

New York State's New Climate Law: What's Next

November 2019



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NY RENEWS

A unique coalition of environmentalists, community groups & unions with nearly 200 member organizations. Selected platform principles:

- Climate change represents a serious threat to all, and especially to vulnerable people
- Unchecked corporate power jeopardizes a sustainable future
- **We can address both the climate crisis and the inequality crisis together**
- Climate protection must serve as a means to challenge environmental and racial justice
- Economic security and job placement for existing workers and young people



NY RENEWS cont.

Breaking barriers between “traditional” environmentalists and labor, community groups and people of color. Examples of active members:

- Environmental groups: Environmental Advocates, Sierra Club
- Community groups/political organizing: Citizen Action, Working Families Party
- People of Color/Environmental Justice: NYC Environmental Justice Alliance, PUSH Buffalo, UPROSE
- Labor: 32BJ SEIU, United University Professions, NYS Nurses Association
- Anti-pipeline groups: SNYFGP, PAUSE
- Faith groups: Greenfaith



Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)

- Passed in 2019 after massive grassroots mobilization; modification of Climate and Community Protection Act (CCPA)
- Some key aims:
 - Address climate change by dramatic greenhouse gas reductions
 - Just transition to renewable energy, creating quality jobs
 - Address needs of vulnerable communities disproportionately harmed by climate change and other forms of pollution



CLCPA Climate Mandates

- 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, target of “net zero” by 2050 (by 2030, 40% reduction)
- 100% of electricity must come from renewable energy sources by 2040 (70% by 2030)



CLCPA: Funding for Marginalized Communities

- 35% of the benefits of spending must directly impact “disadvantaged” communities, 40% target
 - Disadvantaged communities defined by criteria like: 1) low income, high unemployment, subject to race discrimination; 2) vulnerable to climate change and/or environmental pollution
- Funds can be spent for a number of purposes, like weatherization, energy efficiency, electric buses etc. that our communities need and that create local jobs



CLCPA: Protecting Marginalized and Frontline Communities

- **Climate screen:** State agencies (i.e. PSC, NYPA, DEC) must consider whether permits and contracts will interfere with or be inconsistent with attainment of GHG emissions goals. If so, must justify the inconsistency and identify alternatives
- **Equity screen:** permits can't disproportionately burden disadvantaged communities and prioritize GHG reductions in these communities
- CLCPA does not “ban” new fossil fuel infrastructure. But climate screen and equity screen as well as GHG reduction goals give us a handle to fight these projects



CLCPA: Miscellaneous Provisions

- Report on sources of GHG emissions (beginning 1/1/22, and every year afterwards)
- Report every 4 years on whether the state is on track to meet GHG emissions limits
- DEC must address the impact of storms and other severe weather events on projects (“adaption & resilience”)
- “Aggrieved” persons can appeal agency decisions to court



CLCPA: Miscellaneous Provisions cont.

- All state agencies must implement strategies to reduce their GHG emissions and authorized to and *arguably* are *mandated* to issue regulations to achieve law's GHG targets
- Report on barriers to community ownership by 1/1/22
- Establishes community air monitoring system and strategies to reduce emissions
- Big disappointment: CCPA labor provisions NOT in the bill



CLCPA Implementation Steps

- Climate Action Council (22 members) will write “scoping plan” with detailed recommendations as to subjects like transportation, energy intensive industries, land use and local government, energy efficiency and housing, and agriculture. Led by DEC and NYSERDA
- CAC’s work will be informed by other bodies, like the Climate Justice Working Group and the Just Transition Working Group
- DEC must issue regulations based on the scoping plan
- **Remember: Governor Cuomo runs the show!**



