New York League of Conservation Voters New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

# ADDUCATION OF THE OWNER OWNE



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# Forward

As we reflect on our work in 2023, there is a lot for us to celebrate and to learn from.

Last year will be remembered as the year the impacts of climate change arrived on our doorstep. We experienced record heat and paralyzing floods. And who will ever forget the day we woke to apocalyptic orange skies and toxic air from wildfires hundreds of miles away.

Yet as the climate crisis bears down on us, our home state can take a measure of hope in the progress we made in 2023, which was another strong year for NYLCV and our mission to protect and conserve New York's environment.

We continued to up our election game with 95% of the candidates we endorsed having won their primaries and nearly 90% having gone on to win the general election. On the legislative front, several NYLCV scorecard bills passed in 2023, including action to decarbonize the buildings sector, produce renewable energy faster, and advance public health.

The breadth and reach of the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund continued to expand in 2023. Whether in-person or online, and whether educating about offshore wind, electric school buses, or the Inflation Reduction Act, NYLCVEF was extolling benefits, debunking myths, and explaining the way forward to New Yorkers all across the state.

In 2024 and beyond, NYLCV will work tirelessly to reduce carbon emissions in the state by advocating for strong environmental legislation and making sure the billions of federal and state dollars allocated to fight climate change will be put to the best possible use, and in an equitable fashion. This includes making sure there is clean drinking water for all New Yorkers and advocating for increased offshore wind, solar and geothermal energy, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and funding for parks, among many other green initiatives. We must also make sure current and future elected officials are held accountable for their environmental records.

At NYLCV, we believe environmental justice is non-negotiable and must be a focus in everything we do.

Thank you to our board, our invaluable supporters, and our incredibly hardworking staff and volunteers for a job well done in 2023.

Our work in New York serves as a shining light for other states and communities around the nation as we strive for a more sustainable and equitable future. We are proud of our accomplishments, but know there is a huge amount of work ahead. We look forward to working together to achieve our goals.

With your help, with the help of our partners, we can accomplish big things in the years to come.



Julii Tigh

Julie Tighe President NYLCV NYLCVEF

# Electing for the Environment



Last year was a big year for the environment at the ballot box. An overwhelming majority nearly 90%—of the 131 candidates NYLCV endorsed in New York City, Long Island, Westchester and the Capital Region won in the general election, showing once again that New York State is trending in the right direction in its fight to protect the environment and address the climate crisis.

The League was out front promoting early voting participation among its members and the general public. And come Election Day, whether it was knocking on doors or making phone calls, Team NYLCV was out in full force helping to turn out the vote on behalf of our endorsed candidates.

In Suffolk County, NYLCV and the New York State Laborers joined forces for a powerful six-figure, independent expenditure to educate voters on the significance of the county's Clean Water Plan and the reasons behind its obstruction by some Suffolk County Legislators.

NYLCV looks forward to carrying this momentum into the 2024 election and beyond.

# Our Vote is Our Power

The New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund believes that the most important thing someone can do for the environment is vote. That's why NYLCVEF's Our Vote Is Our Power campaign aims to triple the number of environmental voters by 2026. Through grassroots outreach—including tabling at events and neighborhood canvassing—as well through mailings, digital and outdoor advertising, and hosting art-based activation events, the campaign targets low-propensity voters and nonparticipants, with a special emphasis on BIPOC communities. We look forward to carrying this work forward during the 2024 election cycle and beyond.





Calling voters on Election Day was one of the League's GOTV tactics





# **Civic and Community Engagement**

# Environmental Candidate Forums



Fighting climate change starts at the ballot box. Following this principle, in 2023 the League once again hosted multiple candidate forums. During an off year with fewer contested elections than usual, these forums offered candidates the opportunity to inform voters where they stood on the most pressing environmental issues in their communities.

On Long Island, we held a forum in July in which the two candidates for Suffolk County Executive— Democrat Dave Calone and Republican Ed Romaine—took turns explaining their positions on key issues such as the importance of electric vehicles and wind power for Long Islanders, as well as the need to safeguard the county's drinking water and improve its sewer system.

In the fall, we held a forum for mayoral candidates in Troy, Democrat Nina Nichols and Republican Carmella Mantello. A major focus during the forum was the importance of replacing the lead pipes in the community, as well as the need to expand the city's electric vehicle charging infrastructure and its composting program.

