

# NY Climate Advocates Action Agenda for 2019

**Climate news is very bad.** The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s report released October 2018, called on governments around the world to make *“rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” to avoid disastrous levels of global warming.* The report says that the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degree Celsius by 2030, much earlier than expected, unless drastic action is taken. Already, wildfires, droughts, and superstorms are killing people, destroying communities, crops and ocean ecosystems. And this is only the beginning.

**Current action on climate is not enough.** Despite worldwide commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emission, 2018 had the highest emissions ever. The sooner and more strongly we act, the more likely we can slow the progression of global warming and climate destruction. The world needs a mobilization of resources that we haven't seen since WWII.

**New York State, with our huge economy and talented workforce can lead the way.** The governor has proposed several measures to speed up the transition to renewable energy including increases in off shore wind, distributed solar, and increased energy storage ... but more needs to be done. Here are our proposals for 2019.

## **Fund climate solutions in the NYS Budget:**

**The legislature must commit billions more in funding for climate solutions** including full funding for the legislative priorities listed below. Other projects could include funding to transition all schools and municipal buildings to renewables this year, regenerative agriculture projects, and car charging stations every 25 miles on all state roads.

**Use the \$88 million slated for a fracked gas powerplant in Sheridan Hollow to instead fund renewable solutions to power the Capitol.** Governor Cuomo claims to be a climate leader, yet he is proposing a new fracked gas powerplant to power the Capitol and Empire State Plaza. By powering our state government buildings with 100% renewable energy New York can show the rest of the country that renewable solutions are possible.

## **Transition to 100% Renewables ASAP**

**The Climate and Community Protection Act (A3876 / S2992)** requires New York state to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy, while protecting communities and workers on the front lines of climate change. We recommend that the timeline for 100% renewables be moved up to 2035 with corresponding changes to the proposed benchmarks.

**100% Renewables by 2030 (A3565 / S )** requires the adoption of a climate action plan; establishes the renewable energy revolving fund; and provides for legal standing to sue for enforcement of the state clean energy plan.

## **Stop funding climate destruction**

**Divestment of NYS pension fund from fossil fuels (A1536 / S2126)** requires the New York State Comptroller to divest the state pension fund from the top 200 oil, gas and coal companies.

**Stop fossil fuel subsidies (A257 / S2649)** requires the governor's tax expenditure report to include all fossil fuel subsidies and stops these subsidies after three years.

## **Support renewable energy**

**Fix the Public Service Commission's Value of Distributed Energy Resources (VDER) (A4090 / S )** to promote the development of community solar.