

2022 Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Environmental Conservation

Richard Schrader, New York Policy and Legislative Director
Natural Resources Defense Council
Richard.schrader@gmail.com

Fossil Fuel Subsidy Elimination Act – S.7438 (Krueger) / A.8483 (Cahill)

- Ends over \$330 million of the most egregious subsidies that NYS provides to the fossil fuel industry.
- NYS currently provides the fossil fuel industry over \$1.6 billion every year in tax exemptions. Doing so incentivizes the very industry that fuels the climate crisis and contradicts the goals of the CLCPA.

Climate-Related Insurance Risks – Bill number TBD

- Directs the Department of Financial Services to regulate the climate risks that domestic insurers' investments and underwriting decisions pose to the well-being of the state's insurance market and its communities.
- Bottom line: aligning the insurance industry's investment and underwriting policies with the climate targets of the CLCPA.

Gas Transition – Bill number TBD

- Authorizes and directs the Public Service Commission to align gas utility regulation and gas system planning with the CLCPA's climate justice and emission reduction targets.
- Removes the legal basis and subsidies driving the expansion of gas systems and requires the PSC to adopt rules and develop a statewide gas system decarbonization plan.

Green Transit and Electric Buses – S.3535 (Kennedy) / A.3090 (Dinowitz)

- Requires public transportation systems across NYS to purchase only zero-emission electric buses starting in 2029.
- The complementary Green Jobs bill will help encourage good, high-quality transportation manufacturing jobs in NYS and will support a just transition.

Direct Electric Vehicle Sales – S.1763 (Kaminsky) / A.4614 (Fahy)

- Increases the number of manufacturers and locations that can sell electric vehicles in NYS.
- Allows manufacturers like Rivian, Lucid Motors, and Tesla can directly sell their clean cars to drivers across the state.

Advanced Building Codes, Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards Act – S.7176 (Parker) / A.1443 (Fahy)

- Appliances: Updates energy efficiency standards for dozens of residential and commercial products (e.g. televisions, lamps, water coolers, air purifiers).
- Buildings: Updates efficiency standards for building codes, ensuring that building codes are consistent with the requirements set by the CLCPA.
- Would save households and businesses in New York State around \$1.3 billion every year.

Green Affordable Housing Fund

- Finances building electrification and energy efficiency investments in new and existing affordable housing across the state.
- NYS should also establish a target of making at least 2 million homes efficient and all-electric by 2030, with half of those homes being affordable housing units.

Flood Insurance Disclosure – S.5472 (Hoylman) / A.7876 (Carroll)

- Requires the disclosure of information concerning flood insurance on property condition disclosure statements, ensuring that NY home buyers are fully informed about potential risks from flooding.

Expanding SNAP Incentive Programs – Bill number TBD

- Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps tens of millions of people access food.
- NYS’s SNAP *incentive* programs offer additional funds when shoppers use SNAP to buy healthy, local food at farmers markets and other approved locations.
- Increasing investment in these incentive programs would:
 1. Strengthen the purchasing power of low-income consumers
 2. Increase the number of families eating fresh produce
 3. Support local farmers

Extended Producer Responsibility – S.1185C (Kaminsky) / A.5801 (Englebright)

- New Yorkers discard more than 4.5 pounds of solid waste per person, per day, and that waste ends up in climate-destroying landfills and pollution-generating incinerators that constitute the main disposal routes.
- This program incentivizes producers of packaging, paper, and plastics to reduce waste and boost recycling, while covering the costs of municipal recycling programs.

Birds and Bees Protection Act – S.699B (Hoylman) / A.7429 (Englebright)

- Eliminates the low-to-no benefit neonic uses that account for the vast majority of neonics entering the state’s environment.
- Neonicotinoid pesticides (“neonics”) used in lawncare and farming are devastating to birds and bees and harmful to human health.

Fashion Sustainability and Social Impact Act – S.7428 (Biaggi) / A.8352 (Kelles)

- Creates transparency and accountability for the fashion industry’s climate and social impacts – requiring companies to map their supply chains and disclose their social and environmental impacts (re: fair wages, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and water and chemical management).

PFAS Ban in Apparel & Cleaning Products – Bill number TBD (Reichlin-Melnick / Zebrowski)

- PFAS = per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
- Bans the use of toxic “forever chemicals” in certain apparel and cleaning products.

Environmental Protection Fund

- Source of funding for capital projects that protect the environment and communities.
- Projects include:
 - Restoring historic sites
 - Conserving farmland
 - Restoring habitats

- Upgrading municipal sewage treatment plants

Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Bond Act

- Sets aside \$4 billion for a multi-year investment in environmental infrastructure projects
 - Flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, open space land conservation, climate change mitigation, and environmental justice.
- Will be voted on in the November 2022 election.