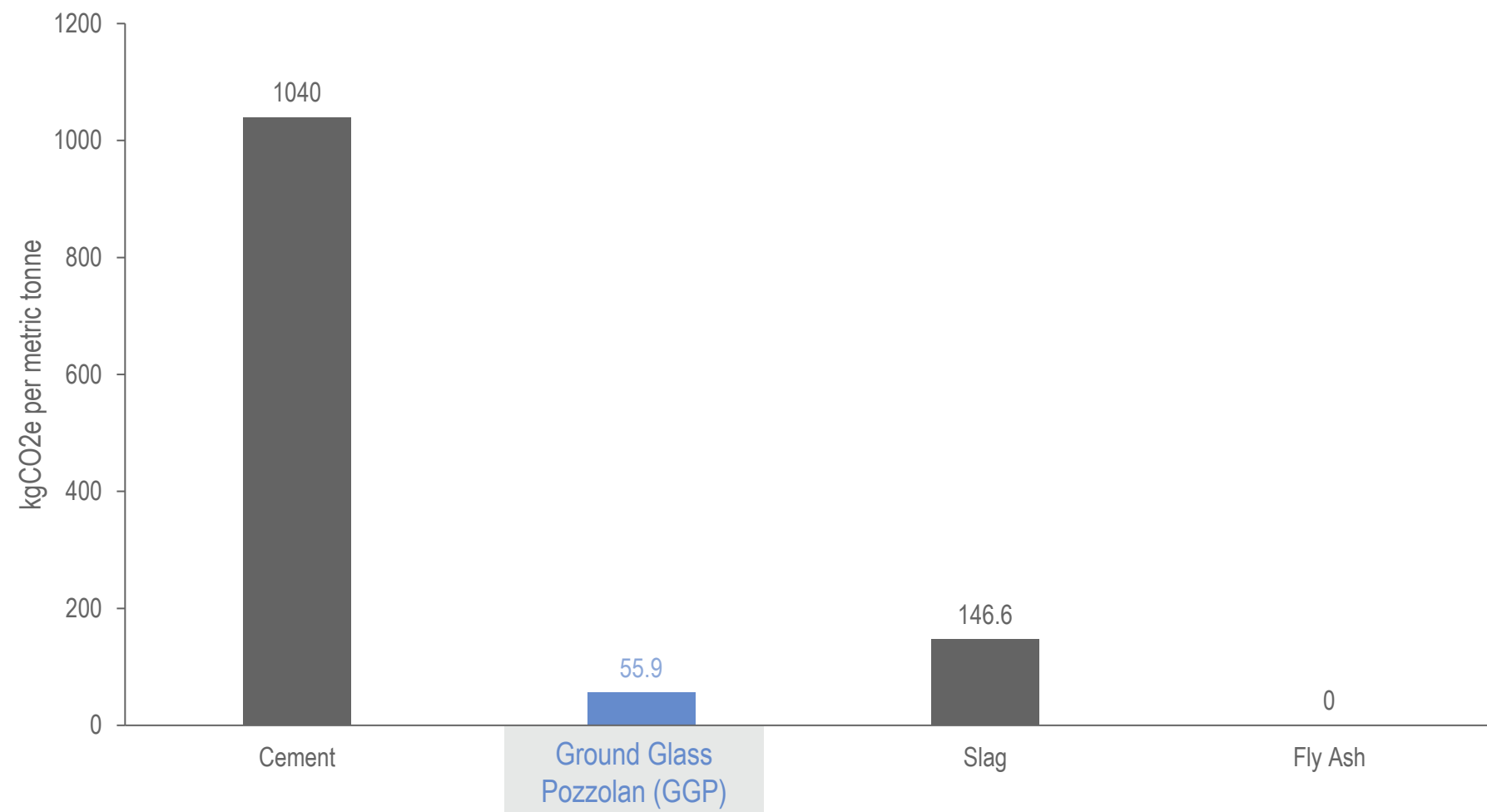
30 HALLETTS POINT



20 HALLETTS POINT



Residential Properties



GWP Impacts (kg CO2e) of Cement + SCMs ¹ per 1 metric tonne	Cement	GGP	Slag	Fly Ash
	1,040	55.9	146.6	0 ²

¹ Cement, Slag, + Fly Ash GWP Impacts are all Industry Average. Ground-Glass Pozzolan (GGP) Impact is Product-Specific to Pozzotive made @ Urban Mining's Beacon Falls facility. No GWP impacts factor in transport to US Concrete batch plants.

