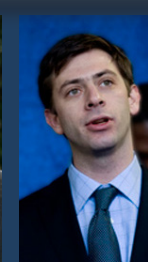
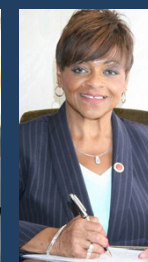
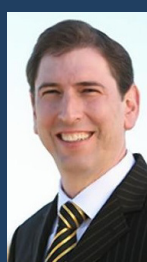
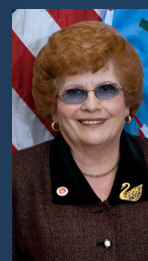
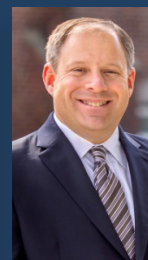


# Environmental Scorecard

## New York City Council 2016





# INTRODUCTION



Photo credit: William Alatraste/NYC Council

After every New York City election, the New York League of Conservation Voters lays out a four-year Blueprint for a Greener New York City, policy goals we hope the Mayor and NYC Council will accomplish over the course of their terms. It has been three years since we released our last agenda, which is why we issue our annual New York City Council Scorecard, our primary tool for holding council members accountable for progress on these goals year after year.

In consultation with over thirty respected environmental, public health, transportation, parks and environmental justice organizations, we release a list of a dozen bills that we will score for that calendar year. A handful of our selections reward council members for positive votes on the most significant environmental legislation of the previous year. The remainder of the scored bills require council members to take a public position on a number of our outstanding priorities by co-sponsoring bills that in our estimation are both good policy and have a realistic chance of becoming law the next year.

We are pleased to report our success rate on last year's scorecard bills was near perfect, a reflection on the impact of our scorecard and the responsiveness of our elected officials. Of the twelve bills on that scorecard, nine are now law,

two have been preempted by action at the federal level, and the final bill, Identifying Environmental Justice Issues, was heard in committee and looks likely to pass in 2017.

Since day one of her tenure, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito has been both a strong environmentalist and an attentive ally to NYLCV and our partners. 2016 saw passage of key bills to expand biofuels in heating oil, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, geothermal energy, benchmarking and submetering of large buildings, and a fee on carryout bags. That last effort took more than two years of advocacy and debate. The final vote on the bill was among the most contentious for the Council in recent memory. It took a great deal of courage for the Speaker to not only ensure its passage but also to defend it from a repeal effort in Albany.

The days left in this Council's term are dwindling, especially as campaigns for the September and November elections pick up. At the same time, we will rely on leadership from New York City on climate and environmental protection more than ever due to efforts to turn back progress at the federal level. Too much is at stake for the Council to rest on its laurels now. We will be pushing them for another big year for the environment in 2017.

# ABOUT THE BILLS

## **1. Single-Use Bag Bill – Intro 209 (Chin, Lander)\***

This bill places a five-cent fee on single use bags at retail, convenience and grocery stores with limited exceptions. Each year, New Yorkers use 9.7 billion single-use carryout bags. Taxpayers bear the brunt of the cost of these bags, as they shell out \$12 million every year just to truck those bags to landfills outside of the state, where they take thousands of years to decompose. Those bags not thrown away end up stuck in trees, clog storm drains, as litter on beaches or parts of giant islands of plastic accumulation in our oceans. Marine animals mistakenly ingest the plastic bags for food. **Intro 209 passed on May 5, 2016 by a vote of 28-20.**

## **2. Community Commitments Tracker - Intro 1132 (Mark-Viverito, Espinal, James)\***

This bill would require an agency of the Mayor's choosing to maintain a publically accessible online database tracking all written Mayoral commitments as part of any city-sponsored application subject to the Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP). It would also require such agencies to report, on June 30th of each year, the current status of all unfulfilled and fulfilled commitments made six months prior to such report. Throughout New York City, many projects are approved in part because of the community benefits promised by that project; however, there has never been a method to track these commitments. The database will track commitments including: building or refurbishing parks, sewer and water infrastructure improvements, redeveloping subway stations, streetscape improvements, and more. **Intro 1132 passed on December 15, 2016 by a vote of 48-0. The Mayor signed it into law on December 22, 2016.**

