# Decarbonization with Decarceration: Renewable Rikers and the Transition to Clean Power

Rebecca Bratspies
CUNY School of Law



Center for Urban Environmental Reform





Global warming since pre-industrial Remaining carbon budget 2021+, GtCO<sub>2</sub> (66% chance of success)



For a 66% chance to keep warming to 1.5°C, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that can be released in the atmosphere is about 360 GtCO<sub>2</sub>. For a 66% chance of staying below 1.7°C, it is about 660 GtCO<sub>2</sub>.



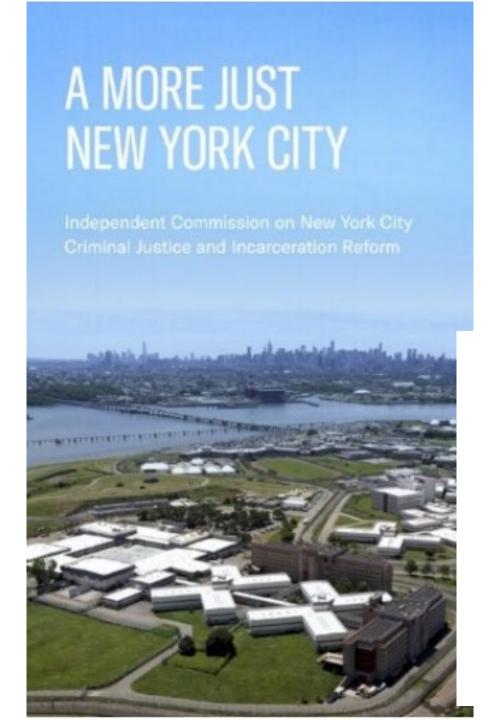
So, at current rate of production, that means that we have approximately:











### LIPPMAN COMMISSION REPORT APRIL 2017

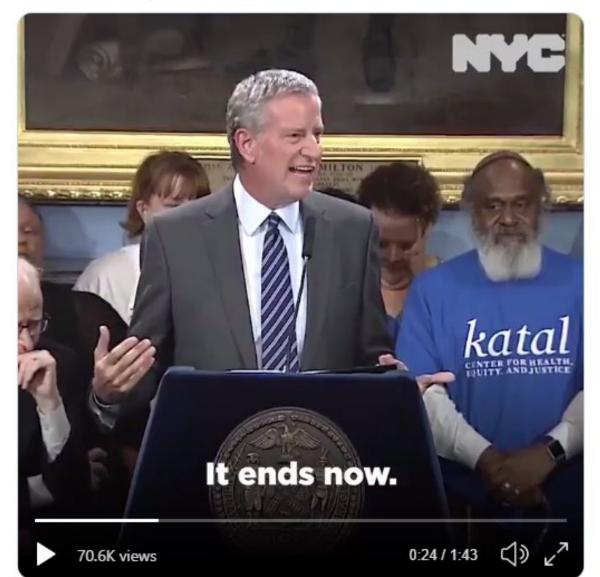
Promoting Public Benefit: Rikers Island offers a unique opportunity to generate broad public benefits for all New Yorkers and specifically to the communities that have been most negatively affected by jails. Public benefits should include creating accessible good-paying jobs, promoting equity, improving the environment, and increasing resiliency.



Mayor Bill de Blasio ② @NYCMayor · Oct 17, 2019

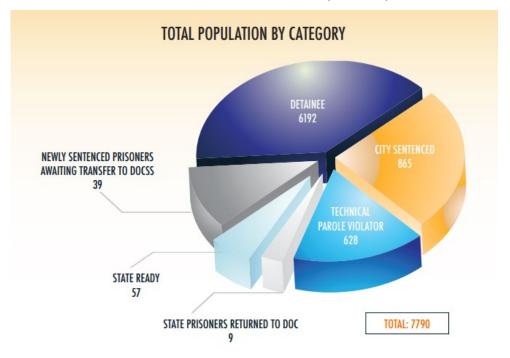
Today we made history. The era of mass incarceration is ending in New York City.

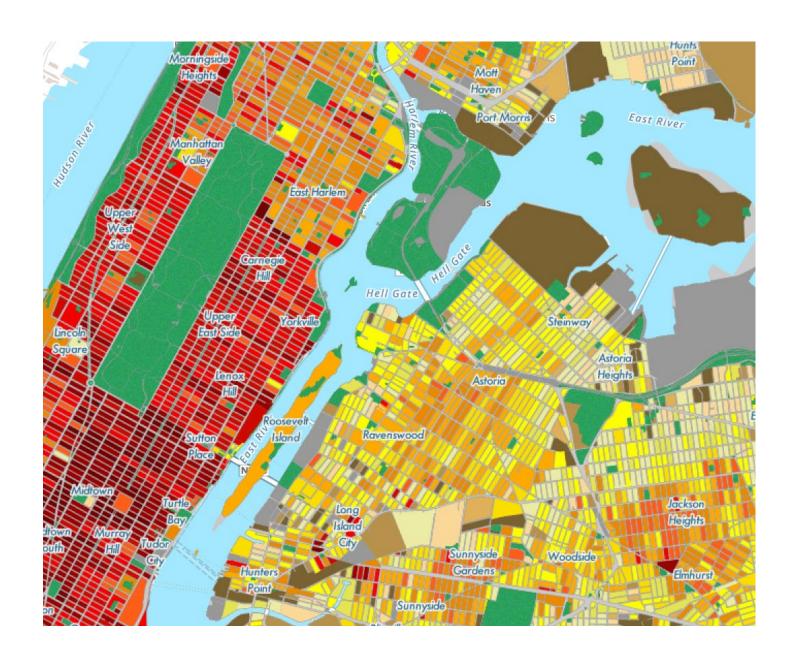
It's a moment where a cycle is broken — where we said no to mass incarceration and yes to redemption.



