



The RAPID Act is key to keeping New York's climate and clean energy goals within reach

This year's executive budget proposal includes a piece of climate legislation that will be essential to meeting the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).

The Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment ([RAPID](#)) Act would reform the transmission siting processes crucial to achieving our clean energy goals, preventing disastrous climate impacts, and providing affordable energy to all New Yorkers.

Decarbonizing the state's grid will require building more than renewable energy generation alone. Wind, solar, and storage must go hand-in-hand with the poles and wires that deliver those clean resources to our homes and businesses. As the saying goes, **there is no transition without transmission.**

The problem is that new transmission lines take too long to build—and that's where the RAPID Act comes in. The bill expedites the process for siting and permitting new transmission lines while requiring clear communication and consultation with host communities, net conservation benefits to endangered species, and dedicated funding for local intervenors to participate. **The RAPID Act would help New York reach its climate goals and maintain grid reliability while simultaneously ensuring local input and environmental protection.**

The RAPID Act is crucial to unlock the clean energy transition and provide a leading example of transmission siting reform for other states to follow.

New York needs new transmission to combat the climate crisis

New York already has one of the most ambitious climate laws on the books. The [CLCPA](#) requires the state to reach 70 percent renewable electricity by 2030 and fully decarbonize the grid by 2040. **To reach its 2030 target, New York has to [more than triple](#) its renewable energy capacity. The current [New York grid must expand to support this buildout](#), both to combat climate change and to [maintain grid reliability](#) as we electrify everything.**

Failure to build transmission will prevent the delivery of additional renewable resources. Transmission constraints are already forcing renewable curtailment in some upstate regions. And in recent months, a slew of renewable energy project cancellations has put [New York at risk of missing its 70 percent by 2030 target](#). New transmission lines would prevent curtailment and unlock CLCPA targets by enabling more renewable integration. To keep our clean energy goals within reach, state leaders must enact new legislation that will help deliver renewable energy this decade.

The RAPID Act will get transmission lines approved more quickly

In the US, it takes [10 years on average](#) to get a new power line from conception to operation. In New York, it can take [two to three years](#) just to issue state permits for new transmission lines under the current Article VII process. **The math is simple: with only six years left until 2030, transmission needs to get built on a shorter timeline.**

The RAPID Act tackles this issue head on, building on the state's existing framework for expedited clean energy review. In 2020, the legislature took a crucial step to update the review process for major renewable energy projects, establishing the [Office of Renewable Energy Siting](#) (ORES) as a one-stop-shop to oversee permitting for large renewable energy projects. Since ORES was established, the office has approved 15 major wind and solar facilities with [over 2,200 MW](#) in combined capacity.

[The RAPID Act](#) would similarly revamp the process for transmission to get power lines built at the pace that matches the urgency of the climate crisis. The bill would expand ORES's jurisdiction to permit power lines as well as renewable energy facilities and transfer the office to the Department of Public Service (DPS) to increase efficiency. The RAPID Act would also direct ORES and DPS to establish uniform standards for major transmission facilities. The standards must be designed to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts and result in a net conservation benefit to endangered and threatened species. The RAPID Act also ensures that transmission developers engage in early, ongoing consultation with local agencies and enables host communities to engage in the permitting process with clear communication and intervenor compensation funds. Developers must provide proof of consultation with local governments before even submitting an application to ORES, and must pay up to \$450,000 to fund participation in public comment periods and hearing procedures.

The new siting process would significantly expedite the review process for major transmission facilities. After deeming an application complete, ORES would have one year to make a final permit decision, as opposed to the current two to three year timeline. If needed, ORES could supersede local laws found to be "unreasonably burdensome" in light of CLCPA targets, the project's environmental benefits, and public need. ORES would also have authority to exempt projects located "substantially within" existing rights-of-way from the siting application process. **In**

short, the RAPID Act would safeguard the environment and preserve local input while accelerating the overall permitting timeline for major transmission facilities.

New transmission will deliver more renewable energy across the state to decarbonize the grid faster, in line with CLCPA targets. And as New Yorkers electrify everything and extreme weather events grow more frequent and intense, the RAPID Act will help boost grid resilience. The RAPID Act provides a model for other states to follow, and is key to getting New York back on track to meet its own clean energy commitments.