These nonpartisan forums are a constructive way to connect voters and candidates in local, state and federal races. They give candidates an opportunity to explain their positions to voters on the key environmental issues, and in turn, they give voters the opportunity to evaluate the candidates' differences before heading to the ballot—an indispensable contribution to the democratic process.

# **Electric School Bus Transition**



NYLCVEF's Juan Torres and Alexis Hidalgo educating about electric school buses at the Zerega Bus Depot in the Bronx.



The electric school bus (ESB) transition is not only an important component of New York's clean energy future, it is absolutely critical to the health of children across the state, especially in low-income communities and communities of color. NYLCV played a key role in getting the ESB transition legislation passed-both in New York City and statewide—which requires all school buses in the state be electric by 2035. And now that funding is rolling in from the EPA and New York's Environmental Bond Act, the League's Education Fund has stepped up as a leading organization in the effort to educate stakeholders across the state about how to transition to a clean school fleet. In December, we held an event at the NYCSBUS Zerega Bus Depot in the Bronx, where we welcomed partners, advocates, and elected officials to see the transition up close and even take a test drive on a clean school bus.

# Raise a Glass to the Environment: Celebrating Our Work Honoring Success!

In 2023, the League hosted its annual gala at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan, as well as a series of cocktail parties, one in each of our five chapter regions. It is at these events that we raise a glass to recent victories and highlight the incredible work of organizations that have dedicated themselves to New York's clean energy future.



House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, NYLCV President Julie Tighe, Gala honoree and Board Member Michael Posillico.





Greg Clark, NYC Councilmember Shekar Krishnan, NYLCV Board Member Jon del Giorno.



NYLCV Board Chair Steven Russo, NYLCV President Julie Tighe, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, NYLCVEF Board Chair Tom Dewey.



The NYC Chapter Board at the League's NYC Cocktail Party, where we honored Transmission Developers and Hydro-Québec's Champlain Hudson Power Express project.



The Long Island Chapter Board along with Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine honoring New York Transco and Unique Electric Solutions at the League's Long Island Cocktail Party.



Board Member Nanette Bourne, Kenan Bigby of Trinity Financial, the night's honoree, and NYLCV President Julie Tighe at the League's Westchester Cocktail Party.



NYC Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Rit Aggarwala, NYC Chapter Board Chair Michael Woloz, and NYLCV President Julie Tighe.



Assemblymembers Pat Fahy and Didi Barrett and other state leaders joined NYLCV to honor Livingston Energy Group and the Capital District Transportation Authority at the League's Capital Region Cocktail Party.

# Stronger Together: The League's Coalition Work

NYLCV Policy Director Patrick McClellan speaks at a rally for Congestion Pricing in New York City.

Coalitions are central to the work the League does every day. Without harnessing the power of strong partnerships, we would not be able to achieve our goals. From advocacy to events to communications, coordinating our work alongside like-minded organizations increases our reach and bolsters our effectiveness. We thank all of our coalition partners and look forward to continuing to work together in the years ahead.

## **Congestion Pricing Now**

After years of delay and debate, Congestion Pricing was finally approved by the federal government in 2023 and is slated to start in 2024, clearing the way for less traffic, less carbon pollution and a more equitable approach to reduced vehicular use in New York City. Over the past year, the League joined its coalition partners in advocating for this climatefriendly policy through op-eds, on social media, paid advertising, and at rallies near the entrance of the Holland Tunnel and in Union Square with lawmakers including Gov. Kathy Hochul, Reps. Jerrold Nadler and Daniel Goldman, and MTA CEO Janno Lieber.

# NYC Coalition to End Lead Poisoning and the NYS Coalition to End Lead Poisoning

We are active participants in both the NYC and NYS coalitions to end lead poisoning because clean drinking water is crucial to the health and safety of all New Yorkers, and an issue that needs to be addressed and resolved as soon as possible. The EPA estimates that there are almost 500,000 lead service lines in NY state, putting NY in the top six states. We are seeing some progress, but we are not there yet. In 2023, the state Legislature passed and Gov. Hochul signed the Lead Pipe Right to Know Act, requiring public water systems to inventory all service lines and post lead pipe information online. Also, in 2023, the NYC coalition released a groundbreaking report NO Excuses, NYC: Replace Lead Drinking Water Pipes Now, providing a neighborhood breakdown of known service line pipes throughout the five boroughs, Now that this critical information is becoming public, city and state officials need to act precipitously to remove these contaminating lead pipes.

