



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

# New York City Policy Agenda

## 2023

# FOREWORD

2023 is already shaping up to be an eventful year for the environment in New York City. As the annual budget process begins, the City is confronted with the difficult challenge of facing potential funding cuts while ensuring agencies are fully staffed and funded so they can implement the strong environmental policies we need. With numerous challenges facing the city, we must not lose sight of important climate deadlines and goals.

Our 2023 agenda outlines topics that are crucial to protecting our environment and tackling the climate crisis, including Zero Carbon Zoning to make it easier to undertake clean energy and efficiency projects, getting to 1% of the budget for our parks, investing in public transportation systems, zero waste, combating lead poisoning, prioritizing NYCHA improvements to improve public health and the environment, and more. We are especially excited by Mayor Adams' commitment to expand curbside composting citywide, something we urge the Council to codify this year.

As we work towards upcoming climate deadlines, such as those outlined in New York City's Local Law 97, PlaNYC, and the State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, we must ensure that equity and environmental justice are prioritized to rectify past harms and so that we create a healthier, more resilient city for all New Yorkers.

We look forward to the City continuing to implement the Environmental Justice for All laws and are excited to see positive signs from all levels of government, such as the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, the Biden Administration's Justice40 Initiative, as well as New York State's recently-approved Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, which requires that disadvantaged communities receive at least 35-40% of the total statewide spending. We urge the City to take action and maximize these funding opportunities to help achieve our shared climate and environmental goals.

The 2023 New York City Policy Agenda will focus much of our work and advocacy throughout the next 12 months, guiding bills for selection in our Legislative Scorecard and directing our educational programming. We look forward to working with the Mayor and Council to build upon our progress and make 2023 a big year for the environment.



**JULIE TIGHE**  
President, NYLCV/EF



## Top Priorities for NYC 2023

### **INVESTING IN PARKS, NATURAL AREAS, AND RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURES**

Parks and green spaces make up 14 percent of the City's land yet receives less than one percent of the City's budget. On top of this, parks, green spaces, and access to the City's waterfront are not equitably distributed. Access to green spaces is on average much lower in environmental justice neighborhoods already plagued by adverse health problems and high levels of pollution. The City must recognize parks and open spaces as the critical infrastructure they are, providing numerous environmental and public health benefits such as combating extreme heat, absorbing stormwater, and providing clean air and habitats for native wildlife.

Beyond investing in our existing parks, New York City must continue making its waterfronts more resilient and expanding green infrastructure to fight climate change, especially in the outer boroughs.

### **ACHIEVING ZERO WASTE**

As we approach our Zero Waste by 2030 goal, we need to reevaluate our approach to organic recycling, look at potential opportunities for public-private partnerships, and dedicate the necessary resources to act on the commitment to zero waste. While Mayor Adams' recent announcement of a citywide curbside composting program is a great step towards a waste-free City, we must continue to work towards implementing



an achievable, comprehensive, and equitable waste reduction and management plan. This will not only move New York City towards a sustainable future, but also reduce garbage collection costs, increase street hygiene and attractiveness, and benefit the health of our planet and community.

### ZONING FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

For too long, the City's zoning regulations prohibited buildings from making necessary green investments to fight climate change and cut down on toxic air pollution. This year, New York City has an opportunity to modernize the City's zoning regulations to support the City and State's climate goals by approving the NYC Department of City Planning's proposed City of Yes Carbon Neutrality zoning text amendment. This proposed zoning change will update the City's Zoning Resolution to ensure New York City and State's climate goals are met by removing zoning restrictions that limit the placement of EV charging infrastructure, installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and energy storage systems, energy efficient building facade retrofits, and more.

### REIMAGINING OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Transportation is one of the leading sources of emissions in New York State and is also a major source of air pollution, causing respiratory and other public health issues. This is particularly burdensome near the City's many major highways, which historically have cut through low-income communities and communities of color. Making matters worse, New York City's subways and buses are underfunded, unreliable, and, with the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting remote work setup, underutilized. With the nearing implementation of congestion pricing, the City could finally find a sustainable revenue source for the MTA while also reducing emissions and vehicle congestion. The City must take a comprehensive approach to reimagining our street space by fully committing to the NYC Streets Plan and 25x25. Moving New Yorkers out of single-occupancy vehicles via improved and efficient public transit and expanding micro-mobility programs in transit deserts is more important than ever.

