

Environment & Energy

New York Approves Statewide Comprehensive Climate Strategy

By Zach Bright

Dec. 19, 2022, 3:14 PM

- Plan to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in 2030
 - State agencies will carry out specific regulations
-

New York's Climate Action Council approved on Monday a comprehensive strategy aimed at cutting climate-warming emissions and uplifting underserved residents in the clean energy transition.

The 19-3 vote approved a draft "scoping plan" designed to slash greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in 2030 and by 85% in 2050, compared to 1990 levels. It's the culmination of a process first initiated by the state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's (CLCPA) passage in 2019.

Next year, state agencies will be tasked with putting together regulations to fulfill the roadmap's big goals—first enshrined by that landmark climate law—by decarbonizing the state's grid and electrifying transportation and buildings.

"Our eye is on the prize, and we in New York are wise to take climate action and have it serve as a model for the rest of the country," said Doreen Harris, co-chair of the Climate Action Council and president and CEO of the state's energy authority.

Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos, who also serves as the Climate Action Council's co-chair, said "the final scoping plan is big, it's bold, and it's visionary."

Other targets the plan was crafted to achieve include sourcing 70% of the state's power from clean sources by 2030 and developing a zero-emissions power grid by 2040.

The CLCPA also mandates that at least 35% of the benefits of clean energy investments are directed to disadvantaged communities.

A 'Triumph,' With Criticism

Environmental organizations voiced praise for the climate plan, particularly for its commitment toward investing in environmental justice efforts.

“The state’s climate plan is a triumph that will provide a brighter future for all New Yorkers,” said Conor Bambrick, climate policy director for Environmental Advocates NY, adding it’s “a response to the climate crisis worthy of the Empire State.”

Some expressed critiques that the timeline laid out in the plan reflected outdated climate goals and delays key targets, such as pushing back to 2025 from 2024 the plan’s move to ban gas hookups in new homes and shift to electrification. Buildings make up 32% of New York state’s emissions.

“All of the shortcomings of the CLCPA are reflected in this scoping document,” said Mark Dunlea, chair of Green Education and Legal Fund.

Others groups including the Sierra Club, New York Public Interest Research Group, and Citizen Action raised concerns over the climate strategy’s inclusion of nuclear, hydrogen, and gas power.

Industry groups such as the Independent Power Producers of New York said that hydrogen and gas will be needed as the state moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

California made a similar move to New York on Dec. 15. The Golden State’s top air regulator voted unanimously to adopt the latest iteration of its five-year climate plan with a goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 48% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

To contact the reporter on this story: Zach Bright at zbright@bloombergindustry.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Zachary Sherwood at zsherwood@bloombergindustry.com

Documents

Document
[Draft Scoping Plan](#)

Related Articles

[California Speeds Up Strategy to Reduce Climate Emissions \(1\)](#) Dec. 15, 2022, 5:30 AM

Topics

renewable energy
electrical grid
environmental justice
hazardous air pollutant emission standards
climate change mitigation

© 2023 Bloomberg Industry Group, Inc. All Rights Reserved