



2025 New York State Policy Agenda

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

FOREWORD

The costs of inaction on climate change are escalating before our eyes. This year, we've witnessed a combination of extreme drought, raging wildfires, and – once again – record-breaking heat. Our state leaders must commit to decisive policies that protect clean air and water, safeguard public health, and accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.

This urgency is especially pronounced following the 2024 general election. With an incoming presidential administration that is openly opposed to the clean energy transition and an anti-environment majority in Congress, state-level action is critical to defending the progress we've made.

The good news is, here in New York we have a governor that is committed to the environment and a green majority in both state legislative chambers, which puts us in a strong position to be a leader in the climate fight and set an example for other states to follow.

In the following pages you'll read about the dozens of policies we will be advocating for in the coming year. There is no shortage of work that needs to be done, but I'd like to highlight a few areas that are the lynchpins for our transition to a clean energy economy.

First is a robust Cap-and-Invest program to fund transformative projects that deliver clean air to protect public health and our communities by transitioning buildings to clean heating and cooling, investing in clean transportation, and programs to protect ratepayers. This program should prioritize equity, affordability, and labor standards to ensure all New Yorkers benefit from the clean energy transition.

Second, the state must also adopt a Clean Fuel Standard, which would be a game-changer for reducing transportation emissions, a sector where emissions continue to rise. By requiring the petroleum industry to fund the transition from diesel and gasoline to electricity and renewable fuels, this measure would help New York meet its climate goals while cutting air pollution and improving public health at little or no cost.

Third, decarbonizing buildings must be an area of intense focus. We urge lawmakers to pass the NY HEAT Act, which would align gas utilities with existing climate laws while helping low-income households switch to affordable and reliable zero-emissions heating and cooling. And with our partners in organized labor, we will continue to advocate strongly for Upgrade NY, an initiative to decarbonize the state's most polluting facilities and create well-paying union jobs in the process.

Albany must also scale up support for large-scale renewable energy projects, including offshore wind and utility-scale battery storage. These projects are crucial for greening the grid and lowering power bills for New Yorkers. Increased state funding is needed to overcome fiscal challenges and counter a federal government that is likely to rollback funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act.

We've been here before. The last time we had a president who was hostile to our priorities, New York made significant progress on the environment, including by passing the strongest state climate law in the nation. We are once again in a position to step up and lead in the fight against climate change, and we must seize that opportunity, because what we do in New York reverberates far beyond our borders. We cannot afford to delay—our leaders in Albany must recognize the gravity of this moment and prioritize decisive action.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Tighe".

JULIE TIGHE
President



TOP PRIORITIES

CAP-AND-INVEST

To help accomplish the goals established by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the state is developing an economy-wide Cap-and-Invest program that uses market forces to cap greenhouse gas emissions and generate funds from polluters that will invest in carbon reduction infrastructure projects and programs. 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 funds invested in disadvantaged communities.

BUILDINGS

Buildings are the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions 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 passing the NY HEAT Act to plan for the phase out of fossil fuel infrastructure for heating needs, tightening building energy codes, deploying thermal energy networks to decarbonize neighborhoods and state-owned buildings, and a host of additional policies..

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is one of the leading sources of climate pollution in New York, damaging our public health and concentrating air 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, making it easier for consumers to buy electric vehicles, and establishing a clean fuel standard that makes the dirtiest fuel providers subsidize low- and zero-emission alternatives.

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 depends on the timely procurement, responsible siting, permitting and transmission of 9 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035, and increasing our offshore wind goal to 20 gigawatts by 2050.

ZERO WASTE

Solid waste pollutes our environment, damages ecosystems, and 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, including for packaging; 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

