

New York's Climate Plan and the Importance of Local Government Support & Engagement



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What this presentation covers

1. **NYS Climate Act & Scoping Plan process**
2. **Key strategies of Draft Scoping Plan**
3. **Recommendations to support local governments**
4. **Benefits of clean energy transition & scale of change**
5. **Local Resolution of Support:** What's in it & why it's important
6. **Additional resources**

Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act

The **2019 Climate Leadership and Community Act** ("Climate Act") commits New York to:

- Reducing GHG emissions by **40%** by **2030** below 1990 levels, and an **85% reduction** by **2050** (with goal of **net-zero**)
- Generating **70%** of electricity from renewable resources by **2030**, achieving **carbon-free** electricity system by **2040**.
- Ensuring a ***just*** and ***equitable*** transition. Dedicating **35%** of the benefits of clean energy investments to Disadvantaged Communities (with goal of **40%**).

Overview of Scoping Plan Process

The Climate Law established a **Climate Action Council (CAC) to develop a Scoping Plan to meet the law's requirements.**

Co-chairs: DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and NYSERDA President Doreen Harris

Members: **12** State department/agency heads, and **10** members appointed by Senate (4), Assembly (4), and Governor (2). Appointed members are primarily a mix of environmental and climate justice advocates, industry reps, and scientists.

<https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act/Climate-Action-Council>

Advisory Panels & Working Groups to CAC

- **Seven Advisory Panels** with involvement/expertise in: transportation, energy efficiency & housing, power generation, industry, agriculture & forestry, land use & local government, and waste.
- **Climate Justice Working Group:** Representatives from environmental justice communities statewide and from NYS DEC, Health & Labor Depts, NYSERDA. Responsible for defining criteria for Disadvantaged Communities, and reviewing & providing input into Plan recommendations.
- **Just Transition Working Group:** Advises on workforce development and training opportunities and on mitigating impacts on workers and communities in affected industries (e.g., fossil fuels), undertakes related studies & develops recommendations to ensure a just transition.

Why is the Scoping Plan Important?

- **The Plan establishes New York's pathway to reaching the Climate Act's emissions reduction and equity requirements.**
- **The Plan's recommendations will be incorporated into the State Energy Plan, and will shape State legislation, regulatory decision-making, and State budget-making in the coming years.**

Timelines of Climate Act

Climate Action Council develops "Draft Scoping Plan" with input from Advisory Panels, Climate Justice WG, and Just Transition WG.

**Public
comment
period on Draft
Scoping Plan**

CAC Finalizes Scoping Plan

DEC promulgates regs to comply w/ Climate Act



Aug 2020
Climate Justice WG develops DAC criteria

March 9 2022
**Public Comment
on Draft DAC
criteria/map**

July 7 2022
CJWG finalizes DAC criteria (reviews/updates annually thereafter)



What does the Scoping Plan Cover?

