



New York City Council Environmental SCORECARD 2018



NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
nylcv.org/nycscorecard

INTRODUCTION

In my first year as President, and our organization's thirtieth year, I am excited to continue NYLCV's great work advocating for legislation to advance New York City as a leader on environmental policy. *OneNYC* sets ambitious goals and we will work with legislative leaders to enact policies that encourage the use of renewable energy, decrease emissions from the buildings sector, and reduce waste to meet these goals - all top NYLCV priorities. Together, we will also fight to protect public health and open spaces for generations to come.

Each year, we lay out a policy agenda for New York City with goals that we urge the Mayor and the Council to achieve in the next session. Our 2018 policy agenda included removing toxins from the environment, planning for future mobility systems, and making the City's climate goals real.

Our primary tool for holding Council Members accountable for progress on these goals is our annual New York City Council Environmental Scorecard. Using our policy agenda as a guide - and in consultation with our partners from environmental, conservation, public health, and transportation groups - we select bills for our scorecard that passed and legislation that we believe has a chance of becoming law during this session.

A top priority is to bring us closer to meeting the City's climate goals, so we pushed for policies that help overcome barriers to using renewable energy. A legislative package to encourage wind energy in New York City will do just that and we were excited to see it pass last year.

Sustainable transportation and mobility, another of our top priorities, does not simply include zero-emission cars and trains. A 21st Century city must include multi-modal transportation options. That's why we included legislation in this year's scorecard that advances electric scooters and bicycles, as well as pedestrian-friendly street infrastructure like wide sidewalks.

In 2018, we released a report on combating lead poisoning in New York City which showed that, unfortunately, we need to do much more work to finally eliminate childhood lead poisoning. The City Council's legislative package on lead poisoning prevention will go a long way towards reducing this toxic metal from our environment. Three of these bills - one to lower the blood lead threshold, one to expand investigations when lead poisoning is identified, and one to increase awareness of lead poisoning - are included in this year's scorecard.



Last year was Speaker Johnson's first year in leadership, and he has already made significant commitments on our priority issues - from the legislative package on lead poisoning to his commitments to sustainable transportation announced at his first State of the City address. We are excited to see many of these proposals become law, and hear what he has in store for addressing energy efficiency, waste, and conservation in the future.

Kudos to the 44 Council Members who earned high marks this year! We are pleased that so many Council Members are supportive of the environment and have taken pro-environmental actions as part of our scorecard. With the executive branch in Washington undermining years of environmental progress, it is more important than ever for local governments to fill that void. New York City is uniquely positioned to lead the way by implementing innovative policies. Cities across the nation are watching closely and often follow our lead. Keep up the good work and here's to setting an even higher standard for environmental protection in 2019!

-Julie Tighe, President, NYLCV



ABOUT THE BILLS

Combating Lead Poisoning

1. Expanding Investigations for Lead Poisoning – Intro 864 (Speaker Johnson)

This bill would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a more comprehensive inspection of a lead-poisoned child's environment. Lead poisoning continues to negatively affect the health of New York City's children and this bill would help ensure that any potential lead hazards are identified and fixed. Specifically, if elevated lead is found in the paint, dust, or water of a lead-poisoned child's home, the Department would also inspect all other child-occupied dwellings in the same building. The child's school or daycare would also be inspected, and the soil at any playgrounds visited by the child would be sampled for lead contamination. This bill would help the City reach its LeadFreeNYC goal. Intro 864 was introduced on May 9, 2018 and heard by the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Environmental Protection, and Health on September 27, 2018.

2. Lead Standards and Reference Levels – Intro 865-A (Speaker Johnson)

This bill would enact stricter lead standards to protect children's health in New York City. These protective require the government to take action if certain levels of lead are found. This bill would lower the acceptable lead level in paint, dust, and in children's blood. In addition, the bill would require the city to lower its standards even further if stricter standards are adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Environmental Protection Agency. Intro 865 was introduced on May 9, 2018 and heard by the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Environmental Protection, and Health on September 27, 2018.

3. Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Outreach – Intro 881 (Dromm)

This bill would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish an education and outreach program to increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention. The program would focus on culturally competent education and include targeted outreach to specific immigrant populations where lead exposure is a known problem and to communities with limited English proficiency. The program would include information on the health effects of lead in children, sources of lead, and the importance of blood-lead testing. Raising awareness of these issues would help communities reduce their exposure to lead, protecting public health among some of the city's most vulnerable populations. Intro 881 was introduced on May 9, 2018 and heard by the Committees on Housing and Buildings, Environmental Protection, and Health on September 27, 2018.

Overcoming Barriers to Renewable Energy

4. Mapping Wind Power Generation Potential – Intro 48 (Constantinides)

This bill requires New York City to map areas with high wind generation potential within the city. Specifically, the City must determine which rooftops and waterfront areas would be viable locations for small wind turbines based on wind speed

and variability. As a result, this bill makes it easier to identify areas where wind energy generation can be optimized within the city, which will facilitate the expansion of this renewable energy source. Intro 48 was introduced on January 31, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on February 26. The bill passed on April 25 by a vote of 50-0.

5. Authorizing Small Wind Turbines – Intro 50 (Constantinides)

This bill authorizes the installation of small wind turbines on designated rooftops and in waterfront areas. Turbines will be allowed as long as the level of noise produced by them is limited. This bill will allow for the expansion of wind energy generation and help the City meet its goal of reducing carbon emissions through increasing renewables. Intro 50 was introduced on January 31, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on February 26. The bill passed on April 25 by a vote of 50-0.

Sustainable Transportation and Mobility

6. Vision Zero Street Design Checklist – Intro 322 (Rodriguez)

This bill would require NYC's Department of Transportation to develop a checklist of street design features that improve safety and protect environmental quality that they would then have to consider implementing during redesign projects on arterial streets. Some design elements include protected bicycle lanes, wider sidewalks, bioswales, and bus lanes. Integrating more of these features into the city's roadways encourages cycling, walking, and use of public transportation, which could reduce congestion and help the city reach Vision Zero. Intro 322 was introduced on January 31, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Transportation on August 15, 2018.

7. Diesel School Bus Phaseout – Intro 455 (Dromm)

This bill would require all diesel school buses operating in New York City to be retired after 10 years of use and replaced with either cleaner models such as compressed natural gas, hybrid, or electric school buses. Further, the bill requires that by September 1, 2040, all school buses be replaced with zero emission electric models. By phasing out old diesel buses, this bill would improve the city's air quality and public health of students and communities near large school bus depots. Intro 455 was introduced on February 14, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on December 17, 2018.

8. Electric Bicycles Conversion Program – Intro 1265 (Espinal)

This bill would require New York City's Department of Transportation to create a program allowing for low-income New Yorkers who own throttle-operated electric bicycles to convert their bikes to pedal-assist electric bicycles. Throttled e-bikes have become ubiquitous on NYC streets and are heavily relied upon by delivery workers. However, the bikes are not currently legal to operate within the city, leaving these New Yorkers subject to heavy fines and even confiscation, despite being a sustainable mode of transportation. Pedal-assist bicycles travel more slowly and require the rider to pedal the bike in order to receive the extra boost from the motor, making them a safer zero-emission transportation option. By helping communities transition to these bikes, Intro 1265 would expand the reach of emission-free transportation, while protecting the workers who



provide a valuable service to New York City. Intro 1265 was introduced on November 28, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Transportation on January 23, 2019.

9. Electric Scooters Pilot Program – Intro 1266 (Espinal)

This bill would require the Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program for shared electric scooters in New York City. The program would be prioritized in neighborhoods that lack transit options or do not have existing bike share programs, and those affected by the L-train tunnel reconstruction. Introducing an electric scooter program would provide communities with another zero-emission transportation option, increasing mobility while reducing congestion and emissions in communities where the need is greatest. This bill is part of a legislative package and must pass with Intro 1250, which legalizes certain electronic scooters, in order to be enacted. Intro 1266 was introduced on November 28, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Transportation on January 23, 2019.

