



2024 New York State Policy Agenda

NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND



FOREWORD

As we move past a year that was yet again the hottest year on record, with apocalyptic orange skies creating some of the most polluted air New York has ever seen from wildfires hundreds of miles away, the effects of the warming planet have never hit closer to home. But our home state can also take a measure of hope in the progress we made in 2023.

Several of our priorities were advanced, including action to decarbonize buildings, produce renewable energy faster, improve public health, and protect the state's food security and agricultural economy. However, the urgency of the climate crisis demands that policymakers go much further; it demands they move from planning to delivering tangible results, and to accomplish this we have set several goals for 2024.

First, New York must find a sound fiscal path toward our clean energy future, which is why we will prioritize shaping the state's new cap-and-invest program. If done right, it will provide funding for projects that deliver on energy efficiency, clean transportation, and more. And it's critical that the program focus on equity, affordability and labor standards so no one is left behind in our transition to a clean energy economy.

We will once again advocate strongly for the Environmental Protection Fund and the Clean Water Infrastructure Act to be fully funded—and not used as a bargaining chip. We must also accelerate deployment of funding from the Environmental Bond Act, and the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Second, the legislature needs to use every tool in the shed to clean up our transportation sector. That means adopting a clean fuel standard, lifting the cap on manufacturer-owned electric vehicle dealerships, creating a statewide charging station network, and mandating the purchase of zero-emission buses for public transportation systems while encouraging public fleets as a whole to move to electric.

Third, we must decarbonize homes and buildings. We will continue to push to decarbonize 15 of the state's highest emitting facilities and establish a coordinated building and energy efficiency plan aimed at the eventual phase out of fossil fuel use for all buildings. We will strongly advocate for the NY HEAT Act, which will create a path for all utilities to comply with the CLCPA while capping costs for low-income rate payers and avoiding billions of dollars in costly new infrastructure investments.

Fourth, with large-scale renewable energy projects facing fiscal headwinds, we need to do a lot more to green the grid, including raising our offshore wind energy targets, ensuring all large-scale projects are funded appropriately and, most importantly, completed and brought online.

South Fork Wind made history in 2023 with its first offshore wind turbines delivering clean energy to New York. It was also welcome news when the state released a new round of expedited large-scale renewable energy project solicitations and Governor Hochul announced the largest state investment in renewable energy in U.S. history.

But we can't reach our goals without a fully green grid, which is why it is so critical to get more projects up and running.

While it is too often overlooked, our overabundance of waste is a major drag on our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To tackle this issue, the state should set a goal of reducing waste sent to landfills by 90% by 2040 while also mandating community-wide recycling and adopting policies to create a circular economy, especially when it comes to packaging.

As we strive to achieve these goals—whether it's creating green jobs, improving air quality, or reducing exposure to toxic chemicals—we emphasize our commitment to investing first in disadvantaged communities. In this work and in all we do, we must prioritize low-income communities and communities of color that for too long have borne the brunt of fossil-fuel pollution and short-sighted environmental policies.

We look forward to working with Governor Hochul, legislators, fellow advocates, and New Yorkers across the state on all of these priorities in the coming year. Our future depends on it.



JULIE TIGHE
President

TOP PRIORITIES



BUILDINGS

Buildings are the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants in New York State, meaning building decarbonization must play a critical role as we set out to meet the state's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. We can significantly reduce emissions and develop a 21st century workforce that sustains and grows middle-class union jobs by adopting legislation to plan for the phase out of fossil fuel infrastructure for energy and heating needs through the NY HEAT Act, tighten building energy codes, decarbonize state-owned buildings, and a host of additional policies.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is one of the leading sources of greenhouse gas emissions in New York State, damaging our public health and concentrating pollution in low-income communities and communities of color. Aggressive action is required to protect public health, promote environmental justice, and achieve the state's target of net-zero emissions by 2050, including electrifying public transit fleets, lifting the cap on manufacturer-owned zero-emission car sales, and establishing a clean fuel standard that makes the dirtiest fuel providers subsidize low- and zero-emission alternatives.

CAP AND INVEST

To help accomplish the goals established by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the state is developing a cap and invest program that uses market forces to cap greenhouse gas emissions and generate funds from polluters. A successful program must include guidelines about which programs can be funded with cap and invest along with labor standards for said projects, with at least 40% of all generated funds invested in disadvantaged communities.

