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2021 Environmental Questionnaire for New York City Candidates

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the New York League of Conservation Voters Questionnaire.

To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please consult [NYLCV's 2021 New York City Policy Agenda](#) when answering the questions.

The New York League of Conservation Voters is the only non-partisan, statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy, and open space through political action. This questionnaire is designed to elicit your views regarding what environmental, public health, clean energy and transit, and environmental justice groups consider to be the most important issues of the day. Responses may inform NYLCV's educational and legislative programs and actions NYLCV takes in the election cycle.

Responses should be considered public. Although NYLCV may choose not to publicize the responses to every question, verbatim responses may be reproduced and distributed publicly. If so, your responses may be shortened, if necessary, but will not be edited in substantive ways. If you choose to refer us to a position paper or website, please indicate exactly what text you would like us to cite. For candidates choosing not to respond to the questionnaire, NYLCV will note as much in its public materials.

NYLCV and its partners in the environmental policy arena believe that New York's voters are determined to make the environment a voting issue this year. Candidate positions on issues such as protecting public health, building a clean energy future, and mitigating climate change will help voters decide how to cast their ballots this election cycle. This questionnaire is one of the primary ways the public will get this information.

Here are a few guidelines:

- Questionnaires are due **Friday, February 26, 2021**.
- The completed questionnaire is mandatory for endorsement consideration and must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word file to: politics@nylcv.org
- Questions or extension requests may be directed to Joshua Klainberg (jklainberg@nylcv.org)
- After receipt of the completed questionnaire, candidates will be invited to participate in a formal interview with a local Chapter Board.

Candidate endorsements will be made by the NYLCV State Board on April 29, 2021

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

The fight for environmental sustainability and climate justice has been at the center of my work both before and during my service in the City Council, is deeply personal and professional, and is at the heart of why I am running for New York City Comptroller.

Before I ran for City Council, I directed the Pratt Center for Community Development, which provides policy and planning support to community-based organizations in NYC on issues of environmental, housing, and economic justice. In that role, I was honored to support environmental justice groups in the South Bronx in their work to reclaim the Bronx River, tear down the Sheridan Expressway, and confront asthma-causing land uses; to partner in the creation of DOT's Neighborhood Plazas Program under Commissioner Janett Sadik-Khan; and to support advocacy efforts in the first fight for congestion pricing as part of PlaNYC.

As a City Council Member, I have continued to fight for a pro-environment agenda, in partnership with environmental and climate justice organizations. Working closely with NYLCV, I helped lead the five-year fight to ban plastic bags, winning City Council legislation in 2016 (which was, alas, overturned by the State Legislature), and continuing to organize until we won a statewide ban on plastic bags in 2019, with a fee on paper bags at the City level again through legislation I sponsored. I was also a partner in successful efforts to ban styrofoam and overhaul the City's commercial waste system. I was one of the first Council Members (going back to 2015) to support, fight for, and help enact what became Local Law 97 of 2019 (the Climate Mobilization Act, sponsored by Council Member Constantinides), one of the most ambitious efforts by any city to reduce building energy use, which is responsible for about 70% of New York City's climate footprint.

I have also worked hard on environmental issues in my district, supporting the Prospect Park West bike lane at a key moment in the fight for a bike-friendly city and many other bike lanes, CitiBike expansion, neighborhood plazas, neighborhood loading zones, improved subway and bus service, and the Superfund cleanup of the Gowanus Canal.

During my time in the Council, I began to focus on the significant role that the City's public sector pension funds can play in moving our economy away from fossil fuels and toward a clean energy future. Beginning in 2014, I joined advocates and exemplars (including the Rockefeller Brothers Fund) in pushing Comptroller Scott Stringer to divest from fossils -- and I was thrilled with the announcement this fall that a \$4 billion divestment is underway. This past spring, in partnership with the Stop the Money Pipeline, 350.org and New York Communities for Change, I introduced a resolution in the City Council calling on banks, asset managers, and insurers to stop lending to, investing in, and insuring the fossil fuel industry.

