

PRESS RELEASE

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With both the climate and the economy in crisis, reducing energy use and saving on operating costs are more important than ever. Streamlining the way we run existing buildings represents one of the greatest opportunities to ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of New York City. But just as a building needs frequent tune-ups for optimum performance, building operators need ongoing training to keep them on top of developments in their field.

As the city makes progress toward PlaNYC 2030 goals, local demand for energy-efficient buildings and a workforce to run them at peak performance is growing quickly. CUNY is responding with continuing education programs that put tools and resources in the hands of the men and women who run our buildings. Beginning this month, the Building Performance Lab, a CIUS program, will initiate two training courses for New York City building operating engineers.

Target: Municipal Building Operating Engineers

The Lab's [Continuing Education program](#), in cooperation with the NYC [Department of Citywide Administrative Services](#) and the CUNY School of Professional Studies, will provide a 90-hour class for operating engineers of municipal buildings. Supporting the Mayor's PlaNYC goals and commitments, course work will emphasize energy efficiency techniques in building operations. Students will have the opportunity to earn the nationally recognized [Building Operator Certification](#) (Level 1).

Target: Local 94 Union Members

The Lab is also partnering with the [International Union of Operating Engineers Local 94](#) to offer a similar class for union members at its [Training Center](#). The curriculum introduces the concepts of energy management and green building practices at the facilities level; the 25 students will have the option of pursuing the [Building Operator Certification](#) while also focusing on requirements of the USGBC's LEED program for Existing Buildings Operation and Maintenance. This offering has the strong support of [Vornado Realty Trust](#) and NYSERDA.

Courses have been developed by the CIUS's Building Performance Lab in coordination with the [Energy Services and Technology associate degree program](#) in the Department of Physics and Technology at Bronx Community College. CIUS has been supported by NYSERDA in creating the Building Performance Lab and in developing its continuing education program. The CIUS is a university institute housed at the City College of New York, directed by Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering Robert Paaswell.