# **Upgrade NY**

Established in 2023, Upgrade NY is a collaboration of unions, climate justice advocates, building industry representatives and environmental groups calling for Gov. Hochul and New York policymakers to decarbonize state-owned buildings and schools through a local, union-led workforce. In 2023, Upgrade NY was pleased that the allocated \$30 million to replace two fossil-fueled chiller plants at the University of Albany with a thermal energy system and also included a requirement for the New York Power Authority to issue decarbonization action plans for 15 of the highest-emitting state facilities.

less traffic

CONGES

# NYC Electric School Bus Coalition and NYS Electric School Bus Coalition

By 2035 all school buses in New York State, which together transport approximately 1.5 million students a day, must be electric. This not only will reduce the carbon emissions going into the air, it also will help protect the health of the students on those buses, who every day breathe exhaust fumes that are known to cause respiratory illnesses and developmental and cognitive problems. In recent years, the NYC and NYS Electric School Bus Coalitions were instrumental in getting the electric school bus legislation passed at both the city and state levels, and in 2023 the coalition turned its attention to making sure school districts are aware of available federal and state funding and are well positioned to meet the 2035 deadline.

# **Clean Fuels NY**

The Clean Fuels NY coalition is led by the New York League of Conservation Voters and was formed to demonstrate the broad and diverse support for New York State to create a Clean Fuel Standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, which is the second leading contributor to climate pollution in the state. A clean fuel standard would deploy low-carbon fuels for vehicles currently on our roads, which would immediately cut greenhouse-gas emissions in the state. In 2023, the State Senate passed the Clean Fuel Standard legislation (S.B. 1292), and in 2024 we urge the State Assembly and Gov. Hochul to join with them to get it over the finish line.

# Wind Works New York

Wind Works New York, a coalition of environmental, labor, clergy, and community groups and formerly known as Wind Works Long Island-can celebrate 2023 as an historic year. In October, Gov. Hochul announced the largest state investment in renewable energy in U.S. history. This included three offshore wind projects that, when combined with the other renewable energy projects announced, will provide enough power for 2.6 million New York homes. The wind projects, projected to be operational by 2030, are expected to supply 4,200 family-sustaining jobs in Long Island, New York City and the Capital Region over the next 25 years. The clean energy generated annually will also be equivalent to removing the carbon emissions from 1.6 million cars from the road each year. As part of the League's educational work, we participated in Wind Works forums debunking industry myths and discussing current and future projects, so consumers can understand the importance and reliability of wind power.



at a Play Fair for Parks rally in New York City.

# **Play Fair for Parks**

New York City's parks and green spaces are essential assets for environmental conservation and for the community, and the preservation of these parks is a top priority for the New York League of Conservation Voters and the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. Along with our Play Fair for Parks coalition partners, we continue to urge Mayor Adams and the NYC City Council to invest in parks with 1 percent of the city budget.

# **Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed**

The Coalition was formed in 2012 to protect and restore the land and waters in the Delaware River Basin, a source of water for more than 15 million people in the four adjacent states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. The League is one of 180+ organizations collectively advocating for a healthy and protected watershed with an inclusive, unified voice. Among the coalition's activities in the past year was a "Day on the Delaware", which highlighted exciting new investments towards restoring the Delaware River. The basin, or watershed, covers 13 million acres in the four states and includes more than 25,000 miles of rivers and streams. About half of New York City gets its water through the Delaware Aqueduct.

# Thank You To Our Coalition Partners!









**UPGRADE NY** 





PRICING NO

# **By the Numbers**

Our reach and effectiveness continues to increase year-over-year as more candidates are participating in our endorsement process and more of our endorsed candidates are winning their races. Our fundraising is growing, which supports our work to achieve advocacy and programmatic accomplishments throughout the year. Your support is critical to our success.