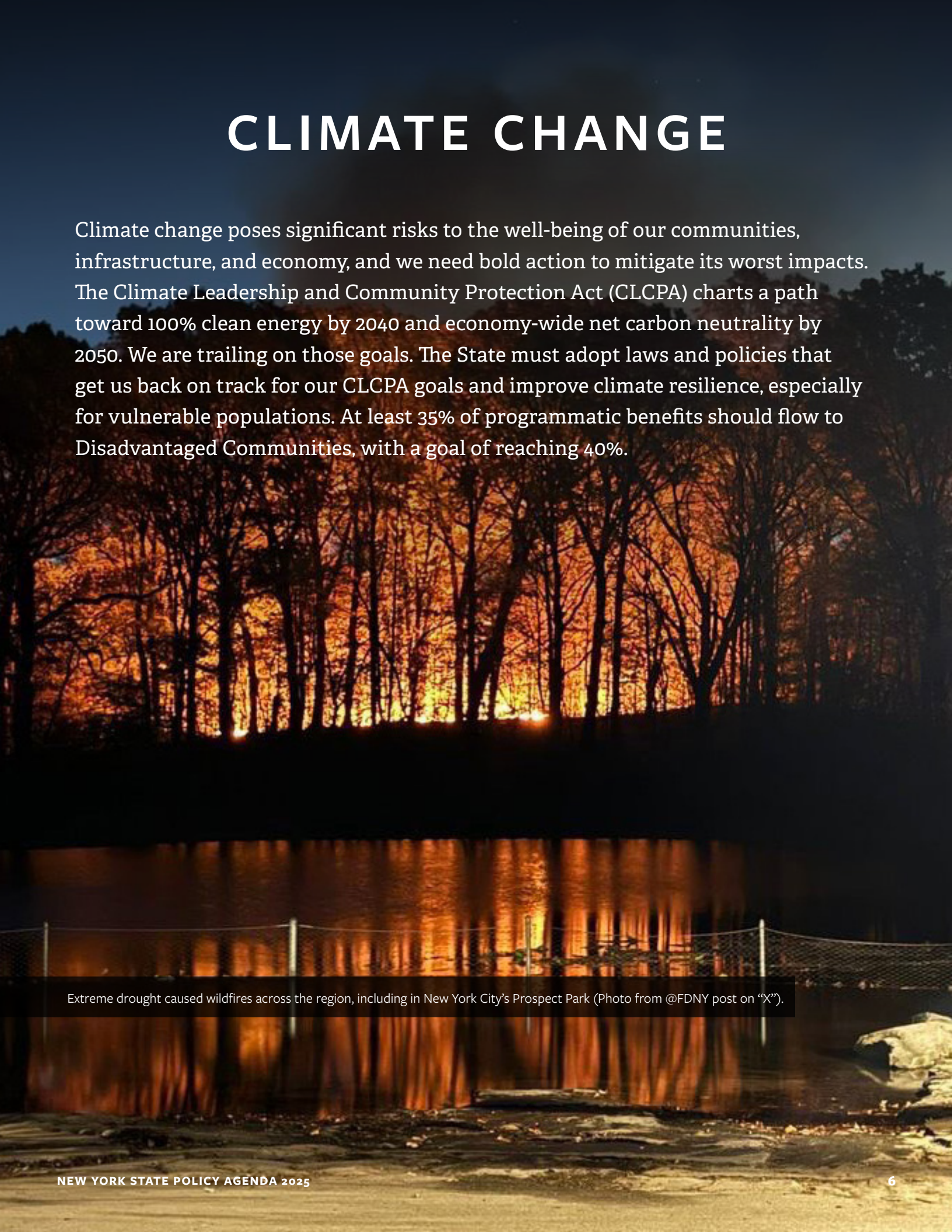
Allocating public resources to environmental initiatives is vital to building a more sustainable and resilient future in New York. Green investments not only safeguard nature but also drive job creation and economic growth. Strengthening funding for environmental programs and agencies is crucial to protecting ecosystems, promoting public health, and combating the climate crisis.

The Environmental Protection Fund supports natural areas like the Great Bend Overlook Letchworth State Park New York.