OFFSHORE WIND

Our ability to mitigate climate change is largely dependent on ambitious action to decarbonize New York's energy grid within the next decade. New York's continued progress toward achieving 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% clean energy by 2040 is dependent upon the timely procurement, responsible siting, permitting and transmission of 9 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035, while increasing our offshore wind goal to 20 gigawatts by 2050.

ZERO WASTE

Waste is an often overlooked part of the climate crisis, accounting for about 6% of New York State's greenhouse gas emissions. The recycling system is facing numerous challenges that must be addressed to make New York's waste management more sustainable. New York should develop a range of short-, medium-, and long-term options to fix the recycling market, including: passing more extended producer responsibility laws; supporting local recycling efforts, including through additional funding; expanding the Bottle Bill; standardizing a statewide list of recyclable materials; and establishing minimum recycling content requirements.

ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Investing public dollars into our environment is essential to building a more sustainable, more resilient future for New York as we continue our pandemic recovery. Environmental programs are more important than ever, as investments in green projects create jobs. Funding for environmental agencies must be increased to protect the environment, safeguard public health and combat climate change.

The Environmental Protection Fund, which pays for many critical environmental projects across the state each year, includes a line of funding dedicated to smart growth planning and implementation activity within the Catskills.

1. **Implement the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act**, while expediting funding to the appropriate programs, and monitoring the timely investment of those funds.
2. **Maintain the Environmental Protection Fund** at \$400 million, on the path to a \$500 million annual allocation, to address significant environmental, land protection, infrastructure, and conservation needs throughout the state.
3. **Maximize the programs and opportunities made available by newly created federal funding streams from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act** to update New York's aging infrastructure and accelerate the transition to a just carbon-free economy, including funding for EV charging infrastructure and modernized electric transmission.
4. **Identify existing revenue streams and plan for new revenue streams to support the implementation, promotion and understanding of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).** Ensure that at least 35% of CLCPA investments benefit disadvantaged communities, with a goal of at least 40% of investments benefiting these communities.
5. **Adopt expeditiously the Cap-and-Invest program regulations to ensure New York meets the CLCPA's statewide emission limits** and provide funding to implement other programs to reduce emissions consistent with the 2022 Scoping Plan. Program regulations should prioritize emission reductions and investments in disadvantaged communities in accordance with CLCPA requirements and the Scoping Plan and provide rebates to mitigate increased costs to low and moderate-income households.
6. **Redirect spending from tax benefits** and expenditures that benefit fossil fuels to programs that will accelerate the transition to net carbon neutrality by 2050.
7. **Continue to allocate at least \$4 billion in clean water infrastructure funding over the next five years**, with \$600 million in the 2024-2025 budget to reduce the backlog of water infrastructure projects, address emerging contaminants, provide ongoing maintenance, and support green infrastructure and leverage federal funding, particularly to support the implementation of the CLCPA.
8. **Support the increased hiring of new staff at key agencies** to help ensure effective operations and achieve measurable outcomes for environmental policies at the agencies charged with protecting and preserving the environment and public health and with implementing the CLCPA. Such agencies include the Department

of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Department of Public Service (DPS), the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) the Department of Agriculture & Markets (DAM), the Department of Health (DOH), the Adirondack Park Agency, and the Department of State (DOS).

9. **Ensure full funding for mass transit capital and operating needs throughout the state**, including the state's portion of the historic 2020-2024 MTA Capital Plan. Ensure that dedicated transit funds are not diverted to the General Fund or used for other purposes.
10. **Implement the New York metropolitan region congestion pricing plan**, as approved by the MTA Board in December 2023, with a robust public education campaign. Ensure that the required mitigations in environmental justice communities, such as planting more trees along roadways, investing in clean truck fleets, and installing air filters in schools near highways, are implemented in a timely manner.
11. **Allocate sufficient funding to improve and expand public transit in the Hudson Valley and the Central, Western, and Northern regions of New York**, including clean buses and rail for both intra- and inter-city transit. Ensure upstate projects are in place to take advantage of new and existing federal funding streams for transportation.
12. **Ensure full funding and the timely completion of Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway** and the community vision enhancements to 125th Street transit hub to increase subway ridership and better connect uptown to mid- and lower-Manhattan. Provide funding to make the subway system safer, cleaner and more reliable.
13. **Use Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** auction proceeds exclusively for clean energy and energy efficiency projects and programs.
14. **Allocate funding to create a state rebate program** for the private purchase of eligible pedal-assist e-bikes and e-scooters to help incentivize the transportation mode shift.
15. **Support state and local resilience planning** by developing a statewide resilience plan and increasing investments in the Climate Smart Communities program.
16. **Support funding for re-training and upskilling for Green Jobs.**



