Welcome

Vote YES for Clean Water and Jobs

New York's Buses Are Going Electric!

Building Back Better with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Another Winning Year for the Environment

2021: By the Numbers

Clean Fuels NY

5 is the New 15: Calls on NY to Get More Lead Out of School Drinking Water

Play Fair

Wind Works Long Island

Programs

Forum Series on Implementing the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

Candidate Forums

Emerging Leaders

Corporate Partners

Donors

Thank You to Our Board

Board Members

As we look back at 2021, it’s a challenge to reflect on such a volatile year. New York was at the center of it all—climate change, COVID, and clean energy to name a few.

While we never could have expected our new normal to stretch from months to years, our team, Board, partners, and allies across the region were emboldened to fight harder, more efficiently, and meet the moment to combat the realities of climate change head on.

Here in New York, we saw extreme weather events impact our daily lives like many of us had feared and warned of for years. Storms and flooding caused by Ida, Henri, and Elsa were wake-up calls for many. We witnessed record-setting rainfall only a week after record-setting rainfall, and eight people lost their lives while thousands were stranded from flooded roads and subways.

It was a reminder nearly ten years later of the damage of Superstorm Sandy, once again experiencing the dangerous effects of climate change firsthand. And New Yorkers will continue to be on the frontlines of frequent, intensified weather events unless we take critical action, which we are emboldened to do with record-setting funding from the state and federal governments.

Climate action is at the core of everything we do: it’s the top issue that we demand candidates for office prioritize if they want our support and the top issue we ask our members to consider when making decisions at the ballot box.

We accomplished much to be proud of in 2021. With a year of experience in virtual programming, our team did not miss a beat, hosting forums and our candidate endorsement interviews that reached a wider audience than usual. Virtual opportunities also included our Corporate Partners EcoBreakfasts, which continued to thrive. NYLCV also took on leadership roles in several coalitions that are working to achieve our advocacy priorities including clean transportation and investing in our parks.

In September 2021, we were overjoyed to come together for an in-person gala, the first time many of us had a chance to see each other in person for quite some time. We’re excited once again to invite our friends and supporters for our in-person annual gala in 2022.

This report serves as a progress update on many of the issues our supporters who help us accomplish our advocacy, programmatic, and development goals care about. From reducing emissions—transportation and buildings at the forefront—to a clean fuel standard, electric vehicles, congestion pricing, parks and green space protection, and the potential of federal infrastructure and climate legislation, NYLCV/NYLCVEF is highlighting the work we have done over the past year to help achieve our shared strategic goals.

This upcoming year will also be a tremendous opportunity with the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act and major state and federal elections. As we highlight the work of the past year, it’s important to review our successes and opportunities for further growth. There is still much work ahead to be done, and there’s no time to waste resting on laurels.

You’ll read about all of this and much more inside our second-ever Annual Report. We could not have achieved any of this without your continued support. Thank you for generously standing with us and the conservation voter movement.

Julie Tighe
President, NYLCV/EF
NYLCV has been a leading voice within the New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs Coalition since its establishment in 2020. This broad coalition is made up of environmental, business, labor, local government and civic organizations formed to demonstrate the vast support for New York environmental funding and programs that protect clean water and air, create jobs, and address the climate crisis.

Front and center for New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs is the first environmental bond act in New York in more than 25 years. In the Fall of 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul made the bold announcement to raise the Environmental Bond Act to $4 billion before once again increasing it to $4.2 billion in Spring 2022. The renamed Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act is critical for all New Yorkers, as it will support projects to upgrade drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, protect communities from the impacts of climate change, including flooding, storm surge and extreme heat, mitigate climate change, such as by making schools and public buildings more energy efficient, and expand access to parks and green spaces, the health of our communities, and that includes clean water, clean air, a strong economy. By putting the $4.2 billion Bond Act on the ballot, there is a generational opportunity for investment in the future of our environment across New York.

