

Around the State Capitol

This year's state legislative session ended with historic gains for New York's environment. The centerpiece of these achievements was the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the strongest climate law in the country, and is a model for other states to follow. This legislation will make our economy carbon-neutral by 2050, including a requirement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85%, as well as moving to 100% clean power by 2040.

Legislators passed a bill to legalize electric bicycles and scooters, which will help tackle climate change by reducing transportation emissions. These low-emission transportation options reduce traffic congestion, enhance air quality, and make our streets more livable.

Both houses also passed bills to ban offshore drilling, the Child Safe Products Act (also known as the Toxic Toys bill) to ban chemicals that are harmful to children's health, and a paint stewardship program that will reduce waste and save taxpayers money.

The state budget included the country's first congestion pricing policy, which will decrease traffic congestion and air pollution in the Manhattan core while raising revenue for mass transit. The budget



NYLCV President Julie Tighe joined Governor Cuomo and Vice President Al Gore for the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act bill signing ceremony.

began to tackle our growing waste crisis by enacting a food waste reduction and recycling law. It also included a plastic bag ban that will go into effect next March, coupled with an option for localities to place a fee on other disposable bags, to finally end the scourge of single-use bags. And the State lowered the threshold for reporting high levels of lead exposure, which will help remove these harmful toxins from the environment and improve health outcomes for children.

It was a banner year for the environment. We look forward to making more gains in 2020.

This year is the League's 30th anniversary and it could not be here at a more critical time - at a moment when climate change is threatening the very fabric of our communities. With the White House moving backwards on the environment, it is more important than ever that state and local governments, organizations, responsible businesses and the public step up to the fight.

Fortunately, we can already see progress. The environment was a big winner this legislative session in Albany, one of the most pro-environment sessions in recent memory. Elected officials passed the most aggressive climate law in the nation, enacted congestion pricing, and expanded clean transportation options. They took steps to reduce food waste, banned plastic bags, and protected our water from toxins. We also celebrated significant wins in New York City with new standards to reduce emissions from buildings and a budget that allocated the largest increase to parks and open spaces in decades.

Since our founding in 1989, we have built a reputation as nonpartisan advocates for environmental policies. As the only environmental organization in the state that issues an environmental scorecard and makes endorsements, we continue to have the muscle to back up our advocacy.

We are engaging voters to be effective advocates for the environment. We held an environmental candidate forum for the NYC Public Advocate special election that drew nearly 250 New Yorkers ready to learn where the 14 candidates stood on key issues ranging from sustainable transportation and recycling, to meeting the city's 80 x 50 climate goals. We're already hard at work planning more candidate forums

for this fall's election cycle.

We will continue this legacy of success in the coming years as we fight for renewable energy, water quality, and solutions to our waste crisis.

These fights are more important than ever because next year will be critical in electoral politics. Not only do we have a presidential election on the horizon, but we also need pro-environment officials in state and local governments. That means we have to keep climate change at the forefront for candidates and the public. We will work to continue to make the environment a top-tier issue for voters and candidates.



Your dedication to the environment was integral to our successes this year and will continue to be essential moving forward into the future. On behalf of all of us at NYLCV & NYLCVEF, thank you for your commitment to the environment and for 30 years of support. Together, let's keep up the fight for the environment and against climate change for another 30 years!

Sincerely,
Julie Tighe

Julie Tighe, President, NYLCV & NYLCVEF



Support NYLCV's 30th Anniversary!



I'd like to contribute to (check one only):

NYLCV to support environmentally responsible politics (not tax deductible)

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I have enclosed a contribution of:

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Checks should be made payable to "NYLCV" or "NYLCVEF." We also accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express. For more information, please contact the Development Department at 212-361-6350 extension 212 or development@nylcv.org.



NYLCV State Policy Director Patrick McClellan participated in a press conference at the State Capitol with Assembly Members Englebright, Fahy, Rozic, and Ryan, Senator Kaminsky, and others in support of a bill to ban plastic bags. The bill passed earlier this Spring.



NYLCV President Julie Tighe and our partners Ron Kamen and Bob Elliot at Sustainable Westchester recognized the Town of Bedford and Supervisor Chris Burdick for achieving the Gold level of our Zero Emission Vehicle Pledge, electrifying at least 10% of its municipal fleet.



NYLCV NYC Program Director Adriana Espinoza participated in a race on 14th Street between walkers and bus riders to demonstrate that buses in this street are practically traveling at walking speed, and reiterate that New Yorkers need a more efficient bus system.