## **3. Controlling Water Pollution and Sewage - Intro 1346 (Constantinides)\***

In 2015, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issued a permit, under the federal Clean Water Act and the State Environmental Conservation Law, governing the operation of New York City's municipal separate storm sewer systems, called the "MS4 Permit." This permit governs stormwater infrastructure owned and operated by City agencies, and requires management practices to reduce discharge of pollutants in stormwater runoff from all municipal operations and facilities in the MS4 Permit's area. This bill will fulfill the requirement in the MS4 Permit that the City demonstrate adequate legal authority to implement and enforce the terms of the Permit. **Intro 1136 was heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on December 13, 2016.**

## **4. Identifying Environmental Justice Issues – Intro 886 (Barron)**

This bill helps agencies identify the serious environmental issues that plague residents and communities of New York City. It would require agencies to develop plans for promoting environmental justice in their programs, policies, and actions. This bill creates an agency working group to coordinate the development of these environmental justice plans. Some of these environmental issues include health hazards, pollution, and lack of green space. The public will become better educated on local environmental problems and will better understand the importance of green infrastructure projects in their communities. **Intro 886 was heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on January 28th, 2016.**

## **5. Clean Heating Oil – Intro 642 (Constantinides)**

This bill mandates that heating oil used in any building in New York City must contain at least 5% biodiesel by volume after October 1, 2016, with a timeline for reaching 20% by October 1, 2030. The bill would bring a major increase from the currently required 2% biodiesel fuel composition in heating oil. The bill will lead to cleaner air and more energy-efficient buildings that produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, working toward achieving Mayor de Blasio's OneNYC goals. **Intro 642 passed on September 28, 2016, by a vote of 47-3. Mayor Bill de Blasio signed the bill into law on October 18, 2016.**

## **6. Green Buildings Package - Intro 1160 (Constantinides), Intro 1163 (Garodnick), Intro 1165 (Richards)**

These bills require energy and water benchmarking, lighting retrofitting, and sub-metering requirements for buildings 25,000 square feet or larger. Previously, only buildings 50,000 square feet or larger were required to benchmark and sub-meter. Together these bills are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 250,000 metric tons, and spur retrofits in 16,000 buildings, while creating approximately \$85 million of construction activity leading to the creation of 100 jobs. This package of legislation also offers additional support for the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent from 2005 levels by 2050, a key OneNYC goal. **Intros 1160, 1163 and 1165 all passed by votes of 50-0 and were signed into law by the Mayor on October 31, 2016. This package of three bills was scored as one vote.**

\* Denotes a priority bill for 2016.



### **7. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Intro 1124 (Constantinides, Rodriguez)**

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program for the installation of street parking electric vehicle charging stations. New York City currently lacks the charging stations necessary to accommodate the future influx of electric vehicles. Advocates and industry experts argue that consumers will be more likely to purchase electric vehicles once more electric vehicle charging stations are publicly available. The City can also generate revenue by selling advertisements on the electrical vehicle charging stations. **Intro 1124 passed 50-0 on November 16th, 2016, and was signed by the Mayor on December 6, 2016.**

### **8. Creating a Solar Ombudsperson within the NYC Department of Buildings - Intro 739 (Richards)**

This bill would create a Solar Ombudsperson position within the NYC Department of Buildings to respond to questions, complaints, and concerns about solar power systems. This official would help the city successfully transition from its environmentally unfriendly, carbon emitting practices toward clean, affordable, and sustainable renewable energy. The Solar Ombudsperson would focus on introducing and implementing new solar projects to expand solar panel use. **Intro 739 was introduced on March 31, 2015 and is awaiting a hearing in the Committee on Housing and Buildings.**