CLIMATE CHANGE

As climate change threatens the well-being of our people, our infrastructure, and our economy, we must take bold action to address this crisis. We must ensure the timely and effective implementation of the CLCPA to achieve 100% clean energy by 2040 and economy-wide net carbon neutrality by 2050. We must invest in resiliency to protect vulnerable communities from the changing climate. Across climate actions, we must implement at least 35% of programmatic benefits in disadvantaged communities, with a goal of 40%.

TRANSPORTATION

1. **Establish a Clean Fuel or Clean Transportation Standard** that drives the decarbonization of transportation emissions in accordance with the CLCPA's emission reduction requirements and provides health benefits by requiring the petroleum industry to fund the replacement of diesel and gasoline with electricity and renewable fuels demonstrated to have lower overall emissions than petroleum fuels.
 - The Standard should prioritize the investment of revenues from electric vehicle charging to accelerate the electric car and truck deployment in disadvantaged communities, as well as the use of cleaner, non-petroleum fuels in trucks that will not be electrified for years to come, thereby improving public health in those communities.
 - It should also be structured to support the expansion of zero-emission public transportation, particularly in underserved low and moderate-income communities, thereby helping to ensure that the state's zero-emission requirements for transit and school buses can be met in a timely manner.
2. **Require public transportation systems to purchase only zero-emission transit buses before the end of 2029** so that all transit buses in the state are zero-emission by 2040, ensuring safeguards to protect good-paying jobs through the transition to clean public transit. Support the electrification of, and other decarbonization strategies for, other forms of transportation and mass transit. Increase government fleet adoption of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) outside of public transit.
3. **Eliminate the cap on manufacturer-owned ZEV dealerships.** Continue rebates for the purchase of zero-emission light-duty vehicles as necessary to drive the transition to 100% ZEV sales by 2035.
 - Support incentives for the purchase of new and used zero-emission vehicles by low-income New Yorkers.
 - Establish a feebate program (i.e., a revenue-neutral rebate where the amount of money collected through fees is equal to the amount paid out) that funds those rebates with fees on the sale of new combustion-engine cars and light trucks, other than lower-priced vehicles purchased largely by low-income residents.
 - Continue to support the buildout of ZEV charging infrastructure for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles.
4. **Prioritize the Gateway Project**, including repairing existing infrastructure as well as developing a new rail tunnel between New York and New Jersey and all associated infrastructure on the New York side of the Hudson River.
5. **Support high-speed electric charging stations** for light and heavy-duty vehicles along major state highways and at airports, bus terminals, rail stations, and other major transportation hubs.
6. **Amend the New York Complete Streets Act**, which requires consideration of bicycles and pedestrian users when developing roadway projects, to include maintenance and repaving projects.
7. **Support street safety initiatives**, including traffic calming, lower speed limits, conversion of elevated highways into surface-level boulevards and streets, electronic speed enforcement, and increased penalties and enforcement for reckless driving.
8. **Support integrated multimodal transportation** like bus rapid transit, dedicated bus lanes, rails-to-trails conversions of abandoned rail lines, low- and zero-emission ferries, connected regional bike lanes and trails, and community multi-use trails that promote cycling, walking, and safety for all people with local community access. Provide appropriate infrastructure to support these modes of transportation. Pursue efficiency and decarbonization measures such as electrification for carbon-intense multimodal transit including rail and ferries.
9. **Support the expansion of programs and services** such as car sharing, bike sharing, and other alternative modes of transportation that enable greater mobility in areas not served by mass transit to reduce single occupancy vehicle use. Amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law to allow for cargo bikes to transport goods and services in addition to people.
10. **Repair and upgrade critical commuter and freight rail** lines throughout the state to limit car and truck traffic on local roads and highways.
11. **Incentivize zero-emission engines**, low-carbon non-petroleum fuels, and additional decarbonization measures to reduce diesel emissions from rail and non-rail freight transportation.
 - Provide ample funding to subsidize the deployment of zero-emission trucks and off-road equipment, particularly in disadvantaged communities that are adjacent to ports, railyards, and other large distribution centers.
 - Adopt Clean Fleets Standards that require the transition of dryage trucks that serve ports and other large distribution hubs, and of other priority fleets, to electric and other zero-emission trucks.
 - For diesel trucks and equipment in public fleets, adopt a state policy commitment to use low-carbon biobased or renewable diesel in all public truck and equipment fleets.