I am running for New York City Comptroller in large measure to continue this work. The Comptroller is responsible for taking the long-term view on our city, evaluating the risks we face, and making sure we do all we can to be resilient in light of those risks. The climate crisis is quite clearly the greatest long-term risk we face. So it must be at the top of the Comptroller's priorities. That's why our ["Accounting for Our Future: Confronting the Climate Crisis"](#) was [the first platform we released](#) as part of our campaign.

As fiduciary of the City's five pension funds, I will complete responsible divestment from oil, gas, and coal corporations, join and lead strategic alliances of shareholders to compel bold climate action by publicly-traded corporations (utilities, banks, car and technology companies), help address financing gaps, and provide investment for the transition to clean energy.

As the city's chief fiscal officer, I will assess the financial risks that the climate crisis poses for our city's future, and use that analysis to transform the city's spending, contracting, banking, and infrastructure to mitigate climate risk and create economic opportunities. We are currently developing an innovative proposal to use City capital financing to install rooftop solar on buildings across New York City (paying a rent to building owners), establishing a substantial municipally-owned clean energy utility, and dramatically scaling up solar energy in NYC.

As the city's chief accountability officer, I will establish a new, dedicated audit team to focus on agency sustainability and environmental justice performance, hold public- and private-sector actors to NYC's ambitious clean energy targets, and bird-dog the city's oft-neglected investments in coastal resilience and climate readiness.

As an innovator in public engagement, I will work in partnership with NYC's communities to build democratic and equitable solutions from the ground up, and offer accessible ways for New Yorkers of all backgrounds to participate in the transition to a sustainable economy. We will develop a first-of-its kind interactive ["climate dashboard"](#) to track our City's progress toward meeting our climate goals (including the implementation of the Climate Mobilization Act and the status of climate resiliency infrastructure to protect our coasts and frontline communities).

Our full climate platform can be found at: <https://landerfornyc.com/climate>

A final word: Working to honestly and ambitiously confront the climate crisis is deeply personal to me. On many evenings, my teenage daughter Rosa asks me: “Dad, what did you do today -- today -- to confront the existential threat of climate change? Because your generation put our planet, and my future, at risk, after you knew better. What are you doing to change that?” Together, we read *The Uninhabitable Earth*, and sat in the despair of what we have wrought. Together, we read *Ministry for the Future*, and imagined what it would look like to actually win the scale of change that would matter. Together, we marched in the 2019 climate strike. She only allowed me to march with her high-school classmates because she intends to hold me accountable for real change. That’s the energy I would bring with me to the Comptroller’s office.

ISSUES

Each year, NYLCV works closely with New York’s leading environmental, public health, conservation, energy, environmental justice, and transportation organizations to identify the most pressing priorities on fighting climate change, conserving land and water, and protecting public health. These issues drive NYLCV’s advocacy work throughout the legislative session, influence the bills we select for NYLCV’s Environmental Scorecards, and informs the decision on the candidates we choose to endorse. To ensure your responses are in alignment with the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV’s 2021 New York City Policy Agenda](#) when formulating your responses.

Please indicate your level of commitment to, and if applicable your recent personal and professional activity concerning, all the policy priorities of our partners per the following issues:

Top Priorities

Transportation isn’t only the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions in our state—it is also a major source of air pollution, causing respiratory and other public health issues. This is particularly the case near New York City’s many major highways where too often, these communities are low-income and communities of color.

2. Encouraging the Shift to High Efficiency, Low Emission Forms of Transportation (p. 3)

If we are serious about reducing emissions and mitigating the threats posed to our city by climate change, New York City must invest in our public transportation infrastructure. I have a strong track record fighting for congestion pricing in 2008 and 2018, pushing for transit signal modernization, winning major legislation to combat reckless driving, and have consistently supported the creation of cycling and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure including the implementation and expansion of Citibike in my district and citywide. In the Comptroller’s office, I will continue to be a champion of public transit, active and sustainable modes of transportation, and accessible, livable streets.