### **9. Indoor Asthma in Residential Dwellings - Intro 385 (Mendez)**

This bill would require building owners to inspect for and fix allergens that can lead to asthma, such as mold and pests. Emerging research suggests that, even more than outdoor air quality, poor indoor air quality caused by allergens is a leading threat to the approximately one million New Yorkers, including around 177,000 children, diagnosed with asthma. Children living in low income areas are four times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than children living in high income neighborhoods. This bill aims to address asthma hazards caused by improper building maintenance. **Intro 385 was introduced on June 11, 2014 and is awaiting a hearing in the Committee on Housing and Buildings.**

### **10. Barnes Dance Pedestrian Crossing Systems Study - Intro 1177 (Rosenthal)**

This bill would require a study on the feasibility of implementing the Barnes Dance pedestrian crossing system in certain dangerous intersections. The Barnes Dance system is a method that allows pedestrians to cross in any direction by halting motorist traffic on all sides. The Barnes Dance method has been used effectively throughout the world, and has been tested in U.S. cities like Washington D.C. and Pittsburgh. The Department of Transportation would study the feasibility of implementing the Barnes Dance method in the twenty-five most dangerous intersections in New York City, and give those results to the City Council. **Intro 1177 was heard by the Committee on Transportation on November 15, 2016.**

### **11. Car Sharing Access - Intro 873 (Levine)**

This bill would allow for the reservation of designated parking spaces, including metered spaces, in public parking facilities for car sharing programs throughout New York City. Car sharing programs like Zipcar and Car2Go help reduce car ownership, and thus the number of cars on the road, by encouraging New Yorkers to use cars less frequently and either bike, walk or use transit more often. As an added benefit, these programs can help reduce road maintenance costs and the amount of parking infrastructure required. **Intro 873 was heard by the Committee on Transportation on December 12, 2016.**

### **12. Recycling Carpeting - Intro 201 (Koo)**

This bill would require recycling or reusing discarded carpeting from commercial units or buildings. Each year, 5 billion pounds of carpet are sent to landfills in the U.S., totaling 3.5% of all waste sent to landfills in the U.S. Recycling and reusing carpeting is significantly less expensive than collection and disposal, yet recycling rates for carpeting remain under 5%. Increasing recycling rates for carpets will contribute to the City's goal of diverting 90% of waste sent to landfills by 2030. **Intro 201 is scheduled to be heard by the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management on January 31st, 2017.**



Photo credit: City University of New York

# METHODOLOGY & KEY RESULTS

The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) regularly convenes a “Green Group” of New York City’s leading environmental, transportation, public health, parks and environmental justice organizations to discuss important issues and formulate collective legislative priorities. Using this information, NYLCV selected the legislation in this Scorecard. Council Members earn points by casting pro-environment votes or for co-sponsoring pro-environment bills before our deadline of January 21st 2017. Of the 12 pieces of legislation scored this year, three were classified as priority bills and council members’ actions were weighted doubly on these. Negative votes and absences counted against the final score. Votes missed due to medical absences, however, were not factored into the score.

## Scores of Key Committee Chairs



**Consumer Affairs**  
Council Member  
Rafael Espinal  
Score: 100



**Recovery & Resiliency**  
Council Member  
Mark Treyger  
Score: 80



**Environmental Protection**  
Council Member  
Costa Constantinides  
Score: 100



**Sanitation & Solid Waste**  
Council Member  
Antonio Reynoso  
Score: 100



**Parks & Recreation**  
Council Member  
Mark Levine  
Score: 100



**Transportation**  
Council Member  
Ydanis Rodriguez  
Score: 100

## Score By Borough

Manhattan:	89
Brooklyn:	85
Bronx:	83
Queens:	82
Staten Island:	43
<b>Average Score:</b>	<b>83</b>

