



New York City Council Environmental SCORECARD 2017



NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS
nylcv.org/nycscorecard

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the New York League of Conservation Voters lays out a policy agenda for New York City, with goals we expect the Mayor and NYC Council to accomplish over the course of the proceeding year. Our primary tool for holding council members accountable for progress on these goals year after year is our annual New York City Council Environmental Scorecard.

In consultation with over forty respected environmental, public health, transportation, parks, and environmental justice organizations, we released a list of eleven bills that would be scored in early December. 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 2016'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 the 2016 scorecard, ten are now law. This year's bills are on track to enjoy a similar level of success. 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. In her final year, she helped assure passage of key bills to improve both indoor and outdoor air quality, to promote urban agriculture, to

improve energy efficiency, and to better prepare the city for severe weather.

Last month, Corey Johnson was selected by his colleagues as her successor. Over the years he has been an effective advocate in the fight against climate change and in protecting the health of our most vulnerable. In particular, we appreciate his efforts as the lead sponsor on legislation to require the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene to conduct an annual community air quality survey, an important tool in identifying the sources of air pollution -- such as building emissions or truck traffic -- particularly in environmental justice communities. Based on this record and after he earned a perfect 100 on our City Council Scorecard in each year of his first term, NYLCV was proud to endorse him for re-election last year. We are confident he will build on Speaker Mark-Viverito's impressive record of environmental leadership and we look forward to working with him.

At the same time, we are facing significant environmental challenges and the clock is ticking on our ambitious citywide sustainability goals, including getting to an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Council must not only move on bills where there is near-unanimous consensus. We will need to see thought-leadership, policy innovation, and action from the Council in 2018. We are challenging both the Speaker and individual members to be bold and to make sure that New York City stays on the forefront of cutting-edge environmental policy.



Photo credit: WE ACT for Environmental Justice



Photo credit: Twitter/Mark D. Levine

Left: Advocates rallying for the passage of the Asthma Free Housing Act. Right: Council Member Levine and transit advocates touting the introduction of a bill to improve the efficiency and reliability of bus service.

ABOUT THE BILLS

1. Asthma Free Housing Act – Intro 385-C (Mendez)*

This bill aims to address indoor asthma hazards by requiring building owners to inspect for and fix allergens that can lead to asthma, such as mold and pest infestations. Emerging research suggests that, even more than outdoor air quality, poor indoor air quality is a leading threat to the approximately one million New Yorkers diagnosed with asthma. Asthma is the most common cause of hospitalization for children aged fourteen and younger. This is an environmental justice issue, as children living in low income areas are four times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma. **Intro 385 was introduced to the City Council on June 11, 2014, and passed on December 19th, 2017 by a vote of 47-3.**

2. Bus Rapid Transit – Intro 1765 (Levine) *

This bill would require the Department of Transportation to install transit signal priority on at least 10 bus routes per year for the next 4 years. Transit signal priority is a proven bus rapid transit technology that coordinates buses and traffic signals to reduce the time buses are stopped at lights, shortening travel times and thereby increasing efficiency and reliability of bus service. **Intro 1765 was introduced to the City Council on November 16th, 2017 and referred to the Committee on Transportation.**

3. Promoting Urban Agriculture – Intro 1661 (Espinal)

This bill requires the Department of City Planning, Department of Small Business Services, and the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop an urban agriculture website to promote both community and commercial urban agriculture in New York City. The website will consolidate information about urban agriculture into one place, including zoning regulations for agricultural uses, existing resources available to urban agricultural businesses from the Department of City Planning and other agencies, and a link to the Zoning and Land Use Application. Additionally, the website will include a list of existing community-use urban agricultural spaces and city-owned spaces that are available and potentially suitable for community urban agricultural use, information on how such spaces can be established and supported, and recommendations on how produce grown on-site can be distributed within communities. **Intro 1661 was introduced to the City Council on July 20th, 2017 and heard by the Committee on Land Use on October 26th, 2017. The bill passed on December 11th, 2017, by a vote of 47-0.**