² Includes no processing of stored fly ash, which is increasingly necessary due to changes in availability/supply.



Lower Embodied Carbon Concrete

Recycled Ground Glass Pozzolan (GGP) Replacing Cement in High-Performance Concrete

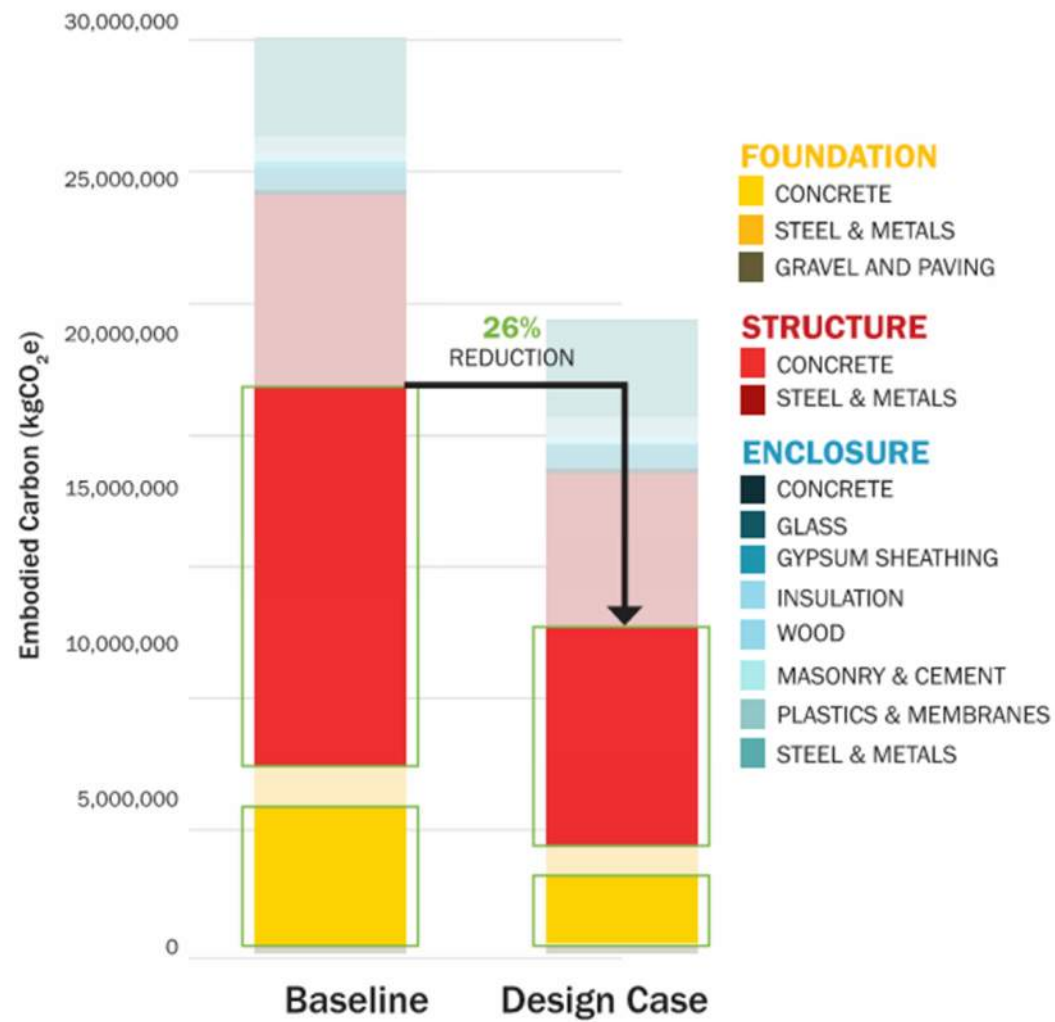
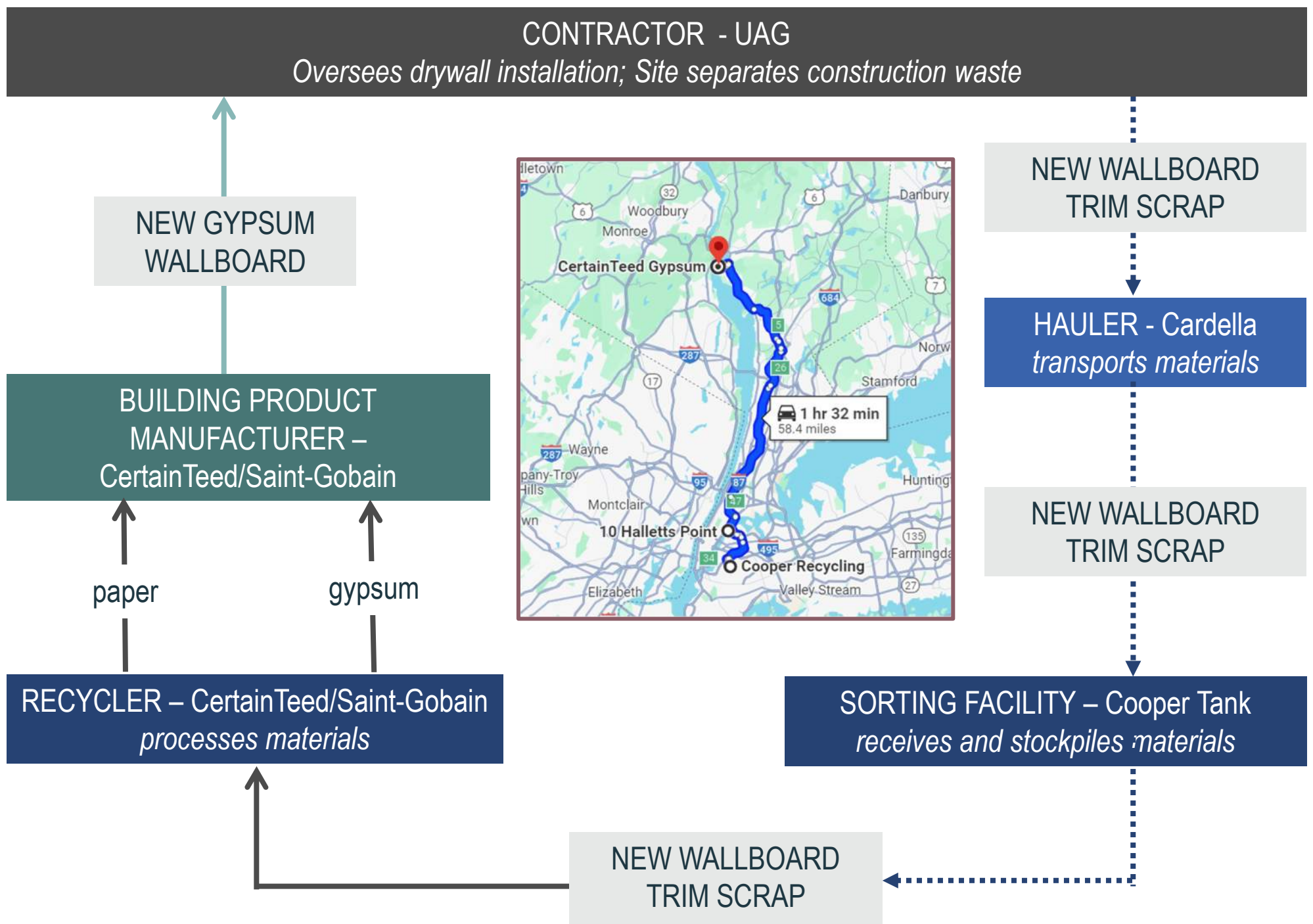


