

Lower East Side Small Buildings Coalition

Partners

Henry Street Settlement: 127-year old settlement house providing holistic supports and services to community members from birth to senior citizens

Stacks and Joules: a nonprofit that combines classroom instruction and work-based experiential learning to help trainees master the advanced technologies used for building automation systems (BAS)

Unified Ground: a public benefit corporation with the mission to drive more climate investments to communities of color

Location

Lower East Side, New York, NY

Justice40 Alignment

Energy burden
Workforce development/training

The Lower East Side Small Buildings Coalition will focus on the challenge of meeting increasingly stringent energy efficiency requirements faced by community organizations that own and operate buildings. New York City's Local Law 97 mandates aggressive energy efficiency increases in all buildings. The law lays out pathways to compliance for buildings owned by nonprofits, but this alone does not solve the challenge that many nonprofit owners face to implementation, including a lack of technical expertise, a skilled workforce, and the funding necessary.

The Coalition will identify portfolio-wide approaches to energy efficiency across the 19 mixed-use buildings owned and managed by Henry Street Settlement. Training opportunities will develop the capacity of community members and Henry Street staff to manage and optimize building automation systems, which can achieve potential energy use reductions of 27% to 59%. This level of reduction applied across Henry Street Settlement's portfolio would give a huge boost towards meeting local mandates, while also achieving significant potential cost savings for the organization and positive benefits for the surrounding community, such as improved local air quality.