

The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022

New Yorkers overwhelmingly approved the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, which will invest \$4.2 billion in environmental and community projects across the state. Bond Act investments will support new and expanded projects to safeguard drinking water sources, reduce pollution, and protect communities and natural resources from climate change. State entities, municipalities, and partners will access funding through competitive grant programs.

Projects for restoration and flood risk reduction

AT LEAST \$1.1 BILLION

- Revitalize waterfronts and invest in resilient coastal infrastructure
- Invest in voluntary property buyouts
- Support wetland, stream, forest, and wildlife habitat restoration
- Reduce flood risk by:
 - lifting or raising flood-prone infrastructure or structures
 - relocating, repairing, or raising flood-prone roads
 - removing, repairing, or right-sizing dams, bridges, and culverts

Projects to improve water quality and create more resilient infrastructure

AT LEAST \$650 MILLION

- Upgrade water and wastewater infrastructure
- Invest in municipal stormwater projects, prioritizing green infrastructure
- Protect water quality by reducing farm runoff and improving soil health
- Reduce the frequency of harmful algal blooms

Projects to reduce air pollution and fight climate change

UP TO \$1.5 BILLION

- Purchase zero-emission school buses and charging infrastructure
- Reduce urban heat islands with green roofs, open spaces, and community gardens
- Increase energy efficiency and renewable energy generation at State-owned buildings and public schools
- Protect forest lands to store or reduce carbon and methane pollution

Projects to conserve open space and support recreation

UP TO \$650 MILLION

- Fund open space land conservation and protect threatened and endangered species
- Protect farmland by purchasing conservation easements
- Upgrade State-owned fish hatcheries
- Open new and improve existing parks and recreational infrastructure



Disadvantaged communities

The Bond Act will advance equity and environmental justice by directing at least 35 percent with the goal of 40 percent of the benefits of Bond Act investments to disadvantaged communities – the communities most impacted by pollution and climate change.

The term disadvantaged community (DAC) comes from the State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which required a Climate Justice Working Group to develop criteria for identifying disadvantaged communities and directing Climate Act investments. The 45 DAC indicators capture 35 percent of census tracts in New York and include climate-related risks, such as flooding or extreme heat, health vulnerabilities like asthma and COPD, and emergency department visits, as well as socio-economic factors including race, ethnicity, and income. Learn more about the DAC criteria and maps at climate.ny.gov.

Stakeholder engagement

To hear directly from New Yorkers about how they want to see Bond Act dollars invested, in 2023 DEC led 10 multi-agency in-person and virtual outreach and education sessions across the state. In addition, DEC and agency partners continue to present Bond Act information at community and stakeholder events upon request.

Eligibility guidelines

In 2023, an online Bond Act project ideas survey received more than 1,300 responses from New Yorkers about projects and initiatives with community support. The responses and comments received are helping inform the development of eligibility guidelines for Bond Act investments. As draft eligibility guidelines are created, they are published in DEC's Environmental Notice Bulletin and posted to the Bond Act website www.ny.gov/BondAct for public review and comment.

Labor provisions

The Bond Act includes significant labor provisions and will promote job creation and ensure good-paying jobs:

- Subjects funded projects to prevailing wage requirements
- Requires apprenticeship agreements for projects receiving more than \$25 million with total project cost of \$50 million
- Provides for project labor agreements and labor peace agreements on certain municipal, state, and private projects
- Includes Buy America provisions for iron and structural steel

Research shows the Bond Act would create an estimated 84,000 green jobs and update New York's aging water infrastructure.

WHAT IS BOND-ABLE?

A wide range of environmental, recreational, and public health and safety capital projects are eligible for Environmental Bond Act funding. The law set the amount of funding available to each category of eligible projects.

WHAT IS NOT BOND-ABLE?

Staff salaries and expenses, food and lodging, maintenance, equipment, and furniture are not bond-able. To be considered bond-able, projects must have a useful life of at least 10 years.

