

Ithaca Green Building Policy: Reducing Energy and Water Use in New Construction

Nick Goldsmith, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Ithaca

Ian Shapiro, Founder and Senior Consulting Engineer, Taitem Engineering

ABSTRACT

This presentation will cover key aspects of the Ithaca Green Building Project, which involves a comprehensive, collaborative examination of policy tools that Ithaca can use to incentivize or mandate green building standards for new construction.

The Ithaca Green Building Policy project is setting the stage for the creation, adoption, and implementation of green building policies that will significantly reduce carbon pollution in the Ithaca community, while increasing the diversity of participants in local sustainability efforts. The project is seeking an understanding of the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of a green building policy. A report is being produced that provides an overview of the existing building stock and forecasts future development scenarios. The central study examines policy tools that Ithaca can use to incentivize or mandate green building standards for new residential and commercial buildings. A major component of the study is an investigation of the potential social impacts of the standards and policies, and the implications for equity. Innovative aspects include an examination of a balanced menu of policy approaches, rather than relying on one magic bullet, as well as an initiative on affordable green building design and construction.

The City of Ithaca is leading an education and outreach campaign to share information about, and solicit feedback on, the various building energy standards and policies being studied.

BIOGRAPHY

Nick Goldsmith works jointly with the City of Ithaca and the Town of Ithaca, New York as Sustainability Coordinator, where he plans and implements initiatives to reduce energy use in the community and in government operations. Nick serves on several boards, such as the Ithaca 2030 District, the Tompkins County Energy Task Force, and the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships Community Energy and Carbon Reduction Project Task Force.

Ian Shapiro founded Taitem Engineering in Ithaca, NY in 1989. He is the author of the books *Green Building Illustrated* (2014) and *Energy Audits and Improvements for Commercial Buildings* (2016), both published by Wiley. He has been a visiting lecturer at Cornell University, Tompkins Cortland Community College, and Syracuse University.