4. Tracking Parks Capital Projects – Intro 1680 (Levine)

This bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to expand its web based capital projects tracker to include more detailed information, including the reasons for delays, the dates projects were fully funded, the total number of projects in its portfolio, the projected and actual cost overruns, the individual sources of funding, and the length of time it took to complete each project. **Intro 1680 was introduced to the City Council on August 9th, 2017 and heard by the Committee on Parks and Recreation on December 5th, 2017.**

5. Food Donation Web Portal – Intro 1514 (Espinal)

This bill requires the Department of Sanitation and Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications to create and maintain a web portal that will allow prospective food donors and recipients to post notifications of the availability of food that would otherwise go to waste, and arrange for the transportation or retrieval of this food. **Intro 1514 was introduced to the City Council on March 16th, 2017 and heard by the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management on April 26th, 2017. The bill passed on August 24th, 2017, by a vote of 41-0.**

6. Phasing out No. 4 Heating Oil – Intro 1465-A (Torres)

This bill speeds-up the phase-out of fuel oil grade No. 4 in power plants. Fuel oil grade no. 4 is a major contributor to pollution in the City, emitting nitrous oxides, sulfur dioxide, and especially particulate matter (PM 2.5) into our air from combustion in buildings and power plants. These emissions are correlated with higher frequencies of cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness such as asthma and bronchitis, cancer, and even death. **Intro 1465 was introduced to the City Council on February 1st, 2017 and passed on December 19th by a vote of 48-2.**

* Denotes a priority bill for 2017.

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7. Office of Alternative Energy – Intro 1644 (Richards)

This bill created an Office of Alternative Energy to focus on technical review and approval of applications submitted to the Department of Buildings in connection with alternative energy projects, and provides guidance to applicants. The office will make recommendations with respect to streamlining the approvals process to install and maintain these projects. The Office of Alternative Energy will also coordinate with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Fire Department, Mayor’s Office of Sustainability, and other relevant agencies to ensure that policies are in place to encourage the installation and maintenance of green projects. **Intro 1644 was introduced to the City Council on June 6th, 2017 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on June 27th, 2017. The bill passed on October 31st, 2017, by a vote of 44-2.**

8. Pilot of Real-time Energy Monitoring – Intro 1651 (Constantinides)

This bill requires the Department of City Administrative Services to pilot a three-year program for equipping city buildings with the necessary tools and software to enable buildings to track and monitor real-time energy use and heat loss and make those records publicly available. **Intro 1651 was introduced to the City Council on June 21st, 2017 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on June 27th, 2017. The bill passed on December 11th, 2017, by a vote of 47-0.**

9. Lead Testing for Child Care Centers – Intro 1545 (King)

This bill would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to create standards for testing for lead in water at child care centers. It would also codify the requirement that this testing occur every five years, and require that the testing be of a first drawn sample of water. **Intro 1545 was introduced to the City Council on April 5th, 2017 and referred to the Committee on Health.**

10. CSO Notification – Intro 1689 (Gentile)

This bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection to notify the Council and affected community boards when water bodies are unsafe for human contact due to combined sewage overflow (CSO) or the presence of harmful chemicals. **Intro 1689 was introduced to the City Council on August 24th, 2017 and referred to the Committee on Environmental Protection.**

11. Hurricane Sandy Task Force – Intro 1720 (Treyger)

This bill created a task force to report on Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts by city agencies. The report will include an analysis of the city’s recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Sandy, including the provision of legal services, communications, case management, outreach efforts, policy shifts over time, the role of non-profit organizations, the availability of shelters, workforce development programs, housing recovery, the damage incurred to public and private property, and the city’s efforts to repair such property. The task force will also provide recommendations that can prepare the City for future natural disasters. Specifically, recommendations will cover enhanced recovery case management and communication tools, standards for land use and neighborhood planning, housing design standards, proposed regulatory changes, damage assessments, implementation of immediate housing recovery programs, and others the task force deems appropriate. **Intro 1720 was introduced to the City Council on September 27th, 2017 and heard by the Committee on Recovery and Resiliency on October 11th, 2017. The bill passed on October 17th, 2017, by a vote of 46-0.**