The Bond Act continues to be a major focus for NYLCV in 2022. The Clean Water & Jobs Coalition is putting together a statewide campaign to educate New Yorkers about the transformational investments the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act will make in our environment, our communities and our economy that will create jobs with family sustaining wages and ensure that the measure is passed by voters during the November 2022 election. There is much work to be done in 2022 to get this across the finish line and we will need funds, an even broader coalition and voter education and engagement, but we are proud of the collaborative efforts to get us to this moment.

And we know that voters care about the environment at the ballot box. Our team advocated throughout the year, and last November bi-partisan majority of voters across the state approved a new Constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to clean air and water to each and every New Yorker, showcasing that a clean and healthful environment is more important to voters than ever. This year’s Environmental Protection Fund has the most funding in its history. There is real support for bold climate action now.

Read more here: cleanwaterandjobs.org.
NYLCV Education Fund continues to work with local groups and coalitions across the state to build support for electric school buses as part of our Clean Buses for Healthy Niños campaign. This year we were busy with various organizing, advocacy, and expanding our digital presence, in order to grow support and apply pressure to get an electric school bus mandate passed through the City Council and increase our engagement across the state, supporting local initiatives for clean school buses.

Early in the year we testified at the budget hearing for the City Council Committee on Education to advocate for funding for electric school buses. Just a month after our testimony, former Mayor de Blasio announced a commitment to fully electrify the city’s fleet by 2035.

By the fall our advocacy was in full swing as Intro 455A, the city council bill that mandates an all electric school bus fleet by 2035 aged and was eligible to be voted on.

In September our coalition held a rally at Tweed Courthouse to show support for electric school buses. The rally featured Councilmembers Daniel Dromm, prime sponsor of Intro 455A, as well as Jim Gennaro, chair of the environmental protection committee.

Just days after our rally, we witnessed a major win when Intro 455A was passed by the New York City Council, making New York the largest jurisdiction in the nation committed to move to zero emission buses.

We are so grateful for funding from LCV’s Chispa program and the New York Community Trust for enabling us to work for many years on our Clean Ride for Healthy Niños campaign to achieve this major milestone for a transition to electric school buses!

But our work is not done! Following this huge victory, we shifted our focus to developing how we will continue to work as a coalition to ensure a smooth and swift implementation of Intro 455A. We co-hosted a virtual roundtable with Calstart and NYCSBUS, where our coalition presented on the importance of environmental justice in the transition to electric.

To conclude the year, we launched our Air Quality and School Bus Depot map. This map acts as an advocacy tool that cross examines air pollutant levels with PM 2.5 and Ozone Asthma attributed ER visits, and school bus depot locations in relation to potential environmental justice areas.

And we are not only working on clean school buses in New York City! We are expanding our work to press for statewide legislation in 2022 and supporting local efforts to get school districts to purchase electric school buses.

Read more about clean school buses across New York here: nycschoolbus.org.
During most years, we hold our candidate endorsement interviews in-person. Due to the continuing pandemic in 2021, in-person meetings were still not possible. But that didn’t stop us from conducting a record number of interviews and endorsements, especially in New York City where term limits created many open seats including mayor, comptroller, borough presidents, and city council. And that resulted in the election of a pro-environment majority in the City Council, laying the groundwork for more progress in the climate fight.

With virtual meetings, our team and local board members were able to connect with more people than ever, expanding outreach across the state to continue our upward trend of screening more candidates and getting involved in more communities across New York State every year. With growing interest in our endorsements, a virtual component allows us to connect faster and make decisions more tactically, helping save time to focus our work on making our endorsement so coveted.

Eighty-Six percent of the candidates that we endorsed won their race, which means that our relationships across local governments, the city, and the state continue to grow.

