

**Opening Remarks
The Center for Architecture
NYC High Performance Buildings Panel
The Policy Makers' Perspective**

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Good morning. I am Nancy Anderson, Executive Director of the Sallan Foundation. On behalf of my project partners, Eva Hanhardt of the MAS and Chris Garvin, co-chair of the Committee on the Environment of the New York Chapter of AIA, we thank you being here at the final panel in our 2005 series, "NYC High Performance Buildings".

We've called this panel the "Policy Makers' Perspective". Our speakers do not work in the public sector, but their work is transforming the public sphere. Our speakers have all tackled projects of real public significance, developed powerful new ideas about how we should build our cities, and sat on an array of government advisory committees. Their efforts have led to real changes in public policy and government action in the arena of urban sustainability. Their engagement teach us that government programs can be shaped by the power of good ideas and sustained endeavor. It is in this sense that our panelists are policy makers – policy makers who have proven themselves as both thinkers and doers.

Their policy making imprint can be seen in the effort to create a green Ground Zero and in the emergent role of US Green Building Council standards, the Battery Park City green guidelines and similar programs for transforming urban construction. Their imprint also can be seen in the expansion of green affordable housing and green economic development, as well as in the intersection of energy policy with each of these

achievements. These are all issues to be discussed this morning.

Still, the challenges that innovators face remain daunting. Today, our speakers will tell us what they have learned, especially about the importance of the implementation "toolkit". An effective "toolkit" must contain the right skills and the right incentives for carrying out good ideas. Without the right tools we cannot build a sustainable city.

Everyone in this room knows that all of this is of more than local concern. So do policy makers outside this room. I'd like to conclude with something from a November 2005 New York Times column by Tom Friedman.

Friedman wrote, "There are only about 60 gold standard green buildings in the world. One of these buildings is in Beijing. What struck me most was how much stuff in China's greenest building was labeled 'Made in China.'" And I couldn't agree more when he growled, "You think China is cleaning our clock now with cheap clothing? Just wait."

I draw a simple lesson from Friedman's column: our future lies in the policies we choose. Our panelists show us what we need to do.