

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

December 5, 2022

Dear Governor Hochul:

We, the undersigned organizations, are committed to a rapid transition off of fossil fuels. We applaud your landmark 2022 commitment to 2 million climate-friendly homes by 2030, including 800,000 low-to-moderate income households. Now we urge you to marshal the resources and policies needed to realize that commitment and put New York on the path to electrify 90% of buildings by 2050 while prioritizing the most vulnerable communities for healthy, affordable housing and energy, as well as good, green jobs.

Below we detail items for your State of the State and Executive Budget that will enable you to:

- Launch initiatives to overcome the barriers to weatherization, electrification, and healthy housing
- Fund programs that cover all building types, protect against rising housing costs, leverage federal funds, and meet the emissions reductions mandates of the CLCPA
- Protect New York from rising energy costs and the climate crisis by ending fossil fuel expansion, simplifying existing utility financial assistance programs, and ensuring that New Yorkers don't spend more than 6% of their monthly income on their energy bills

New Yorkers face an energy affordability crisis exacerbated by fossil fuel price increases and volatility, aging housing stock, and burgeoning costs of gas infrastructure. In particular, Black, Indigenous, and New Yorkers of color have experienced decades of community harm from redlining, gentrification, and inequitable access to home energy improvements. This legacy manifests in deferred maintenance, environmental health hazards, and energy-inefficient buildings. Although there are some helpful state and federal programs, New York does not offer an easily accessible, comprehensive package of programs and policies to address these challenges, and many residents and building owners are unable to navigate the disaggregated programs that do exist.

With finalization of the CLCPA Scoping Plan scheduled for December and the unprecedented infusion of federal resources under the Inflation Reduction Act – including EPA's \$5 billion Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, and the \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, along with New York's share of HOMES Whole House Energy Efficiency Rebates of \$4.3 billion, and the \$4.275 billion for High-efficiency Electric Home Rebates – New York has an opportunity to launch a comprehensive approach to delivering healthy, climate-friendly affordable buildings to all residents.

We urge you to include the following proposals in your Executive Budget to put our state in the best position to leverage these funds:

Launch initiatives to overcome barriers to weatherization, electrification, and healthy housing

- 1. Create a Green Affordable Pre-Electrification (GAP) Fund for Low-to-Moderate Income households** to achieve your commitment to 2 million climate-friendly homes. This fund will improve living conditions, reduce energy costs and enable disadvantaged communities to prepare for electrification. The GAP Fund would include tenant protections and address barriers to electrification that are not covered by other programs, such as deferred maintenance, hazard remediation, electrical upgrades, weatherization, energy efficiency, and an all-electric replacement for fossil fuel appliances at the end of their useful life.
- 2. Support a whole home retrofit approach by streamlining access to state energy programs and incentives and strengthening NYSERDA's Regional Clean Energy Hubs.** Fund statewide technical assistance and additional staff focused on connecting residents to other programs that fund hazard remediation (lead, asbestos, mold, pests, etc.), structural maintenance (roof repair, etc.), and other improvements needed to enable weatherization and electrification.
- 3. Direct the New York Green Bank to establish affordable financing for pre-electrification and electrification.** New Yorkers need access to up-front funds to upgrade their buildings and take advantage of the tax credits, rebates, and incentives provided through the IRA and utility programs. The Green Bank should work in partnership with NYSERDA to pair grant and loan funds to provide 0% interest loans to low-to-moderate income households and low-interest loans to all other households.

Fund programs to cover all building types, protect against rising energy and housing costs, leverage federal funds, and meet the emissions reductions mandates of the CLCPA

- The revamp of the “New Efficiency: New York” program by the Public Service Commission must be funded at a level that meets the state’s efficiency and electrification goals, pursue all cost-effective energy efficiency measures, and eliminate rebates for fossil fuel appliances
- Develop electrification programs that include strong tenant protections, including limiting rent increases to 3% annually, and cover all building typologies, including public housing.