# Questionnaires received

 $Endorsement\ interest\ increases$ 

| 2023   |      |     | 203 |
|--|------|-----|-----|
| 2019   | 87   |     |     |
| 2015   | 95   |     |     |
| Races we endorsed in<br>Endorsement activity increa    | ises |     |     |
| 2023   |      | 131 |     |
| 2019 <b>62</b>   |      |     |     |
| 2015 <b>62</b>   |      |     |     |
| Number of winning candid<br>Our relationships increase | ates |     |     |
| 20XX   |      | 117 |     |

Percent of endorsed candidates who won

54

58



Funds raised at Gala

\$1,210,200



New Donors

236

Eco-breakfasts 10



Corporate Partners

10

**CAPITAL** 

**47** REGULAR



Policy Forums

17

 $\mathbf{A}$ 

Grants Received

18

L.T

Forum Attendees

1,900+



Candidate Forums

Actions Taken

7,475



Funding we helped get in the budget



\$500M Clean Water Infrastructure, \$400M EPF, \$30M SUNY Albany thermal energy network



Bills we advocated for that passed

18



**705** 

# **Educating for the Environment**

The New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (NYLCVEF) is dedicated to educating individuals and communities about environmental issues. Our robust programing throughout 2023 included expert panel discussions on zoning proposals in New York City, grid readiness and infrastructure resiliency battery energy storage systems, and zoning proposals, just to name a few. Three programs in particular– What's Brewin' Offshore, Lunch and Learns, and The IRA: What it Means for New Yorkers–continued to thrive in 2023. Through these programs, NYLCVEF seeks to raise public awareness of critical environmental issues and provide individuals with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions.

# The IRA: What's It Mean for New Yorkers?

NYLCVEF has been a leader in promoting the benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), the biggest and boldest climate action our nation has ever taken. NYLCVEF hosted multiple webinars and in-person programs throughout the year to educate the public about this groundbreaking bill. Led by Federal Campaign Manager Matt Salton, these events are essential in educating the public about tax credits and rebates for energy-efficient upgrades to homes and appliances, among other benefits. The League is committed to continuing to its promotion of the IRA and its benefits. By working together with Congresspeople and other conservation groups, we are helping to build a brighter and more sustainable future for all New Yorkers.



# What's Brewin' Offshore

NYLCVEF's What's Brewin' Offshore program promotes sustainable energy and green jobs in New York. This year, the League joined Equinor for a What's Brewin' event at Bohemian Hall in Queens. The program brought together environmental, industry, and community-based organizations to discuss New York's offshore wind projects and their environmental benefits, as well as the green job opportunities that are expected to arise in the years to come. The merits of offshore wind power are clear: it is a clean, renewable energy source that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. However, the industry also has the potential to create thousands of wellpaying jobs, from construction to operations to maintenance. By engaging with stakeholders across the state, NYLCVEF's What's Brewin' Offshore program is helping to ensure that this potential is realized in a way that benefits both the environment and the economy.

# Lunch and Learns

What better way to spend a midday break than to learn about environmental issues and the policies that drive them. In 2023, we covered topics including composting, offshore wind, lead hazards, Local Law 97, and more. Our agenda briefs and legislative session wrap-ups are especially popular in this noon-time series. Our educational work is more than academic; as these events foster an informed and engaged dialogue about environmental protection and policies, they are crucial in securing a sustainable future for New York.

# **Emerging Leaders**

Our Emerging Leaders program is designed for early- and mid-career professionals on their way to becoming the environmental advocates for the future.



TURNOUT WAS STRONG AT OUR EMERGING LEADERS HAPPY HOUR

The New York League of Conservation Voters' Emerging Leaders program continues to play an important role in developing the next generation of environmental leaders. The program is specifically designed for early- and mid-career professionals who are passionate about the environment and want to make a difference.

In 2023, the Emerging Leaders program featured a breakfast session hosted at the offices of Bryan Cave that highlighted the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. At an Emerging Leaders Happy Hour later in the year, guests learned about New York City's electric vehicle future from the gorgeous confines of the Lucid Motors' showroom in the Meatpacking District.

The program is essential for building a sustainable future and creating a lasting impact in the fight against climate change. It is important to invest in the next generation of environmental leaders, as they will be responsible for driving critical change and addressing the challenges that lie ahead.



The League's Eco-Breakfasts serve as a platform for our Corporate Partners to network and engage with government leaders

# Corporate Partners

The League's Corporate Partners are corporations, businesses, and other organizations that support us in our efforts to educate the general public, candidates for office, and elected officials about environmental issues in New York State.

One of the benefits of our Corporate Partners Program is our Eco-Breakfasts, which give partners the opportunity to hear from environmental and government leaders who are working to move New York towards a clean energy economy. Keynote speakers this year included Rory Christian, Jessica Tisch, and Justin Driscoll, among others.

