

A Pledge to Create Carbon Free and Healthy Schools



For decades, elected officials in New York City have failed to address the deterioration of our public school buildings. As mayor, I will change that. Too many of these buildings—which are the communal cornerstones in many neighborhoods—are in need of basic repairs, including antiquated heating and air conditioning systems, deteriorating rooftops, and outdated electrical grids.

The time to fix this critical issue is now. At a time when the American people are making historic investments in rebuilding our economy, investing in New York City schools is a perfect opportunity to Build Back Better. We can simultaneously take on climate change, make school facilities healthier for students and the school community, create good union jobs, and save millions in energy costs.

I call on federal lawmakers to allocate money in the infrastructure bill to fund energy audits and to retrofit schools for energy efficiencies, including solar power. As mayor, I will ensure this money is spent to create a safe, healthy, cost-effective school environment while contributing to a greener New York City.

As mayor, I pledge on Earth Day 2021 to create Carbon Free and Healthy Schools because:

- Schools should be healthy and safe for students, staff, and the community.
- Schools should be a model for carbon free buildings with optimal energy efficiencies.
- Schools most in need of investment should be prioritized, including those with the most antiquated heating and cooling systems—particularly in Black and Brown communities that have been historically underserved and poorly maintained.
- Schools should utilize rooftops to generate their own solar power.
- Schools should reinvest the cost-savings from their own solar power into ongoing maintenance of the buildings and classroom instruction.
- Retrofitting schools for energy efficiency must create good union jobs for New York's communities.
- Local lawmakers should commit to fully implementing the funding already allocated for energy-efficiency retrofits and solar panels on schools.
- Federal lawmakers should fund energy audits on all New York City public schools and provide low-cost financing for retrofits as part of its investments in infrastructure.
- New York City should lead the way to create Carbon Free and Healthy Schools and green infrastructure to tackle the climate crisis.

Signed,

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