Improving Greenspaces

10. Parks Capital Expenditures Report – Intro 161 (Levine)

This bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to improve its online platform for tracking capital projects taking place in NYC parks. These projects often support the City’s goals for stormwater management, conservation of green space, and resiliency. The proposed bill would expand the online tracker to include more detailed information, including total number of projects, dates projects were funded, reasons for any delays, projected and actual cost overruns, and time it took to complete each project so that the public can more easily access information about park improvements. Intro 161 was introduced on January 31, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Parks and Recreation on February 9, 2019.

11. Establishing an Office of the Waterfront – Intro 982 (Rose)

This bill would establish an Office of the Waterfront, which would coordinate among the various city agencies that handle matters related to the waterfront. New York’s waterfront is part of the fabric of what makes the city unique. Its use varies between parks and recreation, housing, transportation, and various commercial and industrial uses. These often competing interests combined with the harbor’s management and

oversight, which spans city, state and federal jurisdictions, works as an obstacle to effective planning and management of this vital resource. The proposed office would serve as an advocate for the waterfront within city government and also implement the New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, which is a 10-year vision for the sustainable use and development of the city’s 520 miles of shoreline developed by the Department of City Planning. Intro 982 was introduced on June 7, 2018 and referred to the Committee on Government Relations where it awaits a hearing.

12. Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan – Intro 1058 (Espinal)

This bill would require the Department of City Planning to develop a comprehensive plan for promoting urban agriculture in NYC. Urban agriculture includes backyard gardens, community and school gardens, and commercial businesses that grow food indoors and on rooftops. Urban agriculture can increase access to healthy food, contribute to conservation and resiliency goals, create jobs, and provide educational opportunities. Together with stakeholders, the City would be required to address land use policy and other issues that need to be clarified for urban agriculture to flourish in NYC. Intro 1058 was introduced on August 8, 2018 and referred to the Committee on Land Use where it awaits a hearing.

Reducing Waste

13. Organics Collection for City Buildings – Intro 1075-A (Public Advocate James)

This bill establishes a pilot program to collect organic waste from buildings that house city agencies. The program will educate participants about composting and its environmental benefits, and help New York City grow a wide-scale composting program. Currently, organics make up a third of the waste that ends up in the city’s landfills. As it decomposes, this waste emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas. It is important that the City lead by example, and encouraging city agencies to divert more waste from landfills will bring us closer to hitting our Zero Waste goal. Intro 1075-A was introduced on August 8, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management on December 18, 2018. The bill passed on December 20, 2018 by a vote of 48-0.

KEY RESULTS & METHODOLOGY

While the citywide average score has stayed consistent, there was some notable movement at the borough level. Brooklyn was a standout performer for the 2018 Scorecard. With an average score of 94, compared to 87 last year, Brooklyn was by far the most improved. In fact, over half of the Brooklyn delegation received a 100%, with nine total perfect scores. We are thrilled the City's most populous borough has the most climate champions, and expect other borough delegations to compete with Brooklyn in years to come.

Scores of Key Committee Chairs



Consumer Affairs
Council Member
Rafael Espinal
Score: 100



Environmental Protection
Council Member
Costa
Constantinides
Score: 100



Health
Council Member
Mark Levine
Score: 100



Parks & Recreation
Council Member
Barry Grodenchik
Score: 92



Sanitation & Solid Waste
Council Member
Antonio Reynoso
Score: 100



Transportation
Council Member
Ydanis Rodriguez
Score: 100

✓ Perfect Scores of 100

Bronx - Cabrera, Salamanca, Torres
Brooklyn - Barron, Cornegy, Cumbo, Espinal, Eugene, Levin, Maisel, Reynoso, Williams
Manhattan - Chin, Rosenthal, Levine, Rodriguez
Queens - Adams, Constantinides, Richards, Ulrich, Van Bramer