### Local Law 192

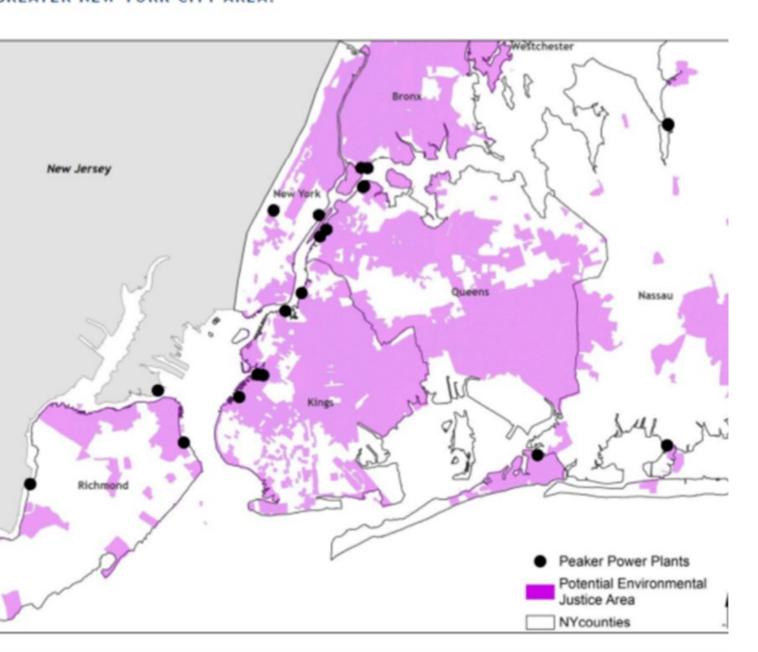
- Mandates that Rikers Prison Complex will shut by 2026
- New York State outlawed cash bail for most people





### WHERE POWER IS CONSUMED IN NEW YORK CITY

### TION OF PEAKER POWER PLANTS AND POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS GREATER NEW YORK CITY AREA.



## WHERE POWER IS GENERATED IN NEW YORK CITY

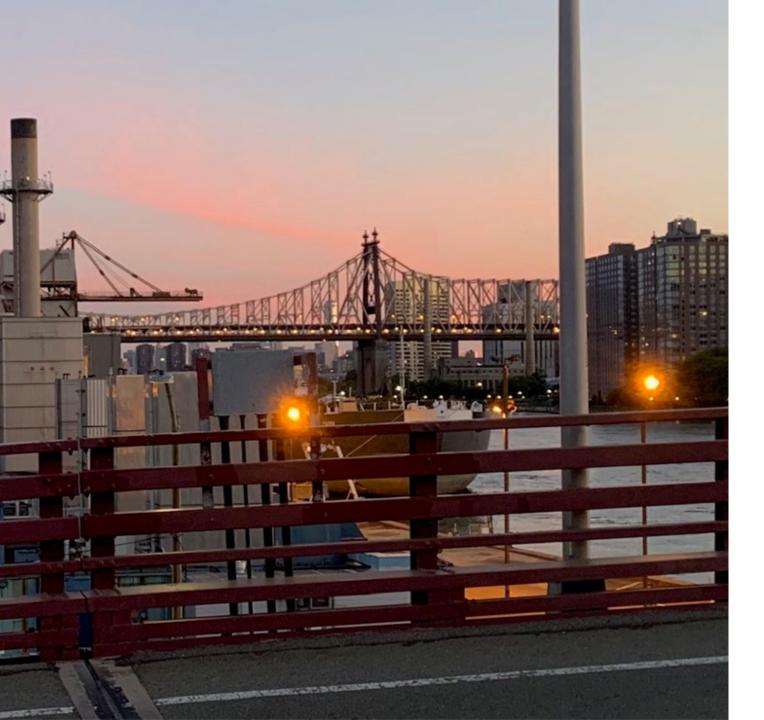
NYC'S POWER PLANTS ARE **LOCATED NEAR PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKS IN COMMUNITIES OF** COLOR





### POWER NOW! 2000

- Installed 10 peak power plants "temporarily"
- All in EJ communities
- No environmental review
- No consideration of PM2.5 (this was while American Trucking v. Whitman was pending in S. Ct)



PEAKER PLANTS
DO NOT RUN VERY
OFTEN BUT ARE
VERY DIRTY

§ 75-0107 Statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits No later than one year after the effective date of this article, the department shall, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated after at least one public hearing, establish a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit as a percentage of 1990 emissions, as follows:

- a. 2030: 60% of 1990 emissions
- b. 2050: 15% of 1990 emissions



### Renewable Energy Mandate

- 2. No later than June 30, 2021, the commission shall establish a program to require that:
- (a) a minimum of seventy percent of the statewide electric generation secured by jurisdictional load serving entities to meet the electrical energy requirements of all end-use customers in New York state in 2030 shall be generated by renewable energy systems; and
- (b) that by the year 2040 (collectively, the "targets") the statewide electrical demand system will be zero emissions.

### Some Goals in the CLCPA

- Maximize reductions of greenhouse gase and co-pollutant emissions in "disadvantaged communities"
- 40% of benefits from clean energy and energy efficiency spending should flow to disadvantaged communities
- Energy storage projects should reduce the use of peaker plants in disadvantaged communities



Location of the Power Plants that generate 60% of NYC energy