### CENTERING EQUITY AS WE FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Years of environmental racism against low-income communities and communities of color have forced them to live with high levels of pollution due to the unequal siting of sewage and toxic waste facilities and highways cutting through neighborhoods. On top of this, climate change exacerbates existing inequities in these already overburdened communities as extreme heat waves, flooding, and other destructive weather events increase. Environmental justice communities deserve specific attention and prioritization when it comes to investing in green jobs, parks and open spaces, resilient infrastructure, transportation, and emissions reduction. NYLCV will ensure that environmental justice continues to be integrated into our climate policy priorities and our environmental advocacy work.



# Fighting Climate Change

As we ramp up efforts to meet the City and State's emissions reduction deadlines, the City must continue to advance policies that decrease emissions from all sectors through building decarbonization, vehicle electrification, by fostering a reliable and accessible public transportation system and achieving our zero waste goals. These decarbonization efforts also provide us the opportunity to expand our green job sector as well, prioritizing disadvantaged communities by expanding green workforce training and development programs in frontline communities.



## ENERGY

1. Approve the NYC Department of City Planning's proposed City of Yes Carbon Neutrality zoning text amendment, which will update the City's Zoning Resolution to help New York City and State meet their climate goals by removing zoning restrictions that limit the placement of EV charging infrastructure, installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and energy storage systems, energy efficient building facade retrofits, and more.
2. Ensure the speedy and effective implementation of NYC's nation-leading buildings emissions law (Local Law 97), including rulemaking concerning enforcement, penalties, and the meaning of 'good faith efforts.' The City should expand programs such as property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing options, the Retrofit Accelerator, and equitable green jobs training programs. The City should also explore the use of alternative compliance mechanisms such as an Equitable Building Fund for buildings that cannot meet the emission cap, which would go towards energy efficiency and electrification upgrades

3. Take action to upgrade the City's wastewater treatment plants' digesters to process organic waste into renewable energy to reduce local pollution and help address food waste, including exploring the feasibility of public-private partnerships.
4. Remove barriers to siting and permitting renewable energy projects citywide including transmission siting. Support offshore wind development, including opportunities for supply chain manufacturing and use of port facilities.
5. Advocate for the creation of equitable green jobs and training programs, prioritizing frontline environmental justice communities to reinvigorate the economy, support a modern workforce and promote sustainable projects.
6. Enact legislation establishing a goal for New York City to have at least 2 gigawatts of battery storage capacity by 2030. The City must also work with

to designated affordable housing. Explore legislation for an expansion of the benchmarking law to reduce emissions in smaller buildings to bring us closer to the goals established by the City and the State.



7. Ensure the timely and equitable implementation of the City's Renewable Rikers Act (Local Laws 16, 17, and 31 of 2021), which could pave the way for installing a wastewater treatment facility and a solar farm on the island, potentially generating as much as 14 megawatts of renewable energy. This includes the renewable energy and wastewater treatment studies to be published in spring 2023.
8. Ensure that City-owned buildings are on track to meet emissions reduction targets and procurement commitments for renewable energy.
9. Continue implementing the City's school electrification effort, "Leading the Charge," which calls for the construction of all new city schools to be all electric and the conversion of 100 existing schools to all electric heating by 2030. This includes

FDNY, Department of Buildings, utility companies, and State agencies to address barriers to battery storage siting and to encourage interagency and statewide collaboration to achieve the goals set forth in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