NYLCV took part in events across the City with Senator Chuck Schumer and partners in advocacy to highlight some of the major wins within the IIJA and continue to advocate for the passage of the Build Back Better Act. While negotiations continue, the environment will be a key part of any compromise, and that is in large part to the coordinated efforts of many who have fought for climate action now!
**2021: BY THE NUMBERS**

Our reach and effectiveness continues to increase year-over-year as more candidates are participating in our endorsement process and more of our endorsed candidates are winning their races. Our fundraising is growing, which supports our work to achieve advocacy and programmatic accomplishments throughout the year. Your support is critical for our success.

### Endorsement interest increases

*Questionnaires received*

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<th>Year</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<td>Value</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>179</td>
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### Endorsement activity increases

*Races we endorsed in*

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<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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*Our relationships increase*

*Number of winning candidates*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>77</td>
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*Percent of endorsed candidates who won*

86%

### Policy forums

6

### Bills we advocated for that passed

23

### Forum attendees

1,500+

### New donors

284

### Actions taken

6,257

### Corporate partners

41 (Regular), 13 (Capital Region)

### Eco-Breakfasts

13

### Grants received

14

### Donors

467

### Funding we helped get included in the budget

$5 BILLION

4.2B Bond Act, $500M Clean Water Infrastructure, $300M EPF

### Funds raised at Gala

$1,108,415

Regular Capital Region
Transportation is the leading contributor to climate pollution in the state and nationwide. That’s why reducing emissions from the transportation sector is one of our priorities and we are leading a coalition that’s advocating for a policy that will help do just that.

Clean Fuels NY is focused on passing a clean fuel standard to slash emissions by holding polluters accountable and spurring widespread deployment of low and zero-emission vehicles and innovation in alternative fuel industries.

Read more about Clean Fuels NY here: cleanfuelsny.org.

**WHAT IS A CLEAN FUEL STANDARD?**

A clean fuel standard (CFS) is a proven, efficient and cost-effective way to reduce CO2 emissions and pollution from the transportation sector.

A CFS effectively makes polluters pay for the development and deployment of cleaner fuels, including electricity, through a credit-trading system based on total life-cycle emissions.

**OVER TIME, NEW YORK WILL SEE:**

- **REDUCED EMISSIONS**
  - Reduced emissions from the transportation sector, which is currently responsible for 36% of New York’s emissions.

- **INCREASED INVESTMENT & INNOVATION**
  - Increased investment and innovation in electric vehicles, biofuels, and other low greenhouse gas transport solutions.

- **REDUCED EXPOSURE TO POLLUTANTS**
  - Reduced exposure to harmful pollutants, saving billions of dollars in health costs and preventing premature deaths.

- **DECREASED COST**
  - Decrease costs for businesses to switch to clean transportation options and the opportunity to grow the industry.
Early in 2021, we released our new report “5 is the New 15” about how strengthening the 2016 Safe School Drinking Water Act would protect more students and staff from lead exposure in school drinking water. At our press conference to release the report, we urged the State to reduce the action level for lead in public school drinking water from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb which would make New York’s the biggest state with the most protective health standard in the nation. It would also bring us closer to the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendation of less than 1 ppb.

In addition to lowering the lead action level, the report recommends increasing testing frequency for lead in public school drinking water, guaranteeing no-cost tap water, removing the possibility of exemption from testing, ensuring laboratory reports are disclosed publicly, and enforcing training for sample collectors. An analysis of lab reports from 90% of all NYS public school districts that were tested in 2016 found that an additional 63,428 drinking water outlets, or 17.2%, currently in use would need remediation under a more protective standard of 5 ppb compared to the current action level of 15 ppb.

In late December 2021, we were thrilled to see Governor Kathy Hochul sign the unanimously approved legislation S. 2122-A/A. 160-B (Rivera/Gottfried), that will get more lead out of public school drinking water.

The legislation strengthens the current lead poisoning prevention law, the Safe School Drinking Water Act, by reducing the action level to 5 ppb. While there is no safe level of lead exposure, the new state law would provide the most stringent protection for the largest population of students in the country, getting New York closer to the 1 ppb action level recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. It also increases testing frequency to test triennially (every 3-years) instead of the current frequency of five years, removes certain exemptions from testing, and ensures water at no cost to the school communities when drinking water outlets are taken out of service for repair.