FIGURE 9 - CONCRETE GWP REDUCTION

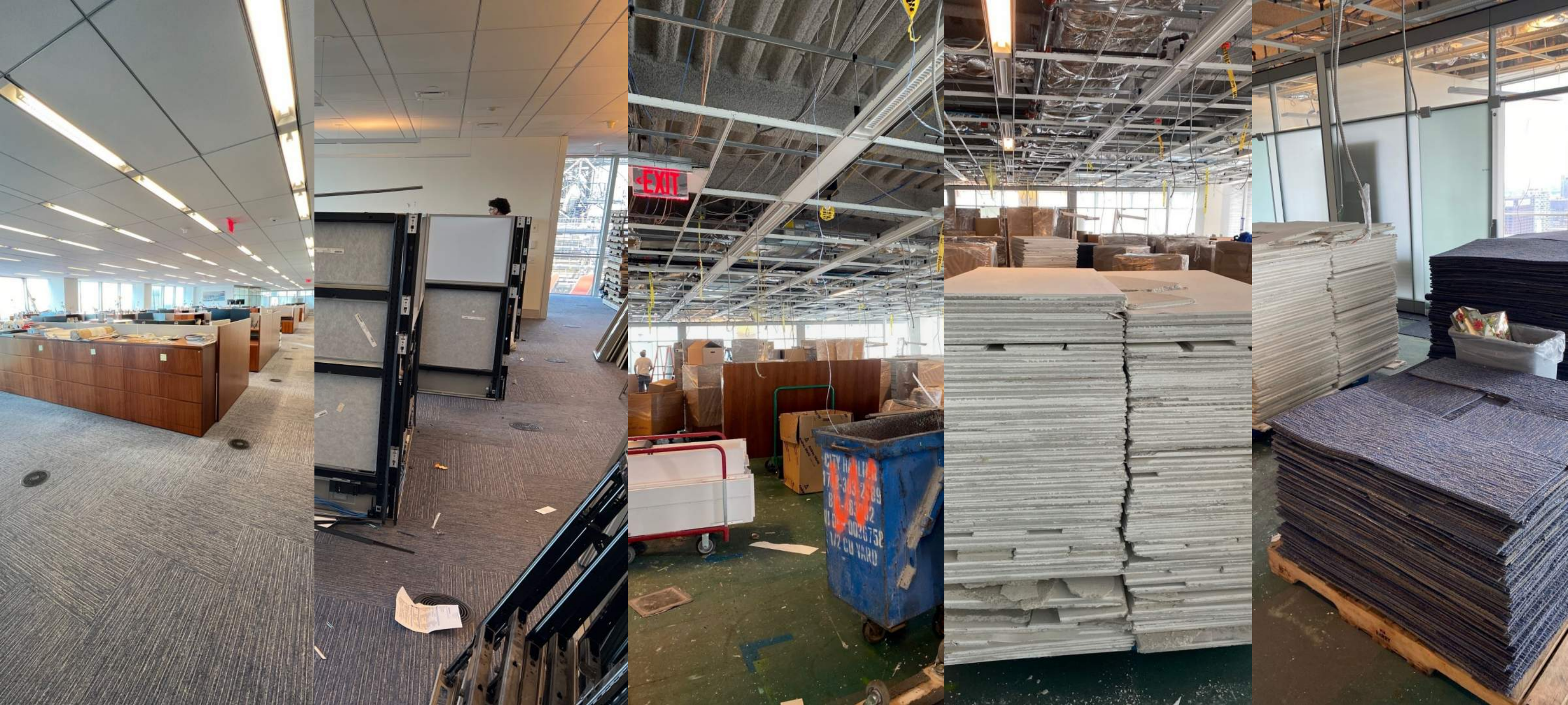
Concrete w. GGP	Concrete w.o. GGP	Total Concrete
18290.5 CY	25854.5 CY	44145 CY
41.43%	58.57%	





Closed Loop Gypsum Wallboard

Trim scrap site separation, recycling, manufacturing at 20-30 Halletts Point



49th Floor, One Bryant Park BoA Tower



Commercial Office Reclamation

Building Product Recovery and Recycling



49th Floor, One Bryant Park BoA Tower



Interior Commercial Office Glass Pilot at One Bryant Park

Architectural Glass Recovery and Recycling



49th Floor, One Bryant Park BoA Tower



Interior Commercial Office Glass Pilot at One Bryant Park

Architectural Glass Recovery and Recycling



Loading Dock, One Bryant Park BoA Tower



Demolished Glass for Removal at One Bryant Park

Architectural Glass Recovery and Recycling

Floor Assessments

Materials Inventory | Salvage Partners | + Add or import

Tools

Overview

5 hidden fields

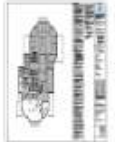
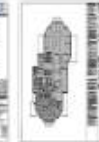
Filter