First and foremost, I will continue to advocate for the implementation of congestion pricing, which we cannot afford to delay. This would make NYC the first American city to implement this

policy and would reduce our city's greenhouse emissions, while simultaneously providing critically-needed funding to the MTA. I will fight for an implementation strategy that is rooted in equity to achieve our emission reduction and revenue raising goals—without putting a disproportionate burden on communities of color—and will fight to ensure that the revenue raised is used for transportation improvements that serve all New Yorkers equitably, particularly those underserved by transit, not just the privileged few.

In addition, as outlined in my policy platform [“Transforming Traffic Safety: Safer Streets. With Less Policing”](#) I will leverage the tools of the Comptroller's office to make the financial case for the street design changes and infrastructure investments that will not just encourage sustainable and active modes of transit and decrease vehicle miles travelled - but will reduce opportunities for crashes and dangerous driving behavior that puts all New Yorkers lives at risk. My top priorities will include a citywide network of physically protected and camera-enforce bike and bus lanes, protected, widened and accessible sidewalks, narrowed roadways, pedestrianized streets including Open Streets in neighborhoods citywide and fully redesigned intersections.

To get this critical infrastructure funded, I will work to implement a Green Bond program for New York City, as outlined in my platform [“Investing Better in our Infrastructure,”](#) creating dedicated funds for infrastructure that mitigates climate change including enabling more efficient and less polluting transportation. That same platform includes my plan to ensure these projects get built on-budget and on-time, which will include rigorous audits of the City's management and implementation of capital projects to root out waste, identify best practices, and push ambitious internal reforms.

More can be found in my transforming traffic safety platform (<https://www.landerfornyc.com/traffic-safety>) and my infrastructure platform (<https://www.landerfornyc.com/infrastructure>).

More than ever, New Yorkers realized the value of our parks and open spaces in 2020 as our cultural institutions were closed and we had to practice social distancing. Open green space is one of the City's most valuable environmental assets but also contributes to the well-being of our residents and our economy.

3. Conserving New York City's Parks and Natural Areas (p. 3)

As we have been reminded through the COVID-19 crisis, parks and open space are a key piece of both physical and social infrastructure for New York City residents. I believe that smart investments in parks and other critical infrastructure will be key in our ability to deliver a just and durable recovery. But infrastructure investments can only play that role if they are better planned, and far better managed.

I have been a long-time advocate for funding our City's parks to ensure all our neighborhoods have access to safe and well-maintained parks. In my first years at the Council, I passed a bill to track the City's Parks Maintenance spending and ensure the City is resourcing our parks equitably across diverse neighborhoods, which I will continue to fight for as Comptroller. As an

early champion of the public plaza program and the Neighborhood Plaza Partnership to enable plazas in low- and moderate-income communities without a BID or major cultural institution, I believe an expansion of the NPP program holds great promise for building more green infrastructure and increasing access to open space in BIPOC neighborhoods.

Through the Gowanus Neighborhood Rezoning, I am pushing forward innovative new tools for incentivizing and requiring private developers to build new public spaces, waterfront parks, and green infrastructure. All waterfront developers will be required to build a resilient esplanade (designed to be resilient for high-tide in the year 2100), and to include rooftop solar, wind, or green roof. As Comptroller, I will advocate to expand these innovative tools to create more accessible and inclusive open and green spaces that increase the resiliency of our coasts and help restore natural coastal habitats citywide.

I also will continue to prioritize our City's creation and conservation of parks and natural areas through the office's audits bureau to ensure that all New Yorkers can enjoy the public health and social benefits of the City's valuable environmental assets. Together with grassroots organizers and advocates, I will push hard to ensure that the recommendations of these audits are seriously considered and implemented by city agencies.

