

Chapter 17 : GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A. INTRODUCTION

As noted in the *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual*, increased concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) are changing the global climate, resulting in wide-ranging effects on the environment, including rising sea levels, increases in temperature, and changes in precipitation levels. Although this is occurring on a global scale, the environmental effects of climate change are also likely to be felt at the local level. Through PlaNYC, New York City's long-term sustainability program, the City advances sustainability initiatives and goals to both greatly reduce GHG emissions and increase the City's resilience to climate change. The New York City Climate Protection Act, enacted as Local Law 22 of 2008, established the goal to reduce citywide GHG emissions to 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 (the "GHG reduction goal"). This goal was developed for the purpose of planning for an increase in population of almost one million residents while achieving significant greenhouse gas reductions.

B. PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

The Proposed Action would not be inconsistent with the City's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and climate change goals. Since the Proposed Action would not facilitate development greater than 350,000 square feet on a single development site or involve other energy intense projects, there would be no significant adverse GHG emissions or climate change impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

C. SCREENING

As mentioned above, the City has established sustainability initiatives and goals for greatly reducing GHG emissions and for adapting to climate change in the City. Generally, a GHG emissions assessment is only conducted for larger projects undergoing an EIS or other energy-intense project as they have a greater potential to be inconsistent with the City's GHG reduction goal to a degree considered significant. More specifically, a GHG consistency assessment is typically warranted for city capital projects subject to environmental review; or a project that proposes either power generation (not including emergency backup power, renewable power, or small-scale cogeneration); or regulations and other actions that fundamentally change the City's solid waste management system by changing solid waste transport mode, distances, or disposal technologies. In addition, a project conducting an EIS that would also result in development of 350,000 square feet or greater would also warrant an assessment.

As described in Chapter 2, Analytical Framework, based on prototypical analysis, the Proposed Action would not facilitate development greater than 350,000 square feet on a single development site or involve other energy intense projects, and a GHG consistency assessment is not warranted. The Proposed Action would not be inconsistent with the City's emissions reduction goals, as defined in the CEQR Technical Manual. Also, as described in Chapter 14, Energy, the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impact on energy consumption.