Sect 1: Overview

Sect 2: Pillars of Plan

Objectives

Climate Justice

Just Transition

Public Health

Sect 2: Evaluation of Plan

Hitting Emissions Targets

Benefits and Costs

Health Effects

Sect 3: Sector Strategies

Transportation

Buildings

Electricity

Industry

Ag & Forestry

Waste

Sect 4: Cross-cutting Policies

Carbon taxing/pricing strategies

Transitioning off of gas

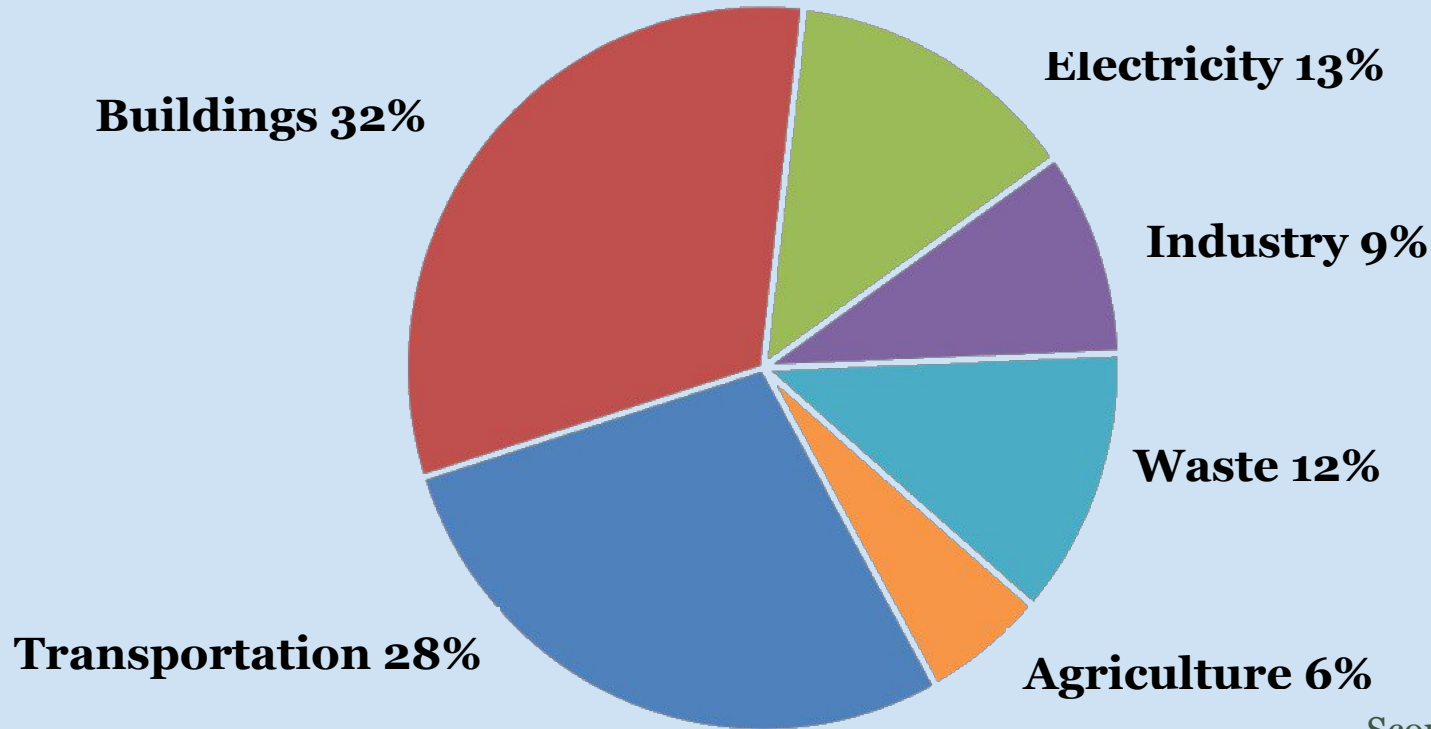
Land use policies

Local government

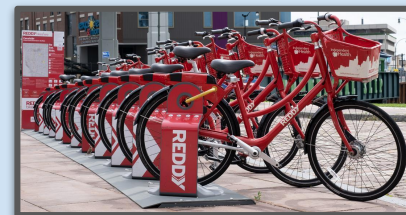
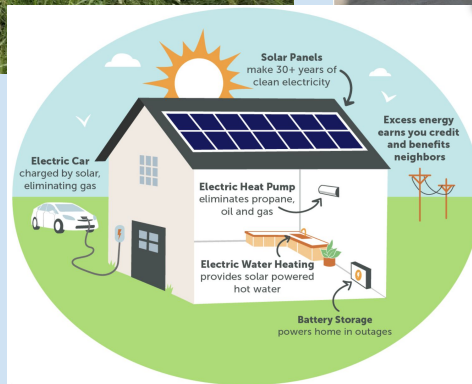
Adaptation/Resilience

Sect 5: Measuring Success

Where New York's emissions are coming from.... (2019)



Key Scoping Plan Strategies



Key Scoping Plan Strategies

Buildings: Improve energy efficiency & shift from on-site combustion to beneficial electrification (e.g., air-source/ground-source heat pumps, induction stoves).