Finally, I will push for the dramatic expansion of Participatory Budgeting citywide, which residents in my district have used time and again to fund conservation initiatives and to maintain, renovate and create new, innovative and accessible parks and open spaces. Participatory budgeting can be a tool for expanding access to the City's natural resources.

Reaching the City's Zero Waste goal by 2030 will require work from all New Yorkers—cooperation of city officials and private industry, and buy-in from the public. Stimulating behavioral change is critical to meeting this goal, as is ensuring the City has programs in place that promote waste reduction, diversion, and sustainable waste management.

4. Common Sense Waste Management (p. 3)

I've been a long-time advocate for reducing solid and putrescible waste in our City. As the lead sponsor of the plastic bag fee/ban and styrofoam ban bills, a champion of implementing and expanding the City's composting program, and an early sponsor of the Council's waste equity and commercial waste zone legislation, I understand the critical importance of these hard-fought wins and will continue to champion policies that set our City on a path towards sending zero waste to landfills by 2030.

I will use the tools of the Comptroller's office to advocate and help make the financial case for universal food waste composting for New York City. This includes exploring both "mandatory composting," "pay-as-you-throw," and "save-as-you-throw" models for achieving universal organic recycling. In addition, I will work with advocates, experts, community partners, and grassroots organizers to research, design, and analyze other equitable approaches to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, increasing recycling and composting rates, and reducing city costs.

I will work with experts to develop an interactive public dashboard to track the city's progress on city and statewide climate goals—including reducing solid waste sent to landfill. In addition, that dashboard will track implementation, enforcement, and impact of the critical policies I have worked hard to pass, including the City's plastic bag and styrofoam ban, in addition to the City's waste equity and commercial waste zone laws to ensure the environmental justice communities shouldering the burden of the City's historically unjust waste management decisions are seeing results, including improved air quality and reduced traffic in their neighborhoods.

In addition, the dashboard will be designed to be a tool to get lots more New Yorkers involved in the fight against climate change, featuring an accessible, multilingual online resources hub to help New Yorkers get involved through organizing, policymaking, building upgrades, changes in their workplaces and institutions, individual behavioral changes, and arts activism. This hub will aim to help increase New Yorkers' awareness around how they can help reach the City's zero waste goals.

Finally, I will establish a dedicated "Sustainability and Environmental Justice Audit Team" which will audit agencies' internal policy and agency spending plans with respect to solid waste management, recycling, and composting to ensure all City agencies are contributing towards our Zero Waste goals.

Combating Climate Change

The time to act on climate is now. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report makes it clear that we must make radical changes in short order to avoid catastrophic climate change. We will work to advance policies that decrease emissions from all sectors, prepare us to meet the unavoidable impacts of climate change, reduce waste, and foster a strong green economy. We must also ensure the changes we make to tackle climate change benefit disadvantaged communities and provide for a just transition.

5. Energy and Infrastructure (p. 5)

I was proud to be one of the first Council Members (going back to 2015) to support, fight for, and help enact what became Local Law 97 of 2019 (the Climate Mobilization Act), one of the most ambitious efforts by any city to reduce building energy use, which is responsible for about 70% of New York City's climate footprint. The climate dashboard that I've outlined in my climate platform will rigorously monitor the City's implementation and enforcement of this law.

In addition, I plan to explore the use of City Capital dollars and "Green Bonds" to build-out and install rooftop solar and battery storage on public and private roofs citywide. Paying a rent to private property owners (specifically low- and moderate-income homeowners and manufacturing businesses) would enable the City to retain ownership over this solar infrastructure, creating a municipally-owned clean-energy utility. This model would directly create green jobs and give the City more control over the utilities' operations, job standards, local hiring requirements, and payment structures, while simultaneously building out the City's renewable energy infrastructure and providing vulnerable property owners with small but steady infusions of cash.