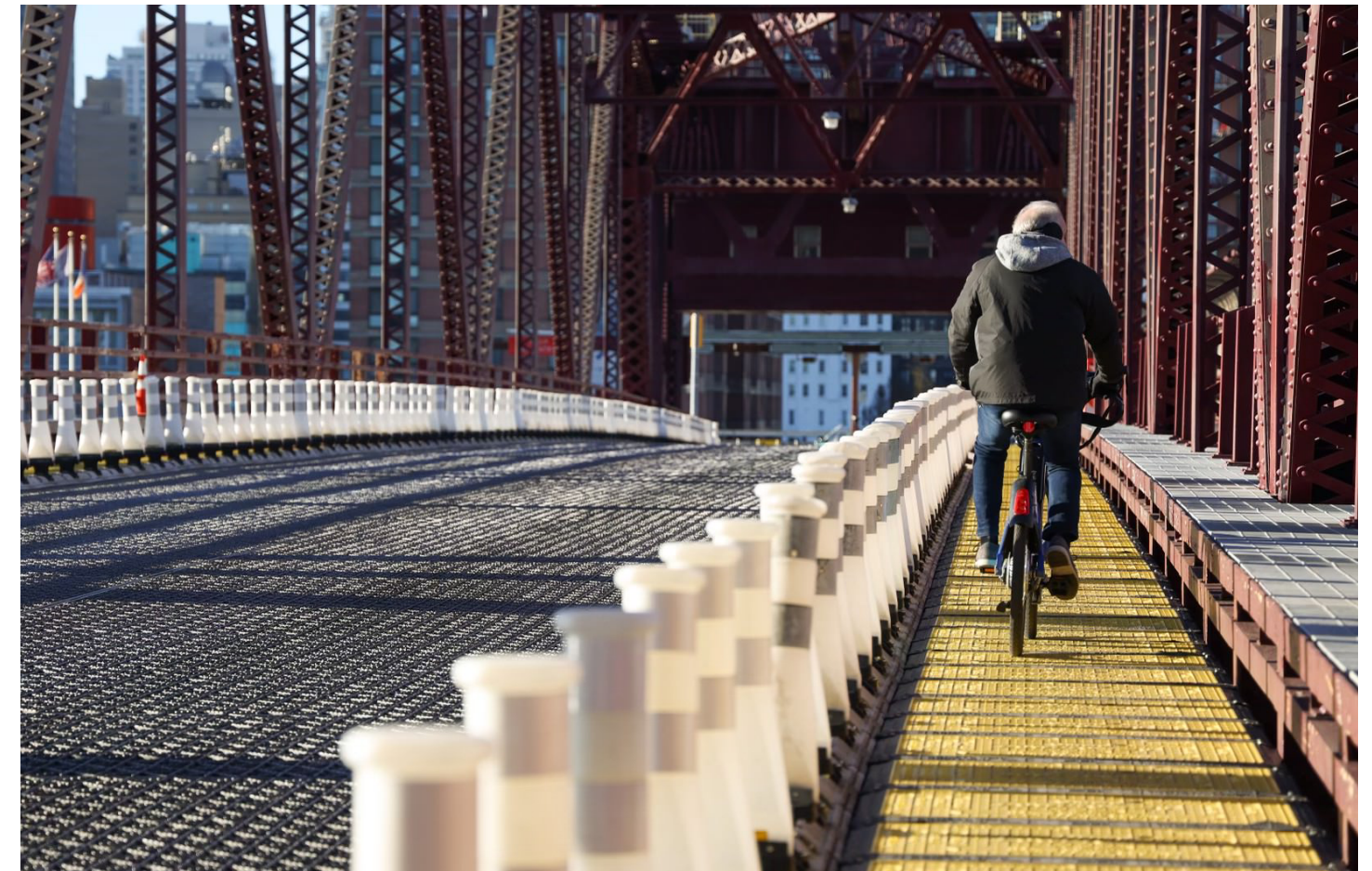
green technology such as solar panels, thermal energy networks, and upgrading current building systems to be more energy efficient to make our schools cleaner and reduce emissions.

10. Pass legislation to implement programs like Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a shared purchasing model that can serve as a vehicle for increased procurement of renewables as the City's energy source.
11. Develop a dedicated funding stream to support targeted, community-led, residential solar and energy efficiency retrofit campaigns to spur the growth of renewable energy projects in low-income communities across the City.
12. Adopt legislation that bans the use of fuel oil grade no. 4 for all buildings by 2025. The City should couple this effort with incentives for building electrification from heating oils to cleaner heat sources such as electric heat pumps or renewable biofuels, prioritizing buildings in environmental justice communities with high pollution and emission rates.