Transportation: Shift to EVs, building out charging infrastructure; improve & electrify public transportation; promote local Smart Growth and Transit-Oriented Development strategies and non-motorized alternatives.

Electricity: Continue expanding large-scale and distributed renewable energy & storage; DEC to develop regs to transition off fossil fuels while maintaining reliability.

Waste: Divert organic waste from landfills/incinerators; reduce, with goal of eliminating, single-use plastics; improve recycling; grow sustainable industries.

Key Scoping Plan Strategies

Agriculture: Alternative manure management tailored to the farm, nutrient management, improvements to soil health (regenerative farming practices), agroforestry (integrating trees in agriculture), ag land preservation.

Forestry: Increase carbon sequestration through improved forest management, afforestation & reforestation (especially on underutilized ag lands), expansion of sustainable forest products industries.

Across sectors, prioritize low- and moderate-income (LMI) Households and Disadvantaged Communities in emissions reductions & dedicate a min. of 35% of state clean energy investments to these households/communities. NYSERDA estimates \$1 billion a year (min.) for necessary improvements to LMI homes statewide.

Scoping Plan recommendations to support local government efforts



- Expand resources and assistance to **streamline permitting and zoning for renewable energy.**
- Develop a **Clean Energy Development Mapping Tool** to help localities plan/site renewables.
- Expand **benefits to communities hosting large-scale renewable projects.**
- Explore options for **reducing interconnection costs for municipally-owned renewable projects.**
- Develop tools to **enable direct purchasing by munis** in wholesale energy markets.
- Increase support for **municipal fleet electrification.**
- Provide additional **state funding for local code enforcement and energy-code credentialing.**
- Increase funding to local governments for **forest management & protection.**
- **Increase local capacity, support, and land-use planning resources to protect natural, agricultural & forested lands.**

Effectively responding to the climate crisis will require transformative change

1900

5th Ave, NYC

1913

We've seen change on this scale before...



Eliminating harmful emissions will require transformative changes in every sector

Here's a snapshot of some of the changes that will have to be made, according to the Integration Analysis for the Scoping Plan:

- **By 2030, we need to:**
 - **Electrify 1-2 million homes with energy-efficient heat pumps.**
 - **Replace 3 million gas vehicles on the road with EVs.**
 - **Divert 100% of organic waste from landfills.**
- **By 2040, fossil fuel power plants (43% of generation) must be fully retired, replaced primarily by wind and solar, together with battery storage.**

What will it cost us?

The Integration Analysis assessed benefits of avoided GHG emissions, health co-benefits, and resource costs, and found that:

- The cost of ***inaction*** exceeds the cost of action by over **\$90 billion**.
- **Net benefits: \$90 billion - \$120 billion** (primarily from savings in public health and avoided economic impacts of damages caused by climate change).
- **Net costs are small relative to economy's size:** \$15 billion, or **.6% - .7%** of Gross State Product (GSP) in 2030; \$45 billion, or **1.4% of GSP** in 2050.
Net costs are small relative to economy's size.

Much of equipment/durable goods will be replaced at end of useful life & would be replaced anyway (e.g., cars, 10-12 years).

Health benefits of achieving emissions targets

Eliminating fossil fuel combustion provides enormous public health benefits, reducing co-pollutants, such as fine particulates (PM_{2.5}), and improving air quality.

"In all scenarios, air quality improvements can avoid tens of thousands of premature deaths, thousands of non-fatal heart attacks, thousands of other hospitalizations, thousands of asthma-related emergency room visits, and hundred of thousands of lost work days." (Scoping Plan, p. 86).