BUILDINGS

1. **Implement a coordinated building decarbonization and energy efficiency strategy** to phase out fossil fuel usage in buildings. Adopt legislation to remove subsidies that encourage new gas hookups. Remove the loophole that puts the cost of new gas hookups on existing gas customers if the new hookups fall within 100 feet of an existing gas line, “commonly referred to as the 100-foot rule.” Repeal the obligation for gas utilities to provide gas service to new customers in their service area and replace it with an obligation for the utilities to serve new customers with “zero-emission heat”.
2. **Adopt standards to phase out the combustion of fossil fuels for heating and cooking** in residential and commercial buildings. In accordance with the 2022 CLCPA Scoping Plan, such standards should prohibit the replacement of heating equipment with new systems used for the combustion of fossil fuels for heating in any buildings after 2035 and in homes or smaller multifamily buildings after 2030. Such standards should also prohibit the replacement, after 2035, of any cooking equipment with systems used for the combustion of fossil fuels.
3. **Develop strong incentives—particularly those that reward innovation**—for the implementation of effective building decarbonization technologies at scale this decade, including, as appropriate, heat pumps, thermal energy networks (TENs), and other emerging technologies. Promote strong labor language to help ease the transition of displaced workers and develop a workforce pipeline to construct future projects.
4. **Decarbonize all state-owned buildings**, including SUNY campuses, by 2040 by switching to zero-emission heating and cooling systems. Attach strong green job requirements to this program.
5. **Tighten building energy codes** through the Department of State’s Building Codes Council to take into account differences in building types and usages in order to maximize reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate energy and utility bill savings, and significantly improve indoor air quality and ventilation.
6. **Adopt a building decarbonization “roadmap”** that utilizes available current energy sources as an interim solution while the grid transitions to renewables. Benchmarks should be adjusted based on building types, occupancy space types, hours of operation, grid capacity, and hourly carbon factors. Reliability and resiliency should also be considered when determining benchmarks. Suggested decarbonization measures must include full life cycle carbon analysis to determine feasibility.
7. **Coordinate electrification programs from NYSEERDA** and utilities, ensure that utility retrofit programs are funded sufficiently so that all interested ratepayers can take advantage of them, and fund robust consumer education programs to spread the word about these programs.
8. **Where electrifying heating is not feasible in the near term, replace #4 heating oil and reduce carbon emissions from buildings** that burn natural gas with alternatives that reduce carbon, particulate matter, and other emissions in the most cost-effective manner. Monitor the efficacy and performance of the replacement fuels and the natural gas alternatives to demonstrate lower emissions and co-pollutants.
9. **Promote sustainable growth** and community revitalization in resilient areas through the state support for higher-density mixed-use development near transit hubs, walkable neighborhoods, and green buildings.
10. **Ensure that indoor air quality improvements/ protection are embedded into energy goals for future buildings.** Good indoor air quality is essential to keeping buildings open and occupants healthy.
11. **Create a retrofit readiness fund** for projects such as energy efficiency retrofits and pre-electrification building upgrades in order to curb building emissions across the state.
12. **Modify the state’s bioheat law of 2021** to expand the definition of bio-heating fuel to include renewable diesel.



