



The Sage Report

A Monthly Newsletter of Insights, Projects, and Productivity

AI WORK BENCH

Turning YouTube Videos into Clear Summaries with ChatGPT

If you've ever watched a long YouTube video, whether a webinar, training, meeting, or news briefing, and thought "I wish I could just get the highlights," you're not alone. Thankfully, there's a fast and easy way to do exactly that using AI.

Here's how to do it:

- Navigate to the Youtube video you want to summarize.
- Click the "... " or Right-Click on the Video Title
- Select "Show Transcript". This will open a transcript panel on the right.
- Copy the Transcript: Highlight and copy the entire transcript text. For long videos, this may require some scrolling.
- Paste the Transcript into ChatGPT or other AI.
- You can say: "Summarize this YouTube transcript and highlight key discussion points."
- Get Your Summary

In seconds, you'll get a clear breakdown of the main points, helping you absorb the content without watching the full video.

We used this method to summarize the July 25, 2025 State Code Council meeting where the 2025 NYS building codes were adopted. The video included far more detail than the brief minutes posted online, such as clarifications, effective dates, grace periods, and agency input. ChatGPT helped turn the transcript into a clear, useful summary for our team and this newsletter.

Add Contacts from Business Cards

Ever receive a stack of business cards after a conference or site visit and wonder how to efficiently get them into Outlook, without typos, fuss, or overpriced apps? Most people turn to third-party card scanning apps, but there's a better way now: let AI do the work.

With a photo of the business card, AI can extract contact information with greater accuracy than traditional OCR apps.

Here's how to do it:

- Snap a photo of the card with your phone.
- Drop it into ChatGPT (requires the Plus paid plan) and ask it to "Make this into an Outlook contact file."
- ChatGPT creates a clean, ready-to-import .vcf file.
- Open the file directly on your phone. Press the Share icon, then tap Save to Contacts—and the contact will be added to your phone.
- If your phone is synced to your Outlook account, the contact will show up in Outlook automatically.

This method avoids spelling errors, misplaced fields, and clunky imports that plague most mobile card apps. Bonus: it doesn't require granting permissions to your contacts list or uploading sensitive data to unknown apps.

THE SAGE BRIEFING

LiDAR Scanner Has Arrived

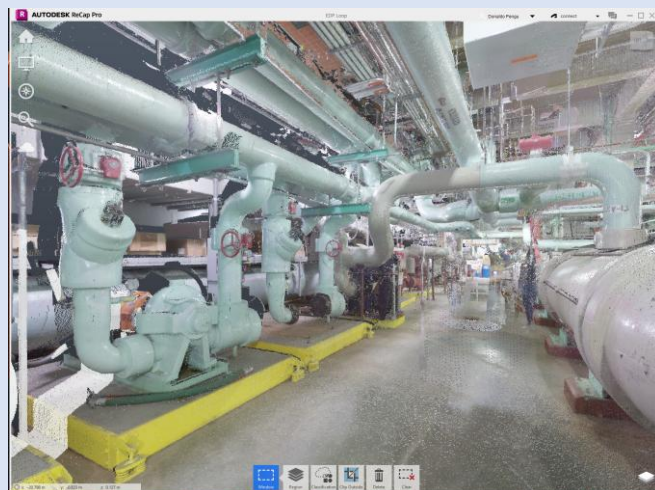
We're excited to announce that Sage has officially brought LiDAR scanning in-house with the addition of our Leica BLK360 G1 scanner. This compact, highly accurate tool gives us the ability to capture detailed existing conditions quickly and directly integrate them into our Revit and AutoCAD workflows.



Donaldo took the lead in getting the scanner up and running. He updated the firmware, installed the necessary office software, configured the iPad for field scanning, and made sure everything works smoothly. Thanks to his initiative, we now have a fully functional scanning setup.

Donaldo successfully completed our first full scan, a complete capture of both floors of the Empire State Plaza chilled water plant for an ongoing project. The scan processed without issue and is now being used in our model.