\$50 - \$120 billion in savings between 2020 and 2050 due to air quality improvements and impacts on health, alone. (ibid., p. 85)

Jobs benefits & impacts

Key findings of the Just Transition Working Group's Jobs Study:

- **Statewide net gain of 189,000+ jobs by 2030 (268,000 jobs by 2050).**
- **Largest wage increase in middle wage positions (\$28-\$37 an hour),** bucking trend of last 50 years.
- Over half of new jobs are in the building sector.
- **211,000 new jobs created in 21 subsectors; 22,000 jobs displaced in seven subsectors: A 10:1 ratio.**
- Gas stations account for a third to a half of jobs potentially displaced.

Full report can be found at: <https://climate.ny.gov/Climate-Resources>

Energy Security & Local Economic Benefit

- **Eliminate dependence on fossil fuel imports.**
- **Renewables = price stability; fossil fuels = price volatility.**
- **Energy efficient appliances/products = lower costs for residents/businesses. Saves \$\$\$ for the long term.**
- **Keeping energy investments local = tax revenue + jobs**
 - **Currently, over half \$ spent by New Yorkers on energy leaves the state, mainly to pay for fossil fuels.**



Weigh in by passing a local **Resolution of Support!**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-4Il9iutMaDmrljBee_6akNZKnh7dsAZAHUIVWb9Q9g/edit?usp=sharing

The Model Resolution....

- Brings attention to the urgency of the climate crisis, **citing findings of the most recent IPCC scientific assessment.**
- Affirms the importance of **New York's Climate Act.**
- **Accurately describes and affirms** key recommendations of the Draft Scoping Plan.
- Highlights the non-climate benefits of actions for **public health, jobs, natural resource protection, agricultural land preservation & local economic investments.**
- **Urges support for measures important to rural and under-resourced communities**, including increased financial incentives for building/home improvements & state investments in rural public transportation.
- Calls for a **statewide public education & information campaign** on the benefits of a clean energy economy and climate-friendly choices by consumers

Resolutions of Support passed to date (as of 7/31/22)



Counties

Ulster

Tompkins

Albany (Proc)

Cities

Albany

Other

Westchester Municipal Officials Association

Towns

Marbletown

New Paltz

Ossining

Rhinebeck

Red Hook

Villages

Hastings on Hudson

New Paltz

Rhinebeck

Why Pass a Resolution of Support?

- Local governments are critical partners in addressing climate change. **Your views and support carry important weight with State decision-makers.**
- Hearing from the diversity of NY municipalities is important: large and small; urban, suburban, and rural; from the county to village level; and across different NY regions.
- The resolution is an important **public education tool.**
- The resolution helps to counter misinformation from the well-funded fossil fuel industry campaign underway in New York.

Industry Astroturf Campaigns



- **New Yorkers for Affordable Energy:** Led/financed by the American Petroleum Institute, utilities and fossil gas companies. Members include some NY business organizations and trade unions.
 - Well-funded astroturf campaign utilizing social, broadcast and print media, billboards, etc., and direct lobbying.
 - Notably, Con Ed is not a member.
- **Smarter New York Energy:** Oil and propane industry, including distributors and businesses selling propane products.
 - In addition to usual tactics, companies are using extensive business and customer contact/billing lists to spread fear & misinformation about the NYS Climate Act & feasibility of solutions.

Additional Resources

Model Municipal/County Resolution of Support:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-4Il9iutMaDmrljBee_6akNZKnh7dsAZAHUIVWb9Q9g/edit?usp=sharing

Climate Action Council website: www.climate.ny.gov

- Draft Scoping Plan & appendices
- Draft criteria and map of Disadvantaged Communities statewide
- Recordings of all Climate Action Council, Advisory Panel, and Working Group meetings
- Additional studies and reports that informed deliberations.

New Yorkers for Clean Power website:

<https://nyforcleanpower.org/cac-scoping-plan-2/>

Thank you!!

