

The New York City Climate Mobilization Act demands more in energy efficiency from buildings

Reducing carbon emissions with programs focused on green building practices is the future of the built environment

New York City buildings contribute to nearly 70 percent of the city's carbon emissions. The Climate Mobilization Act (CMA) legislation addresses those buildings that are greater than 25,000 square feet, which are responsible for 30 percent of those carbon emissions. New York City produces over 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year and they will be gradually rolling out increasingly stringent CO₂ emissions limits, working toward net zero building design and construction on future infrastructure projects.

Part of NYC's climate action plan to ensuring a cleaner, healthier environment for current and future urban residents, the legislation will impact nearly 60 percent of the current building stock (as shown in figure 1), amounting to 50,000 structures.

Buildings that meet the 25,000+ square feet requirement will be mandated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030 from a 2005 baseline, increasing to an 80 percent reduction requirement by 2050. This is a benchmark that only approximately 25% of the current buildings meet (as shown in figure 2).

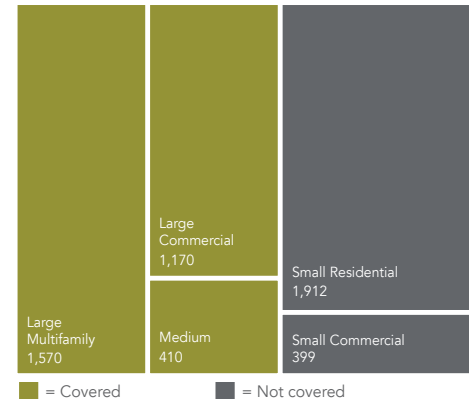
Green building requirements mean that it's time to think differently about new construction and renovation projects in tomorrow's built environment. Through concepts like Passive House design and construction, and new legislation we can help to limit our carbon footprint in New York City and places across North America as we continue to find solutions in building a brighter future for all.

"New York City has taken a very aggressive approach to combatting climate change. As buildings in our dense metropolis contribute the bulk of our carbon emissions, making a substantial reduction of impact can only occur if we address the energy performance of our buildings (new and existing alike)."

Todd Kimmel, Certified Passive House Designer,
Regional Specifications Manager, ROCKWOOL

FIGURE 1: Volume and types of buildings covered by the NYC legislation

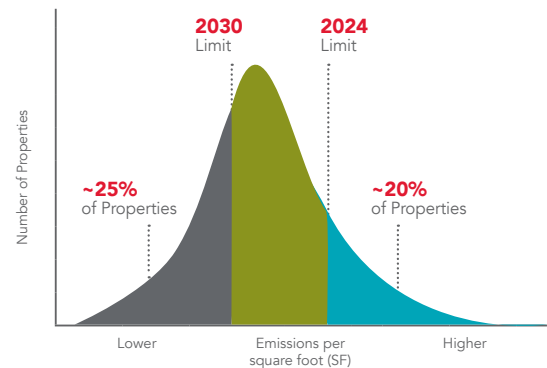
Nearly 60% of the building area will be included



* Millions of square feet (SF)
Source: NYC department of planning pluto dataset 2017

FIGURE 2: How the new emissions caps will impact New York City's current building stock.

Only 25% of today's buildings meet 2030 emissions limits



This graph is meant as a conceptual aid and does not represent actual properties or emissions limits.

Read the full post by visiting rockwool.com/blog/nyc-green-building-law-takes-aim-at-building-energy-efficiency