The zero-emissions ETC Building at the University at Albany.
Photo Credit: Lindon R. Paul

ENERGY

1. **Increase the state's offshore wind statutory goal to 20 gigawatts by 2050** and create a statutory target to retire and replace 4 gigawatts of fossil generating capacity with renewables
2. **Support efforts to strengthen and expand New York State's energy transmission grid** to service new renewable energy generation.
3. **Continue to support the Public Service Commission's ongoing work to achieve 70% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% clean energy by 2040**, including:
 - Necessary procurement, siting, permitting, and transmission for nine gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035.
 - Regulations and incentives to achieve ten gigawatts of distributed solar by 2030.
 - Regulations and incentives to achieve six gigawatts of energy storage by 2030.
 - Technical assistance and planning support for renewable energy and energy storage siting, as well as integrated transmission planning and grid upgrades necessary to support increased renewables.
4. **Support the Office of Renewable Energy Siting's implementation of new regulations** for responsible siting of large-scale renewable energy pursuant to the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefits Act.
5. **Include electricity from anaerobic digesters in the definition of clean energy pursuant to the CLCPA.**
6. **Ensure the implementation of environmental justice benchmarks in the CLCPA by making sure at least 35-40% of clean energy investments benefit disadvantaged communities.**
7. **Extend credits and other incentives for community distributed generation (CDG) projects** through the NY-Sun program, with a focus on funding downstate CDG projects and funding for low- to moderate-income communities.
8. **Implement the Public Service Commission's energy efficiency mandate** in the CLCPA with rigorous evaluation standards.
9. **Ensure that all tax policies are fairly implemented to support the establishment of renewable energy projects.** Ensure that the policy framework encourages and integrates new emissions-reducing technologies as they demonstrate their effectiveness.
10. **Ensure that state energy plans and regulations provide for the reduction of fine particulate matter,** sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide emissions, and other air pollutants, especially in environmental justice communities that bear a disproportionate impact of these emissions.
11. **Amend the competitive NYSEERDA Tier 2 program** that provides utility support to the state's legacy renewable energy resources in order to ensure they are maintained and continue to contribute to the state's renewable energy goals.
12. Support efforts to implement a prohibition on the future sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers (GLBs). GLBs produce disproportionate noise and particulate matter pollution, causing harm to the communities in which they are used.



South Fork Offshore Wind Turbine. Photo Credit: Courtesy of South Fork Wind.

RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

1. **Invest any federal relief funds resulting from climate-related natural disasters in a timely manner**, with a focus on recovery projects that enhance resilience against future storms and floods.
2. **Adopt updated state coastal erosion hazard area maps.**
3. **Continue to fully implement the Community Risk and Resiliency Act as amended by the CLCPA.**
4. **Encourage and fund proactive sustainability and resiliency projects that reduce community risk and damage from storms**, including but not limited to nature-based solutions. Require the incorporation of climate change science into emergency response plans and proactive community planning such as comprehensive plans. Provide funding and training for plan implementation.
5. **Incorporate green infrastructure** into gray and hard infrastructure projects that are being funded or supported by the state.
6. **Encourage the adoption of green roofs** by reauthorizing the Green Roof Tax Abatement. Green roofs are a vital green infrastructure component for reducing stormwater, providing wildlife habitats and reducing the heat-island effect.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. **Set a statewide goal of reducing waste sent to landfills by 90% by 2040** and adopt policies to create a “circular” economy in which products are manufactured and produced in a way that prioritizes recycled, recyclable, and pre-used materials.
2. **Address challenges in the recycling market, including:**
 - Pass more extended producer responsibility laws, including for packaging, mattresses, and e-bike/e-scooter batteries.
 - Stimulate markets for recycled materials by encouraging or requiring the sale and purchase of products with recycled content that is non-toxic.
 - Support local recycling efforts, including funding for recycling coordinators.
 - Cover additional types of glass containers in an expanded Bottle Bill.
 - Standardize a statewide list of recyclable materials.
 - Establish procurement specifications that specifically address glass and other recyclable materials for use by state agencies and municipalities.