Protect New York from rising energy costs and the climate crisis by including language from the following bills:

1. **All-Electric Building Act (S6843C|A8431B of 2022)** – modernizes building codes to require new buildings to be all-electric and highly efficient, starting in 2024 with buildings under 7 stories and by 2027 for larger buildings.
2. **Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act (S8198|A9329 of 2022)** – eliminates subsidies for new gas hookups (the “100 foot rule”), enables neighborhood scale building decarbonization by eliminating the “obligation to serve” gas, and addresses operating costs by ensuring no household pays more than 6% of their income for energy.
3. **Energy Efficiency, Equity, and Jobs Act (S3126C|A3996C of 2022)** – deploys funding for cost-saving energy efficiency retrofits where they are most needed— in low-income communities and communities of color. Allows NYSEERDA to fund non-energy measures like lead and mold remediation to remove barriers to efficiency upgrades in older homes and ensures that the workers hired for energy efficiency upgrades come from disadvantaged communities.
4. **Automatic Data Matching (S8362A|A9099A of 2022)** – ensures that all eligible low-income households are automatically enrolled in electric/gas companies Energy Affordability Programs, which provide much needed monthly bill assistance to lower energy costs.
5. **Modifications to the Home Energy Assistance Program (“HEAP”) (S9578 of 2022) and Emergency HEAP (S8361|A9121)** – authorizes the automatic re-enrollment of eligible low-income households into energy assistance programs and establishes an emergency heating energy assistance program, respectively.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to continuing to work with you to make historic investments to improve our living conditions, health, economy, and climate.

Sincerely,

- 350 Brooklyn
- 350 NYC
- AAUW Kingston
- Acadia Center
- Adirondack North Country Association
- Affordable Housing Partnership of the Capital Region
- ALIGN
- All Our Energy
- Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE)
- Alliance for Clean Energy NY
- Association for Energy Affordability
- AU Environmental Action Coalition
- Aztech Geothermal, LLC

- Basilica Hudson
- Bay Ridge Environmental Group
- Bedford 2030
- Bronx Climate Justice North
- Bronx Jews for Climate Action
- Brooklyn For Peace
- Broome Tioga Green Party
- Buffalo Energy, Inc.
- Buffalo Geothermal LLC
- Building Decarbonization Coalition
- Building Performance Contractors Association of NYS (BPCA-NYS Inc)
- Campaign for Renewable Energy
- Capital Heat Inc

- Chemung County Library District
- Church Women United in New York State
- Citizen Action of New York
- Citizens' Climate Lobby, Brooklyn
- Citizens' Climate Lobby- Greater Capital Region
- Citizens' Climate Lobby - New York State
- Citizens' Climate Lobby - Mid Hudson
- Citizens' Climate Lobby- Rochester
- Citizens' Climate Lobby - Westchester
- City Roots Community Land Trust
- Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls
- Climate Change Awareness and Action
- Climate Crisis Working Group (IMV)
- Climate Families NYC
- ClimateMama
- ClimateMaster, Inc.
- Climate Reality Project - Capital Region, NY Chapter
- Climate Reality Project- Finger Lakes Chapter
- Climate Reality Project - Long Island Chapter
- Climate Reality Project - NYC Chapter
- Climate Reality Project - Westchester Chapter
- Climate Reality Project- Western New York Chapter
- Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- CNY Solidarity Coalition
- Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
- Coalition for Outreach, Policy & Education
- Coalition to Protect New York
- ColorBrightonGreen
- Color Fairport Green
- Color Penfield Green
- Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment (CASE)
- Communities for Local Power
- Concerned Health Professionals of New York
- Connexus controls, llc
- Dandelion Energy
- Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance
- E.M.M. Heating Services llc
- E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
- Earthjustice
- EarthKind Energy
- Ecosave Inc
- Effervescence Skincare
- Egg Energy Systems, Inc.
- Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
- Energy Catalyst Technologies LLC
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Environmental Advocates NY
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Food & Water Watch
- For the Many
- Fossil Free Tompkins
- Frack Action
- FrackBustersNY
- Friends of Columbia Solar
- Gas Free Seneca
- Geotherm Inc.
- Grassroots Environmental Education
- Greenfaith LI
- Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, Inc
- Green Education and Legal Fund
- Green Home Logic, Inc.
- GreeningUSA
- Green Ossining
- Green Party of Nassau County
- Green Power Associates
- Green Team LI
- HabitatMap
- Halco Energy
- Heat Cool Smart Brooklyn
- Heat Inc.
- HeatSmart Tompkins
- Hotshot Hotwires
- Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
- Ibero-American Action League
- Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition
- Indivisible Nation BK