**TRANSPORTATION**

1. With the nearing implementation of congestion pricing, the City must work with the State to ensure the lowest possible amount of traffic diversion and largest possible total reduction in traffic volume and emission reductions. The City and State must guarantee that any potential negative impacts of congestion pricing in environmental justice communities are mitigated, such as capping the Cross-Bronx, Bruckner, and Deegan Expressways, planting more trees along roadways, establishing a marine freight terminal at Hunts Point to reduce truck traffic, and investing in clean truck fleets.
2. Allocate capital funding for the City to meet the goals in Executive Order 90 to electrify the City’s light- and medium-duty fleet by 2035 and heavy-duty vehicle fleet by 2040. Continue working to achieve the mandate for an all electric school bus fleet by 2035. Work with utilities to invest in and expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure, especially for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. Cleaner technology should be prioritized for vehicles with the highest average miles traveled and highest emissions, and those that largely operate in environmental justice communities.
3. Adopt policies and legislation to reclaim twenty five percent of our street space from cars by 2025 through an expansion of transportation alternatives such as protected bike lanes, open streets, and continuous greenways and open spaces.
4. Advocate for the MTA to introduce and operate more electric buses on New York City’s streets, focusing first on depots and buses in environmental justice communities with historically bad air quality, and urge the MTA to stay on track to transition to a fully electric fleet no later than 2040.
5. Improve public transportation access, service, reliability, and safety by building more protected bus lanes. Ensure mobility via bus and bike is dependable and safe by increasing enforcement of dedicated lanes. Educate New Yorkers on road

- safety and enforcement rules to ensure effective progress towards safety and reliability.
6. Support the continued rollout of the Better Bus Action Plan with a focus on transit deserts and busy routes within the five boroughs for bus rapid transit technology, such as transit signal priority, busways, dedicated bus lanes, and all-door boarding.
7. Increase access to affordable multimodal strategies to bolster the public transportation system in the City with prioritization of low-income and transit desert communities. This includes support for bike-share programs and bike infrastructure, more charging stations for e-bikes and e-scooters like the newly-proposed Street Deliveristas Hubs and electrification of strategic CitiBike hubs, light rails, ferries and car-sharing programs. Continue equitably expanding and funding the DOT’s shared e-scooter pilot program, originally started in the East Bronx, by prioritizing transit desert areas throughout New York City, as well as the Citi Bike program, to serve more neighborhoods in the outer boroughs.
8. Equitably reconnect communities impacted by historically racist transportation policies. This includes repurposing the Cross Bronx Expressway as greenspace to connect the community and reduce transportation pollution, and creatively and equitably reimagining the BQE to ensure air pollution is minimized and health, safety, and environmental justice are centered.
9. Prioritize and fund Vision Zero policies that encourage safety and value human life.
10. Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the use of street space, particularly for parking in predominantly residential neighborhoods. This will study the feasibility of a residential parking permit system and assess common road blockage issues such as with delivery trucks and vehicles. The study should also look at how we can reform the placard system and improve enforcement around placard abuse.



11. Implement and fund the NYC Streets Plan in a timely fashion and encourage the evaluation of the plan’s progress and success every five years.
12. Implement Local Law 115 of 2022, requiring the Department of Transportation and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to create a citywide greenway master plan and to regularly engage with communities regarding proposed changes, updates, or repair work to greenway sections.
13. Build upon Mayor Adams’ commitment to 300 new miles of bike lanes by establishing a comprehensive citywide bike network that provides infrastructure for protected, continuous, high-capacity, priority bikeways and bike paths to ensure cyclists can travel safely through and between all five boroughs.
14. Promote transit-oriented, affordable developments in transit-rich neighborhoods that can incorporate more density. This includes eliminating mandatory parking minimums for new developments

- in transit-rich neighborhoods to encourage alternative forms of transportation and reduce air pollution. Consider replacing parking space requirements with electric vehicle charging stations and shared bike or scooter opportunities, with a prioritization on transit deserts and low-income communities.
15. Expand the Fair Fares NYC program, which helps New Yorkers with low incomes manage their transportation costs, and conduct a robust public education campaign to help increase public transportation affordability for many residents.
16. Support efforts to mitigate traffic and reduce emissions from trucks by piloting alternative policies for residential and commercial deliveries, including off-peak hour incentives, green loading zones, e-cargo bikes, water freight transportation, neighborhood distribution centers, and a low carbon fuel standard for heavy-duty vehicles.



