

Yeshiva University Commits to a Carbon Neutral Future for Their Historic NYC Campus

Student Enrollment: 6,500

Institution Type: Private University

Institution Size: 300 Acres

Region: New York City

A Clear Pathway to Sustainability

Yeshiva University, founded in 1886, is determined to work toward sustainability within its historic campus infrastructure. The students at Yeshiva study at three Manhattan campuses – Wilf Campus, Israel Henry Beren Campus, and Brookdale Center. The university demonstrated its commitment to sustainability in 2017 by joining the REV Campus challenge, and in 2020, joined the NYC Carbon Challenge with a goal to achieve carbon neutrality in their NYC buildings by 2030. To help reach this goal, the university worked with a NYSERDA-approved consultant to create an energy master plan that provides a clear pathway to achieving sustainability goals. As a member of the REV Campus Challenge, Yeshiva University was able to receive support for this planning effort through NYSERDA's FlexTech Program.

As part of the energy master plan, the consultant compiled a list of recommended retro-commissioning (RCx) projects, energy conservation measures (ECMs), and distributed energy resources (DERs) projects for the university to consider. Some of the measures that have been completed or are in the process of being implemented include LED lighting upgrades in campus buildings, steam trap installations in buildings that were on natural gas and steam, and oil to gas conversions in multiple campus buildings. The university has also purchased renewable energy credits (RECs) for all its electric outlets and plans to purchase additional RECs for its gas and steam. In the coming years, Yeshiva will also consider replacing inefficient windows and roofs, and implementing DERs, which include combined heat and power (CHP), fuel cells, and both thermal and electric battery storage.

Making Efficiency Goals a Reality with REV Campus Challenge

When asked if Yeshiva University would recommend NYSERDA's REV Campus Challenge Program to other institutions, David Pianko, the university's Energy