1. **Finalize the Cap-and-Invest program regulations before the end of 2025 to ensure New York meets the CLCPA's statewide emission limits** and provide funding to implement programs to reduce emissions consistent with the 2022 Scoping Plan. Program regulations should prioritize emission reductions and investments in Disadvantaged Communities, with at least 35% of investments and a goal of at least 40% of investments going to these communities, and provide rebates to mitigate increased costs to low and moderate-income households in accordance with CLCPA requirements and the Scoping Plan. The program should include accountability measures such as mapping of the investments.
2. **Fund the Environmental Protection Fund at \$500 million to address significant environmental, land protection, infrastructure, and conservation needs throughout the state.**
3. **Invest \$600 million in the Clean Water Infrastructure Act in SFY 2025-26**, with funding category allocations specifically lined out in the budget to help ensure all our clean water needs are being adequately met.
4. **Invest \$90 million in building decarbonization programs** at SUNY Buffalo and SUNY Purchase for the build-out of thermal energy networks (TENs) on both campuses.
5. **Ensure full funding for mass transit capital and operating needs throughout the state**, including the state's portion of the 2025-2029 MTA Capital Plan. Ensure that dedicated transit funds are not diverted to the General Fund or used for other purposes.
6. **Fully implement the New York Metropolitan Region congestion pricing plan, as approved by the MTA Board in November 2024 and ensure that the required mitigations in environmental justice communities are implemented in a timely manner.**
7. **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.
8. **Create a sales tax exemption for commercial storage projects.**
9. **Increase the solar tax credit to \$10,000 and make it fully refundable.**
10. **Maximize the programs and opportunities made available by 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.
11. **Redirect spending from tax benefits and expenditures that benefit fossil fuels to programs that will accelerate the transition to net carbon neutrality by 2050.**
12. **Hire 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).
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 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

Climate change poses significant risks to the well-being of our communities, infrastructure, and economy, and we need bold action to mitigate its worst impacts. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) charts a path toward 100% clean energy by 2040 and economy-wide net carbon neutrality by 2050. We are trailing on those goals. The State must adopt laws and policies that get us back on track for our CLCPA goals and improve climate resilience, especially for vulnerable populations. At least 35% of programmatic benefits should flow to Disadvantaged Communities, with a goal of reaching 40%.



Extreme drought caused wildfires across the region, including in New York City's Prospect Park (Photo from @FDNY post on "X").

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 and other heavy-duty vehicles, including airplanes and marine vessels, 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. Set a statutory goal that all transit buses in the state be zero-emission by 2040**, with 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. Continue rebate programs 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, with a focus on major state highways and major transit hubs such as airports, bus terminals, and rail stations.
- 4. Ensure that the implementation of the state's zero-emission school bus mandate stays on schedule** for 100% zero-emission buses by 2035.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. Eliminate the cap on manufacturer-owned ZEV dealerships.**
- 10. Repair and upgrade critical commuter and freight rail lines** throughout the state, including making these lines more resilient to the impacts of climate change, 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-emissions 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 drayage 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 the New York HEAT Act legislation to, among other things, remove subsidies that encourage new gas hookups, including new gas hookups paid for by all existing gas customers if the new hookups fall within 100 feet of an existing gas line, commonly referred to as “the 100-foot rule.” The New York HEAT Act replaces the obligation for gas utilities to provide gas service to new customers in their service area with an obligation for the utilities to serve new customers with “zero-emission heat”. That legislation also establishes a cap on utility bills of not more than six percent on household income.
2. **Adopt standards to phase out the combustion of fossil fuels for heating and cooking** in residential and commercial buildings in accordance with the recommendations of the CLCPA Scoping Plan.
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. **Support district clean heat programs,** including thermal energy networks (TENs), steam heat/geothermal energy produced by utilities to provide heating on a neighborhood scale.
6. **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.
7. **Coordinate electrification programs from NYSERDA 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, work to reduce carbon emissions from buildings** that burn heating oil and natural gas with alternatives that reduce carbon, particulate matter, and other emissions in the most cost-effective manner. Modify the state’s bioheat law of 2021 to expand the definition of bio-heating fuel to include renewable diesel. Set standards for alternative fuels to ensure lower emissions and co-pollutants.
9. **Promote sustainable growth and community revitalization in resilient areas by strengthening NYSHCR’s Pro-Housing Community Program** to prioritize sustainable development where appropriate. support programs for higher-density mixed-use development near transit hubs, walkable neighborhoods, green buildings, accessory dwelling units, and other infill-type housing.
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.



The NY HEAT Act would align gas utilities with existing climate laws.



