

NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS 2020 NYC COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL Scorecard

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COVER IMAGE: "BRONX-WHITESTONE BRIDGE" BY MTA / PATRICK CASHIN / CC BY 2.0

Even in the midst of a public health pandemic, the New York City Council made progress on the environment.

The Council prioritized several of the policies that we highlighted in our recent NYC Policy Agenda that take significant steps towards our fight against climate change.

Our primary tool for holding Council Members accountable for supporting the priorities included in the agenda is our annual New York City Council Environmental Scorecard. In consultation with our partners from environmental, environmental justice, public health, and transportation groups, we identify priority bills that have passed and those we believe have a chance of becoming law for inclusion in our scorecard. We then score each Council Member based on their support of these bills.

We are pleased to report the average score for Council Members increased this year and less than a dozen Council Members received low scores, a reflection on the impact of our scorecard and the responsiveness of our elected officials.

As this year's scorecard shows, Council Members are working to improve mobility, reduce waste, and slash emissions from buildings. They passed legislation to implement an e-scooter pilot program which will expand access to zero-emission micromobility options and help reduce pollution from transportation—the leading contributor to climate change in the state.

And they strengthened the Climate Mobilization Act by passing legislation to ensure that critical rent regulated buildings are not left behind and includes the very communities that are systematically overburdened by pollution.

The Council continues to look to NYLCV as a standard setter, most recently adopting one of NYLCV's priority bills from last year's Scorecard—the Renewable Rikers Act—to repurpose Rikers Island for sustainability and renewable energy infrastructure and address environmental justice.

They also introduced legislation that would expand organic waste recycling and close the gap on food scrap collection sites that was created by the budget.

While these steps will make progress toward meeting the City's emission reduction goals, we still have more work to do. The most recent City budget included massive reductions in investments in greenspaces. Our parks are one of our most vital environmental assets and NYLCV will continue to advocate for fair funding for parks in addition to reinvesting in waste reduction programs.

2021 will be a big year for New York City. We will elect a new Mayor, Comptroller, and two-thirds of the City Council. It is more important than ever for the City to remain committed to the environment and serve as a role model for other cities to follow. We hope candidates for office will look at this year's Scorecard as a guide to inform their positions during their campaigns and their time in office if elected.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Council as the remaining days of the term draw to a close.



Julie Tighe president, nylcv

About the Bills

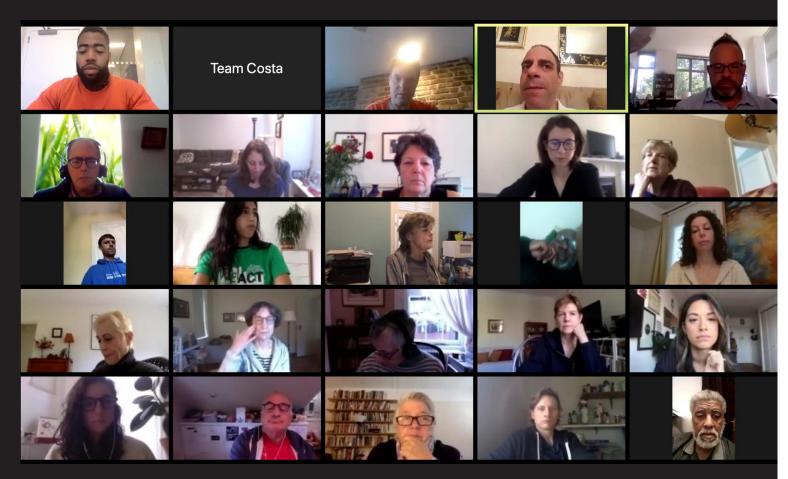


IMAGE COURTESY OF COUNCILMAN CONSTANTINIDES

LOCAL LAW 97 EXPANSION

INTRO 1947-A (CONSTANTINIDES)

This bill would expand the definition of rent regulated accommodations for purposes of Local Law 97 of 2019 (LL97) to include dwellings in which 35% or more of the dwelling units are required to be rent regulated. Before the passage of this bill, a building was exempt from LL97 if it had at least one rent regulated unit. Newly covered buildings would have a two year extension to comply with the first building emissions limits. This will subject additional buildings to LL97 which sets greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) limits for certain buildings over 25,000 square feet in NYC. *Intro* 1947-A was introduced on May 28, 2020 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on September 22, 2020. The bills passed on October 29, 2020 by a vote of 41-6.

