



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

New York City Policy Agenda 2024



Forest Park in Queens, NY.
Parks and green spaces
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land, but receive less than
1% of the city's budget. (P. 10)

FOREWORD

As the impacts of climate change increasingly bear down on us, New York City stands at a crossroads. While Mayor Adams and the City Council have passed strong environmental policies in recent years, we have much more to do to meet the challenges we face from a rapidly warming planet. The city can either choose the well worn path of draconian budget cuts for environmental agencies and risk the city buckling under extreme heat waves and devastating floods, or they can recognize the long-term threat climate change poses and fully fund our front-line agencies and continue to pass laws to reduce carbon emissions and shore up coastal resilience.

Our 2024 agenda outlines topics that are crucial to protecting our environment and tackling the climate crisis, including implementing laws such as Local Law 97, the city’s all-electric school bus law, the NYC Streets Plan, urban forest plan, and the Zero Waste Act; getting to 1% of the budget for our parks; investing in cycling and bus infrastructure; combating lead poisoning; prioritizing New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) improvements; and more. Many of these policies will not only lead us to a more sustainable future, but will reinvigorate the economy with a green workforce.

One of our top priorities this year is ensuring that existing climate laws and environmental policies are implemented and funded in a timely fashion. While we understand the fiscal

challenges facing our city, with the climate crisis growing more urgent by the day, this is no time for New York City to cut funding for vital services, such as parks and community composting, nor is it the time to reduce staffing at city agencies through vacancy reductions and hiring freezes, or to shortchange key climate programs, like Local Law 97. Budgets reflect priorities and we believe the mayor and the City Council are committed to fighting climate change and protecting our environment, which is why we are urging them to reverse recent budget cuts so the city can enact a robust environmental agenda in 2024.

The 2024 New York City Policy Agenda will focus much of our work and advocacy throughout the next 12 months, guiding bills for selection in our Council Environmental Scorecard, directing our educational programming, and helping us to prioritize our budget advocacy. We look forward to working with the Administration, Council, and fellow advocates to build upon our progress and make 2024 a big year for the environment.



JULIE TIGHE
President, NYLCV/EF



Top Priorities for NYC 2024

INVESTING IN PARKS, TREE CANOPY, AND RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURES

The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation is chronically underfunded and understaffed. While parks and green spaces make up 14% of the city's land, they receive less than 1% of the city's budget. On top of this, parks, tree canopy, 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 allocate 1% of its budget to our parks system and create an Urban Forest Plan that equitably expands the city's tree canopy from the current 22% coverage to 30% coverage by 2035. We must recognize these systems as critical infrastructure, providing numerous environmental and public health benefits such as combating extreme heat, absorbing stormwater, and ensuring 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 its green infrastructure, especially in the outer boroughs.

ACHIEVING ZERO WASTE

Last year, the City Council passed the Zero Waste Act, marking a significant milestone in our fight against climate change. This legislative package commits the city to a zero waste by 2030 goal, establishes a mandatory residential citywide organics program and community recycling facilities, and more. As these laws are implemented and we approach 2030, we need to ensure that adequate resources and funding are committed at an agency level for outreach, education, and enforcement, as well as for community composting programs. Moreover, the city needs to invest in recycling and waste diversion programs, with an emphasis on reduction and reuse, along with implementing a permanent citywide waste containerization program. These laws and policies will not only move New York City towards a sustainable future, but will also improve our quality of life and benefit the health of our planet and community.

REIMAGINING OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Transportation is the second highest source of NYC’s greenhouse gases 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. The city must continue working towards an all-electric fleet and electrify the city’s school bus fleet by 2035, and must get back on track implementing the NYC Streets Plan, rolling out protected bus and bike lanes to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, and take a comprehensive approach to reimagining our street space by fully committing to Vision Zero and 25x25. Moving New Yorkers out of single-occupancy vehicles via improved and efficient public transit and expanding micro-mobility programs in transit deserts are more important than ever.

FUND AND TIMELY IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

A major throughline for our policy priorities is the importance of robust funding and timely implementation. With the passage of numerous

environmental and climate laws in the last several years—including the city’s Local Law 97, the all electric school bus law, the NYC Streets Plan, and the Zero Waste Act—and the Adams’ Administration sustainability plan, *PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done*, we must ensure the city has sufficient resources and funding for agency staffing, implementation, and outreach. NYLCV will be actively engaged in the city’s annual budget process and we look forward to working with the City Council, the Administration, and with advocates.