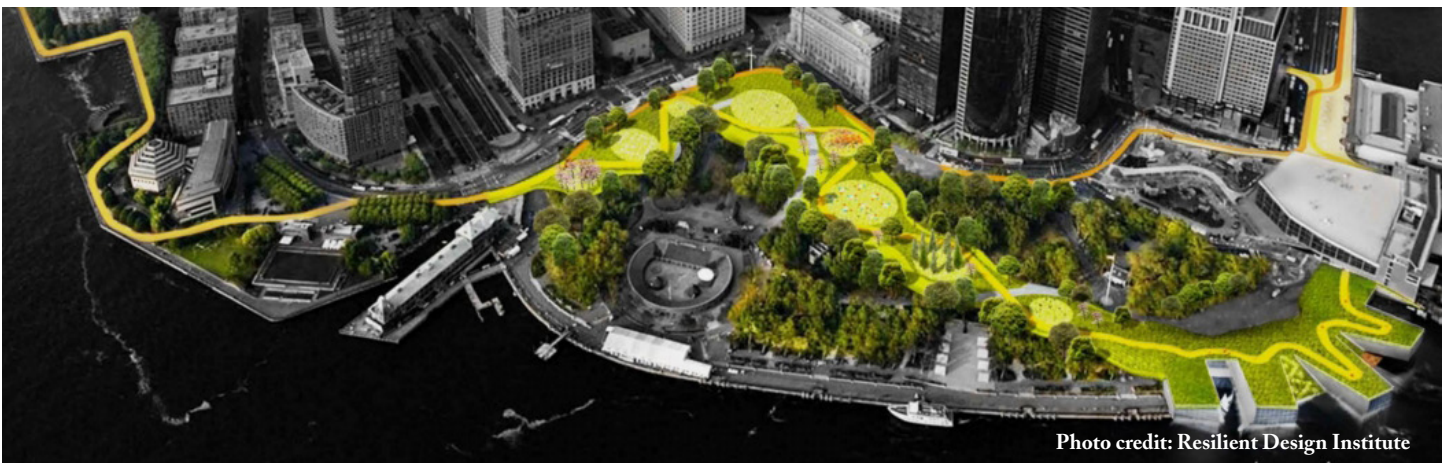


Photo credit: Resilient Design Institute

A plan called “The Big U” is one of the ways in which experts have suggested New York City can become more resilient to severe weather and sea-level rise.

METHODOLOGY & KEY RESULTS

The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) regularly convenes a “Green Group” coalition 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 by co-sponsoring pro-environment bills before our deadline of December 29th 2017. Of the 11 pieces of legislation scored this year, 2 were classified as priority bills and council members’ actions were weighted doubly on these. Negative votes counted against the final score. Votes missed due to medical absences were not factored into the score.

Scores of Key Committee Chairs



Consumer Affairs

Council Member
Rafael Espinal
Score: 100



Environmental Protection

Council Member
Costa
Constantinides
Score: 100



Parks & Recreation

Council Member
Mark Levine
Score: 100



Recovery & Resiliency

Council Member
Mark Treyger
Score: 100



Sanitation & Solid Waste

Council Member
Antonio Reynoso
Score: 100



Transportation Council Member

Ydanis Rodriguez
Score: 100

Perfect Scores of 100

Bronx - Andrew Cohen, Jimmy Vacca, Fernando Cabrera, Ritchie Torres, Vanessa Gibson

Brooklyn - Stephen Levin, Antonio Reynoso, Rafael Espinal, Carlos Menchaca, Brad Lander, Inez Barron, David Greenfield, Jumaane Williams, Mark Treyger, Alan Maisel

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

Queens - Peter Vallone, Peter Koo, Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Costa Constantinides, Daniel Dromm, Jimmy Van Bramer, Karen Koslowitz, Elizabeth Crowley, Donovan Richards