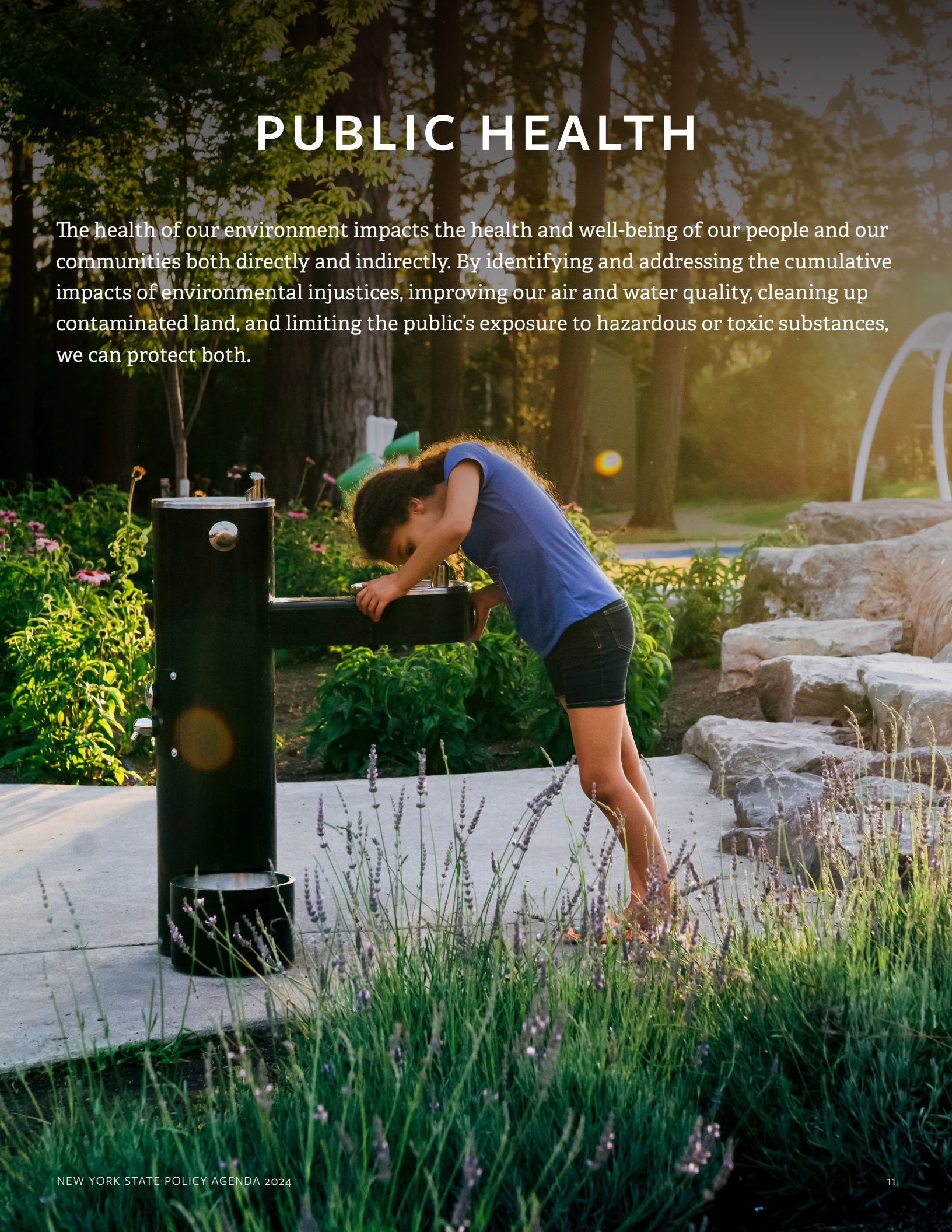
- Implement landfill bans on easy-to-recycle materials including clean gypsum wallboard to incentivize reuse, waste reduction, and recycling.
 - Fund a coordinated and comprehensive public education campaign.
 - Require high-end fashion retailers, sellers, and manufacturers to disclose the environmental impacts of their products, and set goals to mitigate those impacts.
3. **Incentivize the reduction of single-use items and reduce or eliminate the use of non-recyclable materials**, especially in packaging and food service. Incentivize the use of refilling stations. Protect against unnecessary proliferation of single-use compostable products.
 4. **Expand the 2019 Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law** to cover more producers of food scraps and organic waste and increase the maximum distance from a recycling facility that exempts producers. Explore opportunities to support residential and centralized organic waste recycling and composting.

