

**EVERYONE
DESERVES
THEIR
MOMENT
IN THE
SUN.**



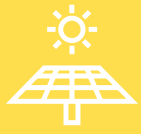
#FightforLight

SUNLIGHT IS ESSENTIAL TO NYC

Sunlight is a critical element of our urban infrastructure. We seek it out in the homes we live in and the places where we gather. Sunlight benefits us in myriad ways, from our health, to the economy, to the sustainability of our city.



Sunlight makes us happier by encouraging us to exercise and spend time outside.



Our best bets for **reducing our consumption of fossil fuels**—solar technology and carbon-storing vegetation chief among them—are directly reliant on our ability to capture sunlight.



Well-designed, sunlit public spaces **encourage tourism, help businesses thrive, and are major employers in their own right.** Moreover, the solar industry will employ thousands of high-wage workers in the coming years.



From metabolic function to the sleep-wake cycle to mood disorders, sunlight also **has far-reaching effects on our bodies and minds.**



And while New York may be best known for its iconic skyline, we also **host a rich ecosystem that makes life here possible.** Our 302 square miles of land and 520 miles of coastline are home to more than 7,000 plants and animals. And tourists are not the only visitors that pass through our glorious city—more than 350 species of birds migrate annually through our skies. This vast population of New York relies on the sun for its very survival.

BUT SUNLIGHT IS UNDER THREAT

Sadly, too many New Yorkers today live in neighborhoods where sunshine is scarce, making streets feel like canyons. The quality of our public realm is being challenged by a new wave of development whose impacts on sunlight have gone unmitigated.

At **960 Franklin Avenue in Crown Heights**, shadows from a pair of proposed 40-story towers threaten the viability of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's conservatories, greenhouses, and nurseries, and the usability of Jackie Robinson Playground.

In **Greenacre Park in Midtown Manhattan**—an intimate space filled down to dusk with New Yorkers enjoying a respite in one of the city's densest neighborhoods—development is expected to completely cast the park in shadow during peak summer days.

And at **Inwood Park in the Bronx, Lyons Pool Recreation Center in Staten Island, Seward Park in Queens, and dozens of other sites throughout the five boroughs**, shadows from new development will dramatically alter the amount of sunlight in these open spaces.



LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

The good news is that cities around the world have prioritized sunlight in the planning and design of public spaces. Their approaches suggest that a range of solutions are available to ensure sunlight access across New York City's diverse neighborhoods.



Boston's Public Realm Director works across departments to implement people-oriented projects on streets and sidewalks. Their work is informed by the City's Public Realm Guidelines.



London's comprehensive plan designates specific areas where tall buildings are permitted, requires analysis of shadow impacts for all new development, and considers the cumulative effects of development on sunlight availability.



Melbourne's "Sunlight to Public Spaces" policy mandates sunlight protection hours in public parks from 10am to 3pm in winter to support healthy living throughout the year.



Singapore's Green Mark Scheme is a rating system that provides incentives for achieving benchmarks that assess the amount of daylight received in a building's interior and the reflection created by its exterior.

JOIN US IN OUR FIGHT

Safeguarding sunlight is a common sense value in a city as dense as New York. Sunlight makes people healthier, parks greener, and cities more resilient. Every New Yorker deserves access to it. Several steps can be taken today to advance Fight for Light:

1

Designate and resource a City-level advocate. Appoint a Director of the Public Realm and resource the position with the staff and budget to monitor, plan, and invest in the city's public realm.

2

Conduct a baseline assessment and establish goals. Undertake an assessment to refine policies and set goals for access to sunlight, formulate a Public Realm Plan, and inform policy recommendations related to economic development, climate, land use, and environmental protection.

3

Identify places and populations that are vulnerable. Lead with health and equity in response to the needs of historically underrepresented communities with gaps in park access, low incomes, limited English proficiency, high concentrations of asthma or other health risks, and high youth and elder populations.

4

Prioritize solutions that protect and enhance sunlight in the public realm. Draft a set of policy proposals that are feasible and applicable within New York City's unique planning context.



Use **#FightforLight** and visit mas.org/FFL to find out more, read our *Bright Ideas* report, sign on as a supporter, and stay up to date on ways to get involved.