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MARTHA SICKLES Urban Planning and Energy

Martha Sickles is principal of Urbecon LLC, a WBE firm founded in Poland in 1997 with a mission to promote democratic, decentralized, and sustainable communities through planning, development, and education services. For 16 years, the firm managed local government and civil society reform programs in Central Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia funded by USAID, the World Bank, and the Open Society Institute. More recently, Urbecon provides research, project management, education, and engagement services promoting socio-economic and environmental justice, sustainability, and energy sector transformation in the tri-state region. As a sub-consultant to utility program implementers, Urbecon provided training and building retrofits to 1,500 households in Pennsylvania and 2,000 buildings in NYC, reducing energy consumption by 15 to 40% in over 15 buildings with energy efficiency and renewable energy measures using NYSERDA programs. Through NYC 2030 District, Urbecon conducts a NYSERDA funded Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign in Brooklyn.

Martha began her career in planning in New York city and state agencies: NYC Council President's Office, Manhattan Borough President's Office, and Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. She is currently chair of the NY APA Metro Chapter's Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee, board member of NYC 2030 District, member of the APA Policy and Legislative Committee, and president of her condominium. With CCCE, she worked on the Green Resilient Industrial District (GRID) concept for UPROSE that successfully countered the commercial upzoning proposal by Industry City in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

Martha has an MS in Planning and Organization from Columbia University and a BA from Hofstra University. She has AICP and LEED certifications.