ORGANIC WASTE DROP OFF SITES INTRO 1942 (POWERS)

This bill would mandate that the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) establish and operate at least three organics drop off sites in each community district. With organic waste comprising a third of the city's waste stream and organic waste collection reduced significantly in the FY21 budget, this legislation can help to put the city back on track with its goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2030 (OX30). *Intro 1942 was introduced on May 13, 2020 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on June 15, 2020.*

COMPREHENSIVE COOLING PLAN INTRO 1960 (SALAMANCA)

This bill would require the Office of Emergency Management to prepare and submit an annual plan beginning by May 15, 2021, describing how the city would inform residents on the dangers of heat exposure, access to cooling, including cooling centers, and how vulnerable populations can stay cool during heat-related



emergencies. The plan would also include measures for large office buildings to reduce stress on the electric grid during the summer months. With summers only getting hotter, this piece of legislation will be critical in protecting New Yorkers, especially those of color and of low income, from the worsening effects of climate change. *Intro* 1960 was introduced on May 28, 2020 and heard by the Committee on Health on July 28, 2020. The bill passed on July 28, 2020 by a vote of 49-0.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTERS

INTRO 1943 (REYNOSO)

This bill would mandate that the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) establish and operate at least one community recycling center in each community district. Establishing community dropoff centers for recyclable material that cannot be efficiently collected curbside will be instrumental in achieving the city's waste reduction goals. *Intro 1943 was introduced on May 13, 2020 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on June 15, 2020.*



"RIKERS REIMAGINED" IMAGE COURTESY OF FXCOLLABORATIVE/A MORE JUST NYC

RENEWABLE RIKERS -TRANSFER OF RIKERS ISLAND TO DCAS INTRO 1592-A (CONSTANTINIDES)

This bill would establish a process for the transfer of the land, buildings and facilities of Rikers Island from the Department of Correction to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). In biannual evaluations, any portion not in active use for the housing of persons, or providing services for such persons, would be transferred, and all must be transferred no later than August 31, 2027. Additionally, a Rikers Island Advisory Committee would be established, consisting of relevant commissioners, persons impacted by Rikers, and experts in environmental justice and sustainability. The advisory committee would evaluate and provide recommendati ons on potential uses of the island for sustainability and resiliency purposes. New York City has seized a unique opportunity to transform Rikers Island into a place for the public good. Allowing DCAS to use Rikers Island for green projects, such as renewable energy and battery storage, provides a chance to right years of environmental and racial injustices in our city. *Intro* 1592-A was introduced on June 13, 2019 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on January 29, 2020. The bill passed on February 11, 2020 by a vote of 37-7.

DIESEL SCHOOL BUS PHASE OUT

INTRO 455* (DROMM)

This bill would require all diesel school buses subject to New York City school bus contracts be retired after they reach 10 years past the manufacturing date and be replaced by either diesel buses that meet the latest EPA standards, Compressed Natural Gas, hybrid, gasoline-powered, or fully electric models. The bill further requires that after September 2040, all school buses must be replaced with zero emission vehicles when they reach 10 years past the manufacturing date. *Intro 455 was introduced on February* 14, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Environmental Protection on December 17, 2018.

COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PLAN

INTRO 1620* (CONSTANTINIDES)

This bill would require the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency or other agency the Mayor designates to develop a comprehensive five borough plan to protect the entire shoreline of New York City from the impacts of climate change. *Intro 1620 was introduced on June 26, 2019 and heard by the Committees on Resiliency and Waterfronts and Environmental Protection on October 29, 2019.*

PLASTIC STRAW BAN

INTRO 936* (ROSENTHAL)

This bill would ban food service establishments from providing plastic straws and beverage stirrers, except those needed for medical reasons. Reducing single use plastics, such as straws and beverage stirrers, will help NYC limit plastic pollution and reach our zero waste goals. *Intro 936 was introduced on May 23, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing on June 21, 2018.*

ELECTRIC BICYCLES

INTRO 1264-A* (CABRERA)

This bill would remove prohibitions in local law against the operation of certain electric bicycles allowed pursuant to State law. The bill would allow for the use of electric bicycles incapable of exceeding 25 miles per hour. The bill would also clarify that operators of electric bicycles allowed by local law are subject to State and local laws applicable to bicycle operators as well any additional provisions applicable to electric bicycle operators. *Intro 1264 was introduced on November 28*, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Transportation on January 23, 2019. The bill passed on June 25, 2020 by a vote of 42-5.

ELECTRIC SCOOTER PILOT PROGRAM

INTRO 1266-A* (CABRERA)

Intro 1266-A would require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a pilot program for shared electric scooters. Organizations participating in the pilot would be required to implement protocols for keeping clear paths of travel and provide accessible scooter options. The bill would also require that DOT report to the Council on the progress of the program and would prohibit the operation of shared electric scooters without prior approval from DOT. Neighborhoods underserved by transit and existing bike share programs would be given priority in determining geographic boundaries of the program. With congestion pricing coming online, it is more critical than ever to provide New Yorkers sustainable alternatives before this change goes into effect. Intro 1266 was introduced on November 28, 2018 and heard by the Committee on Transportation on January 23, 2019. The bill passed on June 25, 2020 *by a vote of* 38-9.



FARMERS MARKETS AND HEALTH BUCKS **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

INTRO 1650* (ADAMS)

This bill requires the Human Resources Administration to provide information about the Health Bucks program and farmers markets to all individuals who receive or apply to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (SNAP). Health Bucks is a successful program that promotes the purchase of fresh, locally grown produce. For every \$5.00 spent at NYC farmers markets using SNAP benefits, you can receive an additional \$2.00 in Health Bucks. Expanding outreach about this program can help bring more fresh, local produce into the homes of low to moderate income New Yorkers. Intro 1650 was introduced on August 14, 2019 and heard by the Committees on Economic Development, Education, and General Welfare on September 18, 2019. The bill passed on February 11, 2020 by a vote of 47-0.

EXPANDED LEAD POISONING INVESTIGATIONS

INTRO 864* (SPEAKER JOHNSON)

This bill would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), when responding to a report of a lead poisoned child, to inspect, in addition to the dwelling, all other child-occupied dwellings in the building. The bill would also require testing of water and bare soil areas of the building. DOHMH must also investigate daycare facilities, preschools and schools that were attended by a person with an elevated blood level, and parks, playgrounds or other areas with bare soil that the person with elevated blood level visits. Intro 864 was introduced on May 9, 2018 and heard by the Committees on Health, Housing and Buildings, and Environmental Protection on September 27, 2018.

* Denotes a previous scorecard bill

A Note to **NYLCV** Members

In 2020, you used your voice to tell your legislators to fight climate change, conserve natural resources, and protect public health. The environmental wins we were able to achieve in 2020 were because of support from members like you. When we act together, we can get a lot done.

An important part of our work is holding our elected officials accountable. While two-thirds of City Council members are term limited, many—including NYLCV endorsed candidates—will be running for re-election in 2021, or pursuing other elected positions in State, Federal and City government. Use this scorecard as a resource in 2021 and future elections when deciding who you want to represent your community and the environment. This scorecard tells you whether your local representatives listened to you and your neighbors by upholding their responsibility to promote sound policies that protect the environment. Here are three ways you can continue to help us in this endeavor:

TELL YOUR LEGISLATORS YOU KNOW THEIR SCORE: It only takes a minute to say thanks—or no thanks—to your legislators.