Group

Sorted by 1 field

Color

Share and sync

		Materials Inventory	Glass - Type	Glass ...	Glass - Photos	Doors Associated...	Doors - Details &...	Doors - Photos	Lighting Associate...	Ligh
1	26	Glass Office Fronts Carpet Tiles (Bentley Mills) Lighting Fixtures Drywall Metals Baseboard Ceiling Tiles & Grid Unistrut	Small amount of glass office fronts	~135"			Seemed to be metal/hollow office doors		 	
2	25	Glass Office Fronts Carpet Tiles (Bentley Mills) Lighting Fixtures Drywall Metals Baseboard Ceiling Tiles & Grid Unistrut		~155"		  			  	
3	24	Glass Office Fronts Wood Doors Lighting Fixtures Drywall Metals Baseboard Ceiling Tiles & Grid Unistrut	Small amount of glass office fronts	~43"	 	  	Wood with silver hardware & glass doors	  	  	
4	23	Glass Office Fronts Wood Doors Lighting Fixtures Drywall Metals Baseboard Ceiling Tiles & Grid Unistrut					Mixed type of doors on the floor			
5	22	Furniture	N/A	0						
6	21	Glass Office Fronts Wood Doors Lighting Fixtures Drywall Metals Baseboard Ceiling Tiles & Grid Unistrut	Glass office fronts with wood doors throughout the floor			 	Tan wood finish doors with no visible hardware		 	
7	20	Glass Office Fronts Lighting Fixtures Drywall Metals Baseboard Ceiling Tiles & Grid Unistrut	Glass office fronts with glass doors throughout the floor			  			  	These ar
8	19	Glass Office Fronts Lighting Fixtures Drywall Metals Baseboard	Glass office fronts with glass doors throughout the		 					

+ Add...

26 records

26 records



WHAT IS CIRCULARLY

The **operating system** for building material reuse and deconstruction.

Predictability per material being deconstructed

Clear, data-driven deconstruction opportunity reports generated before anyone is committed to disassembly.

Reclaimed historic brick

Est. labor hrs	1048
Est. labor cost	\$26,150
Est. resale value	\$94,100
Est. landfill avoided	\$57,200
Est. Net Value	\$125,150

Create a match



NYCEDC Launches First-Ever Pilot of a Circular Construction Hub at MADE Bush Terminal

By NYCEDC | AUG 25 2026

press@edc.nyc



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TREELINE BY STICKBULB
Contact for pricing
Available: Until Dec 31, 2028



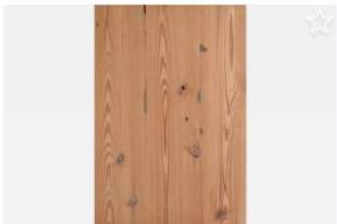
Salvaged Bowling Lanes: Southern Yellow Pine + Hard Maple Mix
\$401.00 negotiable
Available: Now



Reclaimed Boardwalk
\$5.85 / LF
Available: Now



Marble Kitchen Countertop (Sink Included)
\$100.00 negotiable
Available: Now



Antique Heart Pine - Flooring, Paneling Lumber
\$10.00 / BF
Available: Now



Remanufactured LED Light Fixtures from the SPARC project
Contact for pricing
Available: Now



Reclaimed New York Granite Cobblestone - Cubes 5" x 5" x 5"
\$4.25 / each
Available: Now



1954 Glazed Ceramic Blocks from Hunter Brookdale School of Nursing
\$30.00 / each
Available: Now



Historic Brick from the Lincoln Tunnel Retaining Wall Deconstruction - Type C
\$2.25 / each
Available: Now



Historic Brick from the Lincoln Tunnel Retaining Wall Deconstruction - Type A.1
\$2.25 / each
Available: Now



Historic Brick from the Lincoln Tunnel Retaining Wall Deconstruction - Type H.2
\$2.25 / each
Available: Now