CENTERING EQUITY AS WE FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

After decades of environmental racism and historic disinvestment against low-income communities and communities of color, in addition to the day-to-day impacts of climate change like extreme heat, environmental justice communities must receive specific attention and prioritization when it comes to investing in green jobs, parks, resilient infrastructure, transportation, and emissions reduction. NYLCV will ensure that environmental justice and equity 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's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050, we must continue to advance policies that decrease emissions from all sectors through building decarbonization, zero waste efforts, vehicle electrification, and more. These decarbonization efforts also provide us the opportunity to expand our green job sector and prioritize environmental justice by expanding green workforce training and development programs for disadvantaged and frontline communities.

ENERGY

1. Ensure the speedy and effective implementation of NYC's nation-leading buildings emissions law (Local Law 97), including prioritizing equitable green jobs training programs. 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 for designated affordable housing.
2. Pass 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.
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 the continued efforts of offshore wind development and job training programs, including opportunities for supply chain manufacturing and the 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. Continue coordination between the NYC Fire Department, NYC Department of Buildings (DOB), 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).
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, community composting facilities, and a solar farm on the island, potentially generating as much as 14 megawatts of renewable energy.
8. Ensure that city-owned buildings are on track to meet emissions reduction targets and procurement commitments for renewable energy, such as the city's goal of 1,000 megawatts of solar citywide by 2030 and installing 100 megawatts of rooftop solar on city-owned buildings by 2025, by taking advantage of federal funding available under the Inflation Reduction Act.
 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 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.
- bike lanes and bike parking infrastructure along major bike commuting routes.
 2. Timely implement and fund the NYC Streets Plan, which mandates yearly benchmarks for the installation of safe street infrastructure such as protected bike and bus lanes and pedestrian spaces.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. Ensure that 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 boost progress towards safety and reliability.
 6. Approve the NYC Department of City Planning's (DCP) proposed City of Yes for Housing Opportunity zoning text amendment, which includes environmentally friendly proposals, such as eliminating parking mandates in the Zoning Resolution, to support alternative forms of transportation, reduce air pollution, and encourage affordable, transit-oriented developments in transit-rich neighborhoods.
 7. Allocate capital funding for the city to implement Local Law 140 of 2023, requiring all light- and medium-duty vehicles in the city's fleet to be zero emission by July 1, 2035, and all heavy-duty vehicles in the city's fleet to be zero-emission by July 1, 2038.
 8. Ensure the timely implementation of Local Law 120 of 2021, mandating an all electric school bus (ESB) fleet by 2035. Fund and prioritize school bus charging infrastructure, especially at school bus

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 must improve public transportation service, reliability, and safety. Increase bus speeds by constructing more dedicated bus lanes and construct more protected



depots throughout the city, and ESB workforce development programs.

9. Identify barriers and continue working 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 emissions and average miles traveled, and those that largely operate in environmental justice communities.
10. 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 poor air quality, and urge the MTA to stay on track to transition to a fully electric fleet no later than 2040.
11. 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 for the electrification of strategic CitiBike hubs, light rails, ferries and car-sharing programs.
12. Equitably reconnect communities impacted by historically discriminatory 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 Bronx Queens Expressway to ensure air pollution is minimized and health, safety, and environmental justice are centered.
13. Prioritize and fund Vision Zero policies that encourage safety through engineering, education, and enforcement to better protect pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. This includes daylighting intersections to increase visibility and safety, and constructing protected bike lanes.
14. Adopt policies and legislation to reclaim 25% 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.
15. 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.
16. Continue implementing 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. As part of the federal RAISE grant, continue outreach, engagement, and planning with communities historically underserved to expand the city's

greenway network.