SPREAD THE WORD: Share this scorecard with your friends and family so they know the score of their elected officials.

DONATE: We could not accomplish our mission without the generous support of our members, please make a donation so that we can continue fighting climate change, conserving land and water, and protecting public health.

Visit NYLCV.org/nycscorecard for more.

Key Results

Fighting climate change often requires our leaders to make bold—and difficult decisions to change behavior and create a city that is more sustainable. Through the hardship of a global pandemic and the resulting budget crisis, the 2020 citywide average and borough averages increased slightly compared to 2019. They reflect how the environmental bills taken up by City Council in 2020 continue to be transformative and controversial and aim to tackle an aggressive climate agenda.

There was some notable movement at the borough level. Manhattan was a standout performer yet again, with an average score increasing to a perfect 100. This is the highest borough average we've ever recorded on our NYC Scorecard, the first time any borough has scored a 100. We are thrilled to watch their score achieve this momentous milestone, and hope other boroughs will follow their lead in 2021.

PERFECT SCORES

Adrienne Adams Alicka Ampry-Samuel Diana Ayala Justin Brannan Fernando Cabrera Margaret Chin *Costa Constantinides* Laurie Cumbo Barry Grodenchik Ben Kallos Brad Lander Mark Levine Farah Louis Alan Maisel **Bill Perkins** Keith Powers Antonio Reynoso Donovan Richards* Carlina Rivera Ydanis Rodriguez Helen Rosenthal Ritchie Torres* Mark Treyger Jimmy Van Bramer LOW SCORES

Joseph Borelli - 33 Chaim Deutsch - 50 Rubén Díaz Sr. - 42 Mark Gjonaj - 58 Robert F. Holden - 67 Andy King - 50* Steven Matteo - 33 Daneek Miller - 58 Eric Ulrich - 58 Kalman Yeger - 50 *No longer in the City Council

Manhattan was a standout performer yet again, with an average score increasing to a *perfect* 100. This is the highest borough average we've ever recorded on our NYC Scorecard, the first time any borough has scored a 100.

BRONX

IN 2019 75 69

MANHATTAN

IN 2019 97

QUEENS

IN 2019 83

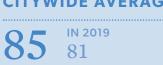
BROOKLYN

IN 2019 8 88

STATEN ISLAND

Average Score by Borough







SPEAKER *Corey Johnson* KEY COMMITTEE CHAIR SCORES



RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

Justin Brannan 100



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Costa Constantinides



PARKS Peter Koo 92



HEALTH Mark Levine 100

Key City Council Leadership

The Speaker has significant influence over which legislation moves through City Council, so while NYLCV doesn't score the Speaker, there are a few key metrics which provide a glimpse into his environmental leadership.

Last year five of our 14 scorecard bills had passed at the time of publication. This year six of our scorecard bills have been enacted, half of the total, and we expect that number to grow throughout the year.

The types of environmental legislation that the Council considers also provides insight into the Speaker's environmental credentials. In 2020, a number of bills were both politically and technically challenging bills and required an immense amount of political capital and leadership to bring to a vote. Rent Regulated Accommodations, the E-Scooter Pilot, E-Bike Legalization and Renewable Rikers were all controversial bills. Under the leadership of Speaker Johnson and the bill sponsors, each of them passed in 2020. The Speaker also ensured the passage of the comprehensive cooling plan and the health bucks education bills which were both important pieces of legislation targeting environmental racism.

The Citywide average score also reflects on the Speaker. The average score is four points higher than the previous year, showing citywide improvement in the commitment to the environment. We would also like to recognize the toll that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on New York City and we commend the Speaker for finding ways to pass bold and progressive climate legislation in the face of this hardship. The Speaker can and should whip his members to vote for climate action, and we expect him to continue to do so in 2021.