Historic Brick from the Lincoln Tunnel Retaining Wall Deconstruction: Common Brick (Red)
\$2.25 / each
Available: Now



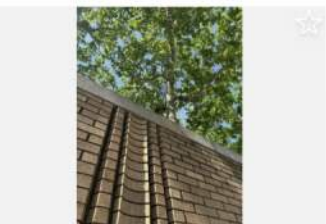
Historic Brick from the Lincoln Tunnel Retaining Wall Deconstruction - Type B
\$2.25 / each
Available: Now



Historic Brick from the Lincoln Tunnel Retaining Wall Deconstruction - Type A.2
\$2.25 / each
Available: Now



Historic Brick from the Lincoln Tunnel Retaining Wall Deconstruction - Type G
\$2.25 / each
Available: Now



Historic Brick from the Lincoln Tunnel Retaining Wall Deconstruction (See Diagram for Shape...)
\$2.25 / each
Available: Now



Marketplace
Deconstruction, Salvage, Reuse and Recycling

Thank you!

Sydney Mainster

smainster@durst.org



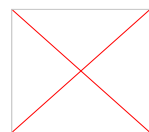
Energy Recovery from Wastewater and Food Waste

BE- Ex & WISE Women in Waste: Turning Trash into Opportunity
September 24th, 2026

Jane Atkinson Gajwani, P.E. C.E.M
Director, Office of Energy and Resource Recovery Programs
Agency Chief Decarbonization Officer
NYC Department of Environmental Protection



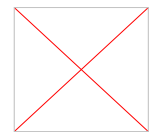
We Are DEP



Providing safe and reliable drinking water



Treating wastewater and recovering resources



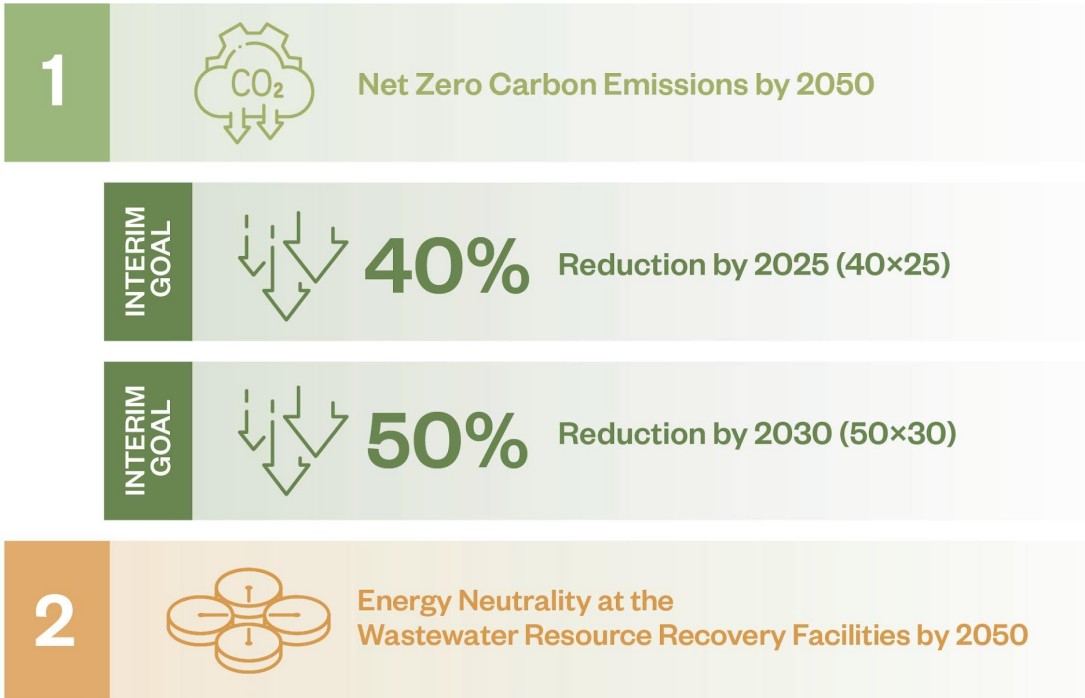
Protecting New Yorkers from flooding



Regulating air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution

DEP treats 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater daily across 14 in-city wastewater resource recovery facilities (WRRFs)

GHG Emissions Reduction and Energy Goals



DEP's infrastructure provides many opportunities for energy recovery

Sewer Thermal Heat Recovery:

Capturing the thermal energy contained in sewers. Heat pumps are utilized to upgrade the wastewater to a useful temperature, providing heat and cooling to local buildings.