*While Mayor Adams' recent announcement of a citywide curbside composting program is a great step towards a waste-free City, we must continue to work towards implementing an achievable, comprehensive, and equitable waste reduction and management plan.*

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

1. Pass legislation that fully commits to reaching the City's zero-waste goal of eliminating all waste sent to landfills by 2030.
2. Invest in robust recycling, composting, and waste diversion public education programs, with an emphasis on reduction and reuse to bring New York City closer to its Zero Waste to Landfills goal laid out in OneNYC.
3. Ensure adequate funding is allocated for the recently-announced citywide curbside composting program. Pass legislation implementing a permanent, citywide curbside composting system that is reliable and accessible. Make organic waste recycling mandatory no later than 2030.
4. Adopt legislation requiring DSNY to establish and operate at least one community recycling center in each community district and operate at least three organics drop-off sites in each community district.
5. Enact City Council legislation to establish a safe recycling program for rechargeable lithium ion batteries, particularly e-bike and e-scooter batteries.
6. Implement a permanent citywide waste containerization program on our streets to streamline waste and prevent buildup on sidewalks and trashrooms. While the DSNY's Clean Curbs Pilot Program is a step in the right direction, providing permanent, sealed containers throughout the City to hold trash bags prior to collection can mitigate the issues of the bags being opened by rodents and will create a cleaner city.
7. Implement Intro 559-A of 2022, reducing single-use plastic items in take-out and delivery orders. Ensure that enforcement of these policies are carried out and participating businesses comply.
8. Ensure the timely implementation of the Commercial Waste Zones law while incentivizing and implementing more designated trucks for organics and recyclables and electric or clean-fuel powered green trucks.
9. Continue implementing Local Law 152 of 2018, the City's Waste Equity Law, requiring the Department of Sanitation to reduce the permitted capacity of putrescible and non-putrescible transfer stations in four designated community districts.
10. Promote the equitable siting of regional capacity for processing organic waste.
11. Promote the use of Zero Waste Design Guidelines in buildings, planning for separation, movement, and storage of waste in a way that maximizes waste diversion and minimizes the use of space. Setting size requirements for waste storage areas in buildings and requiring a waste management plan be submitted before building approval would increase recycling accessibility.
12. Expand product stewardship programs for items such as packaging used for residential deliveries.
13. Adopt legislation requiring city agencies to source materials for projects from the City's own waste stream where possible. For example, using recycled glass for the Department of Transportation's concrete needs and compost from the Department of Sanitation for landscaping needs by DPR and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).



# Resilience Through Nature

As hurricanes, extreme rainfall, and inland and coastal flooding become more extreme and frequent due to climate change, parks, open spaces, and natural areas such as wetlands have a vital role to play in absorbing stormwater. While we must continue reducing emissions to improve public health and combat climate change, we also need to invest in resilient infrastructure so that we are protecting people now. Parks, open spaces, and green infrastructure are some of the best ways to not only make New York City more resilient during future storms, but also provide health benefits such as lowering air temperatures, filtering out air pollutants, and improving mental health.

## PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS

1. In accordance with the Play Fair for Parks Coalition, invest at least 1% of the City's operating budget in parks, with particular focus on construction and maintenance of parks in communities underserved by open space and parkland. Explore alternative funding models and public-private partnerships to ensure dedicated funding for parks.
2. Implement Local Law 67 of 2022, which seeks to reduce park inequities by requiring the City to identify and report on any of its parks and playgrounds that have routinely failed Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) inspections and develop a plan on how such issues will be corrected.
3. Increase the efficiency of the DPR's Capital Division with a clearly defined process and deadlines for design, more expedient and transparent decision making on individual projects, standardized project management tools, and increased accountability for completing projects on time and on budget. Approve Intro 840 of 2022 requiring a strategic blueprint to reduce the duration of capital projects by at least 25 percent. Implement Intro 173-A of 2022, which would expand DPR's web-based capital projects tracker.
4. Implement Intro 680-A of 2022, which would study the feasibility of installing micro parks and green spaces on vacant, City-owned land, such as highways and dead ends, with priority for environmental justice communities. This includes the planting of trees, bioswales, and other vegetation.
5. Ensure all New Yorkers live within a 10-15 minute walking distance of a park. Activate pedestrian plazas and streets with a focus on neighborhoods with limited access to open green space.
6. Prioritize and implement the QueensWay Plan, which will transform a blighted stretch of abandoned railway in Central Queens into a linear park connecting neighborhoods.