Finally, the Speaker is able to express environmental priorities via the budget process. For preliminary FY21 we saw massive cuts to multiple environmental initiatives and critical agencies. These cuts included a full suspension of the curbside organics collection program, major cuts to the sanitation department that funded community compost drop off programs, and \$61.3M in cuts to the parks department budget that reduced maintenance and workers. We understand that the pandemic has stretched the budget thin, but that was not an excuse to ignore our zero waste goals and critical parks and open spaces. The Speaker recognized this and restored some funding for community composting sites and to the Parks Department to bring back 150 parks jobs in the final budget.

All of the above shows that Speaker Johnson has shown a commitment to bold climate action. The scorecard bills that passed in 2020 have potential to combat climate change and move the needle on emissions reductions citywide, but more needs to be done to achieve our climate goals. This is especially true in the waste and parks sectors where we will need sustained leadership from Speaker Johnson to bring back instrumental funding and programs that were cut in last year's budget.



SANITATION & SOLID WASTE Antonio Reynoso 100



TRANSPORTATION *Ydanis Rodriguez* 100

Methodology

NYLCV regularly convenes a "Green Group" coalition of New York City's leading environmental, public health, transportation, parks and environmental justice organizations to discuss important issues and inform our legislative priorities. Using this input, NYLCV selected the legislation in this Scorecard.

Council Members earn points by casting proenvironment votes or by co-sponsoring proenvironment bills. Negative votes count against the final score. Votes missed due to excused absences are not factored into the score, while abstentions count as an anti-environmental vote. Bills that passed during 2020 were graded on whether or not each legislator took the pro-environment vote. Bills that did not reach a vote during 2020 were graded on co-sponsorship. Council Members were given a grace period until February 3, 2021 to co-sponsor bills.

As Speaker, Corey Johnson is not scored. However, the citywide average, which the Speaker has substantial influence over, is a reflection of his commitment to the environment.

S KEY ✓ = E = A =	Pro-E Anti- Excu Abst Not	ain, Anti-Environment Action Applicable	2019 Score	2020 NYLCV Score	Intro 1947.A Local Law 97 Expansion	Intro 1264-A Electric Bicycles	Intro 1650 Farmers Markets and Houters	Intro 1266-A Electric Scooter Pilot Provention	Intro 1960 Comprehensive Cooling bio.	Intro 1592 Renewable Rikers - Transfer	Intro 1942 Organic Waste Dron Officers Island to DCAS	Intro 1943 Community Recycling Centers	Intro 455 Diesel School Bus Phase Out	Intro 936 Plastic Straw Ban	Intro 1620 Comprehensive Resilienary pi-	Intro 864 Expanded Lead Poisoning Investigations	
		PASS (Y/N)			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Ν	Ν	N	Ν	
	1	Margaret Chin	100	100	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	×	
	2	Carlina Rivera	100	100	×	×	<	~	~	~	~	×	~	<	~	~	
	4	Keith Powers	93	100	~	~	<	~	~	~	~	~	~	<	~	× .	
NA	5	Ben Kallos	93	100	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	
MANHATTAN	6	Helen Rosenthal	93	100	×	~	×	~	~	~	~	~	~	×	~	×	
IANH	7	Mark Levine	100	100	~	~	<	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	
2	8	Diana Ayala	100	100	~	×	×	~	~	~	~	~	~	×	~	× .	
	9	Bill Perkins	91	100	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	<	~	~	
	10	Ydanis Rodriguez	100	100	~	~	✓	~	~	~	~	~	~	✓	×	~	
		Borough Average Score 100	1														
	11	Andrew Cohen*	71	80	~	×	~	~	~	E	×	×	~	×	~	~	
	12	Andy King*	27	50	E	×	~	×	~	Е	×	×	×	×	×	×	
	13	Mark Gjonaj	75	64	E	~	×	~	~	×	×	×	~	×	~	×	
XX	14	Fernando Cabrera	86	100	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	
BRONX	15	Ritchie Torres*	100	100	~	E	~	Е	~	Е	×	×	~	~	~	~	
	16	Vanessa Gibson	93	83	~	~	~	~	~	~	×	×	~	~	~	~	
	17	Rafael Salamanca	86	83	~	~	Α	~	~	×	×	~	~	×	~	~	
	18	Ruben Diaz Sr.	14	42	~	~	Α	~	~	~	×	×	×	×	×	×	
		Borough Average Score 75											• •				
	19	Paul Vallone	79	75	×	~	~	~	~	×	~	~	×	~	~	×	
	20	Peter Koo	93	92				×			 • 	 				× .	
	21	Francisco Moya	79	75		F		×	E E E		×	×	*	× .		× .	
QUEENS	22	Costa Constantinides	100	100		E	 	E	E		 						
QUE	23 24	Barry Grodenchik	86 79	100 80	 	 	 	 	×	E		 	 	 	 	×	
	24	Rory Lancman	79 85	80	×	 	×	×	 	E	×	××	× ~	×	×	×	
		Daniel Dromm		83 100			 										
	26	Jimmy Van Bramer	100					 	× .	 	 	V		 	 		
	27	Daneek Miller	50	58	~	~	~	*		×	×	•	~	×	×	✓	