Wastewater Decarbonization Opportunities

Biogas:

Created during the biological process of anaerobic digestion. Biogas is approximately 60% methane and can be used on site in boilers or upgraded into renewable natural gas for export.

Co-digestion:

The process of adding pre-processed food waste to digesters. This increases biogas production and provides a local recycling outlet for organic waste.

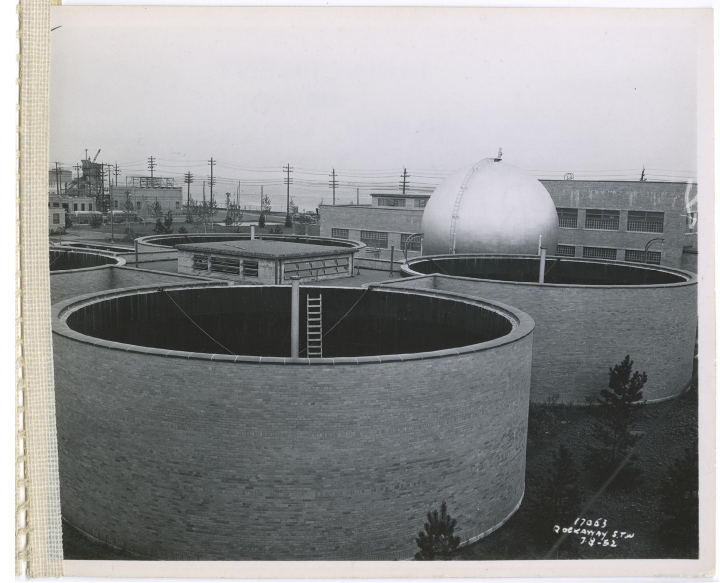
Effluent Heat Recovery

Recuperating energy from clean effluent water. The heat is upgraded using heat pumps and can be used as a energy source for district heat systems.

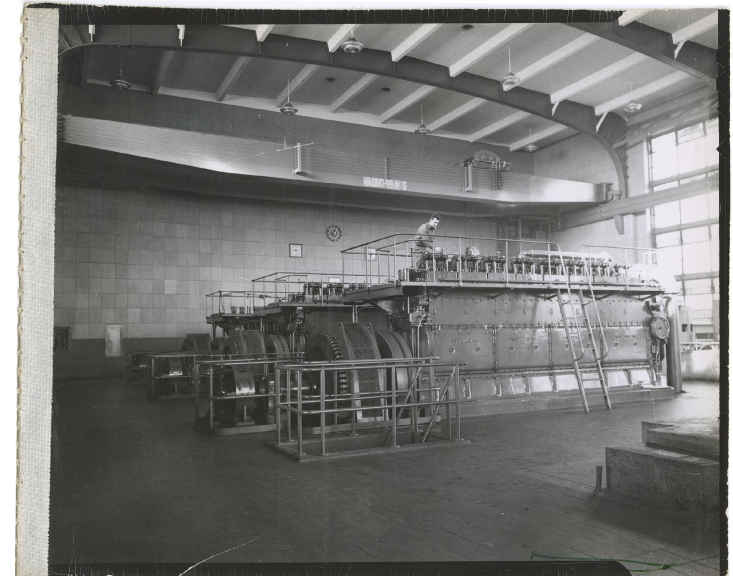


DEP has been generating energy from wastewater since the 1930s

- Humanity has a long history of utilizing organics as an energy source
 - Fire: Combustion of woody & dried plant debris for heat, cooking, & safety
 - Fossil fuels: Coal, oil, and natural gas are formed from organic materials
- DEP's first energy recovery efforts focused on the beneficial use of biogas generated from anaerobic digestion of sludge
- Anaerobic digestion is a biological process in which microorganisms break down organic materials in large, heated tanks called digesters



