

Meeting Brooklyn's Energy Needs with Community-Owned Clean Power

The Brooklyn Alliance for Sustainable Energy (BASE) is a coalition of community-based planning organization from Brooklyn working together to advocate for cleaner sources of energy and a more efficient and resilient energy infrastructure. **We are advocating for the following principles:** 1) Transparent decision-making and implementation process, 2) Strong provisions to control the environmental justice impacts of projects on vulnerable communities, and 3) A diverse, equitable energy market in compliance.

THE PROBLEM

- ⇒ **Energy usage in Brooklyn is growing** – Projections show that within the next 10 years, Con Edison will not have the capacity to meet the peak energy needs for all of Brooklyn.
- ⇒ **Brownsville 2.0 substation won't have the capacity to power Brooklyn in the summer** – This substation services Bushwick, Bedford Stuyvesant, East New York, Cypress Hills, Crown Heights, East Flatbush, and Brownsville
- ⇒ **Vulnerable people are concentrated in neighborhoods powered by Brownsville 2.0.** 90 % of residents are people of color; 76% residents have a median household income below \$30,000, and 68,880 people reside in 66 NYCHA housing developments
- ⇒ **Increased load demand could mean losing power when we need it most:** during extreme weather events, such as heat waves when air conditioners are blasting and storm surges that disrupt outdated energy infrastructure.

THE SOLUTION:

- ⇒ To address these challenges, Con Edison negotiated a program called **The Brooklyn Queens Demand Management (BQDM)** with the NY Public Service Commission to reduce demand by 52 Megawatts by:
 - **Building a micro-grid** which links multiple energy generation sources, either connects to the City's grid or function on its own;
 - **Reducing the load** during times of peak demand;
 - **Increasing energy efficiency** in buildings and appliances; and
 - **Investing in long-term solutions** such as new, low-energy building designs
- ⇒ **This new approach can represent a fundamental change in how communities get electricity.** However, we need meaningful community involvement address critical questions:
 - **Public health and local air quality:** Will the microgrid use clean energy to reduce the pollution burden in vulnerable Brooklyn neighborhoods?
 - **Economic development & energy efficiency:** How can community residents directly benefit from energy efficiency programs in the short and long-term?

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ⇒ **Demand a strong response to prevent any community threat to public health or the local economy!** Be involved in the energy decisions, for our health and for equal access to local economic development.

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