In addition to the educational and networking opportunities, the Eco-Breakfasts provide a chance for partners to learn about the latest sustainability initiatives and technologies being implemented in New York City and State.

As we continue to fight against climate change and environmental degradation, it is more important than ever to have these types of partnerships and dialogues. If you would like to become a Corporate Partner, learn more about the program, or get involved, please email development@nylcv.org. Together, we can create a more sustainable future for New York.

# Donors

### \$75,000+

Anonymous Con Edison Energy Action Fund Hydro-Québec League of Conservation Voters League of Conservation Voters Education Fund *Clint L. Plummer,* Rise Light & Power Posillico Inc.

## \$30,000-74,999

Darling Ingredients Equinor National Grid Orsted Larry Rockefeller *Paul Roux*, Roux Three Cairns Group Transmission Developers Inc. World Resources Institute

### \$15,000-29,999

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Avōq Biotechnology Innovation Organization Michael Bogin, Sive, Paget & Riesel, P.C. Brown & Weinraub LLC Tonio Burgos, Tonio Burgos & Associates

**Community Offshore Wind** Edward Cox Cypress Creek Renewables Delta Eastern Generation Eastman Chemical Company energyRe Michael Fox Gevo, Inc. Grassi & Co. CPA's Eric Gribetz, Stonecourt Capital Marjorie L. Hart **Jupiter Power** Phil Karmel, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP Mike Klein, Urban Strategies LLC John C. Lambert Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages Lime Lisa Linden, The LAKPR Group Link2Tek Livingston Energy Group, LLC Logical Buildings Lyft Karen Meara, Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP Dr. Lewis R. Morrison New York Power Authority Nixon Peabody NRDC **Ostroff Associates** Gail S. Port **Railroad Construction** Mimi Raygorodetsky, Langan Engineering **Regional Plan Association Rosemar** Contracting Steve C. Russo, Greenberg Traurig Sam Schwartz Engineering TD Bank The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Trinity Financial United Rentals Rosalind A. Walrath Wellspring Foundation

### \$5,000-9,999

Adjo Contracting Corp. Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC Gene & Kathy Bernstein Brookfield Renewable **BTR Energy** Luke Clemente, Century Aggregates, Inc. Con-Strux, LLC Cooper Recycling, LLC DeliverZero, Inc. John Dionisio, Global Infrastructure Solutions Inc. District Council 9 Painters and Allied Trades **Ferguson Waterworks** Flatiron Energy David Freeman. Gibbons P.C. John L. Greenthal Hecate Grid **Highland Electric Fleets** Iovino Enterprises LLC **IUOE** Local 94 IUPAT Rich Kassel, AJW, Inc. Richard L. Kauffman Linden Trust for Conservation Mainspring Energy Terry S. Meehan, Azimuth Investment Management, LLC James Muscato, Young/Sommer LLC NYC School Bus Umbrella Services (NYCSBUS) Oliveira Contracting, Inc.

## \$5,000-9,999 (cont.)

Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno

Proskauer Rose LLP RES Juan Reyes, Faegre Drinker LLP Rudin Management Company, Inc. RXR Sims Municipal Recycling Soloviev Group State Street Associates PAC SWTCH Adrienne Atwell Szendro The Nature Conservancy The Nurture Nature Foundation James B. Tripp Verizon Western New York Energy, LLC Jacob Worenklein, US Grid Company

### \$1,000-4,999

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# Thank You to Our Board

The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) owes a great deal to its board members. Without their unwavering support, guidance, and leadership, it would be impossible to achieve the organization's goals of protecting the environment and fighting climate change. NYLCV is deeply grateful to its board members for theirdedication to this vital cause.

In 2023, several board members stepped down, some of whom had been serving with the League for many years. The organization recognizes and appreciates their contributions and their commitment to environmental advocacy. These board members have left an indelible mark on NYLCV and their efforts will continue to inspire and inform the organization's work in the years to come.

NYLCV would like to express its heartfelt thanks to all of its board members, both current and former, for their tireless efforts in service of the environment. Their contributions are invaluable, and their leadership is essential to the success of NYLCV's mission.



Larry Rockefeller



**Mitchell H. Pally** 



**Jim Hagedorn** 



**Michael Posillico** 

# 2023 Board Members

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New York League of Conservation Voters 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.

New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund NYLCVEF educates, engages, and empowers New Yorkers to be effective advocates for the environment.

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