Additionally, the cost of testing and remediation to school districts will be fully covered by state and federal funding, and laboratory reports will be posted online to improve transparency, reducing the need to file Freedom of Information Law requests for the data.

NYLCV worked in partnership with numerous health, environmental, environmental justice, educational, and worker advocate organizations to advocate for this bill, including Children’s Defense Fund—NYC, Citizen Action New York, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Citizens Committee for Children of New York, Clean & Healthy NY, Earthjustice, Environmental Advocates of New York, Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition, Healthy Schools Network, Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Just Green Partnership, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp, NRDC, NYC Coalition to End Lead Poisoning, NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, NYS Parent Teachers Association (PTA), New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), PUSH Buffalo, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, WEACT, and Women’s Voices for the Earth.

City parks cover 14% of NYC, but the NYC Parks budget is just 0.5% of the total City budget—even with the FY22 NYC Parks budget being the largest ever adopted by the city. NYC’s parks are critical infrastructure that have been overlooked and underfunded for too long. The pandemic laid bare the inequities in NYC’s park system and highlighted the dire need to fund and build more parks to ensure equitable access for all New Yorkers.

In 2021, we called on Mayor Bill de Blasio and the City Council to restore essential funds to the NYC Parks department. NYC Parks received the 2nd largest cut of any agency following COVID-19 austerity measures. That reduction of $84 million caused parks to be in the worst conditions on record while demand for them was at an all-time high.

Elected leaders heard our voices and restored $80M to NYC Parks budget for FY22, making it the largest NYC Parks budget ever adopted by the city! All of our Play Fair asks were funded through the full fiscal year either through Council, Mayoral, or federal stimulus funds, or a shift of funds from operations to capital budgets.

Critically, as a candidate, Mayor Eric Adams pledged to increase parks funding to 1%, a pledge we and the whole Play Fair campaign will hold him to.

Read more about the Play Fair 4 Parks campaign here: ny4p.org/what-we-do/play-fair.
NYLCVEF educational forums bring together elected officials, environmental leaders, and the general public for discussion on timely environmental policy issues. Our educational forums take a variety of forms—ranging from multi-day events with hundreds of attendees to intimate roundtable discussions with industry leaders.

**PLUG IT IN, NY!**

One of our top priorities is reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, New York’s largest source of emissions. Given that there are nearly 11.5 million vehicles registered in NYS, getting individual New Yorkers to make the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) will be key to cutting emissions from the transportation sector. Our Plug it in, NY! campaign seeks to empower New Yorkers to make an educated choice as to whether adopting an EV would be right for them, through our educational materials and testimonials from EV drivers. Read more here: nylcvef.org/plugitinny.

**WHAT’S BREWIN’ OFFSHORE**

Along with partners Climate Jobs NY Education Fund, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, the Long Island Association, and the Long Island Federation of Labor, NYLCVEF organized happy hour events in Port Jefferson and Long Beach on offshore wind with keynote speakers including Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the planned offshore wind projects, and the labor and job opportunities expected on Long Island in the coming years as part of this emerging industry.

**A DAY ON THE DELAWARE**

NYLCVEF hosted a “Day on the Delaware” event with the Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed, Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR), the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, Senator Mike Martucci, and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther to connect elected officials, partners, and other stakeholders to each other and the river while elevating the need for funding for the Upper Delaware River Watershed by highlighting the ecological, recreational, and economic value of the region. President Julie Tighe spoke on the importance of clean and protected waterways for activities like fly fishing and spoke about how the Upper Delaware River Watershed has been historically overlooked. While recreational opportunities and tourism generate approximately $3.5 billion for the State’s economy, the area is still underfunded. Together, NYLCV, FUDR, CDRW, the Alliance for the Upper Delaware River Watershed, and esteemed guests enjoyed a wonderful day soaking up all that the Delaware River has to offer and engaging with key stakeholders in the fight for dedicated funding for the Upper Delaware River Watershed.
Over the past few years, we have continued to build policy forums to introduce New Yorkers to the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Since 2020, we have created a series of virtual forums that focus on each sector of our economy.