✗ Failing Scores

23 - Borelli, Diaz, Matteo
62 - Yeger
64 - King

Borough Average	2017	2018
Bronx	87	79
Brooklyn	87	94
Manhattan	95	94
Queens	92	92
Staten Island	54	46
Citywide Average	88	88

Methodology

NYLCV regularly convenes a "Green Group" coalition of New York City's leading environmental, transportation, public health, parks, and environmental justice organizations to discuss important issues and formulate collective legislative priorities. Using this information, NYLCV selected the legislation in this Scorecard. Council Members earn points by casting pro-environment votes or by co-sponsoring pro-environment bills. Negative votes count against the final score. Votes missed due to medical absences were not factored into the score. Bills that passed during 2018 were graded on whether or not each legislator took the pro-environment vote. Bills that did not reach a vote during 2018 were graded on co-sponsorship and members were given until January 31, 2019 to co-sponsor bills. As Council Speaker, Corey Johnson was not graded.

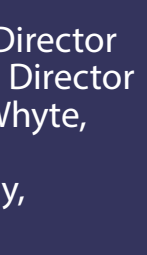
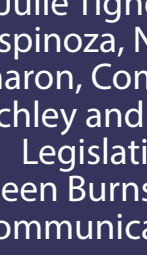
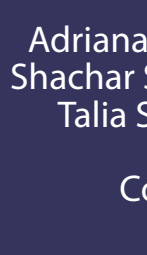
	2018 Score		2017 Score												
	2018 Score	2017 Score	1. Expanding Investigations for Lead Poisoning	2. Lead Standards	3. Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Outreach	4. Mapping Wind Power Generation Potential	5. Authorizing Small Wind Turbines	6. Vision Zero Street Design Checklist	7. Diesel School Bus Phaseout	8. Electric Bicycles Conversion Program	9. Electric Scooters Pilot Program	10. Parks Capital Expenditures Report	11. Establishing an Office of the Waterfront	12. Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan	13. Organics Collection for City Buildings
MANHATTAN															
Chin	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rivera	85	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓
Powers	92	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kallos	92	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rosenthal	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Levine	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ayala	85	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Perkins	92	100	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rodriguez	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BRONX															
Cohen	85	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
King	64	67	✓	X	✓	A	A	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gjonaj	77	--	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cabrera	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Torres	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gibson	85	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Salamanca	100	69	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diaz Sr.	23	--	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
QUEENS															
Vallone	92	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Koo	92	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Moya	85	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constantinides	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grodenschik	92	62	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lancman	92	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dromm	85	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Van Bramer	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Miller	85	80	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adams	100	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Koslowitz	85	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Holden	77	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richards	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ulrich	100	54	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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BROOKLYN															
Levin	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reynoso	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Cumbo	100	60	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cornegy	100	62	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Espinal	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Menchaca	92	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lander	85	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Eugene	100	62	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ampry-Samuel	92	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barron	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brannan	92	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Yeger	62	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Williams	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maisel	100	92	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Treyger	92	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deutsch	85	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
STATEN ISLAND															
Rose	92	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	A
Matteo	23	31	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Borelli	23	31	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓

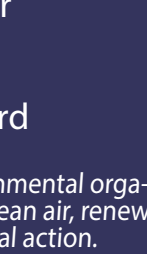
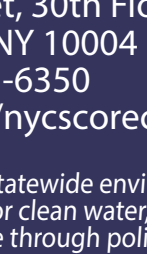
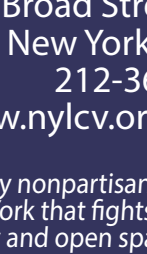
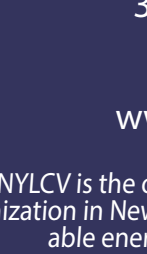




Thirty
NYLCV
 NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
Years



Julie Tighe, President
 Adriana Espinoza, NYC Program Director
 Shachar Sharon, Communications Director
 Talia Sechley and Kaya Karibi-Whyte,
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 Colleen Burns and John Day,
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NYLCV is the only nonpartisan, statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy and open space through political action.

