



Get The Facts on New York's Climate Act: The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

Climate change is accelerating. New York is already feeling its impacts. Severe weather is the new normal, putting our homes and food supplies at risk. The Hudson River is getting higher, hotter and saltier as temperature and sea level rise, impacting drinking water as well as wildlife and fisheries. We must act decisively. In response, New York passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act in 2019.

- The CLCPA will transition our energy system and economy from burning fossil fuels to electricity, powered mainly by sun and wind.
- These technologies are currently in operation across the state.
- Through investment in batteries to store energy, and efficiency upgrades in our buildings to reduce waste, the act lays out a future as prosperous as today's and maybe more so.

The CLCPA commits the state to fund enough solar and wind power, battery storage and energy-efficiency upgrades for buildings to achieve this transition over the next twenty years.

- Consumers will have options to secure power from an established utility or alternative provider.
- Electric utilities have been directed to plan to make sure the grid remains reliable.
- New York is following in the footsteps of California and much of Europe, where there is already high penetration of renewable energy on the grid.
- The utility, national labs and industry have been developing the necessary technologies for this transition for many years.

New York operates a wide range of incentive and rebate funding programs, tax credits and loans for energy improvements.

- These programs are being scaled up, and combined with education, to make sure that everyone has access to the resources they need.
- Between 35% and 40% of this funding will go to historically under-served and low-income communities, as well as low-income households throughout the state.
- There are more and more renewable options that can actually save you money, like community-scale solar farms whose power is priced lower than conventional electricity and low-cost electric vehicle leases.
- Over the next twenty years, building codes are likely to start calling for renewable technologies in new construction, and eventually in renovations.

2025

**6,000 MW
Solar Energy**

2030

**3,000 MW Energy
Storage, 70%
Renewable Energy**

2035

**9,000 MW
Offshore Wind**

2040

**100% Zero Emission
Electricity**

2050

**85% Reduction
in GHG
Emissions**

Frequently Asked Questions

How will all this be paid for?

How will it affect the economy?

- The estimated cost to the state is \$15 billion by 2030, mainly from taxes and electric bill surcharges (which we already pay).
- This is about 0.7% of New York's economy. By contrast, if we fail to take comprehensive action on climate change, the projected costs in that same period are \$90 billion more.
- There are still hard questions to resolve through policymaking, such as how the cost of upgrading the electric grid will be shared among utilities, solar developers, and government.
- ***The Climate Act is a substantial investment in our future***, and the returns on that investment will be just as substantial, including a net increase in jobs of 189,000 by 2030.

How has the public been consulted about these major changes?

- The CLCPA was passed by our representatives in the Legislature with a 41 to 21 Senate majority.
- To translate it into policy, the state appointed a Climate Action Council co-chaired by the heads of NYSERDA and DEC.
- Numerous advisory panels and working groups brought together experts and interests, from the trucking industry and utilities to farmers and inner city dwellers.
- Over a year of public meetings produced a Draft Scoping Plan for public comment, outlining the policies that will achieve the Transition
- Eleven public hearings were conducted. Tens of thousands of comments have been received, making this one of the most participatory policymaking processes in history.

What's not to like?

- Not all occupations will grow.
- Gas stations and fuel delivery industries will shrink.
- The state is already funding retraining programs in solar, wind and heat pump installation, building weatherization and EV maintenance so that affected workers will have choices.
- Instead of adapting to the opportunities, fossil fuel trade associations and allied groups have mounted a misinformation campaign, including a video claiming "they're coming for your furnace."
- ***The changes ahead are major, but nobody is expecting you to purchase anything you can't afford.***

What can I do to take charge of my options?

- Learn now about renewable energy so that, when your gas car or boiler needs to be replaced, you have a plan.
- Learn more about the policies so you can express your views, by visiting www.climate.ny.gov and www.sustainhv.org.

