

2026

ASSEMBLY MINORITY CONFERENCE



→ ENERGY AND CLIMATE
PLAN

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Assembly Minority Energy and Climate Main Points

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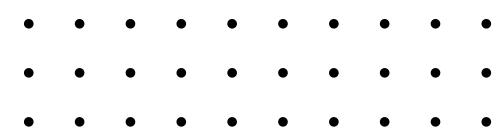
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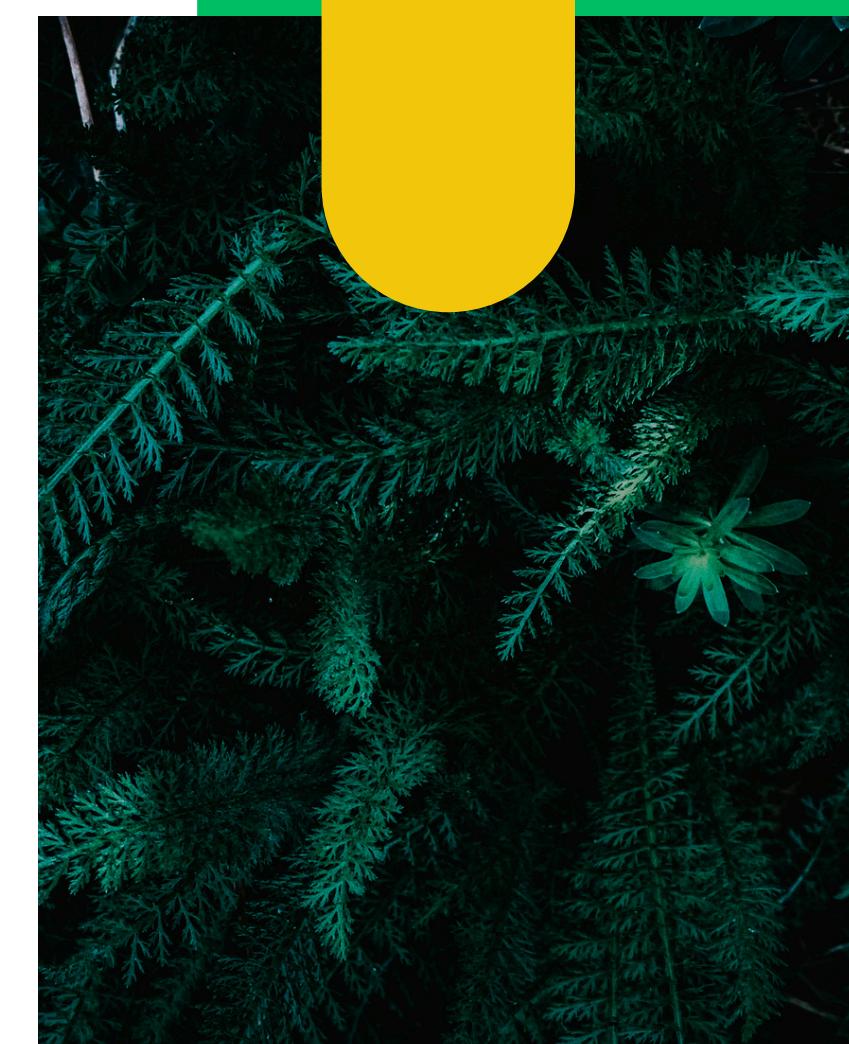
Eliminate Mandates on New Yorkers



COSTS AND BENEFITS OF THE CLCPA

Since 2019, Assembly Democrats have imposed legislation such as the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) that will cost taxpayers billions of dollars utilizing unreliable energy production methods. Our plan will prevent these mandates from imposing irrational costs on New Yorkers.

- ***Cost-Benefit Analysis:*** Direct the PSC to commission a full cost-benefit analysis of CLCPA mandates by an independent third party contractor.
- ***Ratepayer Disclosure and Transparency Act:*** Require annual reporting on State mandated energy programs to give New Yorkers an accurate breakdown of why their energy bills are so high.



PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Protecting New Yorkers from the potential devastating human and environmental impact of a radical climate agenda

Combat Child Labor: Require the Comptroller to divest pension fund investments in companies that fail to certify they do not use child labor for cobalt mining and production

Ensure Lithium-Ion Battery Safety: Educate the public on the environmental impact of lithium-ion batteries and establish a commission on lithium-ion fire safety

Safe Solar Panel Collection and Disposal: Protect New Yorkers from the hazardous waste produced by solar panels at the end of their useful life

ENSURE ENERGY CHOICE AND DIVERSITY

PREVENT GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

Prevent local governments from prohibiting utility connections or construction permits based on the type of energy being used

ALLOW FOR CONTINUED USE OF FOSSIL-FUEL APPLIANCES

Protect the right of New Yorkers to keep their gas stoves and appliances

ENSURE DIVERSE ENERGY PRODUCTION

Increase zero-emission nuclear energy and allow for the continued production of natural gas



Limit Executive Actions

One of the major factors behind the cost of the CLCPA is the Executive authority that the Democrats ceded to the Governor's Office. Our plan will reassert legislative lawmaking powers:

Legislative Oversight of Climate Rules

Require a vote of the legislature prior to rules and regulations being put into place with respect to the Climate Action Fund



Limit Public Safety Commission Surcharges

Place a limit on the amount of surcharges the PSC can impose on ratepayers without any public input or knowledge

