

# The New York Times

## New York Today: Will Green Roofs Get the Green Light?

Alexandra S. Levine & Jonathan Wolfe



Existing rooftop wind power at 429 East 156th Street, Bronx. Credit Rob Bennett for The New York Times

*Good morning on this flawless Wednesday.*

A bill being introduced in the City Council today would require green roofs, solar power or wind turbines to be installed on new skyscrapers going up around New York.

The goal: to lower our energy output.

“Right now, the big conversation is around what we can do to combat climate change, and now more than ever, when the federal government is rolling back all the progress we’ve made to reduce our carbon footprint in the country, we have to step up,” Councilman Rafael L. Espinal Jr. of Brooklyn, the bill’s lead sponsor, said in an interview.

“We have to look at the infrastructure improvements we can make here to ensure we’re doing our part in reducing our carbon footprint and cooling our city down.”

Today’s measure would apply to commercial buildings like offices, industrial spaces, manufacturing facilities and storage units; two separate bills, introduced last session by Councilmen Stephen Levin of

Brooklyn and Donovan Richards Jr. of Queens, would cover residential homes and community sites like schools, libraries, post offices and medical centers.

The resulting package of legislation, then, would mandate these green alternatives for nearly all new construction across New York City. (And for existing buildings undergoing major renovations or remodeling their roofs.)

Developers and homeowners would have several options to choose from — green roofs, solar panels and wind turbines.

“Green roofs are unique in that they will help reduce the amount of heat that buildings are producing and help cool cities,” Mr. Espinal said.

Mr. Espinal acknowledged that green roofs are often considered a luxury and buildings that have them may be sold at a premium. “But passing these bills would make green roofs the norm across the five boroughs, and in turn, make it more cost-efficient for anyone looking to buy or rent an apartment,” he said.

Similar mandates have already been passed in [Toronto](#), [Denver](#) and [San Francisco](#). And in New York City, buildings — like the [Jacob K. Javits Convention Center](#) and [Brooklyn Steel](#) — even promote them.

Who’s next?

Here’s what else is happening:

Weather

[Summer lovin’](#).

It will reach 88 today but will be 20 degrees cooler tonight.

The rest of [the week](#) is looking splendid, but the weekend — questionable.

In the News

- Dean G. Skelos, once one of the most powerful political figures in New York, was found guilty in a major corruption case after an earlier conviction was thrown out. [\[New York Times\]](#)



Dean Skelos was found guilty of wielding his political clout to pressure business executives to send his son around \$300,000 for a patchwork of no-show or low-show jobs. Credit Holly Pickett for The New York Times

- A Chinese billionaire can no longer evade prison, as a federal judge in Manhattan has ordered him

to surrender to the authorities from “home detention.” [\[New York Times\]](#)

- Four states, including New York and New Jersey, have sued the federal government over a sharp reduction in the deductibility of state and local income taxes. [\[New York Times\]](#)
- Joseph Ponte, the city’s former correction commissioner, has agreed to pay \$18,500 as a penalty for his misuse of a city vehicle to make personal trips. [\[New York Times\]](#)

In recent weeks, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has been seeking small donors for his campaign. [\[New York Times\]](#)



In recent weeks, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s bid to find small donors has included a contest to win Billy Joel tickets and an unlimited-drinks happy hour in Manhattan for only \$5, though the format was ditched to avoid running afoul of state rules. CreditChang W. Lee/The New York Times

- Citi Bike has expanded its discount memberships to reach more low-income New Yorkers. [\[New York Times\]](#)
- One person has died in connection with a cluster of Legionnaires’ disease cases in Upper Manhattan. [\[New York Times\]](#)
- “School of Rock” announced that it would be ending its run on Broadway. [\[New York Times\]](#)
- A new report shows that about half the neighborhoods served by the subway system are not wheelchair accessible. [\[am New York\]](#)
- Eric Adams, the Brooklyn borough president, is proposing the creation of a database that would monitor bad landlords. [\[Crain’s New York\]](#)

- Five children died in a five-alarm fire that tore through a home in Union City, New Jersey. [[NJ.com](#)]
- A new nonprofit is showing the city's homeless that they're not invisible: Together Helping Others gives the homeless supplies and something else they may lack — human interaction. [[Metro.US](#)]
- Today's Metropolitan Diary: "[Conversation on Cortelyou Road](#)"
- For a global look at what's happening, see [Your Morning Briefing](#).

#### Coming Up Today

- The [Carnegie Hall Citywide](#) series presents a performance by the Grammy Award-winning dance band [Brave Combo](#) at Bryant Park in Midtown. 5:30 p.m. [Free]
- In collaboration with the Art Dealers Association of America, [30 local art galleries](#) host a [Chelsea Gallery Walk](#) around the neighborhood, from 18th to 36th Streets. 6 p.m. [Free]
- A sunset screening of "[The Wizard of Oz](#)," with musical accompaniment by the Highline Chamber Ensemble's jazz trio, at Prospect Park in Brooklyn. 7 p.m. [Free, [R.S.V.P. here](#)]
- The author Mary Stockwell discusses her book, "[Unlikely General: 'Mad' Anthony Wayne and the Battle for America](#)," at the [Reading Room](#) in Midtown. 7 p.m. [Free]
- Outdoor movie night: "[When Harry Met Sally](#)" and "[Mary Poppins](#)" in Brooklyn; "[Viva Las Vegas](#)" on Staten Island; "[E.T.](#)" and "[Wonder Woman](#)" in the Bronx; "[Black Mother](#)" in Queens; "[Moana](#)" and "[Sita Sings the Blues](#)" in Manhattan. Times vary. [Free]
- Alternate-side parking remains [in effect](#) until August 15.
- For more events, see The New York Times's [Arts & Entertainment guide](#).

#### And Finally...

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority recently hired its first accessibility chief: Alex Elegudin.

Mr. Elegudin is responsible for improving accessibility to the subway and bus systems, among other duties.

We will be interviewing Mr. Elegudin this week to talk about his priorities for improving accessibility for riders.

That's where you come in. We want to know: what questions do you have for Mr. Elegudin?

Is there an ever-faulty elevator at your stop? Want to know the timetable for more accessible buses in your neighborhood? Or perhaps how the M.T.A. plans to improve Access-A-Ride service?

Let us know what you would like us to ask the new chief by sending your question in an email — along with your full name and neighborhood — to [nytoday@nytimes.com](mailto:nytoday@nytimes.com). We'll be selecting a few reader questions to ask him during our interview, and we will feature some in an upcoming column.

*New York Today is a morning roundup that is published weekdays at 6 a.m. If you don't get it in your inbox already, you can sign up to receive it by email [here](#).*