GREEN JOBS AND EDUCATION

1. **Develop and fund green job retention, retraining, and workforce development programs** with a focus on environmental justice communities in addition to communities and industries that are economically dependent on carbon-intensive jobs. Work with industry associations, trade schools, and trade unions’ continuing education programs to develop and implement appropriate green job curricula.
2. **Work with offshore wind developers and related supply chains** to create in-state port, servicing, and manufacturing jobs. Create well-paying jobs that benefit people in environmental justice communities and provide for a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.
3. **Develop climate change and environmental education curricula to be taught in schools statewide.**
4. **Fund the Timbuctoo Summer Climate Careers Institute**, a partnership between CUNY and SUNY to expose high school students on the frontlines of climate change to careers centered in climate solutions.
5. **Establish a NYS Civilian Climate Corps to train young people in clean energy, conservation, and climate resilience skills in order to create good-paying jobs and tackle the climate crisis.**

PUBLIC HEALTH

The health of our environment impacts the health and well-being of our people and our communities both directly and indirectly. By identifying and addressing the cumulative impacts of environmental injustices, improving our air and water quality, cleaning up contaminated land, and limiting the public's exposure to hazardous or toxic substances, we can protect both.



WATER QUALITY

1. **Adopt a statewide lead service line removal timeframe of no later than ten years** that ensures, among other thing, community involvement and communication and prioritization for at-risk communities, at no cost to the consumer.
2. **Expand the Safe School Drinking Water Act**, which regulates lead in drinking water at or above 5 ppb in K-12 public schools, to cover other areas where children congregate for long periods of time, including nursery schools, pre-schools, private schools, and public parks. Seek authorization for state agencies such as the New York State Department of Education, DOH, and the DEC, to initiate on site random inspection of Drinking Water and Indoor Air Quality.
3. **Regularly convene the Drinking Water Quality Council** and issue new regulations to address emerging contaminants as required by the Public Health Law and testing for forever chemicals such as PFAS and PFOAS.
4. **Develop a comprehensive approach to improve water quality, protect watersheds, and address surface water impacts** such as runoff and nitrates, including sewers and other infrastructure projects in developed areas. Enforce and strengthen Water Quality Standards to increase the protection of our water bodies. Adopt updated rules and regulations as part of the state's Drinking Water Source Protection Program.
5. **Establish engineering planning grants for drinking water infrastructure** to help municipalities pay for the initial planning stage of clean drinking water projects eligible for Clean Water State Revolving Fund monies.
6. **Implement and continue to fund a robust program to address harmful algal blooms in lakes, ponds, and waterways statewide.**
7. **Protect clean drinking water, human health, and aquatic ecosystems** by mitigating the impacts of road salt application on our roadways.
8. **Authorize local water and sewer authorities to charge and collect stormwater fees**, and to credit ratepayers with discounts based on behavior or improvements that mitigate or treat stormwater runoff.

TOXIC CHEMICALS

1. **Enact legislation to require disclosure of toxic chemicals in consumer products, especially products meant for children.**
2. **Ban toxic chemicals**, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in certain consumer products, especially products such as cookware, building materials, waterproof materials, and menstrual care products that pose the highest risk to human health.
3. **Improve the regulation of chemicals in personal care products** to better assess their impact on public health and the environment, especially for disproportionately impacted groups such as women of color.
4. **Adopt comprehensive policies that restrict hazardous or toxic chemicals**, reward innovative green products, and remediate New York's legacy of toxic chemical contamination.
5. **Continue to invest in the state's successful green procurement program** and extend it to public and private schools, with dedicated assistance for the education sector in utilizing the green procurement portal.
6. **Ensure the use of non-toxic materials in transition to electrified or otherwise decarbonized transportation.**
7. **Require schools to conduct "chemical clean outs"** to rid school closets and garages of old, outdated and mis-used chemical products, including pesticides and herbicides.
8. **Update the Green Procurement Council's green products lists** and establish a web portal for school procurement of cost-saving green products.



NYLCV will advocate for a statewide lead service line removal timeframe of no later than ten years.



NATURAL RESOURCES

New York's spectacular natural resources provide awe-inspiring views and recreational opportunities, keep us healthy, mitigate the impacts of climate change, protect our biodiversity and make us more resilient to extreme weather events. Our parks, forests, rivers, lakes, and oceans should be protected so future generations can enjoy them.