Evening hours with NYLCV at our Annual Spring Gala

1. Nearly 700 guests attended the dinner held at Chelsea Piers' Pier Sixty
2. NYLCV President **Julie Tighe** with NYC Council Member **Mark Levine**
3. The keynote address was given by **Congressmember Jerry Nadler**
4. Environmental Champion **Marjorie Hart**
5. From left: NYLCV Board Vice Chair and NYC Chapter Chair **Jon Del Giorno**, NYLCV/EF Board Member **Peggy Shepard**, and NYLCV President **Julie Tighe**
6. NYLCVEF Honoree **Tom Wright**, President of Regional Plan Association
7. NYLCV Honoree **Rick Cotton**, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey



New York League of Conservation Voters

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Corporate Partners Eco-Breakfast Program



L to R: NYLCV Board Chair Steve Russo, Governor Cuomo's Deputy Secretary for Energy and Environment Dale Bryk, and NYLCV President Julie Tighe at a recent Eco-Breakfast.

So far this year, we held ten Corporate Partner Eco-Breakfasts in New York City, Westchester, and Albany. Eco-Breakfasts offer our board and partners an opportunity to network and engage with each other about environmental issues, and provide occasions for our partners to hear from prominent business, environmental and political leaders. The Corporate Partners program plays a critical role in advancing sustainability by building bridges between the environmental and business communities.

If you would like to become a Corporate Partner, learn more about the program, or get more involved, please email development@nylcv.org.

Corporate Partners Spotlight



SUEZ provides water and waste recycling services to over 7.5 million people in North America. Over the past five years, SUEZ has undergone a digital transformation to fully enhance its services, optimize its performance and deliver a best-in-class customer experience. In 2019, the company will have invested over \$94 million in digital initiatives to support a comprehensive roadmap that defines the digital transformation of a water utility - scalable, cloud-based, and agile. The focus on becoming a modern utility and helping the communities they serve helps improve the environment vastly.

These technological upgrades produced results.

SUEZ now has the largest automated smart water network in the United States and has increased back-billed revenue and decreased non-revenue water use by approximately 7%. This equates to saving tens of millions of gallons of water per day.

A mobile workforce solution integration led to an increase in productivity across field crews by 10%.

Operations and maintenance has increased by 15% due to the deployment of a digitized asset management system covering approximately 500,000 above and below ground assets.

Seamless web transactions for customers continue to create operational efficiencies for the business. Customers have the power to manage their accounts online without the need for a customer service agent. Additionally 40% of the calls into SUEZ call centers are now automated.

Corporate Partners Spotlight



Ameresco, Inc. is a leading independent provider of comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. Through innovative systems, strategies and technologies Ameresco helps organizations meet energy saving and energy management challenges. They determine the most cost-effective, reliable technology for on-site generation sources, evaluating renewable energy sources, waste heat recovery options and the revitalization of existing assets. The result is generation sources that deliver real, sustained economic benefit while ensuring a reliable energy supply.

With a global presence and local expertise, their project managers know the community. In New York City and statewide, Ameresco has implemented over \$500 million in energy infrastructure and renewable energy projects, delivering energy cost savings and carbon emissions reductions.

To reach the next generation of ambitious climate goals, it will take an equally innovative and integrative approach. For instance, New York City's new Local Law 97 of 2019 requires building owners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, and 80% by 2050, or face substantial fines. Ameresco can provide a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Where owners may see costs, Ameresco sees an opportunity to turn wasted utility dollars into economically and environmentally beneficial projects that also move the local economy forward.

Their energy experts deliver long-term value, environmental stewardship, and sustainability through energy efficiency services, alternative energy, supply management, and innovative facility renewal all with practical financial solutions.

News from City Hall



NYLCV President Julie Tighe joined Council Member Constantinides and others to celebrate the passage of the Climate Mobilization Act

New York City saw important environmental progress this year. In honor of Earth Day, the City Council passed the Climate Mobilization Act, a package of legislation that includes a bill which sets bold standards to reduce emissions from buildings. This policy has been a top priority for NYLCV because buildings

are the #1 source of emissions in the city. Certain large buildings will now be required to reduce how much carbon they emit in gradual stages, with benchmarks starting in 2024. The legislative package also includes bills that set up mechanisms to finance building retrofits to meet these new standards, to cut red tape on installing large scale wind turbines, and encourage green roofs.

The City Council also passed legislation to remove toxins from our environment. NYLCV, along with our partners, worked to pass a package of bills to improve and strengthen NYC's lead poisoning prevention laws. The new laws include lowering the threshold for levels of lead dust in homes, enhanced reporting requirements, and public outreach on lead exposure. While these laws are important steps, there is more to do. We will continue to work for improved enforcement of existing laws to ensure that the City eliminates childhood lead poisoning.

To complement the State law to ban plastic bags, the City Council passed a law that places a fee on single-use paper bags that will also go into effect next March.