The CLCPA mandates economy-wide carbon-neutrality by 2050 and each sector has its own unique challenges and opportunities. Through this series, our goal is to dive deeper into how we are going to achieve the CLCPA’s ambitious climate goals in a way that is effective, efficient, and equitable. The series also aims to build public awareness, educate New Yorkers on climate policy, and develop recommendations for how to meet those objectives.

We held forums focused on manufacturing and natural resources and will continue holding more in 2022 featuring panelists from our non-profit partners, government, and industry representatives. If you’d like to learn more, visit nylcvef.org/CLCPAforumseries.

Our nonpartisan candidate forums, which take place in the weeks leading up to an election, bring candidates to their community so voters can learn more about their environmental policies and where they stand on key environmental issues.

NYLCVEF recruits local journalists to serve as the moderators ensuring that the discussion is substantive and relevant to the community. Audience participation is encouraged as attendees are invited to submit questions. Ultimately, our policy forums bring experts, advocates, and decision-makers together to develop solutions to local environmental problems.

Hot topics this year included public health and the ongoing COVID recovery, sustainability and resiliency, clean water infrastructure, the preservation of public lands, air quality disparities in environmental justice neighborhoods, and creating green jobs.

Thousands of voters from all around the state who could not make the live event have been able to view these forums live via Facebook (facebook.com/nylcv) and on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/nylcv).
Our Emerging Leaders program is designed for early- and mid-career professionals to continue to grow into environmental advocates of the future.

With informative and networking event programming throughout the year, the Emerging Leaders program is developing the next generation of environmental leaders and informing them about key issues through interactive discussions. Due to COVID, we held most of our Emerging Leaders events virtually in 2021. However we had two successful zoom breakfast sessions and an incredible in-person happy hour in September.

Our 2021 breakfasts included Danny Harris, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives, and Melissa Iachan, Senior Supervising Counsel in the Justice Program at NYLPI.

The Emerging Leaders Drink & Think Green Happy Hour was a huge success. We surpassed our fundraising goals and engaged with new sustainability-minded young professionals. Our guest speaker, long time friend of NYLCV Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, discussed his environmental plans for Brooklyn and how he will ensure that sustainability is at the forefront of his policy agenda.

If you know someone who would like to become a member, email us at development@nylcv.org.

Last year we continued to expand our Corporate Partners program in the Capital Region, bringing our total number of Albany-area partners to 13.

As we continue to manage our events through the surges of COVID, our Corporate Partners Eco-Breakfast program continues to engage business, environmental, and political leaders with regular virtual sessions, as well as in-person opportunities when and where appropriate. We held 9 virtual breakfasts and an in-person breakfast headlined by MTA Chair Janno Lieber!

Throughout 2021, we were joined by leaders in energy, mobility, and open spaces including Doreen M. Harris, CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Jamey K. Bavishi, Director of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Climate Resiliency, and Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation.

If you would like to become a Corporate Partner, learn more about the program, or get involved, please email development@nylcv.org.

The Corporate Partners program continues to expand and deliver incredible opportunities across the State.
THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD

Our board members make our work possible. Their leadership and guidance provides the direction and support we need to effectively advocate across the state and host programming that moves the needle.

2021 saw a number of our Board members step down after years of support and advocacy. We thank them all for serving the environmental community with distinction.

MARJORIE L. HART
ROBIN HUBBARD
ANDREA SCHMITZ
VALERIE SMITH

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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.

NYLCVEF educates, engages, and empowers New Yorkers to be effective advocates for the environment.

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