

# Environment and Energy

*Adirondack Park Agency  
Department of Agriculture & Markets  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Department of Public Service  
Environmental Facilities Corporation  
Hudson River Park Trust  
Hudson River Valley Greenway Council and Conservancy  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority  
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
New York Power Authority*

## I. Overview

The State's environmental, energy and natural resource agencies support programs including land use planning and preservation, recreation and tourism, agricultural development, protection of water resources, regulatory oversight of environmental laws and regulations, oversight of food supply and food safety programs, and regulation of the State's utilities and energy programs.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) oversee nearly 4.9 million acres of open space statewide, including 2.6 million acres in the Adirondack Park and nearly 288,000 acres in the Catskill Forest Preserve. Additionally, the State park system comprises 213 State parks and historic sites.

The Department of Public Service (DPS), the staff arm of the Public Service Commission, regulates the rates and services of public utilities — an industry with an estimated \$32 billion in revenue — oversees the siting of major utility infrastructure, and manages other functions. In conjunction with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), DPS oversees and administers the State's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The New York Power Authority (NYPA) supplies power statewide through two large hydroelectric facilities and more than 1,400 miles of transmission lines. NYPA does not receive direct support from the State.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets is charged with wide-ranging responsibilities including food safety inspection, agricultural economic development and farmland protection, animal and plant health surveillance, and control of pollutants that cannot be traced back to their specific agricultural source.

## II. History/Context

The State's environmental & energy agencies protect the State's air, land and water, oversee food safety, provide critical support to the agricultural community, manage our energy resources, and offer safe, affordable and accessible recreational opportunities to New Yorkers.

The State has protected more than 750,000 acres of open space since 2003 and more than 37,000 acres of farmland since 1996. From 1992 to 2006, the State parks system expanded by more than 25 percent, with 66,000 acres and 28 new parks added. These actions have been financed primarily through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

## III. Proposed 2011-12 Budget Actions

To help address the State's fiscal crisis, the Executive Budget reduces General Fund State Operations spending in environment and energy agencies by 10 percent and recommends targeted reductions to local aid programs.

The Executive Budget continues to support critical programs including the EPF, which will be maintained at \$134 million, the same level as in 2010-11.

## IV. Summary of Spending (All Funds)

Category	2010-11 (\$ in millions)	2011-12 (\$ in millions)	Change	
			Dollar (in millions)	Percent
Total Environment and Energy Spending	1,571	1,469	(102)	(6.5)
Department of Agriculture and Markets	121	122	1	0.8
Department of Environmental Conservation	1,056	1,013	(43)	(4.1)
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation*	228	209	(19)	(8.3)

\*OPRHP number adjusted for one-time capital expenditures.

## V. Major Initiatives

### Gap-closing Actions

Proposal	2011-12 (\$ in millions)	2012-13 (\$ in millions)
Eliminate Funding for Local Navigation Law Enforcement	2.4	2.4
Restructure Agriculture and Markets Local Assistance	3.2	2.7
Recalibrate Funding for DEC Water Commissions	.2	.2
Utilize Existing Balances in the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program	5.0	15.0
Ten Percent General Fund State Operations Reduction	3.5	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>23.8</b>

- Eliminate Funding for Local Navigation Law Enforcement.** The Executive Budget proposes to eliminate \$2.4 million in reimbursements to localities for costs of navigation law enforcement on waterways. These enforcement activities are undertaken at the discretion of localities and are not mandated. *(2011-12 Value: \$2.4 million; 2012-13 Value: \$2.4 million)*
- Restructure Agriculture and Markets' Local Assistance into a Competitive Program.** Agriculture and Markets' local assistance programs that provide research and promotional support for agricultural activities will be restructured into a competitive program that provides grants for purposes that best serve the agricultural community and industry. Total appropriations for these programs will be reduced by \$2 million, and restructured into a new \$1.2 million competitive program. Additionally, reductions will be taken from Agriculture & Markets Local Assistance reappropriations. Core funding for the Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Migrant Child Care program would not be affected. *(2011-12 Value: \$3.2 million; 2012-13 Value: \$2.7 million)*
- Recalibrate Funding for DEC Water Commissions.** Actions include a 25 percent reduction in State funding to select water commissions, including the Susquehanna River Basin, Delaware River Basin and Great Lakes water commissions. *(2011-12 Value: \$0.2 million; 2012-13 Value: \$0.2 million)*

- **Utilize Existing Balances in the Brownfield Opportunity Area Program.** The program has a sufficient balance to honor the 29 existing commitments worth \$10.4 million, and to award new grants. Therefore, the Executive Budget proposes eliminating the General Fund transfer to the program. The grants fund planning and technical assistance for municipalities in areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. *(2011-12 Value: \$5 million; 2012-13 Value: \$15 million)*
- **Ten Percent General Fund State Operations Reduction.** The Executive Budget will decrease General Fund spending for State agency operations by 10 percent through a redesign effort focused on rightsizing government, increasing efficiencies, as well as by reducing workforce spending. Governor Cuomo intends to partner with State employee labor unions to achieve these workforce savings; if negotiations are not successful, significant layoffs are likely. *(2011-12 Value: \$3.5 million; 2012-13 Value: \$3.5 million)*

### Other Budget Actions

- **Environmental Protection Fund.** The Budget includes \$134 million for the programs supported by the EPF, the same level as in 2010-11. Appropriations include \$10.8 million for solid waste programs, \$52.7 million for parks and recreation and \$70.5 million for open space programs.