

FOSSIL FUEL LIES

the industry's campaign to gut New York's climate law

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WE ARE OUT OF TIME

Lie: "There is absolutely no basis for such an immediate and dramatic shift in State policy when... the continued utilization of the natural gas system is of utmost importance for customers who rely on it for heating..." — National Fuel Gas¹

Truth: We are in a climate crisis!

"The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk... with many of the changes becoming irreversible." — António Guterres, UN Secretary-General²

Floods, heat waves, and wildfires are devastating communities around the world and here in New York. **Immediate action is needed** to prevent climate catastrophe and protect the future for the next generation. To continue to promote the burning of fossil fuels at this point in the climate crisis is simply inexcusable.

Truth: The industry has known for decades

Yet, there is nothing immediate about industry's response to the climate crisis. Industry scientists have known about the climate crisis since the 1970s. And what did they do? They conducted a campaign of deception and delay, all the while promoting the expansion of fossil fuels, and raking in billions in profits. Fossil fuel interests in New York including utility companies have spent more than \$15.5 million

since 2016 on lobbyists to advance fossil fuel expansion and the continued use of "natural" gas.³

Truth: NY can shift to renewables and meet our climate goals

Yes, we must make a dramatic shift in State policy, and New York's Scoping Plan⁴ lays out clear options to meet our climate goals using renewable energy sources such as solar and wind energy. According to the Plan, "Achieving deep decarbonization is feasible by 2050... Energy efficiency and end-use electrification are essential parts of any pathway that achieves New York State emission limits," and "The cost of inaction exceeds the cost of action by more than \$115 billion."

Truth: There is no need to rely on gas to heat our homes

"Heat pumps are... an important tool for helping to thwart climate change—not just in the south, but all over the country: They're much more energy-efficient than traditional heating and cooling systems...can keep your home toasty even amid bone-chilling cold, using far less energy than other types of heating systems. Many homeowners will save money with a heat pump, too."⁵
— Consumer Reports

Sources:

1) National Fuel Gas Testimony, Joint Legislative Hearing on FY 2024-25 NY Budget, Environmental Conservation, February 7, 2024
2) <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2021-08-09/>

3) <https://public-accountability.org/report/fueling-obstruction/>

4) <https://climate.ny.gov/resources/scoping-plan> page 3

5) <https://www.consumerreports.org/heat-pumps/can-heat-pumps-actually-work-in-cold-climates-a4929629430/>