The City budget season also brought a major green victory: an historic \$43.5 million increase in funding for parks and green spaces. Earlier this year, NYLCV, along with New Yorkers for Parks and union District Council 37 helped found Play Fair, a multi-year campaign led by a coalition that includes 145 groups to advocate for the funding of parks maintenance, staffing, and programming. Much of what we advocated for was secured with the \$43.5 million. This funding will provide parks and other natural areas with the care they need to remain healthy in our changing climate.

Breaking Down the Barriers to Siting Renewable Energy

As part of our work to support the transition to clean renewable energy, we released a paper, *Breaking Down the Barriers*, earlier this year that focuses on the challenges to siting large-scale solar and wind projects in New York State.

The paper demonstrates that more solar and wind projects are needed to meet the State's ambitious clean energy goals, yet significant barriers exist to developing these projects, including the State's lengthy and contentious permitting process, known as Article 10. Other challenges include opposition from local communities, the passage of local laws that delay and in some cases prevent projects from advancing, and the need for transmission and grid upgrades.

Our paper presented preliminary recommendations for addressing these challenges. These recommendations included improving the Article 10 permitting process, more and earlier outreach to local communities from developers along with agreements that directly benefit residents, more assistance to municipal leaders for energy and land-use planning and development, and more coordinated efforts to identify opportunities to educate the public and raise awareness about the benefits of renewable energy.

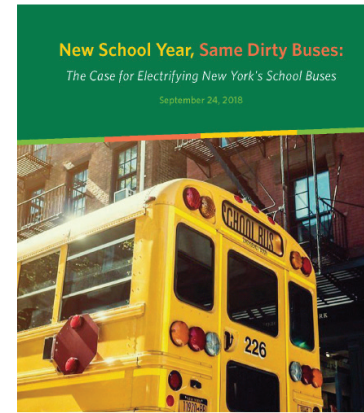


NYLCVEF roundtable discussion in Buffalo

Since the release of the paper, we held regional roundtables with stakeholders in the Capital Region, Long Island, and Western NY, with a fourth scheduled for Central NY, to identify more detailed and regionally appropriate recommendations.

Our final recommendations will be released this fall. To learn more, visit nylcvef.org/RenewableEnergySiting.

Electrifying Our School Bus Fleet



Our report on the need for electric school buses

Last year, with generous support from the New York Community Trust, we launched our Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign to promote electric school buses. As part of the campaign, we successfully advocated for 40% of New York State's \$127.8 million Volkswagen (VW) settlement to go towards cleaning up buses in environmental justice communities. We

also held a forum in Brooklyn and a roundtable discussion in Albany where we engaged stakeholders on the need for cleaner school buses. Last September, we unveiled our report that demonstrates the public health impact of diesel pollution from school buses and identifies inequities in exposure to these fumes. Due to their developing lungs, children are especially sensitive to the harmful particulate matter contained in diesel emissions.

This year, we are continuing the campaign to ensure school buses get their fair share of VW settlement funding, that the funds are distributed equitably, and that school and community leaders have the tools to take advantage of these funds. We will create a resource guide for supporters to advocate for electric school bus pilot programs in their communities.

Endorsement News

Each year, NYLCV develops candidate questionnaires that detail our policy priorities. This year, we received over 85 questionnaires in races across the state including County Executive, Mayor, Town Supervisor, and County Legislator. The screening process included 15 sessions and 31 hours of interviews with candidates, conducted by our regional chapter boards. These candidates were considered by our Endorsement Committee, led by Charles Warren and Richard Farren, and given final approval by our State Board of Directors.



NYLCV President Julie Tighe with Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy

As Washington continues to roll back environmental protections, local leadership is more important than ever. County and municipal governments have a big impact on issues like promoting renewable energy, protecting waterways, reducing waste, and addressing wastewater treatment. They can also work to achieve Climate Smart Community certification, which would make State grants available for capital improvements that help the community combat climate change. This year, we made the Climate Smart Communities pledge a priority of our endorsement process.

Later this fall, we'll announce our full 2019 Endorsed Slate. Visit nylc.org/endorsements in the coming weeks.

In the Halls of Congress



Congress Member Anthony Brindisi meets with NYLCV



NYLCV President Julie Tighe with Congress Member Grace Meng



Congress Member Hakeem Jeffries meets with NYLCV

NYLCV is working to ensure the environment is a top priority in Congress. We conducted a digital ad campaign to encourage Congress Members to vote in favor of permanently reauthorizing the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) that expired last year. The fund invests in projects from wildlife reserves to public pools. New York has received approximately \$326 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades. Fortunately, Congress voted to reauthorize the LWCF in February. Now, we are calling on Congress to vote to guarantee the full \$900 million appropriation to the Fund every year.