CLCPA Implementation Timeline

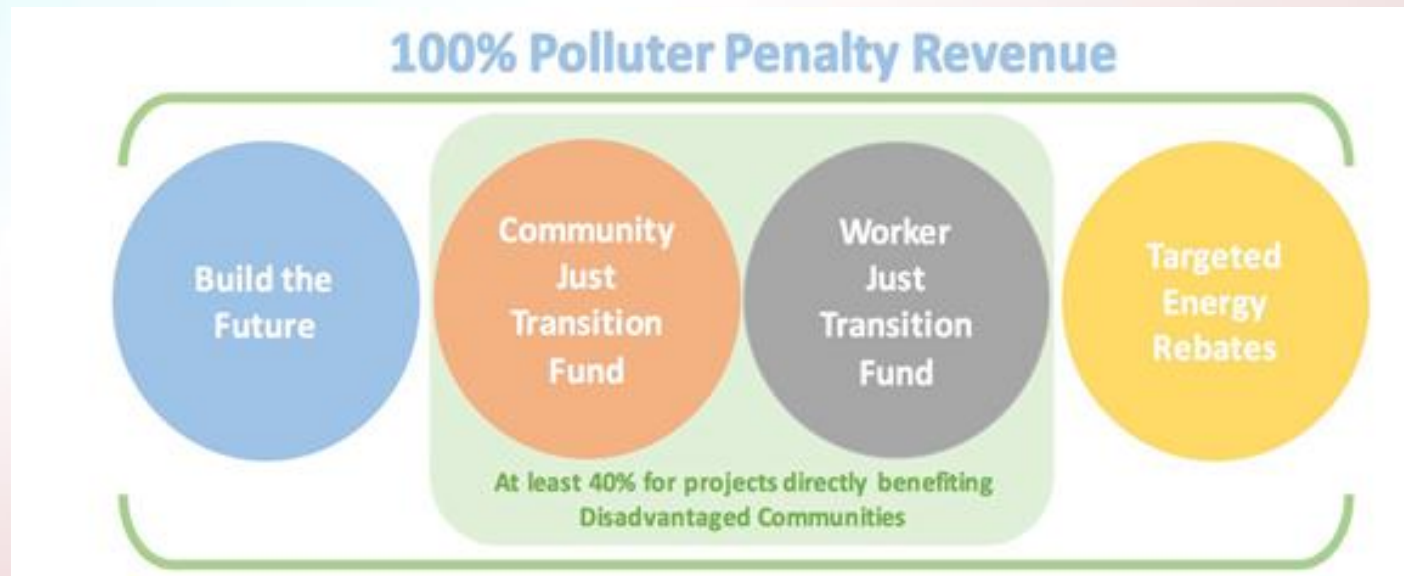
- 1/1/20: law “effective” – but lots will happen before then!
 - example: appointment of at least some CAC members
- 7/1/20: appointment of Climate Justice Working Group
- 1/1/22: draft scoping plan due – preceded by public hearings
- 1/1/23: final scoping plan due
- 1/1/24: final regulations due – preceded by public workshops, consultations with stakeholders, public hearings

New NY Renews Bill Coming: Climate and Community Investment Act

- Place a “polluter fee” on greenhouse gas emissions in New York of \$35 a ton of pollutants, escalating to \$75/ton by 2030.
Estimated revenue: \$7.1 billion annually
- Goal is to work in tandem with CLCPA and other state policies to reduce greenhouse gases AND generate revenue for important projects involving climate and a just transition
- **Bill is NOT “revenue neutral”** – we need to use governmental funds to build a safe energy future!

How Will the \$ Generated by the Fee Be Used?

- “Build the Future”: large-scale efficiency and renewable energy projects: 30% of funds
- “Community Just Transition”: for low income communities disproportionately harmed by climate change or pollution: 33%
- “Worker Just Transition”: a bridge to retirement, extended unemployment, retraining or relocation for displaced fossil fuel workers: 7% or \$500 million, whichever is higher
- Energy rebates: for households and businesses to offset utility rate increases: 30%





Budget Proposal By NY Renews 2020 – Downpayment on a Just Transition

**AT LEAST \$1 BILLION IN CLIMATE FUNDING TO
JUMPSTART A JUST TRANSITION, TO FUND:**

renewable energy, infrastructure and energy efficiency programs to:

- mitigate climate changing emissions
- reduce air pollution
- protect the vulnerable communities hit hardest by the economic, social and health impacts of fossil fuels



Budget Proposal By NY Renews 2020 – Downpayment on a Just Transition cont.

What do we want to do with the \$1 billion?

- 1) Large scale renewable energy infrastructure (\$300m)

Examples: electrification; bringing wind power from upstate to NYC

- 2) Investing in communities most affected by pollution and most vulnerable to climate change (\$300m)

Examples: energy efficiency for low income renters; microgrids in disadvantaged communities; community-owned shared solar



Budget Proposal By NY Renews 2020 – Downpayment on a Just Transition cont.

- 3) Helping workers & communities with plant closures (\$200m)

Examples: property tax relief; new uses for retired power plants

- 4) Energy efficiency, beneficial electrification for low and moderate income New Yorkers (\$200m)

Examples: renewables like heat pumps for low income households, municipalities, counties and non-profits like affordable housing providers; rural transportation



Steps Ahead – We Need You!

- Calls to legislators
- Visits to legislators – December 12th
- Late January – Statewide event in Albany (on state budget)
- Oppose fossil fuel buildup before PSC & other state agencies, including through rate proceedings (not NY Renew's project)
- **Educate, agitate and organize!**