Eliminate Mandates on New Yorkers

End Zero- Emission School Bus Mandate

Allow school districts to opt-out of the zero-emission school bus mandate that places a tremendous burden on our power grid and forces unreasonable costs on taxpayers

Require Government-First Compliance

Require the State to electrify buildings and convert its entire fleet to zero-emissions prior to such mandates being placed on homeowners and renters

Reduce the Allowance to State Regulators

Reduce the amount a utility can be assessed, for costs and expenses of the Department of Public Service and the Public Service Commission



ASSEMBLY MINORITY ENERGY AND CLIMATE LEGISLATION

Costs and Benefit of the CLCPA

- Cost-Benefit Analysis: Direct the PSC to commission a full and complete cost-benefit analysis of renewable-energy goals based on CLCPA mandates and extend deadlines for meeting certain emission levels . The study will be undertaken by an independent third-party contractor to help ensure a neutral perspective ([A.5395, Palmesano](#)).
- “Ratepayer Disclosure and Transparency Act”: Require annual reporting on state-mandated energy programs ([A.6152, Palmesano](#)).

Protecting Human Rights

- Renewable Human Rights Abuse Divestiture: Require the Office of the State Comptroller to divest pension fund investments from cobalt and lithium mining and production, including exploration, extraction, drilling, production, refining, processing, or distribution activities related to cobalt and lithium, for the manufacture of batteries used in large-scale battery storage power stations and the primary propulsion systems for electric vehicles (including, but not limited to, cars, trucks, and boats) because of the widespread human and environmental abuses connected with the mining of these elements ([A.6391, Palmesano](#)).

Protecting Human Rights (continued)

- **Lithium-Ion Health and Toxicity Awareness**: Require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to educate about the health and environmental impacts of lithium-ion battery use and manufacturing, such as toxicity and contamination resulting from battery leakage or deterioration, environmental impacts of lithium-ion battery casualties and disposal, high-heat fires, and health risks associated with exposure to lithium-ion battery components ([A.6381, Palmesano](#)).
- **Lithium-Ion First Responder Safety Commission**: Creates a commission to study the health and safety risks to first responders concerning fires and other dangers associated with lithium-ion battery casualties, to determine best practices, training, and equipment costs for volunteer fire departments ([A.6255, Palmesano](#)).
- **“Solar Panel Collection Act”**: Establish a solar panel recycling infrastructure and related protocols. Direct each solar panel manufacturer to, individually or collectively, with other solar panel manufacturers, establish and maintain a program for the collection, transportation, and recycling of out-of-service solar panels ([A.7537, Bailey](#)).

Ensure Energy Choice and Diversity

- Energy Choice Protection: Prohibit the governing board of a municipal corporation from adopting any law, ordinance, regulation, or policy that prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting, the connection or reconnection of a utility service to a customer based upon the type or source of energy to be delivered to the customer ([A.653, Barclay](#)).
- Mixed-Fuel Buildings: Prohibit local governments from withholding a permit for the construction of any new commercial, residential, or mixed-use building on the basis that such building will be mixed-fuel ([A.5171, DeStefano](#)).
- Protecting our Fossil Fuel Appliances: Allow for continued use of fossil fuel-combusting equipment and building systems in new/existing construction by prohibiting the elimination of building systems or equipment used for the combustion of fossil fuels, including natural gas, propane, and fuel oil ([A.6796, Palmesano](#)).
- Small Modular Reactor Feasibility: Directs the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to conduct a feasibility study on the use of small modular reactors ([A.6705, Durso](#)).
- Natural Gas Exploration: Allow counties to lease land for natural gas expansion, development, and production as long as gas is produced ([A.956, Angelino](#)).

Ensure Energy Choice and Diversity (continued)

- Rural Energy Freedom Act: Exempt the burning of wood for recreation, building heating, and cooking from greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements ([A.2003, Smullen](#)).
- Energy Source for Cooking: Prohibit banning the burning of wood, coal, natural gas, propane or other fuels for the purposes of cooking or preparing food ([A.210, Pirozzolo](#)).

Limit Executive Actions

- Legislative Oversight of Climate Action Fund Rules: Establish that any rules or regulations promulgated by the Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to the Climate Action Fund must be approved by a majority vote of the Legislature before implementation ([A.6847, Palmesano](#)).
- Public Safety Commission (PSC) Surcharge Limit: Places a moratorium on surcharges the PSC can collect associated with the systems benefit charge, the renewable portfolio standard, or the energy efficiency portfolio standard (or any similar fund that may be created), and prohibits any surcharge increase before the effective date of this legislation ([A.4335 of 2024, Miller](#)).



Eliminate Mandates on New Yorkers

- School District Zero-Emission Bus Opt-Out: Authorize school districts to submit a waiver to the Commissioner of Education in order to opt-out of the zero-emission school bus requirements ([A.2005, Smullen](#)).
- Zero-Emission School Bus Extension: Extend the deadline for the zero-emission school bus mandate from July 1, 2035, to the latter of either July 1, 2045, or whenever all State agencies have transitioned 100% of their medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets to zero-emission vehicles ([A.5168, Palmesano](#)).
- State All-Electric Building Plan: Require the Office of General Services to transition all buildings owned by the State to be all-electric buildings in the next five years in order to lead by example as the State has access to resources beyond those of homeowners and small businesses being asked to do the same ([A.208, Pirozzolo](#)).
- Reduce Energy Assessment: Reduces the amount a utility can be assessed, for costs and expenses of the Department of Public Service and the Public Service Commission, from one percent to one-third of one percent ([A.7429, Hawley](#)).