We also met with Congress Members to advocate for clean drinking water and Clean Energy for All as part of the national LCV Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. Drinking water contaminants PFAS and 1,4-dioxane are not regulated at the federal level, and we pushed for support of a package of bills that would finally do so. These contaminants have been linked to cancer and birth defects. We advocated for them to join the national LCV Clean Energy for All campaign to move the U.S. to 100% clean energy in an equitable and efficient manner.

New State Board Members

The NYLCV & NYLCVEF Boards of Directors recently gained new members that will broaden the organizations' expertise. New NYLCV Board Members:



John Gallagher, Partner at Mercury Public Affairs, brings expertise in media and government relations in the construction and development sectors.

Philip E. Karmel, partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, brings expertise in environmental law and litigation including environmental review statutes, the Clean Air Act, contaminated sites, and the permitting and approval of major energy and infrastructure projects.



Raymond Long, Senior Vice President of External Affairs at Clearway Energy Group, leads the government, regulatory and communications team. He is responsible for managing external activities and advocacy.



Sydney Mainster, Director of Sustainability for The Durst Organization, is responsible for defining strategies to transform the building-product industry and resultant material waste streams.

Clinton Plummer, Vice President of Development at Deepwater Wind, manages wind energy construction projects.



New NYLCVEF Board Members:



Rachael Estes, Government and Regulatory Affairs Manager for Apex Clean Energy, engages with government leaders to advocate for stronger renewable energy policies. She previously represented over 100 environmental groups while at the North Carolina Conservation Network.

Kevin Knobloch, President of New York OceanGrid LLC, helps develop offshore wind transmission for electricity, heating/cooling systems, and storage solutions. He was previously appointed by President Obama as Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Energy and senior manager for Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz.



Around the Chapters

Capital Region

We continue to expand our Eco-Breakfast program in the Capital Region. This past year, we hosted breakfasts with EPA Region 2 Administrator Peter Lopez, State Senate Energy Committee Chair Kevin Parker, and Governor Cuomo's First Assistant Secretary for Energy and the Environment, Amanda Lefton.

In May, we hosted a stakeholder roundtable in Albany on siting renewable energy in the Capital Region. We were joined by local government officials, environmental and conservation groups, industry leaders, and state experts. We looked at strategies for how environmental groups can coordinate public messaging on the benefits of clean power, best practices for early engagement between solar developers and community representatives, and options for streamlining the state's Article 10 process.

Long Island

We held our first stakeholder roundtable on siting renewable energy on Long Island. This region is on the forefront of clean energy because of its proximity to the ocean, a portion of which is being leased for offshore wind development and to large power consumers in New York City. We brought together environmental leaders, utilities, academic experts, and government officials to discuss solar and offshore wind, both of which have different but equally complex siting challenges. The roundtable also tackled issues like transmission, community benefit agreements, and ways to streamline Article 10, the State's large-scale energy generation siting law.

This year we welcomed new chapter board member Steve Malito, Chair of Davidoff Hutcher & Citron's New York State Government Relations group.

New York City

This winter, our New York City Chapter held its annual New York City Environmental Breakfast. Every year, this breakfast brings together elected officials and their staff with our Green Group coalition partners and members of our Emerging Leaders program for a morning of conversation about greening our city. We were joined by over a dozen Council Members, including the Chairs of key committees. The



NYLCV President Julie Tighe, First Assistant Secretary for Energy and the Environment Amanda Lefton, and NYLCV Capital Region Chapter Chair Bob Rosenthal at a recent Eco-Breakfast

Council Members discussed issues from climate change to reducing waste to clean transportation.

In addition, we welcomed new chapter board members: Jake Potent, Senior Vice President at Constantinople & Val-lone Consulting, and Kovid Saxena, Senior Associate at Sam Schwartz.

Westchester

Our Westchester Chapter board members were treated to a tailored conversation about how congestion pricing can improve the area's public transportation system. At a regional Eco-Breakfast, we were joined by Governor Cuomo's Deputy Secretary for Transportation, Michael Wojnar, for an intimate discussion about using congestion pricing to fund Metro-North infrastructure improvements.

In addition, we welcomed new chapter board members: Ilkay Cam-Spanos, Senior Project Manager at Langan, Marvin Church, Vice-President and a founding member of Comrie Enterprises, and Nora Madonick, CEO of Arch Street Communications.

Coming Up: Our Fall Cocktail Parties!

Westchester Cocktail Party
Wednesday, November 13th
6pm-8pm
Reid Castle

NYC Cocktail Party
Monday, November 18th
6pm - 8pm
New York Yacht Club

Long Island Cocktail Party
Monday, December 2nd
6pm - 8pm
Heritage Club at Bethpage

Details for the Capital Region cocktail party will be announced soon. If you'd like to sponsor any of the events, purchase tickets, or are interested in more information, email Clare at cliu@nylcv.org.