A thermal energy network at the University at Albany.
Photo by Margaret Hartley

ENERGY

1. **Supplement the state's 2035 offshore wind goal** with a statutory goal to achieve 20 gigawatts by 2050.
2. **Set a statutory target to retire and replace at least 4 gigawatts of the oldest and most-polluting fossil fuel power plants with renewable energy by 2030.**
3. **Support efforts to strengthen and expand New York State's energy transmission grid** to service new renewable energy generation.
4. **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 and 20 gigawatts by 2050.
 - Legislation or regulations and incentives to achieve 20 gigawatts of distributed solar by 2035.
 - Legislation or 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.
 - Requiring municipalities to allow automated permitting of code-compliant rooftop solar projects and storage projects.
5. **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.
6. **Treat electricity from anaerobic digesters as zero-carbon energy pursuant to the CLCPA.**
7. **Ensure the implementation of environmental justice benchmarks in the CLCPA** by making sure at least 35-40% of clean energy investments benefit disadvantaged 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 NYSERDA 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. **Prohibit the sale and use of gas-powered leaf blowers** (GLBs). GLBs produce disproportionate noise and particulate matter pollution, including NOx, causing harm to the communities in which they are used.
13. **Protect carbon sink resources by creating a Forest Carbon Mapping system.**



South Fork Offshore Wind Turbines. Photo 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. **Update NYS coastal wetlands maps**, which haven't been updated since their creation in 1974.
7. **Develop wetlands restoration mitigation banks.**
8. **Pass legislation to codify Executive Order 22**, which calls for reduction in embodied carbon from NYS public projects..

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/paper, 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 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.
 - Establish standards and requirements to reuse building materials.
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. **Ensure that emerging contaminants, including 1,4-dioxane and PFAS**, in landfill leachate are treated on-site, and not discharged to NY's waters through municipal sewage treatment plants.

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 and industries that face workforce shortages. 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

A thriving environment is foundational to healthy communities and individuals. From reducing air and water pollution to remediating contaminated sites and minimizing exposure to hazardous materials, tackling environmental health issues is a direct and necessary investment in public well-being. By addressing the cumulative impacts of environmental injustices, we can create healthier, more equitable communities for all.



Connecting communities to state parks and expanding the reach of the Empire State Trail are among the League's priorities.

WATER QUALITY

1. **Adopt a statewide policy for all public drinking water suppliers** to follow in the creation of their local lead service line removal programs that follow the mandate of the federal Lead and Copper Rule Improvements and fills in the federal gaps, ensuring that all programs are carried out in a manner that is equitable, efficient, and protective of health.
2. **Lower the Action Level in the Safe School Drinking Water Act to a nation leading 1 ppb.**
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.



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

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 regulations that would curtail the unnecessary use of neonicotinoid pesticides**, including as a seed treatment for corn and soy.
5. **Adopt comprehensive policies that restrict hazardous or toxic chemicals**, reward innovative green products, and remediate New York's legacy of toxic chemical contamination.
6. **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.
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.



Lead pipes being replaced as part of Troy's Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Image from troyny.gov.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Brant Lake, Adirondacks. ©Adobe Stock

New York's varied natural resources enrich our lives, protect our biodiversity, and help mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. Whether it's our parks, forests, waterways, or coastal areas, preserving these spectacular landscapes ensures they remain a source of inspiration, recreation, and resilience for generations to come.

1. **Support legislation that enables communities to raise local funds for open space conservation**, community preservation, and water quality improvement, including drinking water source protection.
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 NY 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.
5. **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.
6. **Expand equitable public access to outdoor space** by scaling up urban-to-rural connections and critical last-mile transportation infrastructure for trails and parks.
7. **Enforce the existing rigorous process for parkland alienation** to hold municipal governments accountable and protect parks areas from inequitable land swaps, sales, and private development.
8. **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.
9. **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.
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.



AGRICULTURE

New York's farm and agricultural lands are invaluable resources, providing the region with fresh, nutritious, and locally-sourced food while capturing and sequestering atmospheric carbon. They are the least carbon-intensive form of land use, and by supporting sustainable farming practices and preserving and growing these lands, we can pursue both agricultural productivity and environmental conservation.

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. **Closely manage the cannabis and hemp industries** to ensure they are environmentally responsible, energy-efficient, and conserve water.



ACCESS TO THE BALLOT BOX

Environmental protection and climate action have consistently garnered strong support from New York voters, as evidenced by the resounding approval of the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act in 2022 and the consistent support for environmental champions at the polls. Elections empower people to advocate for a cleaner, greener future, which makes defending and expanding access to the ballot box a mission of critical importance to the environmental movement. We aim to build on the historic John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York, signed in 2022, by further expanding voter access and encouraging greater public participation in the democratic process.

1. **Support access to the ballot box** by advocating for the creation of same-day voter registration statewide.
2. **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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NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

NYLCV is the only nonpartisan, statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy, and open space through political action.

NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

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

