

NYC's LL97 as Economic Vehicle to Reduce Carbon Emissions

Four-part Technical Series on Buildings & Carbon-Neutrality Part 2 – NYC's LL97 as Economic Vehicle to Reduce Carbon Emissions

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With Part 1 of our series surrounding buildings and carbon neutrality under our belt, we can discuss how equivalent carbon dioxide emissions are calculated and how NYC's Local Law 97 (LL97) has attached economic drivers to the reduction of such at a building level. Using LL97 as the focal point of discussion, let's discuss how NYC has approached the subject matter.

Starting in 2024, LL97 creates a construct that makes most NYC buildings >25,000 SF responsible for:

- self-calculating their allowable carbon footprint;
- self-calculating their actual carbon footprint using site energy and source energy conversion factors (see Part 1 of our series for a refresher on this), and;
- remitting an annual carbon tax payment of \$268/metric ton CO₂e for carbon emissions beyond their limit.

It is important to understand that the law is square footage and occupancy based and residential, retail, educational, hotel, storage, etc. uses are all allowed different amounts of carbon emissions. It is also important to know that this law is part of NYC's 80x50 initiative to reduce the carbon footprint of NYC by 80% by the year 2050, so the allowable emissions for buildings fall precipitously in 5-yr increments out to 2050.

Among many things, the economics of the law rewards building system electrification. However, deployment of or conversion of any electrified building system requires careful consideration of first costs, operational/maintenance costs and projected carbon taxes associated with such (and EEA is adept at synthesizing such). This sets us up for Part 3 of our series on carbon neutrality, the "right" way to approach building system electrification. There are topics of controversy embedded therein and we seek to demystify this in bit in our next installment.

Lastly, we appreciate the feedback and questions that have been coming in about site and source energy, so keep them coming as we move through the rest of our series! And lastly, EEA has carbon footprinted, commissioned/retro-commissioned, energy audited and benchmarked/letter graded hundreds of new and existing buildings alike and is an undisputed leader in LL97 carbon tax mitigation space. You can always reach out to us for support, formally or informally. You can contact us via phone, info@ettingerengineering.com or in response to LinkedIn posts made associated with these announcements.