



## City of Beacon, New York

Office of the Mayor  
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BEACON PASSES HISTORIC INITIATIVE TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE PROHIBITS FOSSIL FUEL USE IN NEW COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS**

**BEACON, NY**— On March 20, 2023, the Beacon City Council unanimously adopted Local Law No. 1 of 2023 (the “Law”) prohibiting the use of fossil fuels in new commercial and residential buildings, starting January 1, 2024. The “All- Electric Building Local Law” is the third law of its kind in the State, after New York City and Ithaca, to require new buildings to be constructed “all-electric” for heating, hot water, and appliances, and is modeled on several proposed State initiatives, including one proposed by Governor Kathy Hochul. Similar to the State initiatives, the Law provides exemptions for certain uses including manufacturing facilities, commercial kitchens, and laundromats.

The City Council designed the All- Electric Building Local Law (the “Law”) to model the 2022 NY State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan (the “Plan”) although Beacon’s Law accelerates the Plan’s proposed implementation for both residential and commercial buildings. While the Plan and Governor Kathy Hochul’s recent budget initiatives call for new construction to be all-electric for residential buildings by 2025 and commercial buildings by 2028, Beacon has accelerated the timelines for both types of construction to January 1, 2024. The City consulted local architects, builders, the City’s Building Inspector, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (“NYSERDA”) to ensure the accelerated timeline was feasible and realistic prior to finalizing and adopting the Law.

Beacon Mayor Lee Kyriacou noted, “The All-Electric Building Local Law closely follows and accelerates State proposals, and we hope the Law can serve as a ready model for other communities to adopt. I thank Councilmembers Dan Aymar-Blair and Paloma Wake for their leadership on this initiative and appreciate the strong public support from Beacon residents that supported this critical effort.”

The Law is the City’s latest initiative to address the serious threat of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by residential and commercial buildings. In 2020, Beacon was the first municipality outside of New York City to adopt the Stretch Energy Code. The City has also undertaken efforts to increase energy efficiency, transition to green vehicles, construct an all-electric consolidated fire station, and purchase 100 percent renewably produced electricity for City operations. The Law also aims to reduce harmful health impacts associated with indoor gas-fueled appliances. The Law does not, however, include or apply to retrofitting existing structures unless the buildings undergo major renovations (more than 75 percent) and does not require owners of existing buildings to convert fossil fuel appliances absent significant renovations.

A copy of the All- Electric Building Local Law can be found at: [Local Law No. 1](#)

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