



# 2024 Policy Agenda for a Sustainable New York

The NY Climate Advocacy Project (NYCAP) is an organization of New Yorkers who believe that global warming is the greatest threat to humanity and our planet, and that human use of fossil fuels has created this crisis. Our goal is to stop the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure and promote a rapid and just transition to 100% renewable energy with good jobs, while supporting low income and communities of color who are disproportionately harmed by climate destruction and pollution.

## Implementation of New York's Climate Law

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), passed in 2019, mandates an 85% economy-wide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and contains important provisions to help low-income communities and communities of color transition to a renewable energy economy on just terms. The CLCPA sets out strong goals, but its success will depend on aggressive action by the Governor and state agencies to achieve these goals. We call for:

- Full funding to implement needed changes and to support the transition for low and moderate income New Yorkers,
- Broad steps by state agencies, local governments, and schools to decarbonize their internal operations and facilities,
- Comprehensive legal and regulatory changes to existing state agency practices to ensure that state agencies are able to and are focused on meeting the CLCPA goals,
- Cap and invest regulations to cap harmful climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions with comprehensive reporting, year by year greenhouse gas reduction benchmarks and strong enforcement measures with no trading of allowances,
- No "false solutions" to the climate crisis including "renewable" natural gas (RNG) or green hydrogen, and
- A just transition to a renewable energy economy that protects impacted workers.

## Funding Mechanisms

- **Invest in Our NY (IONY) Package:** raises billions of dollars for climate justice and other vital state needs based on the principle of making large corporations and the wealthiest New Yorkers pay their fair share of taxes. (investinourny.org)
- **Climate Change Superfund Act:** requires companies that have contributed to the buildup of climate-warming gasses in the atmosphere to pay for the damage they have caused. Raises \$3 billion annually to repair damages from storms and other severe weather, and build resiliency to protect against future climate destruction. (A3351/S2129)
- **Stop Climate Polluter Handouts Act:** eliminates over \$300 million in annual tax breaks provided by New York State to the fossil fuel industry. Limits the ability of fossil fuel companies to participate in several state economic development programs. (A7949/S3389)

## Legislative Proposals

- **NY Home Energy Affordability Act (NY HEAT):** aligns Public Service Commission (PSC) regulations with the climate justice and emission targets of the CLCPA. Eliminates ratepayer subsidies for new gas hookups and makes utility bills more affordable for low-to-moderate income customers. (A4592/S2016)
- **Renewable Capitol Act:** mandates that several state facilities in downtown Albany including Empire State Plaza and the Capitol receive their electric power, heating and cooling from 100% renewable energy within three years. (A5633/S2689)
- **Cap and Invest Protections:** ensures that the Cap Trade and Invest program currently under development meets the goals of New York's climate law with site or facility specific caps, and sector-specific benchmarks and goals for emissions reduction. Prohibits allowance trading and enacts strong enforcement mechanisms. (A8469)
- **Stop CO2 fracking:** prohibits well permits for carbon dioxide fracking to extract gas or oil. This bill is in response to a proposal in the Southern Tier to frack using CO2 despite New York's ban on hydraulic fracturing. (S8357/A8866)
- **Teachers' Fossil Fuel Divestment Act:** requires the New York State Teachers' Retirement System to divest from its estimated \$4.5 billion in fossil fuel holdings. (A1101/S899)