



New York Policy Agenda for a Sustainable Future 2023

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 change and pollution.

Implementation of the Landmark 2019 NYS Climate Law

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), passed in 2019, mandates an 85% economy-wide reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) 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:

- economy-wide year-by-year GHG emissions reduction targets that apply to all GHG emitters;
- aggressive enforcement against emitters that do not comply with the state's GHG emission reduction targets;
- broad steps by state agencies, local governments, and schools to decarbonize their internal operations and facilities;
- strict implementation of the mandate that 35% (with a goal of 40%) of the benefits of energy and certain other funding be used to benefit "disadvantaged communities";
- 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.

- 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.

CLCPA Implementation: Funding for Climate, Jobs, and Justice

NYCAP stand with NY Renews in support of their Climate, Jobs and Justice Package which raises significant funds to cut greenhouse gas emissions in our state’s building, transportation and infrastructure while ensuring a green economy for all. New York State needs an overall funding level of over \$10 billion annually in public and private investments to meet the CLCPA goals. This package seeks to move towards that funding level.

Funding Mechanisms

- **IONY Package:** supported by a multi-issue coalition known as Invest in Our New York (IONY), will raise 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:** will create a “climate superfund” making the state’s worst polluters, including major oil companies pay a portion of the cost of the damages they have caused. The funds will be used for infrastructure investments required for New York to adapt to the impacts of climate destruction. (A3351/S2129)
- **Stop Climate Polluter Handouts Act:** formerly the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Elimination Act: eliminates over \$300 million in annual tax breaks provided by New York State to the fossil fuel industry, and limits the ability of fossil fuel companies to participate in several state economic development programs (S3389).

Legislative Proposals

- **All Electric Building New Act:** prohibits the granting of permits for the construction of buildings up to six stories that are not all-electric by December 31, 2024, and prohibits the permitting of new buildings more than six stories that are not all-electric by 2027 (A920/S562).
- **NY Home Energy Affordability Act (NY HEAT):** formerly Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act requires the Public Service Commission (PSC), to develop a plan to better align the PSC's regulation of utility services with the climate justice and GHG emission targets of the CLCPA and set biennial gas sales reduction targets for each gas company; eliminates ratepayer subsidies for new gas hookups and makes utility bills more affordable for low-to-moderate income customers. (S2016)
- **Renewable Capitol Act:** mandates that several state facilities in downtown Albany, including Empire State Plaza and the State Capitol building, receive their electric power, and heating and cooling from 100% renewable energy within three years, allowing the New York Power Authority to shut down the Sheridan Avenue Steam Plant that releases GHG and pollutes in an environmental justice community just blocks from the Capitol. (S2689)
- **Teachers' Fossil Fuel Divestment Act:** requires the New York State Teachers' Retirement System to divest its estimated \$4.5 billion in fossil fuel holdings. (A1101/S899).