



*Testimony of JobsFirstNYC on behalf of the Green Economy Network
before the
Annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Limits for Buildings
Hearing on 10/24*

Thank you for allowing JobsFirstNYC to provide testimony on behalf of the Green Economy Network today regarding Local Law 97.

My name is Christine James-McKenzie, and I'm the Communications and Policy Manager at JobsFirstNYC, which provides research and develops systems that impact how philanthropy and government invest in workforce development. We create systems that focus on making NYC more inclusive and advancing economic mobility for all young adults and the communities they call home.

The [Green Economy Network](#), launched by JobsFirstNYC, is a dynamic partnership between workforce development agencies, community-based organizations, and employers shaping New York City's green economy. The Network establishes effective practices and aligns current systems to create green jobs and career paths, prioritizing access and sustainability to achieve a just and sustainable economy where quality green jobs are accessible to everyone.

More than 150 people representing over 100 different workforce development organizations, private businesses, educational institutions, and more have contributed to building the Network. The Network leverages its collective voice to advocate for policies that overlap workforce development and environmental priorities.

We are here to testify on behalf of the Green Economy Network because we believe (beyond the positive impact on our environment) that Local Law 97 will help to grow new industries and create jobs. By embracing it as smart legislation, we can begin to transform New York City and its green economy while also making significant strides in the fight against climate change.

Recent financial analysis conducted by the City highlights a pivotal point - an estimated \$12-15 billion investment is needed in approximately 15,000 buildings in order to comply with Local Law 97's emission limits by 2030. Of that, only \$5-6 billion would pay for itself through energy savings. Roughly 25% of buildings that have to make investments will find their costs fully covered by energy savings. If undertaken, this work would generate up to 140,000 jobs.

The Adams Administration's approach to LL97 mobilization proposes specific achievable actions that the City and State and Federal partners can take to enable buildings to achieve ambitious emissions reductions. At the same time, these actions will generate well-needed local jobs and support the overall growth of New York City.

JobsFirstNYC and the Green Economy Network stand ready to support LL97, particularly the good jobs it can create.