7. Support waterfront parks as a vital component of resiliency and continue the expansion and protection of public access to the waterfront on both public and private property.
8. Protect parkland and jointly-operated playgrounds from alienation, a process by which these spaces can be sold or leased to be used for another purpose.
9. In accordance with the NYC Urban Forest Agenda, increase tree canopy cover to at least thirty percent of New York City by 2035 and ensure an equitable distribution of urban forest resources. Implement the Forest Management Framework plan. Adopt legislation requiring a master plan to protect, expand, and ensure robust funding for New York City's urban forest to lower temperatures, reduce carbon emissions, remove pollutants from the atmosphere, and improve public health. Prioritize the Million More Trees Initiative, calling on the City to plant one million new trees by 2030, with adequate funding for maintenance and care.

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

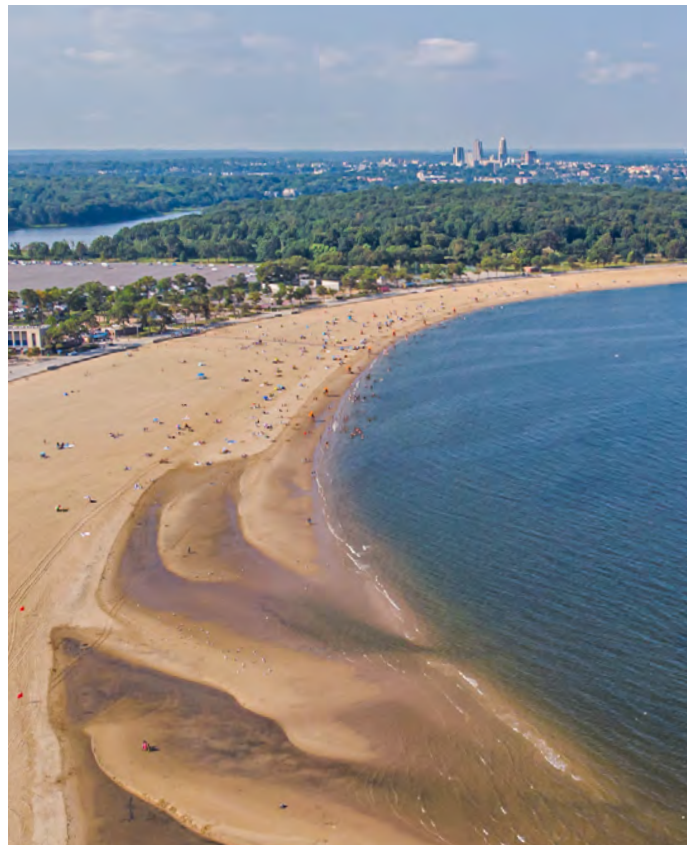
1. Explore ways to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) through green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens, bioswales, water squares, green and blue roofs, daylighting rivers, and permeable pavements that help absorb stormwater, purify the air, and mitigate the urban heat island effect. The City must continue updating and modernizing our sewer system and wastewater treatment process to prevent CSOs from dumping unregulated contaminants in our waterways.
2. Improve and expand the City's cloudburst infrastructure, prioritizing vulnerable communities and holistic solutions that utilize both grey infrastructure (such as sewer pipes and underground storage tanks) and green infrastructure.
3. Adopt legislation requiring the City to create an online map of green roofs to increase transparency and incentivize further development of green roofs.

throughout the City, especially in neighborhoods vulnerable to extreme heat and rainfall.

