



BUILDING
DECARBONIZATION
COALITION



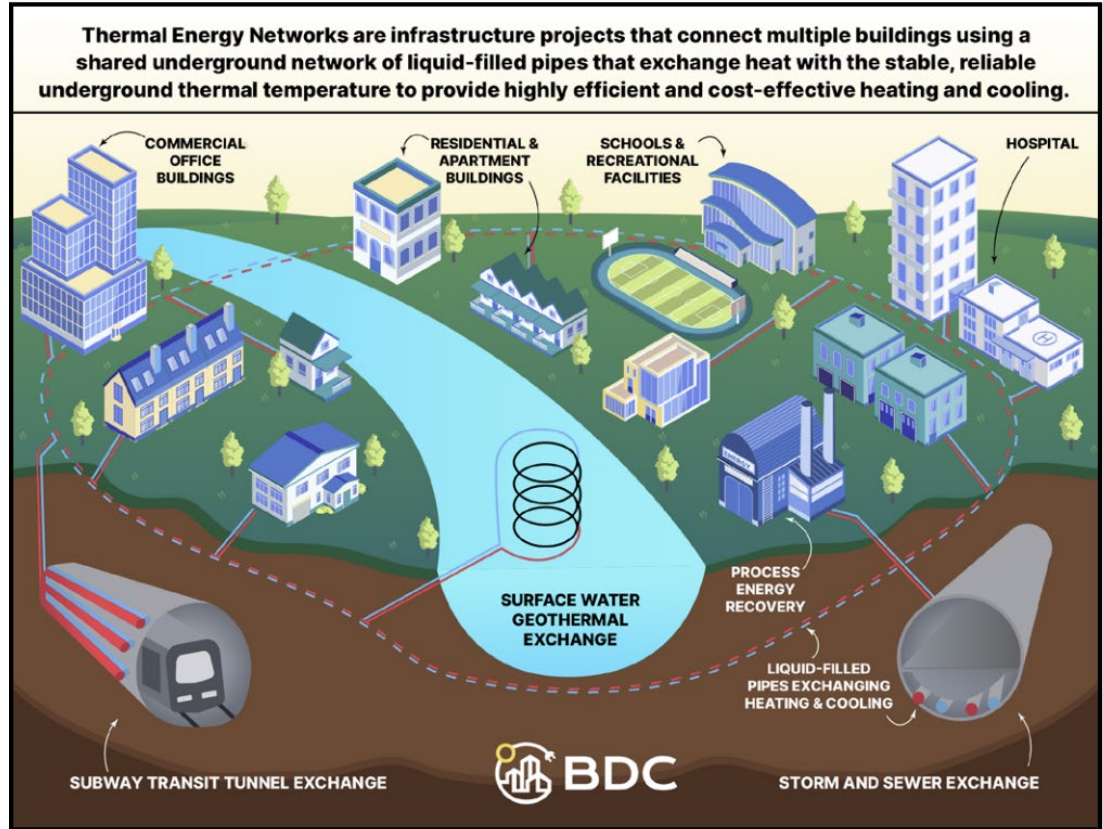
ICC THERMAL ENERGY NETWORK WORKSHOP

Lisa Dix, New York Director, Building Decarbonization Coalition

lisa@buildingdecarb.org

Our Vision

- Advocate together on shared solutions, & common ground
- Neighborhood Scale
- Centering a Just Energy Transition for the union workforce & communities
- Scaled Emissions Reductions to Meet NY Climate Mandates
- Pathway for gas utilities



UTENJA Coalition

- Unions
- Climate Justice
- Environmental Justice
- National, State, Grassroots Environmental Organizations
- Buildings Industry
- Utilities



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

UTILITY THERMAL ENERGY NETWORK AND JOBS ACT S9422 (PARKER) / A10493 (JOYNER)

A coalition of labor and environmental leaders urge legislators to immediately pass this legislation, which will protect and increase good union jobs while decarbonizing buildings at a scale that aligns with New York's climate law.

Summary

The Utility Thermal Energy Network and Jobs Act will transform New York's electric and gas utilities by enabling them to build emissions-free thermal energy networks. These utility-scale networks connect multiple buildings together with each other and allow transfer of energy with thermal sources like geothermal boreholes, surface water, and wastewater. Thermal energy networks will help New York scale building electrification and decarbonization, reduce costs for customers, and minimize impact on the electric grid. By enabling utilities to construct these projects, the legislature will provide a pathway for the gas utility and building trades workforce to apply their highly skilled craft to the work of decarbonizing New York's buildings, which are the largest source of greenhouse gasses in the state.

Benefits of the legislation

Thermal Energy Networks are good for the environment and allow customers to access clean energy, while providing a transition pathway for gas utilities and their workforce. Utilities in most regions of New York have been proposing thermal energy network demonstration projects, but have been in many cases unable to move forward due to legal barriers that the Utility Thermal Network and Jobs Act will remove. By utilizing multiple sources of renewable thermal energy from our environment and reusing and sharing thermal energy among buildings, thermal energy networks are highly efficient and help bring down peak energy needs of the electric grid. Utilities will be able to reduce the cost of electrifying buildings by spreading the costs of these networks across many customers and many years. Thermal Energy Networks can be installed under the street, and the building trades workforce is trained and ready. Thermal Energy Networks help reduce the upfront costs of building decarbonization for building owners and provide access to the most efficient forms of renewable thermal energy for people who cannot easily install geothermal energy on their own property.

**We urge swift passage of
the Utility Thermal Energy Network and Jobs Act**



Upgrade NY Collaboration

- **Implement the Utility Thermal Network Energy & Jobs Act**
 - Pilots to construction
 - Regulation to make TENs permanent tool in utilities toolbox
 - Designing new utility model
- **State: “Lead by Example”**
 - Fully decarbonizing state facilities & Campuses with Thermal Energy Networks
 - Achieve zero onsite emissions by 2040 & Build union job pipeline



BUILDING
DECARBONIZATION
COALITION



SIERRA CLUB
ATLANTIC CHAPTER



Additional Materials

- **BDC Website:**
<https://buildingdecarb.org/initiatives/new-york>
- [Thermal Energy Networks: Next Best Shot to Meet NY Climate Goals](#)
- [Governor Hochul signs UTENJA and Video](#)
- [Governor Hochul Press Release: UTENJA Progress](#)

Upgrade NY:

<https://www.upgradeny.org/>

- **Video:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RI_e1G-MyjA
- **Proposed Utility Projects:** [Utility TENs in action](#)
- **Opinion:**
 - [We must work together](#)
 - [For our Climate Future & Good Jobs](#)
 - [Let's Lead by Example](#)