



Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Majority Leader

New York State Senate

Hon. Carl E. Heastie, Speaker

New York State Assembly

Hon. Liz Krueger, Chair

New York State Senate Finance Committee

Hon. Helene E. Weinstein, Chair

New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Hon. Kevin Parker, Chair

New York State Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee

Hon. Didi Barret, Chair

New York State Assembly Energy Committee

Hon. Peter Harckham, Chair

New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee

Hon. Deborah J. Glick

New York State Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee

Dear Majority Leader, Speaker, and Committee Chairs,

We represent over half a million workers in New York. For our workers and their families – especially those in disadvantaged communities – the climate crisis is already here. Extreme heat, rising energy prices, and deadly floods linked to climate change have threatened both workers’ wellbeing and their livelihoods. This moment is an opportunity to invest not only in working families to protect them against the climate crisis, but to invest in workers themselves. Investing in workers in the green economy will mean thousands of new jobs helping to decarbonize homes, schools, and hospitals through building maintenance, weatherization, retrofits, electrification, and thermal energy networks; building, maintaining, and operating renewable energy technologies including solar, wind, and geothermal; expanding clean transportation and charging infrastructure; scaling up manufacturing for the green economy; and training the next generation of entrants into the green economy. Now is the time to pave the way for good green union jobs accessible to all throughout the green economy, to provide robust financial and job support for displaced workers, and to invest in workforce training, reskilling, and continuing education for new and existing workers, especially new workers from underrepresented and disadvantaged communities.

We therefore urge you to include the following priorities in the One-House Budgets and FY 2023-24 final budget. Including these priorities in the budget will not only help deliver on the Climate Act's promise of 200,000 new green jobs by 2030; it will also mean tangible steps forward in implementing the Final Scoping Plan for the Climate Act.

Fully Fund and Implement New York's Climate Act

In order to meet the needs of workers and their families in the face of the climate crisis, deliver climate justice to our disadvantaged communities, and fully implement the Climate Act, we urge you to include **\$10 billion in dedicated funding in the FY-2023/24 budget to capitalize a special purpose fund, known as the Climate and Community Protection Fund, with the following four subaccounts:**

- (1) The Climate Jobs and Infrastructure Account** aimed at building out New York's clean energy economy while reducing emissions and growing good, green union jobs for all. This account should include fully-funding pro-worker, pro-community programs such as:
 - Expanding funding for Offshore Wind Ports, Manufacturing, and Supply Chain investments
 - Expanding funding for the P-12 Clean Green Schools Initiative
 - Purchasing and supply chain investments designed to support the electrification of New York's school bus and public transit bus fleets, including dedicated funding for (a) electric bus manufacturing; (b) job training for electric bus operations, maintenance, and charging infrastructure; and (c) investments in electric bus purchasing, including gap funding for electric school bus purchasing as well as monies to purchase public transit busses and full funding for the Truck Voucher Incentive Program
 - Investments to support the development of community thermal energy networks and the implementation of utility thermal energy networks
 - Monies to incentivize zero emissions in the hard-to-decarbonize industrial sector
 - Electric garbage truck matching grants
 - Comprehensive workforce development funding including expanding the Building and Operations Maintenance program and strengthening the Regional Clean Energy Hubs program

- (2) The Community-Directed Climate Solutions Account** designed to provide direct assistance to community-level organizations and projects driving community-directed climate solutions within disadvantaged communities. This should include:
 - Comprehensive funding to establish the Community Directed Climate Solutions Grant Program

- (3) The Community and Worker Transition Assistance Account** directed at providing direct support to impacted workers and communities as recommended in the Final Scoping. This should include:
 - Individual worker assurance funding and wage guarantee planning support
 - Planning and pilot funds for benefit supports including early retirement, pension liquidity, and health benefit maintenance supports

- Funds to support decarbonization assistance, energy transition assistance, workforce layoff avoidance, and retraining for high-emissions sectors, including specific monies for transitioning utilities and utility workers
- Dedicated workforce training and transition funds, including expanding the On-the-Job Training for Energy Efficiency and Clean Technology program
- Transition planning and tax replacement funds to communities, including expansion of the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation program and the Just Transition Site Reuse Planning program

(4) The Energy Affordability Account to help working families across New York afford their home, transportation, and energy costs. This should include:

- Green Affordable Pre-electrification funding to support pre-electrification home retrofits
- Statewide Low-income transit fare supports
- Utility debt relief
- Wraparound services such as transportation and childcare support for workforce development programs

Apply Labor Standards, Best Value Procurement, and Buy American Across the Green Economy

To ensure the creation of good, green union jobs accessible to all, the Climate and Community Protection Fund must include gold-star labor standards attached to the funding of key new and existing programs. These standards must include:

- **Union prevailing wages;**
- **Project labor agreements** to help protect workers' wages, benefits, and safe working conditions while building the pipeline for underrepresented workers in careThe ler union jobs;
- **Labor peace agreements** to ensure the power of the labor movement to empower workers in the green economy;
- **Use of apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs** when hiring workers in trades with apprenticeship programs to help provide a pipeline of talent for economically-excluded workers;
- **Priority hire for workers in disadvantaged communities and displaced workers** to put those most directly impacted by the climate crisis and our transition first in the line for good union careers in the green economy while encouraging local economic development;
- **Buy American** to guarantee investments in New York's manufacturing and supply chain in the buildout of the transition;

- **Responsible contracting and best value procurement** to incentivize job creation through the bidding process along the clean energy, clean transportation, and low-carbon supply chains; and (b) encourage and prioritize high-roads employers to compete up through earning extra credit for good job creation and training commitments;
- **Preserving existing collective bargaining agreements** to ensure workers' voices, protections, and choice of representation is respected;
- **Prevailing wage for staff in buildings and facilities;** and
- **Support for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOBs)**

Large-scale investments in climate jobs and infrastructure, the creation of a Community and Worker Transition Assistance Fund with direct wage and benefits support to displaced workers and impacted communities, the broad application of robust labor standards, and Buy American and best value procurement provisions are all recommendations laid out in your Final Scoping Plan. Adopting these priorities in the One-House Budgets and final FY 23-24 budget will mean a win for workers and their communities, a win for achieving climate justice and tackling the climate crisis, and, lastly, a win for all the hard work your administration dedicated to the development of the Final Scoping Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to working with you on combating the race to the bottom and the climate crisis with good, green union jobs.

Sincerely,

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