My climate platform also outlines a plan to help NYC's building owners and developers bring rooftop solar and heat pumps to scale in the short-term, helping New Yorkers fund energy efficiency and clean energy projects while dramatically reducing their utility bills. I will work with the solar industry and, if necessary, push for City Council legislation, to assist homeowners who want to take advantage of this climate- and money-saving strategy and increase awareness and access to the city's existing financing tools, including the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE program).

I will also advocate for improvements to the efficiency of lighting, heating, water conservation, and ventilation systems (especially by installing more and better temperature sensors and heat controllers in every apartment) in public and private buildings. Finally, I will explore ways to increase the accessibility of micro-electricity and heat generation technologies to bring these technologies to NYC's low-income neighborhoods, in particular.

6. Transportation (p. 5)

In addition to the priorities outlined in my response on top priorities, I will continue to research and raise awareness around the cost-benefit of eliminating minimum parking requirements and reallocating our curb space to prioritize people over cars and the implementation of new tools to more efficiently and automatically enforce issues related to illegal parking in bike and bus lanes, placard abuse, speeding, and other behaviors that threaten the health and safety of New Yorkers and discourage sustainable and active modes of transportation.

As Comptroller, I will also help make the financial case for investing in NYC's bus and subway systems, a citywide network of physically protected bike lanes, the expansion of Citibike citywide, and pedestrian spaces through regular, high-quality audits, oversight and data-driven policy reports, and budget advocacy to city, state, and federal leaders for the full funding and implementation of the Better Buses Action Plan and Fast Forward Plan, including fighting to upgrade the subway's century-old signal system and to improve the management of the MTA's capital projects.

7. Resiliency (p. 6)

Using the resources of the Comptroller's office, I will transparently evaluate and report on NYC's exposure to climate risk, with objective and credible data. This evaluation will include monitoring emerging climate threats and the city's response to those threats, like extreme heat, methane leaks, flash floods, and air quality, particularly in environmental justice communities.

I will use these analyses to mitigate the risk climate change poses to the city's bond rating and interest rates, as de-carbonized investment will yield long-term financial security and credit for the city. In addition, these analyses will help make the financial case for funding new programs—such as new real estate buyback programs to reduce vulnerabilities along New York City's coasts, new funding mechanisms for building large scale coastal resiliency projects, and the restoration of New York Harbor as a sustainable source of food—and support my advocacy for federal and state policies like the Green New Deal, progressive emissions pricing schemes,

and more. Such analysis will also consider the city's own role in financing the climate crisis, which would further inform divestment and financing decisions.

It is only a matter of time until the next Sandy-strength storm devastates our city's coastal communities. As Comptroller, I will explore the creation of a standing voluntary buy-back fund for coastal homeowners to assist New Yorkers in securing funds to relocate without months-long delays. Instead of repeatedly spending public dollars on the city's rebuilding efforts in the neighborhoods most vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge, and high winds, I will make the financial case for creating this voluntary homeowner fund for the purchase of high-risk coastal properties for redevelopment as open space and resiliency infrastructure that will protect our coasts in the long-term, and provide vulnerable New Yorkers with the option to safely relocate without delay.

The city must also work more effectively to boost the resiliency of our coastal communities by investing in the health of our oceans and marine ecosystems—especially the preservation and restoration of our wetlands. After the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy, New York City developed plans for billions of dollars of infrastructure investments in climate resiliency (for example, the Big U, improved resiliency in Hunts Point, the Industrial Harbor in Sunset Park, sand dunes in the Rockaways and Staten Island, Integrated Flood Protection System in Red Hook, etc). But many of these projects have fallen far behind their timelines, with little accountability. And COVID-19 has only created new setbacks to such progress.

