

Environment & Energy

# New York, Hawaii Act on Climate After Supreme Court Ruling (1)

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- New building and labor standards, emissions goals signed
  - State actions come in wake of *West Virginia v. EPA*
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The Democratic governors of New York and Hawaii each signed multiple climate-change bills on Tuesday, less than a week after the Supreme Court's decision to limit the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate emissions in *West Virginia v. EPA*.

"Here in New York, we are not going to let the Supreme Court block our goals," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said. Hawaii Gov. David Ige echoed the sentiment, saying that state action on climate change is more important than ever.

Hochul signed ([A.10439/S.9405](#)), known as the "Advanced Building Codes, Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards Act of 2022," aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions and align the energy code with state climate policy. That includes changes for everything from commercial ice cube machines and lighting to urinals and roofing.

It will also save \$15 billion on utilities by 2035, Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy (D) said in a June 2 release after the Assembly passed the measure. Buildings account for 60% of energy consumed in the state, according to that release.

A new law—"The Utility Thermal Energy Network and Jobs Act" (A.10493/S.9422)—will help provide jobs to utility workers who have lost or are at risk of losing their jobs from the green energy transition. It also opens job opportunities to replace fossil fuel underground pipe systems with clean energy systems and thermal energy development.

The third measure Hochul signed, A.9598/S.8648, will expand the prevailing wage of workers on solar projects that generate at least one megawatt of electricity.

"Today's theme, it shows that New York has a serious commitment to reducing our carbon emissions, while ensuring that our workers and our communities are not going to get left behind in the climate transition," said Lisa Dix, New York director for the Building Decarbonization Coalition.

The laws come as the New York implements its climate action plan , to get its electricity from emission-free sources by 2040 and achieve an 85% reduction in economywide emissions from 1990 levels by 2050.

### Reducing Emissions

Hawaii's Ige signed four bills into law—setting new building codes, a decarbonization goal, improvements to the state's renewable energy standard, and rebates for zero-emission vehicle fueling sites.

As in New York, stricter building codes are coming to Hawaii. Certain state-owned buildings would have to implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures in H.B.1801. Construction of new state buildings must also use green building materials and maximize energy and water efficiency starting July 1, 2023.

Under the law, utility bills and energy use data of state facilities will be collected and made public by the Hawaii State Energy Office.

The state energy office would also study pathways to decarbonization according to H.B.1800, which sets a statewide goal to limit greenhouse gas emissions to a level at least 50% before 2005.

Another law, H.B.2089, closes a renewable portfolio standard loophole to more accurately calculate electric utilities' progress on renewable energy production. Hawaii already has a law setting a goal for 100% renewable energy by 2045 on the books.

And targeting transportation emissions, S.B.2570 establishes a rebate program to incentivize electric vehicle charging stations and hydrogen fueling stations. The law establishes an account for hydrogen fueling system within the state's public utilities commission fund.

(Updates with additional details on Hawaii.)

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