



**Written Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committees on
Finance, Energy and Telecommunications, and Environmental Conservation**

January 19, 2023

Re: Budgetary and Legislative Action Necessary to Implement the Final Scoping Plan

The Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative is a coalition of community leaders and activists committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the development of a clean energy economy in our region and state. Our flagship program, the Ithaca 2030 District, seeks to enhance the energy and water performance of commercial buildings in downtown Ithaca and reduce their carbon footprint. We welcome this opportunity to express our support for the Climate, Jobs, and Justice Package and the Renewable Heat Now Package. We think these legislative proposals are crucial to the implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and the Climate Action Council Final Scoping Plan.

I. Climate, Jobs, and Justice Package

The Climate, Jobs, and Justice Package, if approved by the State Legislature, will rapidly decarbonize New York, make the state healthier and more equitable, ensure a just transition for workers, and help create an accessible green economy for all. Overall, the bills individually and collectively advance the goals of the CLCPA.

The Climate, Jobs, and Justice Package has three main components: 1) fully fund the CLCPA so that it can achieve its objectives; 2) build renewable energy for all and create green union jobs; and 3) hold polluters accountable and ensure everyone pays their fair share in taxes.

1. Fully fund and implement New York's Climate Act

- The Climate and Community Protection Fund would create a pool of money to ensure sufficient investment to fund the CLCPA. The act's core investments would include broad labor, procurement, community benefits, and responsible contracting standards.

2. Build renewable energy for all and create good, green union jobs

- The Build Public Renewables Act (S6453C | A1466D of 2022) would allow the New York Power Authority to build new large-scale renewables more quickly, effectively, and democratically than private developers.
- Climate Accountability Act provides state agencies with the authority and guidance required to implement the Climate Act and ensure that our energy system is accountable and transparent to the public.
- The Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act (S8198 | A9329 of 2022), now the NY HEAT (Home Energy Affordable Transition) Act, will give the Public Service Commission the power and

direction to align gas utilities with the CLCPA's emission reduction and climate justice mandates (more details below).

- The Blueprint Bill (S8405 | A9881B of 2022) provides a replacement and redevelopment blueprint for New York state's fossil fuel facilities and sites by 2030.

3. *Make polluters and the wealthiest New Yorkers pay what they owe*

- The Climate Change Superfund Act makes the state's worst polluters, major oil companies, pay for the harm they've caused.
- The Stop Climate Polluter Handouts Act (previously Fossil Fuel Subsidy Elimination Act, S7438 | A8483 of 2022) will end the most egregious state subsidies of over \$330 million each year to the fossil fuel industry, a major contributor to the climate crisis.
- The Invest in Our New York's Plan to Fund Our Future is a revenue and spending package from the Invest in Our New York (IONY) coalition that will ensure the state eliminates wasteful handouts to businesses and the wealthiest New Yorkers pay their fair share to fund our climate law.

II. Renewable Heat Now Package

- The 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.
- NY HEAT (Home Energy Affordable Transition) Act, previously the 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.
- The 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. It also allows NYSERDA 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.

The TCCPI coalition views the above measures as critical pieces in the effort to implement the CLCPA and Final Scoping Plan and urges the State Legislature to adopt them. Together they place equity and justice at the center of the effort to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the climate targets stipulated in the CLCPA.

We also want to express our gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Climate Action Council and associated advisory panels and working groups for their hard work in putting together a Final Scoping Plan that points the way to a cleaner, brighter future. Thank you.

Submitted by: Peter Bardaglio, Coordinator