- Indivisible Scarsdale
- Interfaith Climate Justice Community of WNY
- Jewish Climate Action Network NYC
- Kinetic Communities Consulting
- LaMorte Electric Heating and Cooling
- Livingston Energy Group, LLC
- Long Island Activists
- Long Island Progressive Coalition
- Margert Community Corporation
- Mothers Out Front- Dutchess
- Mothers Out Front - Long Island
- Mothers Out Front- New York State Leadership Team
- Mothers Out Front Northern Westchester
- Mothers Out Front Tompkins
- Mothers Out Front Westchester Rivertowns
- Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow (NEST)
- New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
- New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force
- New York Climate Action Group
- New York Climate Advocacy Project
- New York Clinicians for Climate Actions
- New York Energy Democracy Alliance
- New York League of Conservation Voters
- New York Progressive Action Network
- New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
- New York State Public Health Association
- New York Solar Energy Society
- New Yorkers for Clean Power (NYCP)
- North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
- North Bronx Racial Justice
- North Country Earth Action
- North Country NYPAN
- NY Climate Reality Chapters Coalition
- NY Renews Coalition
- NY-GEO, New York Geothermal Energy Organization
- NYC 2030 District
- Orange RAPP (Residents Against Pilgrim Pipelines)
- Pachamama Alliance of the Rochester Area
- Partnership for Policy Integrity
- Peace Action Bay Ridge
- Peace Action NYS
- Peoples Climate Movement - NY
- People for a Healthy Environment
- Physicians for Social Responsibility - NY
- Possible Rochester | Possible Planet
- Progressive Women of NY
- Protecting Our Waters
- The Public Utility Law Project (PULP)
- Putnam Progressives
- PUSH Buffalo
- RAICA (Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action)
- Ratepayer and Community Intervenors, Finger Lakes
- Regional Plan Association (RPA)
- Renewable Energy Long Island
- Renewable Heat Now (RHN)
- Repair Cafe- Kingston
- Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)
- Resist Spectra
- Rewiring America
- Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith Circle
- RMI (Rocky Mountain Institute)
- Rockland Goes Green
- Roctricity
- Roots of Success Environmental Literacy and Job Training Program
- RUPCO, Inc
- Safe Energy Rights Group
- Salas O'Brien
- Sane Energy Project
- Sanford-Oquaga Area Concerned Citizens (S-OACC)
- Sanfilippo Solutions Inc
- Saving Energy NY

- Seneca Lake Guardian
- Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
- Simply Installs LLC.
- Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
- Sixth Street Community Center
- Solarize Albany
- Solstice Initiative
- South Asian Fund For Education Scholarship and Training Inc
- South Bronx Unite
- South Shore Audubon Society
- Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition
- Stop Cricket Valley
- Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline (SNYFGP)
- Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
- The Student Climate Coalition
- Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
- SunCommon
- Sunrise Movement NYC
- Sunrise Movement Rochester
- Sustainable Finger Lakes
- Sustainable Hudson Valley
- Sustainable Putnam
- Sustainable Warwick
- Sustainable Westchester
- Syracuse Cultural Workers
- Syracuse Democratic Socialists of America
- Syracuse Peace Council
- Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council
- Taylor Heating Inc
- Th!rd Act NYC
- The Community Preservation Corporation
- The Insulation Man LLC
- The Park Church in Elmira
- The Passive House Network
- The Reve
- Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative
- Tompkins County Progressives
- True Building Performance
- UHAB
- Ulster Activists
- United for Action
- United For Clean Energy
- Ulster Activists
- Urban Green Council
- Urban Jobs Task Force
- Urbecon LLC
- UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green Sanctuary
- Veterans for Climate Justice
- Vote Solar
- WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions (WASS)
- Westchester for Change
- WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
- Western New York Environmental Alliance
- Western NY Drilling Defense
- Win Climate
- Wise Home Energy
- Yorktown100

350
BK



Acadia
Center



Kingston (NY) Branch



350
NYC



ANCA



AGREE New York

Alliance for a Green Economy



BUILDING
DECARBONIZATION
COALITION



BUFFALO
GEOTHERMAL
HEATING™
www.BuffaloGeothermalHeating.com



Buffalo
Energy
LIVE GREEN. SAVE GREEN.