		ores				
× = E = A =	Anti- Excu Absta	invironment Action Environment Action sed ain, Anti-Environment Action Applicable	2019 Score	2020 NYLCV Score	Intro 1947-A Local Law 97 Expansion	
		PASS (Y/N)			Y	Y
QUEENS	28	Adrienne Adams	100	100	× .	~
	29	Karen Koslowitz	92	92	~	~
	30	Robert F. Holden	64	67	×	>
	31	Donovan Richards*	100	100	~	~
	32	Eric Ulrich	71	58	×	~
	22	Borough Average Score 84	0.0	0.2		
	33	Stephen Levin	86	92 100		
	34 35	Antonio Reynoso	100 93	100		
	36	Laurie Cumbo Robert Cornegy	93	83		
	37	Dharma Diaz**	N/A	N/4	N/A	N
	38	Carlos Menchaca	'A 100	92	'A	
	39	Brad Lander	93	100		
z	40	Mathieu Eugene	100	83	~	
BROOKLYN	41	Alicka Ampry-Samuel	93	100		
BROO	42	Inez Barron	93	92		
	43	lustin Brannan	100	100		
	44	Kalman Yeger	50	50	~	3
	45	Farah Louis	N/A	100	~	
	46	Alan Maisel	92	100	~	
	47	Mark Treyger	93	100	~	
	48	Chaim Deutsch	42	50	×	>
		Borough Average Score 89				
ę	49	Deborah Rose	91	91	Α	
-						

* = No longer serving in the City Council. Graded based on votes. ** = Assumed office on 12/2/20

50 Stephen Matteo

51 Joseph C. Borelli

TOTALS

STATEN ISLAN

Intro 1264-A Electric Bicycles	Intro 1650 Farmers Markets and Harrier	Intro 1266-A Electric Scooter Pilot Process	Intro 1960 Comprehensive Cooling pro-	Intro 1592 Renewable Rikers - Transford Com	Intro 1942 Organic Waste Dron Office.	Intro 1943 Community Recycling Center-	Intro 455 Diesel School Bus Phase Out	Intro 936 Plastic Straw Ban	Intro 1620 Comprehensive Resiliance, pr	Intro 864 Expanded Lead Poisoning Inc.	Investigations
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	P
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Α	~	Α	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	
N/A	N	N	N	~	N	N	N	N	N/A	N/A	
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41	46 ce on 12,	37	47	34	33	34	42	39	42	42	

* = No longer serving in the City Council. Graded based on votes. ** = Assumed office on 12/2/20

33

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7

29 **33**



Julie Tighe President

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NYLCV is the only nonpartisan, statewide environmental organization in New York that fights for clean water, clean air, renewable energy, and open space through political action.