4. Expand New York City’s Green Infrastructure program with a more robust grant or other incentive programs to catalyze installation on private property in targeted communities where benefits can be maximized. This includes expanding the city’s green roofs program and exploring public-private partnership opportunities to fund expansion.
5. Encourage more collaboration between city agencies to increase the adoption of green infrastructure in projects beyond DEP, including urging the Departments of Transportation and Parks and Recreation to use permeable pavement and installation of bioswales and rain gardens wherever possible.

#### COASTAL RESILIENCY

1. Continue working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as well as Federal and State agencies, to equitably plan and implement the USACE’s New York and New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study (NYNJHATS). As echoed by other advocates, this includes deliberative community engagement through the establishment of an Environment and Climate Justice Work Group; a multi-hazard and phased approach; a holistic lens of racial, economic, and ecological impact and equity; and increased consideration of nonstructural, natural, and nature-based solutions.
2. Fully implement Local Law 122 of 2021, which requires the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice to develop and implement a citywide climate adaptation plan, prioritizing long-term resilience in frontline vulnerable communities and for critical infrastructure along our waterfronts, including airports, wastewater treatment plants, NYCHA campuses, and marine transfer stations that are vulnerable to sea level rise, power outages, and storm surge.



3. Strengthen zoning codes by continuing to update the Zoning Resolution to include more Special Coastal Risk Districts to protect homes in vulnerable areas against the dangers of climate change, including the use of the most recent projections on storm surge, flood plains, and sea level rise.
4. Leverage funding from the New York State Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 to develop a citywide long-term, equitable, and voluntary buyout program for at-risk homes in the most vulnerable areas of the City. The City must begin working with residents, as well as regional, state, and federal officials to identify funding and proactively begin stakeholder engagement and education. The City should also consider what happens to the land post-buyout, such as wetland and open space restoration, as well as site remediation if it was contaminated.
5. Continue implementing the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency plan in a timely manner.

Develop adaptation and resiliency plans throughout the City, particularly in historically underserved neighborhoods in the outer boroughs that are vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal flooding. The planning process should prioritize transparency and meaningful community input.

6. Invest in natural and nature-based solutions along the City’s coast, such as wetlands restoration, oyster reefs, dunes, maritime forests, bluebelts, and other living shoreline approaches that could protect residents from coastal and inland flooding. This includes exploring opportunities to enlist communities on these projects to educate and engage local residents, and implementing comprehensive plans such as the wetlands management framework.

#### REDUCE AND MITIGATE HEAT VULNERABILITY

1. Improve, expand, and fund the City’s Cooling Center program, especially during heat emergencies, prioritizing heat-vulnerable communities by developing and strengthening neighborhood-specific communication plans that promote the use of cooling centers; improve cooling center services to create a safer and more enjoyable environment; and install and upgrade cooling systems in public school buildings throughout the City.
2. Invest in Cool It! NYC, a citywide plan run by DPR to increase the amount of cooling features available to the public during heat emergencies, particularly in neighborhoods with a high heat vulnerability index. This includes park elements such as water features, drinking fountains, and tree coverage.
3. Expand the City’s Cool Streets program during heat waves by prioritizing communities that lack access to parks, safe pedestrian spaces, and bike infrastructure. Equitably expand access to green spaces, the urban forest, and green infrastructure throughout the City, particularly in neighborhoods that face the dangers of high heat.

*Beyond investing in our existing parks, New York City must continue making its waterfronts more resilient and expanding green infrastructure to fight climate change, especially in the outer boroughs.*





# Investing in NYCHA

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has been long-neglected due to significant underinvestment. Issues such as lack of heating, hot water, mold, lead paint and little to no recycling access have plagued NYCHA residents for years. Compounding this, NYCHA residents are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Many campuses are located in flood zones, exposing residents to sea level rise, coastal storm surge, and inland flooding. Many NYCHA campuses also lack access to air conditioning, leaving residents, especially seniors, more vulnerable to health-related illnesses and death. The City must prioritize the health and safety of NYCHA residents and work with the State and Federal government to address current building infrastructure and public health issues, as well as future threats.