Everything is working great, and we're now ready to use the scanner on all future projects. If you're curious about how the point clouds look or want to explore a sample scan, speak with Donaldo. He's your go-to resource for getting started.



Point Cloud Visual – Empire State Plaza Chiller Plant
(Autodesk ReCap Pro)



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2025 NYS Code Update: New Codes Adopted

On July 25, 2025, the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council adopted the complete suite of 2025 NYS Uniform Codes and the Energy Conservation Code. This includes the following:

- Building Code of NYS (BCNYS)
- Residential, Existing Building, Mechanical, Plumbing, and Fuel Gas Codes
- Fire Code of NYS (FCNYS)
- Energy Conservation Construction Code of NYS (ECCCNYS)

All adopted code texts are available on the [Department of State website](#) and have been saved on the Sage server here:

Transition & Effective Dates for 2025 NYS Code

Uniform Code (BCNYS, MCNYS, PCNYS, etc.)

- Effective Date: December 31, 2025
- Transition Period: Yes
- Between 10/1/2025 and the effective date of December 21, 2025, permit applicants may choose either the 2020 Uniform Code, or the 2025 Uniform Code.
- This “dual-code” period exists only for the Uniform Code.
- During the transition period, project teams must clearly specify which code version they are using on construction documents.

Energy Code (ECCCNYS)

- Effective Date: December 31, 2025
- Transition Period: None
- As of December 31, 2025, all permit applications must comply with the 2025 Energy Code. There is no option to use the 2020 version once the 2025 Energy Code takes effect.

Do Not Use Energy Code Appendices Unless Locally Adopted

The 2025 Energy Code includes a range of new appendices related to electrification readiness, solar zones, zero-energy buildings, HVAC system performance, demand response, and EV charging. These appendices are not adopted statewide and should not be used for State projects. They are intended for local jurisdictions to adopt if they so choose.

Notable Code Changes

The Department of State has also published a helpful reference document summarizing changes between the 2021/2024 ICC model codes and the versions adopted in New York: [Uniform Code Notable Changes](#)

This document provides side-by-side comparisons of code section changes and is a useful tool for understanding differences from previous NYS codes.

2025 State Code Update

Major Updates

Adoption of 2024 ICC Model Codes

The 2025 NYS codes are based on the 2024 editions of the International Codes (I-Codes), with extensive New York-specific amendments. New York is now the second state in the nation, after Wyoming, to adopt the 2024 I-Codes.

Referenced Standards and Definitions

All referenced standards, definitions, and code book titles have been updated to reflect 2025 publication dates, including updated publisher information and edition years.

Refrigeration System Updates

Chapter 11 of the 2025 Mechanical Code of NYS (MCNYS) has been revised to reference the 2022 editions of ASHRAE 15 and ASHRAE 34, incorporating provisions for low-GWP refrigerants and updated system classifications.

Electrical Code Update

The 2025 NYS codes now reference the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC) as the governing standard for electrical design and installation.

Sprinkler System Design

The Uniform Code adopts the 2022 edition of NFPA 13, bringing sprinkler system design and installation requirements up to the latest nationally recognized standard.



2025 NYS Code Update: Fossil Fuels Banned in Most New Buildings

Fossil Fuels Banned in Most New Buildings

One of the most impactful changes in the new code cycle is the statewide prohibition on fossil-fuel systems in most new buildings. This applies to NEW buildings only. The rule is codified in the newly amended [19 NYCRR Part 1240](#).

Electrification Phase-In Dates

December 31, 2025: Fossil-fuel systems are prohibited in new buildings 7 stories or less and less than 100,000 sf (with limited exceptions).

December 31, 2028: The prohibition extends to all new buildings, regardless of height or floor area.

This applies to any substantially complete building permit application submitted on or after the effective dates.

What's Prohibited?

The following are not allowed in new buildings:

- Combustion-based equipment (e.g., boilers, furnaces, gas stoves, dryers, water heaters).
- Fossil-fuel distribution piping (e.g., natural gas, propane).