1. **Support legislation that enables communities to raise local funds for open space conservation, community preservation, and water quality improvement.**
2. **Adopt incentives for research, technical assistance, and implementation of climate-resilient forest and land management practices** that reduce carbon emissions and sequester atmospheric carbon in soils to help achieve the U.S. Climate Alliance's Natural and Working Lands Challenge.
3. **Implement and strengthen regional ecosystem programs** including the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the Long Island Sound, the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda, the Mohawk River Basin Action Agenda, the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, and other comprehensive Oceans and Great Lakes management initiatives.
4. **Encourage continued development through a statewide planning process for trails that link communities and destinations** such as state parks to the existing Empire State Trail network. Expand the reach of the Empire State Trail by constructing additional off-road trail segments along the existing route, completing the Genesee Valley Greenway State Park, and constructing the Long Island Greenway.
5. **Expand equitable public access to outdoor space** by scaling up urban-to-rural connections and critical last-mile transportation infrastructure for trails and parks.
6. **Enforce the existing rigorous process for parkland alienation** to hold municipal governments accountable and protect parks, playgrounds, and recreation areas from inequitable land swaps, sales, and private development.
7. **Increase dedicated resources and visitor education for wilderness protection and visitor safety** to prevent adverse impacts of overcrowding in the Catskill and Adirondack forest preserves.
8. **Develop a strategy of integrated pest management**, bringing together biological, cultural, mechanical and chemical options to manage and control pests while minimizing environmental and health risks.
9. **Invest in 21st-century water quality monitoring and data collection** efforts for New York lakes, rivers and streams to bolster ongoing efforts to protect public health and the environment.
10. **Require publicly-owned buildings to implement bird-friendly building best practices** and strategies and enact "Lights Out" requirements for all buildings in New York State to reduce avian collisions with buildings and support birds during spring and fall migration.
11. **Implement the policy and funding recommendations from the 2023 Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force Report** to protect water quality while maintaining safe winter roadways.
12. **Encourage New York State to meet its 30x30 land and water protection goal** by streamlining its state land acquisition process (including utilizing title insurance) and partnering with land trusts to acquire and protect more land.



AGRICULTURE

New York's farm and agricultural lands and soils are precious resources that provide the region with nutritious local food. They are the least carbon-intensive land use and can even capture and sequester atmospheric carbon. They must be preserved, grown, and operated sustainably.

1. **Accelerate preservation of the state's farmland**, strengthen regional foodsheds, and improve clean transportation options available for the movement of fresh food from farm to table, particularly in underserved areas.
2. **Support legislation that allows working farms** that are subject to easements acquired with farmland preservation funds to make necessary and appropriate infrastructure improvements related directly and exclusively to farm operations that are in accordance with the terms of the easement.
3. **Create programs to support new and beginning farmers** and continue funding for existing programs including Farmland for a New Generation.
4. **Support and expand Farm to School Grants** and the Farm to School Reimbursement Incentive, including codifying the 30% Farm to School Initiative, and support services to connect schools and other institutions with farms.
5. **Develop policies to support pollinator colonies and better understand and prevent pollinator collapse.**
6. **Proactively work with the agricultural community** to reduce on-farm emissions and monetize farm waste through anaerobic digestion.
7. **When siting renewable energy projects on farmland, do so in a way that preserves New York's farmland** to the extent feasible, expand research on and support implementation of dual-use innovation, and deploy other strategies to minimize net reductions of working farmland.
8. **The cannabis and hemp industries should be closely managed to ensure they are environmentally responsible, energy-efficient, and conserve water.**



ACCESS TO THE BALLOT BOX

Insofar as New York voters have consistently supported the protection and cleanup of the environment, as evidenced by the overwhelming support for the recent Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, supporting access to the ballot box is a “green” and environmental issue. In 2022, Governor Hochul signed into law the New York State John Lewis Voting Rights Act, expanding ballot box access across the state. We plan to build off that historic legislation by making New York one of the most voter-friendly states in the nation, and encouraging public engagement in the voting process.

1. **Advocate for the creation of a New York State Voting and Elections Database and Institute**, which should compile New York’s election data, administer it for research, and provide support for election operations.
2. **Support access to the ballot box** by advocating for the creation of same-day voter registration statewide.
3. **Ensure all New Yorkers have access to mail-in voting** by expediting the implementation of New York State’s vote-by-mail program.

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