17. 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.
18. Support efforts to reduce truck traffic and emissions by piloting alternative policies for residential and commercial deliveries, including off-peak hour incentives, low emission zones, e-cargo bikes, blue highways, neighborhood distribution centers, and a low-carbon fuel standard for heavy-duty vehicles, giving priority to environmental justice communities experiencing the brunt of last-mile facilities.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Implement the Zero Waste Act, including funding for education, outreach, and robust enforcement of the citywide residential curbside organics program, in addition to funding for community recycling centers and organic waste drop off sites, as required by Local Laws 85, 88, and 89 of 2023. Invest in recycling and waste diversion programs, including enforcement and education programs with an emphasis on reduction and reuse, to bring New York City closer to its Zero Waste by 2030 goal laid out in Local Law 86 of 2023. Promote the equitable siting of regional capacity for processing organic waste, including investing in more city-owned composting facilities and community composting programs, to the extent feasible, as well as transfer stations and more.
2. Enact legislation to establish a safe recycling program for rechargeable lithium ion batteries, particularly e-bike and e-scooter batteries.
3. Ensure the timely implementation of the Commercial Waste Zones (CWZ) law to improve the safety of workers, pedestrians, and cyclists, and to bring the city closer to its zero waste goals. Prioritize the rollout of the first CWZ announced (“Queens Central”) by the fall of 2024 while continuing to develop and publish future rulemaking for all CWZs.
4. Implement a permanent citywide waste containerization program on our streets to streamline waste and prevent buildup on sidewalks and trashrooms. While the New York Department of Sanitation’s (DSNY) Clean Curbs Pilot Program is a big step forward, 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.
5. Implement Skip the Stuff (Local Law 17 of 2023), reducing single-use plastic items in take-out and delivery orders. Ensure that enforcement of these policies is carried out and that participating businesses comply.
6. Continue implementing Local Law 152 of 2018, the city’s Waste Equity Law, requiring DSNY to reduce the permitted capacity of putrescible and non-putrescible transfer stations in four designated community districts.
7. 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 both increase recycling accessibility.
8. Expand product stewardship programs for items such as packaging used for residential deliveries.
9. 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 (DOT) concrete needs and compost from the Department of Sanitation for landscaping needs by DPR and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
10. Reform public procurement rules to ease purchasing and integration into capital projects of local salvaged wood material.



Resilience Through Nature

As hurricanes, extreme heat and rainfall, and inland and coastal flooding become more frequent due to climate change, parks, open spaces, and natural areas such as wetlands become ever more vital. While we must continue reducing emissions to improve public health and combat climate change, we also need to invest in the maintenance and operations of our parks, open spaces, tree canopy, and green infrastructure. These are some of the best ways to not only make our city more resilient during future storms, but also to provide public 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, allocate at least 1% of the city's operating budget for parks, with particular focus on construction and maintenance of parks in communities underserved by open space and parkland. Ensure funding for parks maintenance workers, Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers, nature trails, Swim Safety Expansion, Trail Formalization, and Tree Risk Management programs.
2. Explore revenue-generating funding models and public-private partnerships to ensure dedicated funding for parks and open spaces exists, including, but not limited to, attaching a 50 cent or \$1 surcharge on arena and stadium events to support parks maintenance, soliciting contributions during hotel stays for a new 'NYC Parks and Cultural Fund,' and creating new mechanisms for private developers to support parks maintenance and creation.
3. Implement Local Law 148 of 2023, requiring the city to create an Urban Forest Plan that aims to help the city expand its tree canopy from the current 22% coverage to 30% coverage, with the additional goals of lowering temperatures, reducing carbon emissions, furthering environmental justice, removing pollutants from the atmosphere, and improving public health. Allocate robust funding for the plan's development and planning, including funding for community engagement. In accordance with Forest for All NYC and the NYC Urban Forest Agenda, the city should increase tree canopy cover to at least 30% of New York City by 2035. Fund and implement the Forest Management Framework plan.
4. 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 DPR inspections and develop a plan on how these issues will be corrected.
5. 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. Implement Local Law 10 of 2023, which requires the city to 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 types of vegetation. Ensure inter-agency coordination, including the DEP, DPR, DOT, Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), and the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ).

6. Prioritize access to all types of parkland by ensuring 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.
7. Prioritize and implement the QueensWay Plan, which will transform a blighted stretch of abandoned railway in Central Queens into a linear park connecting neighborhoods.
8. 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.
9. 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.

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, river daylighting, and permeable pavement 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. Allocate robust funding for maintenance of the city’s Green Infrastructure program. Expand the 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.
3. If the state legislature passes the Water Bill Fairness Act (S4169/A4019), the NYC City Council should pass legislation allowing NYC DEP to create an equitable payment structure in which property owners would pay fees calculated by the amount they contribute to stormwater runoff. The more impervious surface, the greater the amount of

runoff contributed, and therefore the higher the fee. This would fund stormwater infrastructure improvements and green infrastructure projects.

4. 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.
5. Continue expanding the city's bluebelt program to reduce stormwater flooding with careful design and coordination for bluebelts on city parkland. The bluebelt program preserves natural drainage corridors such as streams, creeks, and ponds, and reconstructs them to help control, storm, or filter stormwater runoff. Bluebelts also provide open green space and a habitat for wildlife.
6. Prioritize green and blue infrastructure projects with co-benefits beyond the primary purpose of flood-risk reduction, including improved air quality, recreational value, biodiversity, and more. Encourage more collaboration between city agencies to increase the adoption of green and blue infrastructure in projects beyond the jurisdiction of DEP, including providing the DOT and DRP with the critical maintenance funds to allow the use of permeable pavement, bioswales and rain gardens wherever possible, and to retain more stormwater within NYC parks.