Digesters and Gas Holder: Rockaway, 1952

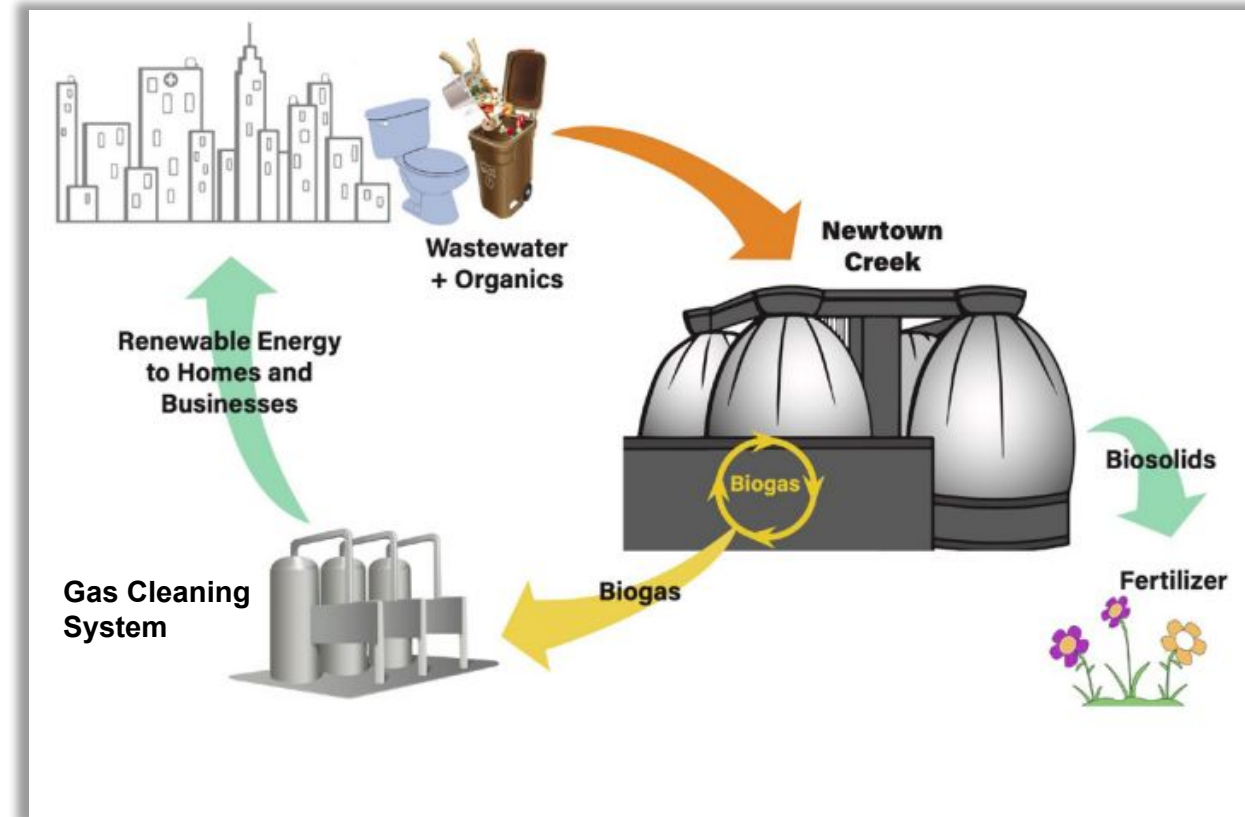


Cogeneration engines: Coney Island, 1949

Newtown Creek WRRF is the City's first facility to co-digest food scraps and export renewable natural gas

- Co-digestion provides local organics processing capacity to complement composting facilities and support the City's organics diversion goals
- Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) can manage 250 tons per day of pre-processed food scraps & FOG
- Biogas that cannot be used on site is purified to renewable natural gas and exported to the local gas grid as a direct replacement to fossil fuels

Circular Economy Hub at Newtown Creek WRRF



Thank you!

Jane Gajwani, P.E. C.E.M.
Agency Chief Decarbonization Officer
Director, Office of Energy and Resource Recovery Programs
New York City Department of Environmental Protection





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