



FROM: Campaign for New York's Future

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For Immediate Release

**CITY COUNCIL PASSES LEGISLATION THAT WILL MAKE NEW YORK CITY
GREENER NOW -- AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**

*Campaign for New York's Future Applauds Council's Action On Planting Trees,
Creating More Open Space and Making Sustainability Office Permanent*

NEW YORK, April 30, 2008 – The Big Apple is one step closer to becoming the “Green Apple,” following today’s passage of legislation in the City Council that will ensure New Yorkers can enjoy more trees, open space and long-term sustainability planning.

The City Council passed three bills today on these issues. The first, **Intro. 395-A**, will make the Mayor’s Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability permanent. It also requires an updated sustainability report every four years, as well as annual reporting on sustainability indicators and the implementation of initiatives.

The second is an **amendment to the city’s Zoning Resolution on street trees**. The amendment requires the planting of street trees in all zoning districts for new developments, major enlargements and some changes in use. It calls for one tree to be planted for every 25 feet of street frontage, and will result in approximately 10,000 new trees being planted each year.

The third is an **amendment to the city’s Zoning Resolution on yards and open space**. The amendment would promote green streetscapes, address safety in front yards and increase the amount of open space and permeability. The new regulations would apply to new developments and existing developments that are being enlarged.

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All three pieces of legislation codify elements of PlaNYC, a 127-point cross-sector sustainability plan announced by Mayor Michael Bloomberg last year.

Their passage by the City Council was applauded by members of the Campaign for New York's Future, a coalition of more than 150 environmental, public health, civic, labor, community and business organizations that have joined in support of PlaNYC.

"Today's City Council action on these PlaNYC initiatives represents another important step forward to a greener and more livable city and a commitment to continuing this journey to toward a sustainable future," said **Michael O'Loughlin, Director of the Campaign for New York's Future**. "Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn and the members of the City Council deserve our thanks. With today's action they planted a seed that will generate thousands of trees in New York City every year, and they have ensured that the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability will continue to develop and monitor innovative policies like this for many years to come."

"For years, New York City has been defined by a skyline of steel, concrete and brick. With the passage of legislation today, we are adding the elements of trees and open space to that vital mix," said **Marcia Bystryn, president of the New York League of Conservation Voters**. "And by making the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability permanent, the City Council and Mayor Bloomberg are helping to make the goal of sustainability permanent a part of New York City's political landscape as well."

Walter C. Houston, Chief Executive Officer of the Local Development Corporation of West Bronx, said: "Congratulations go to the New York City Council for being forward-thinkers and providing legislation that will make New York City, a greener, healthier, and more sustainable place to live, work and play now -- and for years to come."

"This is important legislation that will institutionalize sustainability initiatives for generations and administrations to come," said **Peggy Shepard, executive director, WE ACT For Environmental Justice**.

Bob Yaro, president of the Regional Plan Association, said: "RPA is delighted the Council is making the City's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability a permanent part of City government. While major advances have been made in implementing the 127 initiatives of PlaNYC over the past year and half, much remains to be done. Making the office permanent ensures that the City's groundbreaking plan to deal with expected growth in the city and region continues. New York has been leading the way for how to sustain a growing population while at the same time making New York a cleaner, healthier place to live. Not surprisingly, cities around the region, around the country and around the globe are watching. The Council's vote today is an important and historic one for both the city and the green movement here and elsewhere."

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“Transportation Alternatives commends the City Council for considering this suite of legislation that will make New York more sustainable,” said **Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives**. “Making the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability permanent will help continue the important work that's been borne out of the office Since Mayor Bloomberg created it. More immediately, preserving front lawns and green space and disallowing them from being paved over and parked on is an important piece of the long-term sustainability of the city.”

“Most New York City households do not own cars,” White continued, “The City needs to adopt rational parking rules that will not lead to more driving, more traffic congestion, more parking violations and more air pollution.”

The Campaign for New York's Future is an unprecedented coalition of more than 150 environmental, public health, civic, labor, community and business organizations that have joined in support of PlaNYC.