I have long fought to improve the way the city manages its capital projects and passed legislation in February 2020 to establish the first-ever citywide capital projects tracking database as a first step towards increased transparency and accountability in how the city spends its capital dollars. Along those same lines, my interactive climate dashboard will be the first available resource to continuously monitor the status of these large-scale climate adaptation projects that are often funded by a complex mix of federal, state, city and private funds. Informed by the dashboard, I will fight to ensure these projects are moving ahead on-time and on-budget and advocate for the city to improve and adapt these plans over time.

8. Solid Waste (p. 7)

During my time at the Council, I have fought hard for the reform of our City's commercial waste industry which not only caused unnecessary emissions, noise, traffic, and safety hazards on our streets but injured workers and cost lives, through the creation of a zoned system that will improve working conditions for sanitation workers and cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

As outlined in my climate policy platform, I will also use the tools of the Comptroller's office to advocate and help make the financial case for universal food waste composting for New York City. In addition, I will work with advocates, experts, community partners, and grassroots organizers to research, design, and analyze other equitable approaches to reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, increasing recycling and composting rates, and reducing city costs.

I will also bring a lens of equity and environmental justice to all of my work, but specifically in the development of an environmental justice audit of city spending. So many of our city's decisions

can detrimentally and unfairly impact brown and Black neighborhoods, exacerbating health disparities and inequality in our city – the way we plan our truck routes and waste management in particular has historically put a disproportionate burden on and underserved communities of color which threatens the health and well-being of NYC as a whole. As Comptroller, I will develop a methodology to continuously monitor city spending and siting decisions to identify and advocate on behalf of the neighborhoods receiving less than their fair share of city resources to address these critical needs. In addition, this dedicated “Sustainability and Environmental Justice Audit Team” will audit agencies’ internal policies with respect to solid waste management, recycling, and composting to ensure all City agencies are contributing towards our Zero Waste goals.

Protecting People and Natural Resources

All New Yorkers deserve indoor and outdoor environments that are free of contamination and pollution. We will promote policies that provide access to healthy air and water, protect our open spaces, and improve the well-being of all New Yorkers.

9. Parks, Natural Areas, and Active Waterfronts (p. 9)

For nearly a decade, I have been the Council’s strongest champion for improving the management of capital projects to maintain and improve the City’s infrastructure. After helping to bring participatory budgeting to NYC to help New Yorkers engage with the budget, I created the first Council-district-level capital projects tracking system so constituents could know the status of the projects they chose. I successfully pushed the Parks Department to create the Parks Capital Project Tracker.

As Comptroller, I will build on this work to ensure our City’s investments in parks and active waterfronts projects are completed on-budget and on-schedule. In addition, I will advocate to expand the innovative tools we are using in Gowanus requiring developers to create more accessible and inclusive open and green spaces that increase the resiliency of our coasts and help restore natural coastal habitats citywide.

And I will continue to prioritize our City’s creation and conservation of parks and natural areas through the office’s audits bureau to ensure that all New Yorkers can enjoy the public health and social benefits of the City’s valuable environmental assets. Together with grassroots organizers and advocates, I will push hard to ensure that the recommendations of these audits are seriously considered and implemented by city agencies.

10. Lead Poisoning Prevention (p. 9)

No New Yorker should be exposed to harmful lead poisoning, but it is even more egregious that so many are exposed in our city’s schools and public housing. In 2019, I was proud to support the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act passed by the New York City Council and was thrilled when the Council built upon that work and passed 10 new bills in early 2020 to require schools to conduct regular surveys of lead paint, better protect pregnant persons from exposure, and examine lead present in park soil. As City Comptroller, I would build upon this

work by partnering with advocates, community members, and city agencies to ensure the safe removal of lead across our city.

11. Reduce and Mitigate Heat Vulnerability (p. 9 – 10)

One grim lesson of COVID-19 is how deadly it can be when we fail to prepare for a crisis. We've already seen climate devastation from Superstorm Sandy. We already know the deadly racial inequity of asthma-inducing air pollution and heat waves. If we don't act boldly now, climate change will multiply that devastation and inequity many times over.