1. Continue implementing NYCHA's Sustainability Agenda. Ensure that NYCHA campuses are on track to meet emissions reduction targets and procurement commitments for renewable energy, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.
2. Ensure climate resilience and adaptation is integrated into all planning decisions for NYCHA campuses by continuing to prioritize the goals in Climate Change at NYCHA: A Plan to Adapt, such as integrating resiliency measures into NYCHA's capital planning process. The City must work with State and Federal agencies to identify sustainable funding streams to address long-needed capital repairs and make NYCHA campuses resilient to climate hazards such as sea level rise, storm surges, and extreme rainfall. This includes protecting mechanical, electrical, and plumbing infrastructure, floodproofing buildings, and installing new, more efficient boilers and back-up generators.
3. Mitigate extreme heat risk by prioritizing reliable access to indoor cooling, in addition to increasing NYCHA's tree canopy and comprehensively retrofitting NYCHA buildings. Identify funding to expand the City's GetCool Program, which provided air conditioners, free of charge, to NYCHA residents who are 65 or over or have a qualifying underlying condition.
4. Prioritize workforce development and the creation of sustainable, green jobs for NYCHA residents to improve NYCHA's resiliency.
5. Expand paper, metal, glass, and plastic recycling to all NYCHA developments by 2026. Ensure NYCHA is included and participates in the recently-announced citywide composting program.
6. In accordance with NYCHA's Urban Forest plan and the NYC Urban Forest Agenda, promote the health of NYCHA's urban forest and green spaces by protecting, expanding, and ensuring robust funding for urban forest maintenance and care.
7. Continue working with the DEP to improve NYCHA's stormwater management and implement green infrastructure projects such as permeable pavement, porous asphalt, porous concrete, rain gardens, and subsurface storage systems.
8. Safeguard the health of NYCHA residents by—though not limited to—eliminating lead-based paint, mold, and pests from NYCHA residences, all of which contribute to adverse health impacts such as asthma and lead poisoning. Explore opportunities to piggyback investments in energy efficiency retrofits and zero-emission heating, cooling, and cooking systems when remediating lead and mold. Ensure reliable trash pickup, heat, hot water, and elevator service.
9. Expand NYCHA farms, gardens, and urban agriculture programs.

# Public Health

All New Yorkers deserve indoor and outdoor environments that are free of contamination and pollution. While many of the priorities already mentioned will substantially improve public health and quality of life, we must also work to protect people from acute environmental hazards and invest in healthy living styles. Despite existing laws, lead exposure in our homes and through water main pipes continues to cause permanent health and neurological issues with a disproportionate impact on children in low-income communities and communities of color. Another way to improve quality of life for New Yorkers is to invest in sustainable food systems, such as improving food access in food deserts through urban farming.



## LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

1. Pass legislation that establishes stronger standards for lead testing and abatement, as well as expands protections against lead poisoning to enhance early identification of lead exposure, boost prevention, and create better enforcement of existing laws meant to eliminate lead poisoning. This legislation includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Requiring automatic audits of landlords' self-inspection records anytime HPD finds peeling lead paint;
  - b. Addressing lead-based paint hazards and lead-based paint on the "friction surfaces" of doors and windows at the turnover of vacant apartments;
  - c. Extending the prohibition of peeling lead-based paint to the common areas of pre-1960 residential dwellings where children under six reside; and
  - d. Mandating HPD and DHMH to develop a program to inspect high-risk buildings even absent tenant complaints.
2. Establish a mandatory lead service line (LSL) removal program that prohibits the use of LSLs,

requires all property owners to replace their LSLs by a certain date, provides for full funding by the City, allows for occupants of a residence to consent to the work, and requires a property owner (upon the transfer of a property) to prove that the LSL was replaced.

## SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

1. Support the expansion of both community and commercial urban agriculture in New York City as outlined in the City's Urban Agriculture Report.
2. Fight to ensure every family has access to healthy, local, and affordable produce through the expansion of critical food access programs such as SNAP, FRESH, GrowNYC Youthmarkets, and Health Bucks redeemable at farmers markets across the city.
3. Aggressively expand the number of NYC schools that provide youth education programs on sustainability and healthy eating through workshops and school gardens. Expand funding for programs that help to achieve this goal.



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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.

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NYLCVEF educates, engages and empowers New Yorkers to be effective advocates for the environment.

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