



NY RENEWS

## **New York Must Pass the Climate, Jobs, & Justice Package and People's Climate Justice Budget in 2024**

**\*\*\* SIGN-ONS DUE @ 5 PM ON TUESDAY, NOV. 28\*\*\***

November 30, 2023  
The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
Capitol Building  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

In recent months, New Yorkers have faced a relentless onslaught by the climate crisis. We've grappled with suffocating smoke, flooded crops and subway systems, deadly blizzards, and worsening storms. This year alone, the crisis has cost New York State over \$2 billion in disaster clean up<sup>1</sup>.

The costs, both in lives and livelihoods, have surged, and conditions will only worsen in the years to come. The fate of future generations of New Yorkers rests upon the state's ability to act decisively and respond rapidly. Unless the FY24-25 state budget takes a seismic leap forward in managing climate upheaval, the suffering will persist, especially in low-income communities, communities of color, and disadvantaged communities (DACs).

**As leaders of New York State-based and national organizations, we write to seek your support for the inclusion of \$1 billion for climate justice in your Executive Budget for the FY 2024/2025 via the [People's Climate Justice Budget](#) and the accompanying legislative initiative, the [Climate, Jobs, and Justice Package \(CJJP\)](#): the NY HEAT Act, Just Energy Transition Act, and Climate Change Superfund Act.**

Our coalition's state budget needs for FY24-25 are grounded in our members' lived experiences. The People's Climate Justice Budget is a \$1 billion spending plan—developed by and for New Yorkers from Buffalo to the Bronx—that outlines critical climate and environmental justice programs that New York

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<sup>1</sup> Information collected by NYPIRG from the governor's news postings, August 2022 through August 2023.

must fund via the newly created Climate Action Fund in 2024 as a downpayment on the more than \$10 billion a year the state estimates is necessary to address the crisis at scale.

The People's Climate Justice Budget would kickstart a pollution-free, resilient climate future built by workers with good union jobs, ensuring a healthy, livable state for generations to come. It would launch and expand key clean energy and climate mitigation and adaptation projects statewide—many of which are already underway.

In public remarks, you have rightly identified the climate crisis as the “defining challenge of our era.” As Governor, you have the opportunity to respond to the needs of your constituents by passing the People's Climate Justice Budget and putting \$1 billion—a mere fraction of the state's \$230 billion budget—into the Climate Action Fund this year. **As Governor, you must also work to fulfill the mandates of New York's Climate Act (CLCPA), as well as to defend the CLCPA from attack by upholding the state's methane accounting standards, maintaining the definition of “zero emissions” as written in the state's Climate Law, and more.**

To lay a path to renewable energy for all and create good, green union jobs, while making polluters and the richest people in our state pay what they owe to fund the transition, we're calling on you to:

- Invest at least \$1 billion of “shovel-ready” appropriations via the Climate Action Fund (CAF) in 2024 by passing the [People's Climate Justice Budget](#).

And to pass the **Climate, Jobs, and Justice** legislative package by:

- Including the **Just Energy Transition Act** in your executive budget;
- Ensuring polluters pay their fair share by including the **Climate Change Superfund Act** in your executive budget; and
- Incorporating the **NY HEAT Act** in your executive budget.

In this budget, New York can fully fund and strengthen the implementation of New York's Climate Law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), and the state's recently released Climate Plan. By passing the People's Climate Justice Budget, New York can start to address the climate crisis at scale by updating our energy grid, shoring up our coastal regions, making our homes safer, lowering our energy bills, and improving roads and public transportation vulnerable to rising seas and worsening storms.

As Governor of the state of New York, you must ensure that the final budget contains both increases in funding and clear direction that empowers the legislature and directs immediate benefits to our communities.

Sincerely,

NY Renews

[ORGANIZATIONAL SIGNATORIES BELOW]