The catastrophic risks of the climate crisis do not threaten all communities equally, as environmental justice advocates have long shown, and as recent research on redlining makes even clearer. As Comptroller, my "climate lens" will include a strong focus on the ways that racial and economic inequality overlap with climate risk—especially with respect to families are most at risk from heat waves—so we can build a platform for change toward a city that is not only more sustainable and more resilient, but one that confronts its legacy of systemic racism and moves irrevocably toward racial justice.

Through the implementation of green bonds, audits of DEP's green infrastructure programs, making the financial case for the City's incorporation of green infrastructure in all agencies' capital project designs, and environmental justice audits, I will work hard to reduce the heat island effect in our neighborhoods citywide, and especially in the City's low-income, immigrant, and brown and Black neighborhoods.

12. Clean Air for All (p. 10)

I was proud to have sponsored legislation to electrify city school buses and have supported efforts to electrify the municipal fleet, and will continue to advocate and monitor as Comptroller. Through the Sustainability and Environmental Justice Audits team and Climate Dashboard proposed in my climate platform, I will rigorously monitor the City's progress toward electrifying (and reducing) the New York City's vehicle fleet, including MTA buses and agitate for change where City we identify City agencies falling behind their targets.

As Comptroller, I will also explore ways to scale up programs like New York State's Green Bank and New York City's Efficiency Corporation (NYCEEC) for financing green energy infrastructure. With new, easy-to-access and use financial products like low-interest loans, we can make it attractive for landlords and small businesses to invest in rooftop and community solar, new electric heating units and electric delivery vehicles now, instead of later, and create viable models for cities across the country to replicate.

13. Clean Water for All (p.11)

Both in my district and harbor-wide, I have been fighting for years to insure clean water for all. Back in 2009, I joined in the successful effort to advocate for Superfund designation of the Gowanus Canal, to insure that the Canal would be dredged, and that CSO discharge into the Canal would be dramatically reduced. I have continued this cleanup advocacy for the last decade. Last year, I joined Council Member Antonio Reynoso, the SWIM Coalition, and the

Gowanus Canal Conservancy in a campaign to [advocate for far more ambitious efforts to clean up our sewage-filled waterways](#).

As Comptroller, I will continue this advocacy, working to implement a Green Bond program for New York City (as proposed by Comptroller Stringer in 2014). With Green Bonds, the City would borrow from a growing set of institutional and individual investors funding “green infrastructure” to support DEP in meeting their green infrastructure and CSO reduction goals.

In addition, I will audit the DEP's progress towards meeting those goals to keep them on track and advocate for more transparency and reporting requirements to hold the agency accountable. In addition, I will advocate for more City agencies to incorporate green infrastructure in their design and construction of all capital projects, making the financial case for how these upfront investments will dramatically reduce New York City's vulnerability to climate risks and mitigation costs down the road. Finally, I will use the climate dashboard proposed in my climate platform to increase public awareness and education around how New Yorkers can help conserve water in their homes, at work, and in their neighborhoods.

14. Sustainable Food Systems (p. 11)

As Comptroller, I will monitor the city's efforts to promote sustainable eating options to identify the ways New York City can significantly scale up GrowNYC greenmarkets, green cards and other programs to provide more healthy and sustainable food options, particularly in food deserts and neighborhoods lacking affordable supermarkets in an effort to foster and increase local food sovereignty. I am also committed to creating and supporting public educational resources and advocacy around urban agriculture, food justice, and affordable healthy eating by partnering with local environmental and educational organizations with a focus on engaging the city's youth.

I am also committed to supporting the overall health of New York Harbor and decreasing the burden that seafood consumption puts on our environment and supporting the health of the harbor. Through partnerships with environmental advocates working to create models for sustainable ocean-based economies, I will advocate for the expansion and support of these models to create new high-quality and accessible “blue” jobs for New Yorkers that simultaneously provide local communities with more protein-rich and low-carbon alternatives to farmed fish.