COASTAL RESILIENCY

1. Continue working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as well as other 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 deliberate 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

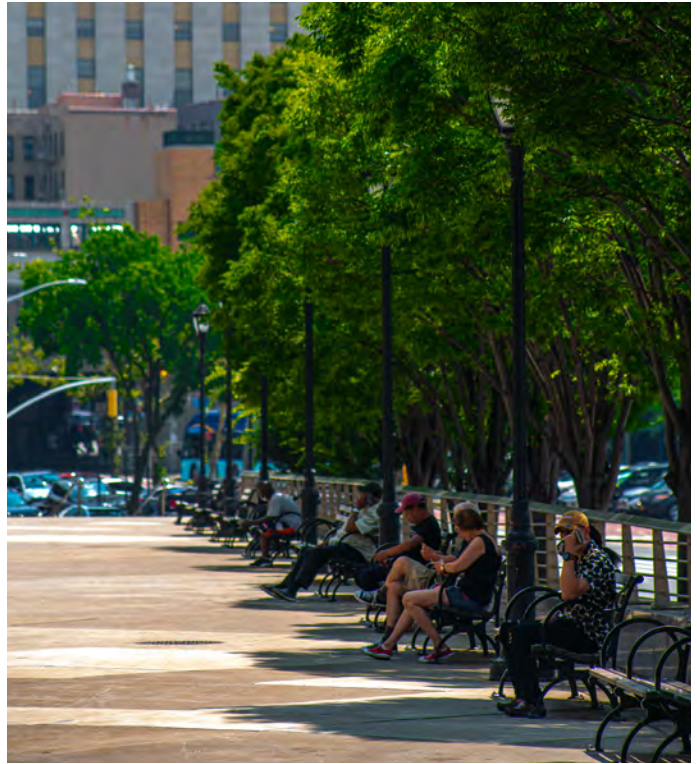
impact and equity, and increased consideration of nonstructural, natural, and nature-based solutions.

2. Advance the Climate Strong Communities program, which will implement projects that address critical climate risk needs, including street cooling features, solar energy, raised shorelines, and resilience hubs. Complimenting this, the city must also fully implement Local Law 122 of 2021, which requires MOCEJ to develop and implement a citywide climate adaptation plan, prioritizing long-term resilience in vulnerable, frontline 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. Integrate design guidelines, such as New York City's Climate Resilience Design Guidelines, into building code and infrastructure design standards.
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, and 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 the land 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 NYC Wetlands Management Framework.

REDUCE AND MITIGATE HEAT VULNERABILITY

1. Improve, expand, and fund the city's Cooling Center Program, especially during heat emergencies. Prioritize 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 high heat vulnerability index (HVI). This includes park elements such as water features, drinking fountains, and tree coverage.
3. Identify funding to restart and expand the City's Get Cool Program, which provided air conditioners, free of charge, to low-income seniors or have a qualifying underlying condition. The city should also identify



funding sources to help qualifying residents in this program with their summer utility bills.

4. 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.
5. Pass legislation that would require DOT to conduct a pilot project on the use of cool pavement on city streets—pavement and pavement coatings designed to keep area temperatures cooler than traditional asphalt and thus combat the urban heat island effect. This pilot project should be coordinated with DEP's Green Infrastructure Program.
6. Invest in public pool-related initiatives such as the city's Swim Safety Expansion and DPR's Cool Pools NYC initiative. Public pools keep people cool during extreme summer heat, foster community bonds, and encourage fitness for youth and families. Investment should prioritize historically underserved communities.



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 NYCHA campuses are located in flood zones, exposing residents to sea level rise, coastal storm surge, and inland flooding. Many 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.