Who's Exempt?

Fossil-fuel systems are still allowed in:

- Manufactured homes
- Agricultural buildings
- Hospitals and medical facilities
- Water treatment and critical infrastructure
- Emergency generators and backup power systems

The fossil-fuel ban **does NOT apply to existing buildings or additions**.

- Existing buildings can continue to use, maintain, and replace fossil-fuel systems.
- Additions to existing buildings may include fossil-fuel heating, water heating, and cooking equipment.
- Repairs, alterations, and change of occupancy are not affected.

Conditional Allowances

Some non-residential occupancies may include fossil-fuel systems only for process-specific needs, such as:

- Commercial kitchens
- Labs
- Laundromats
- Car washes
- Crematoriums
- Manufacturing and research facilities
- Fuel cell installations

Even when allowed, these buildings must be "electrification-ready", and the fossil-fuel use must be limited to the stated purpose (not space or water heating).

What About Electric Grid Constraints?

If electric service is unavailable or insufficient, a utility letter submitted to the authority having jurisdiction may support a formal exemption.

**FOSSIL FUELS BAN
IN NEW BUILDINGS**
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2025





August 2025

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UPCOMING WEBINARS AND SEMINARS – August 2025

This month's list of free live webinars and seminars is below. Each offers at least one PDH and qualifies as a *Course of Learning* – a format that includes traditional classroom-style courses or live webinars with real-time interaction with an instructor. As a reminder, New York State requires that 18 of the 36 total continuing education hours for professional engineers be completed through *Courses of Learning*.

Green Building Through Sun Control Design

Host: GreenCE

Date & Time: August 6, 2025, 12:00 pm EDT

Format: Webinar Credits: 1 PDH. Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)

Retrofit with Confidence: FRP Design Insights

Host: Simpson Strong-Tie

Date & Time: August 13, 2025, 1:00 PM EDT

Format: Webinar. Credits: 1 PDH. Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)

Precision Under Pressure: Optimizing System Performance Through Balancing and Air Removal

Host: Plumbing & Mechanical

Date & Time: August 14, 2025, 1:00 PM EDT

Format: Webinar. Credits: 1 PDH. Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)

Thermal Comfort Panel with the Pros

Host: Price Industries

Date & Time: August 19, 2025, 12:00 PM EDT

Format: Webinar Credits: 1 PDH. Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)



Fundamentals of Lateral Earth Pressures Every Engineer Should Know

Host: NoonPi

Date & Time: August 20, 2025, 12:00 PM EDT

Format: Webinar. Credits: 1 PDH Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)

Trane® Design Assist™: Sustainable, High-Performance BAS Design

Host: Trane Commercial HVAC

Date & Time: August 21, 2025 | EDT

Format: Webinar Credits: 1.0 PDH Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)

How to Design and Specify a Hybrid VRF System

Host: Consulting-Specifying Engineer / Mitsubishi Electric Trane

Date & Time: Monday, August 25, 2025 2:00 pm EDT

Format: Webinar Credits: 1 PDH Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)

Designing with Fixed Aluminum Ladders for Commercial & Industrial Projects

Host: Ron Blank & Associates / O'Keeffe's Architectural Building Products

Date & Time: August 26, 2025, 12:00 pm EDT

Format: Webinar Credits: 1 PDH Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)

Lighting and Lighting Controls: Principles and Practices

Host: Consulting-Specifying Engineer a

Date & Time: August 28, 2025 2:00 pm EDT

Format: Webinar Credits: 1 AIA CES LU Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)

Hydronic Zoning - from Design to Installation

Host: Caleffi

Date & Time: August 28, 2025, 1:00 pm EDT

Format: Webinar Credits: 1 PDH Cost: Free

[Register Here](#)



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New Heating Plant

Marcy Correctional Facility, Marcy, NY

Sage Team: Marcus, Dave, Kevin L, Charles, James, George, Jim T, Brandon

Sage served as Engineer of Record for the new heating plant at Marcy Correctional Facility, our first completely new boiler plant design for a New York State correctional facility. The project was delivered as a design-build partnership with Danforth serving as the prime contractor. Sage provided full mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and structural engineering design, as well as overall design team management. Architectural design was led by Azar Design Co., and civil engineering was provided by OSPA. The client is the New York Power Authority (NYPA), in partnership with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS).