## Perfect Score of 100

**Bronx** - Andrew Cohen, Fernando Cabrera, Ritchie Torres

**Brooklyn** - Stephen Levin, Antonio Reynoso, Rafael Espinal, Carlos Menchaca, Brad Lander, Jumaane Williams, Alan Maisel

**Manhattan** - Margaret Chin, Corey Johnson, Daniel Garodnick, Ben Kallos, Helen Rosenthal, Mark Levine, Ydanis Rodriguez

**Queens** - Costa Constantinides, Daniel Dromm, Jimmy Van Bramer, Elizabeth Crowley, Donovan Richards

## Low Scores

Daneek Miller - 60, Laurie Cumbo - 60, Annabel Palma - 47, Barry Grodenchik - 40, Ruben Wills - 41, Inez Dickens - 33, Darlene Mealy - 27, Steven Matteo - 27, Joe Borelli - 27

<b>Key</b> ✓ = pro-environment action X = anti-environment action A = absent M = medical * = priority bill	2016 Score	2015 Score	2014-2016 Average	1. Carryout Bags*	2. Community Commitments Tracker*	3. Controlling Water Pollution *	4. Identifying EJ Issues	5. Clean Heating Oil	6. Green Buildings Package	7. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	8. NYC Solar Ombudsperson	9. Indoor Asthma in Residential Dwellings	10. Study on Barnes Dance Crossing	11. Car Sharing Access	12. Recycling Carpeting
<b>MANHATTAN</b>															
Chin	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mendez	67	53	62	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
Johnson	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garodnick	100	87	90	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kallos	100	93	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rosenthal	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Levine	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dickens*	33	25	42	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Rodriguez	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>BRONX</b>															
Cohen	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
King	67	33	47	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
Vacca	87	80	81	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cabrera	100	38	65	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Torres	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gibson	80	60	74	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Palma	47	86	64	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Salamanca	87	--	87	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>QUEENS</b>															
Vallone	87	80	89	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓
Koo	93	87	93	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Ferreras-Copeland	93	87	88	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Constantinides	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lancman	80	80	78	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Dromm	100	87	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Van Bramer	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Miller	60	87	82	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Wills	31	38	40	M	A	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Koslowitz	87	67	79	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crowley	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richards	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ulrich	80	73	73	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grodenschik	40	--	40	X	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X



Key	2016 Score	2015 Score	2014-2016 Average	1. Carryout Bags*	2. Community Commitments Tracker*	3. Controlling Water Pollution*	4. Identifying EJ Issues	5. Clean Heating Oil	6. Green Buildings Package	7. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	8. NYC Solar Ombudsperson	9. Indoor Asthma in Residential Dwellings	10. Study on Barnes Dance Crossing	11. Car Sharing Access	12. Recycling Carpeting
✓ = pro-environment action X = anti-environment action A = absent M = medical * = priority bill															
<b>BROOKLYN</b>															
Levin	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reynoso	100	93	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cumbo	60	73	67	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Cornegy	87	67	74	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Espinal	100	73	83	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Menchaca	100	100	94	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lander	100	87	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eugene	80	27	55	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Mealy	27	27	37	X	A	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X
Barron	87	87	77	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gentile	73	47	62	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Greenfield	87	27	57	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Williams	100	73	77	M	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maisel	100	87	90	M	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Treyger	80	87	83	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Deutsch	73	73	71	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
<b>STATEN ISLAND</b>															
Rose	77	87	80	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	M	M	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Matteo	27	27	37	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Borelli	27	--	27	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X

\*Note: Inez Dickens was elected to the State Assembly in November 2016 and is no longer in the City Council.



Photo credit: Toronto Star



Photo credit: Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times

Left: Example of a Barnes Dance street crossing system, where all traffic stops for pedestrians to cross in all directions.  
Right: Council Member Lander with the "plastic bag monster."



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*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.*