Staten Island - Debi Rose

Low Scores

- 31 - Steven Matteo, Joe Borelli
- 44 - Darlene Mealy
- 54 - Eric Ulrich
- 55 - Rosie Mendez
- 58 - Annabel Palma
- 60 - Laurie Cumbo
- 62 - Matthieu Eugene, Barry Grodenchik, Robert Cornegy

2014-2017 Term at a Glance

Borough	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bronx	74	71	84	87
Brooklyn	74	71	85	87
Manhattan	91	84	89	95
Queens	89	84	82	92
Staten Island	71	57	43	54
Citywide Average:	80	75	83	88

Key														
	2017 Score	2016 Score	2014-2017 Average	1. Addressing Indoor Air Quality*	2. Signal Priority for MTA Buses*	3. Citywide Urban Agriculture Plan	4. Tracking Parks Capital Projects	5. Food Donation Web Portal	6. Phasing Out No. 4 Oil	7. Establishing Office of Alternative Energy	8. Real-Time Energy Monitoring	9. Lead Testing in Child Care Centers	10. Combined Sewer Overflow Notification	11. Hurricane Sandy Recovery Oversight
MANHATTAN														
Chin	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mendez	55	67	61	✓	X	A	X	✓	✓	✓	A	X	X	✓
Johnson	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garodnick	100	100	90	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kallos	100	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rosenthal	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Levine	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Perkins**	100	---	---	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Rodriguez	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BRONX														
Cohen	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
King	67	67	52	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	A
Vacca	100	87	86	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cabrera	100	100	74	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Torres	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gibson	100	80	81	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Palma	58	47	62	✓	X	✓	X	A	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Salamanca	69	87	---	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
QUEENS														
Vallone	100	87	92	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Koo	100	93	95	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ferrerias-Copeland	100	93	91	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓
Constantinides	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lancman	100	80	84	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dromm	100	100	97	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Van Bramer	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Miller	80	60	82	A	X	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant**	---	---	---											
Koslowitz	100	87	84	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crowley	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richards	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ulrich	54	80	69	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Grodenschik	62	40	---	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓

Key	2017 Score	2016 Score	2014-2017 Average	1. Addressing Indoor Air Quality*	2. Signal Priority for MTA Buses*	3. Citywide Urban Agriculture Plan	4. Tracking Parks Capital Projects	5. Food Donation Web Portal	6. Phasing Out No. 4 Oil	7. Establishing Office of Alternative Energy	8. Real-Time Energy Monitoring	9. Lead Testing in Child Care Centers	10. Combined Sewer Overflow Notification	11. Hurricane Sandy Recovery Oversight
BROOKLYN														
Levin	100	100	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reynoso	100	100	98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cumbo	60	60	65	✓	X	✓	X	M	✓	M	✓	✓	X	M
Cornegy	62	87	71	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Espinal	100	100	87	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Menchaca	100	100	96	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lander	100	100	97	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eugene	62	80	57	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Mealy	44	27	39	✓	X	A	X	A	✓	✓	A	X	X	A
Barron	100	87	83	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gentile	77	73	66	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Greenfield	100	87	68	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Williams	100	100	83	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maisel	92	100	91	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Treyger	100	80	88	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deutsch	100	73	78	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
STATEN ISLAND														
Rose	100	77	87	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matteo	31	27	36	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓
Borelli	31	27	---	X	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	✓

**Note: Bill Perkins was elected to the Council in February 2017. Ruben Wills of District 28 was expelled from his seat in August.



Photo credit: WABC



Photo credit: InHabitat

Left: Combined sewer overflows release 27 billion gallons of untreated water into our waterways each year. Right: The newly created Office of Alternative Energy will help streamline the process of installing and maintaining renewables in NYC.



Marcia Bystryn, President
Jordan Levine, Communications Director
Adriana Espinoza, NYC Program Manager



30 Broad Street, 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-361-6350
info@nylcv.org
www.nylcv.org



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.