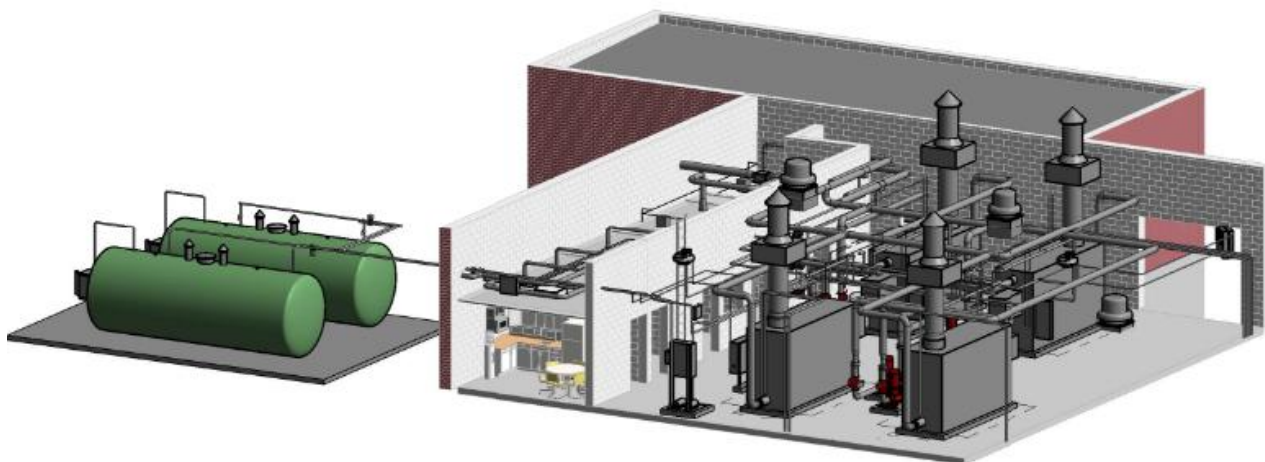
The new heating plant replaces the site's reliance on the Energy Conversion Building, which previously used steam piped from the Midstate Correctional Facility's heating plant nearly a mile away to generate hot water. That system included heat exchangers and pumps designed by Sage in 2010. The new plant connects directly to the existing high-temperature hot water distribution system, with the boilers operating in a primary loop that adds heat to the sitewide piping network. The original distribution pumps were retained.

The new heating plant utilizes a structural steel frame with beam-and-column construction and a CMU and a brick veneer. Interior spaces include a boiler room, control room, office, break room, locker and shower area, and restrooms. The entire project was developed in Revit. Since photography is prohibited at Marcy Correctional, a rendering of the completed Revit model is included below in place of a site photos.

The plant houses four dual fuel (gas/oil) Unilux Model W1400 flex-tube hot water boilers, each rated for 12.3 MMBTU/hr. Two boilers are required to meet peak winter demand. The other two provide full 100 percent redundancy. Each boiler is equipped with a Siemens combustion control system. Boiler sequencing and integration with the facility-wide DDC system is handled by a Siemens plant master panel.

The fuel oil system includes two 9,000-gallon aboveground storage tanks, duplex pumps with inline heater, and a fuel oil filtration (polishing) system designed for cold-weather reliability.

Sage drew on over 25 years of experience supporting DOCCS facilities to design a plant that reflects what facility managers expect to see in a modern correctional boiler plant. As of August 2025, the building envelope is 99 percent complete, and boilers are expected to be fired and operational in the coming weeks. The project construction value is approximately \$7.3 million.



Heating Plant Rendering (Revit)