

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

October 23, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul,

We the undersigned 242 organizations represent hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who want to live in a state where their health, economic well-being, and future are prioritized and protected. We write to express our frustration with ever-rising energy costs driven by irresponsible fossil fuel infrastructure spending. We are also concerned that New York's clean energy programs - critical resources for millions of households who would benefit from affordable, clean energy - are falling behind because they are neither adequately funded nor designed to reach those who need them the most. We believe that you, like us, recognize the urgency and severity of both the climate crisis and the energy affordability crisis. We urge you, therefore, to take immediate action to protect struggling families and businesses by ending wasteful spending on fracked gas pipelines and instead make smart investments in building decarbonization.

Your upcoming State of the State address and Executive Budget present opportunities to recommit to New York's climate leadership and to fulfill the promises of our landmark Climate Law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which your state agencies rightly determined would protect the health and wellbeing of New York's residents, grow our workforce and economy, and save money. Your administration's Climate Action Council Scoping Plan outlines several necessary legislative and regulatory actions to ensure that we're safe, healthy, and comfortable in our homes, free from the burden of high bills, and proud of the world we will pass on to the next generation.

We request that you include these priorities in your 2025 policy agenda:

- **Enable an affordable gas transition:** We appreciate your inclusion of provisions of the NY HEAT Act in your previous Executive Budget with the Affordable Gas Transition Act. We request that you expand upon those provisions by including the full NY HEAT Act in your upcoming SFY2025-26 Executive Budget proposal and by preserving a strong bill in the enacted budget. It's past time to end the continuing expansion of the costly fracked gas pipeline network and to repeal outdated laws, such as the 100 foot rule and the statutory pro-gas mandate under Public Service law, that hold us back from neighborhood-scale building decarbonization projects. This legislation would also protect 1.4 million energy-burdened households by limiting energy bills to 6% of household income, and ensure that today's gas pipeline workers will have good-paying jobs in utility decarbonization programs.

- **Fund retrofit readiness:** We need your leadership to solve a longstanding problem that is barring too many New Yorkers from accessing cost-saving energy efficiency retrofits. Too many are forced to live in homes that are making them sick, exacerbating health disparities, and are ill-equipped for increasingly extreme weather. A \$200 million program in the state budget to remediate older houses and apartments of low- and moderate-income New Yorkers, readying them for weatherization and electrification, would finally begin to address a hole in existing programs and open up access to state and federal clean energy funding that is currently out of reach for many New Yorkers.
- **Require gas utilities to do their part to address the climate crisis:** The Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Public Service need to comply with the requirements of the CLCPA to set and enforce specific emissions reduction targets for gas utilities and the buildings sector. Emissions from this sector are the largest source of greenhouse gases in the State. Gas utilities deliver 35% of the fossil fuels that New York consumes, and they must be required to plan and execute strategies to reduce their fair share of greenhouse gases in their service territories each year at a rate sufficient to meet the greenhouse gas emissions limits in the CLCPA.
- **Fund innovative state projects to lead by example:** Our campuses, facilities, and Capitol should be shining examples of New York's global leadership and commitment to addressing climate change and energy inequity. Instead, our most prominent state-owned buildings in downtown Albany are heated with fossil-fuel energy from a plant that pollutes the air of a low-income BIPOC community. Decarbonizing the State Capitol and other high-emitting state-owned facilities is an opportunity for New York to demonstrate how we can use innovation to upgrade and modernize our state buildings. We ask you to include funding for decarbonization and thermal energy networks at the Empire State Plaza and 14 of the highest-emitting state-owned campuses and facilities identified in NYPA's decarbonization action plans, and to implement this on an ambitious timeline.

We are ready to work with you to create a more sustainable, equitable, and affordable energy future for all New Yorkers. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss these priorities and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

350Brooklyn
 350NYC
 Acadia Center
 Adirondack Voters for Change
 ALIGN
 All Our Energy
 Alliance for a Green Economy

Altren Energy, LLC
 American Institute of Architects New York (AIANY)
 Association for Energy Affordability
 Atlantic Coast Conference Climate Justice Coalition
 Aztech Geothermal
 Barney Moravec, Inc.
 Beacon Climate Action Now (BCAN)

Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle
Big Reuse
Brightcore Energy LLC
Brooklyn For Peace
Buffalo Energy Inc
Buffalo Geothermal LLC
Building Decarbonization Coalition
Building Performance Contractors Association of
NYS
Buro Happold
Campaign for Renewable Energy
Capital District Community Energy, Inc.
Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Cayuga Climate Action
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York
(CIDNY)
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 City
Citizens' Climate Lobby - Rochester
Citizens' Climate Lobby of New York
Citizens' Climate Lobby of Queens & Nassau
Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls
Clean+Healthy
Climate Change Awareness and Action
Climate Control Group
Climate Crisis Working Group (IMV)
Climate Families NYC
Climate Solutions Accelerator
ClimateMama
CNY Solidarity Coalition
Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
Coalition to Protect New York
Color Henrietta Green
Color Penfield Green
colorbrightongreen
Communities for Local Power
Community Advocates for a Sustainable
Environment
Companies for Net Zero
Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Cornell on Fire
Dandelion Energy
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society
Developed Well Group
Divest NY
Dragon Drilling
Dryden Solutions
Earth Sensitive Solutions, LLC
Earthjustice
EarthKind Energy Consulting
Egg Energy Systems, Inc.
El Puente de Williamsburg
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
Emergent Urban Concepts
Energy21
Enertech Global LLC
Environmental Advocates NY
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)
Extinction Rebellion Ithaca
Food & Water Watch
For the Many
Fossil Free Tompkins
Frack Action
FrackBustersNY
Fridays for Future Capital District NY
Fridays For Future NYC
Gas Free Seneca
GeoExchange
GeoJerry
Grassroots Environmental Education
Green Choices Consulting
Green Education and Legal Fund
Green Party of Onondaga County
Green Sanctuary Team at Albany UU
Green Warsaw
GreenFaith
GreeningUSA
GreyEdge Group
Ground Source Heat Pump Association UK
HabitatMap

Halco Energy
HEET
Historic Ithaca
Hotshot Hotwires
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Hughesco of Rochester
Indivisible Harlem
Indivisible New Rochelle
Interfaith Climate Justice Community of WNY
Interfaith Earth Action of New Paltz
International Ground Source Heat Pump Assn.
Inwood Indivisible
Ithaca Sunrise Movement
Jewish Climate Action Network NYC
Justice Ministries Committee, Presbytery of NYC
Kinetic Communities
LaMorte Electric Heating and Cooling
League of Women Voters of New York State
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
Metro Justice
Mid-Hudson Energy Transition
Mothers Out Front Dutchess County
Mothers Out Front Northern Westchester
Mothers Out Front NY
Mothers Out Front Tompkins
Mothers Out Front Westchester Rivertowns
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club
Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation
Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
New York Climate Action Group
New York Energy Democracy Alliance
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York Progressive Action Network
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
NYPIRG Regional Chapters include: Central NY,
Southern Tier, Capital District, Hudson Valley,
Bronx, Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, and
Nassau County
New York Religious Action Center of Reform
Judaism (RAC-NY)

New York Solar Energy Society
New York State Council of Churches
New York Sustainable Business Council
(NYSBC)
New York-New Jersey Metro Pachamama
Alliance Community
New Yorkers for Clean Power
New Yorkers for Cool Refrigerant Management
News from the Neighborhood
No North Brooklyn Pipeline Alliance
North American Climate, Conservation and
Environment (NACCE)
North Country Earth Action
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New
York (NOFA-NY)
NP Environmental LLC
NY Climate Advocacy Project
NY Renews
NY-GEO
NYC 2030 District c/o Fund for the City of NY
NYCD16 Indivisible
NYPAN Enviro Committee
NYPAN Greene County
NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes
NYS Public Health Association
Orange RAPP
Outdoor Promise
P.W. Grosser Consulting
PAUSE (People of Albany United for Safe
Energy) / 350Albany
Peace Action New York State
People for a Healthy Environment
Peoples Climate Movement - NY
Phoenix Energy Supply
Physicians for Social Responsibility - NY
Pratt Center for Community Development
PUSH Buffalo
Putnam Progressives
Queens Climate Project
Ratepayer and Community Intervenors
Regional Plan Association
Renewable Energy Long Island

Renewable Heat Now
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)
Resist Spectra
Rewiring America
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith Circle
RocACTS Climate Justice Task Force
Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA)
Roctricity, LLC
Safe Energy Rights Group
Salas O'Brien
Sane Energy Project
Seneca Lake Guardian
Sheridan Hollow Alliance for Renewable Energy
Shut Down Indian Pt. NOW! (SDIPN!)
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
Sierra Club Central Northern NY
Sierra Club Finger Lakes Group
Sierra Club Hudson Mohawk Group
Sierra Club Long Island Group
Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group
Sierra Club Mid-Hudson Group
Sierra Club Niagara Group
Sierra Club NYC Group
Sierra Club Rochester Group
Sierra Club Susquehanna Group
Sisters of Mercy Justice Team -- NY
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY
Sixth Street Community Center
Skidmore College Environmental Action Club
Solarize Albany
South Bronx Unite
South Shore Audubon Society
Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
StopCricketValley.org
SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force
Sustainable Finger Lakes
Sustainable Putnam
Sustainable Warwick
Sustainable Westchester
Syracuse Cultural Workers
Syracuse Peace Council

The Climate Reality Project New York
Chapters Coalition
The Geothermal National & International
Initiative
The Insulation Man LLC
The Living City Project
Third Act NYC
Third Act Upstate New York
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative
Tulinde, LLC
Ulster Activists
United for Action
United For Clean Energy
Urban Jobs Task Force of Syracuse
Urbecon LLC
UU Congregation of Binghamton, Green
Sanctuary
Van Hee Mechanical
Versa Profiles
Veterans for Climate Justice
Vote Solar
Water Furnace
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
We Stay/ Nos Quedamos
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions
Westchester for Change
Western New York Drilling Defense
Western New York Environmental Alliance
Western New York Law Center
Wise Home Energy
Zero Hour Binghamton