Bay Ridge Environmental Group

Capital
HEAT INC



CITIZEN
ACTION!
OF NEW YORK



Citizens' Climate Lobby
Rochester, NY



The Climate
Reality Project®
NEW YORK CITY METRO CHAPTER



The Climate
Reality Project®
CAPITAL REGION, NY CHAPTER



The Climate
Reality Project®

FINGER LAKES GREATER
REGION, NY CHAPTER



LONG ISLAND, NY CHAPTER

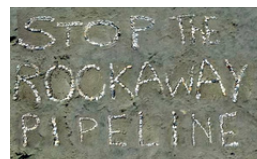


CLIMATE REALITY®
WESTCHESTER, NY



The Climate
Reality Project®

WESTERN NEW YORK
REGION CHAPTER



Climate Solutions Accelerator
of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region



CLIMATEMASTER®
Geothermal Heating & Cooling



Climate Change
Awareness & Action
WWW.CLIMATECHANGE-ACTION.COM

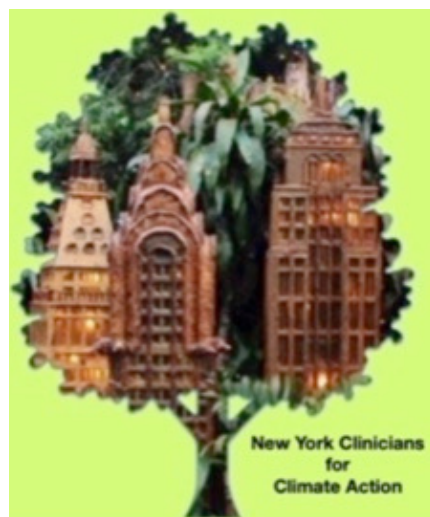


Coalition to Protect New York
www.coalitiontoprotectnewyork.org

CNY
SOLIDARITY
COALITION







North Bronx Racial Justice



Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club, Inc.

AFFILIATED WITH N.Y. - N.J. TRAIL CONFERENCE

www.nassauhiking.org





Ratepayer and
Community Intervenor,
Finger Lakes

PROGRESSIVE
WOMEN of NY



Roctricity

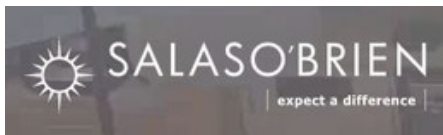
Carbon-free electricity for cleaner communities

NO FRACKING
PIPELINE

PROTECTINGOURWATERS.COM



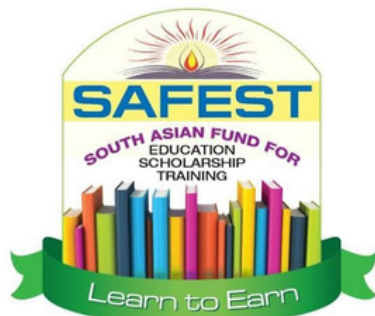
REWIRING
AMERICA



sixth
street
community
center



SIERRA CLUB
ATLANTIC CHAPTER



Sisters of Saint Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Futuring the Charism for the Life of the World.



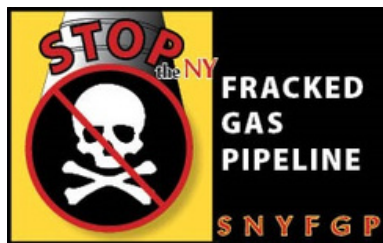
SOLSTICE
INITIATIVE

South Bronx Unite



suncommon

SASD | Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development



TH!RD ACT NYC



PUBLIC UTILITY
LAW PROJECT
OF NEW YORK, INC.

urban green



Sustainable Solutions



The Passive House Network



Yorktown100
Zero Net Carbon Emissions by 2040