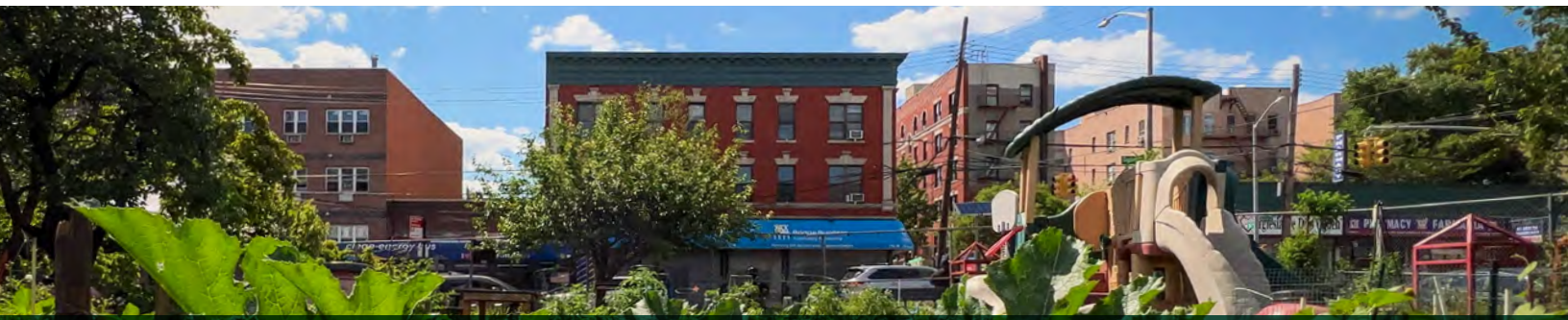
1. Continue implementing NYCHA's *Sustainability Agenda*. Ensure that NYCHA campuses are on track to meet emissions reduction targets and procurement commitments for renewable energy, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050. Explore the possibility of investing in thermal energy networks to decarbonize NYCHA properties.
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 to 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. Continue working with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to implement the Induction Stove Challenge, which calls on appliance manufacturers to design and produce energy-efficient, electric cooking systems to replace existing fossil fuel stoves while avoiding costly electrical upgrades in NYCHA buildings.
4. Mitigate extreme heat risk by prioritizing reliable access to indoor cooling, increasing NYCHA's tree canopy, and comprehensively retrofitting NYCHA buildings. 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.
5. Prioritize workforce development and the creation of sustainable, green jobs for NYCHA residents to improve NYCHA's resiliency.
6. Expand paper, metal, glass, and plastic recycling programs to all NYCHA developments by 2026. Ensure NYCHA is included and participates in the recently announced citywide composting program.
7. Continue working with the DEP to improve NYCHA's stormwater management and to

implement green infrastructure projects such as permeable pavement, porous asphalt, porous concrete, rain gardens, and subsurface storage systems.

8. Safeguard NYCHA residents' health by— including, but not limited to—the elimination of 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. Invest and fund existing lead prevention programs to conduct rigorous inspections and test dust and paint for lead.
2. Hold City Council oversight hearings on existing lead prevention laws and programs, and enforcement of lead abatement tenant and worker protections.
3. Pass legislation establishing stronger standards for lead testing and abatement, boost prevention, and improve enforcement of existing laws meant to eliminate lead poisoning, as outlined in the New York City Coalition to End Lead Poisoning

(NYCCELP) 2024 Lead Agenda. This legislation includes, but is not limited to:

- a. An assessment of certain children with elevated blood lead levels;
 - b. A declaration of a public nuisance by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) in connection with lead hazards; and
 - c. Expanding primary prevention to housing built between 1960-78.
4. Pass legislation to establish a mandatory lead service line (LSL) removal program within ten years at no cost to residents. This legislation should

allow for occupants of a residence to consent to the work. This legislation should be coupled with long-term funding by the city (i.e., as a capital expense, just like other major water projects such as replacing water mains).

AIR QUALITY

1. Pass legislation establishing standards and reporting requirements regarding indoor air quality in schools within the city school districts. This includes issuing real-time reports on the NYC Department of Education's (DOE) website regarding air quality in schools and the installation and maintenance of air quality monitoring devices, as well as annual reports regarding air quality in schools.
2. The city should explore establishing a pilot program to monitor indoor air quality in city-owned buildings and certain commercial and residential buildings that receive financial assistance from the city.
3. Pass legislation requiring the city to establish emergency response protocols on days of air quality emergencies, in addition to developing a comprehensive plan for air quality emergencies.

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 Farmstands, 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.

We believe the mayor and the City Council are committed to fighting climate change and protecting our environment, which is why we are urging them to reverse recent budget cuts so the city can enact a robust environmental agenda in 2024.



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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

Every year, NYLCV and NYLCV Education Fund collaborate with leading environmental, conservation, energy, public health, transportation, and environmental justice organizations to identify the most urgent environmental priorities for New York City lawmakers. This agenda is the result of these efforts.

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