

Chapter 25: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Resources, both natural and built, would be expended in the construction and operation of the proposed project. These resources include the materials used in construction; energy in the form of fuel and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the Cornell NYC Tech project; and the human effort (i.e., time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the project.

The resources are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the proposed project would be highly unlikely. The proposed project constitutes an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the project site as a land resource, thereby rendering land use for other purposes infeasible, at least in the near term.

These commitments of land resources and materials are weighed against the benefits of the proposed project. As described in “Applied Sciences NYC Initiative and Purpose and Need for the Cornell NYC Tech Project,” in Chapter 1, “Project Description,” the proposed project is a key component of the city’s Applied Sciences NYC initiative, the overarching goal of which is to maintain and increase New York City’s global competitiveness, diversify the city’s economy, drive economic growth, and create jobs for New Yorkers. To achieve this goal, the proposed project would transform the project site into a new engineering and applied sciences campus that would contain new academic space, corporate co-location space, an Executive Education Center, and residential uses. A small amount of campus-oriented retail space would also be included, and new open space on the site would be provided. *