



ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & AGRICULTURE



OFFICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

New York State's environmental, energy and agriculture agencies are on the front lines of the on-going fight against climate change, being tasked with conserving and protecting precious natural resources; promoting New York State as a natural destination for tourism and recreation; ensuring the integrity of freshwater resources; and supporting the kind of agricultural development that is critical to New York State's robust farming industry.

The Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) mission is to conserve, improve, and protect New York's natural resources and environment while enhancing the health, safety, and well-being of New York State's citizens.

181 STATE PARKS & 35 HISTORIC SITES



The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) provides safe, enjoyable recreational and educational opportunities for New York State residents and visitors, and functions as a steward of New York State's valuable natural, historic, and cultural resources. OPRHP operates the State Park System, a network of 181 State parks and 35 historic sites. In 2021, the system welcomed more than 78 million visitors.



78 MILLION VISITORS IN 2021



5.35 MILLION ACRES

Together, DEC and OPRHP oversee 5.35 million acres of open space statewide, including 2.6 million acres in the Adirondack Park and nearly 300,000 acres in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) has wide-ranging responsibilities, including food safety inspection, agricultural economic development, farmland protection, animal and plant health surveillance, and control of agricultural runoff.

The Department of Public Service (DPS) functions as the staff arm of the Public Service Commission (PSC), which regulates the rates and services of public utilities – an industry with an estimated \$33 billion in annual revenue. DPS oversees the siting of major utility infrastructure and provides oversight of cable franchise agreements and telecommunications service.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) advances innovative energy solutions in ways that improve New York's economy and environment. NYSERDA is the primary state entity tasked with energy market research and development and oversees a variety of energy programs including NY-Sun designed to make solar energy more accessible and the electric vehicle rebate program.

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) supplies power statewide through two large hydroelectric facilities and more than 1,400 miles of transmission lines. NYPA is also helping to reimagine New York's energy system by providing enhanced clean energy services to its customers and moving towards becoming the first fully digitized utility in the country in order to more effectively manage its assets.

LEADING THE NATION

From the beginning of her administration, Governor Hochul has made it clear that combating climate change remains a top priority for New York State. Acknowledging that the cost of inaction greatly outweighs the cost of any actions we can take together, New York will continue to pursue an aggressive agenda that will lead the nation in transitioning to a sustainable green energy economy, in a way that is both effective and affordable for all New Yorkers.

In her recent State of the State Address, Governor Hochul – at the recommendation of the Climate Action Council - directed DEC and NYSERDA to advance a Cap-and-Invest Program that establishes a gradually declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions, limits the financial impact to New Yorkers, and strategically invests the proceeds in programs that drive emissions reductions and maintains the competitiveness of New York's industries. As required by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), DEC and NYSERDA will design a program over the coming year that ensures compliance with New York's statewide emissions reductions goals, with an acute emphasis on affordability.

In furtherance of our climate goals, New York has recently closed its third offshore wind solicitation after receiving more than 100 proposals – a record-setting level of competition amongst East Coast states. This highly-anticipated solicitation will procure enough renewable energy to power at least 1.5 million homes and includes the first phase of a nation-leading \$500 million investment in offshore wind ports, manufacturing, and supply chain infrastructure. This latest offshore wind project will prove to be yet another significant step toward achieving CLCPA's mandate to secure 70 percent of the State's electricity from renewable energy by 2030, and at least 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy by 2035.

PROPOSED FY 24 BUDGET ACTIONS

In addition to announcing critical new programs and advancing major new investments on the climate front, Governor Hochul's proposed budget will provide the funding New York needs to preserve, protect, and enhance our natural resources, expand our outdoor recreation opportunities, and drive economic growth through sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism. Highlights of the FY 2024 Executive Budget include:

- **Clean Water Infrastructure Funding.** An additional \$500 million in clean water infrastructure funding is advanced, to bring the State's total clean water investment to \$5 billion since 2017. This critical investment in our State's infrastructure will ensure New Yorkers have access to clean drinking water and will allow municipalities to invest in efficient and effective wastewater treatment strategies.

\$500 MILLION IN CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE



- **Environmental Protection Fund.** \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is again provided to support critical projects that work to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve agricultural resources, protect our water sources, advance conservation efforts, and provide recreational opportunities.
- **Sustaining our Environmental Resources.** \$90 million for DEC to address a variety of capital needs to facilitate access to state lands, ensure the safety and durability of our state's dams, rehabilitate campgrounds, and upgrade a variety of widely used recreational facilities. This funding will also provide critical repairs to other public property, including wetlands, trails, waterfronts, and fish hatcheries.

- **Investing in Our State Park System.** \$200 million for OPRHP to invest in enhancing and improving state parks. This substantial level of funding will aid the ongoing transformation of New York’s flagship parks and support critical infrastructure projects throughout the park system.
- **Advancing renewable energy through the New York Power Authority.** Unlock the New York Power Authority’s ability to capitalize the federal Inflation Reduction Act and help New York meet its aggressive renewable energy targets. Enabling NYPA to develop, finance, construct, own, operate, and maintain renewable energy projects; provide bill credits to electricity consumers in disadvantaged communities; phase-out of electricity production from its peaker power plants by 2035; and support workforce training for the renewable energy field.
- **Making Energy Affordable.** \$200 million for DPS to provide relief to New Yorkers who are experiencing high electric bills. DPS will provide a monthly discount to more than 800,000 electric utility customers who are making less than the state median income and have not been eligible for the State’s current utility discount program.
- **Electrifying New York Houses.** \$200 million for NYSERDA’s EmPower Plus home retrofits program. This first-of-its-kind program will help 20,000 low-income families retrofit their homes by adding insulation, installing energy efficient appliances, and where eligible, switching from inefficient fossil fuel heating systems to clean, efficient electric alternatives.



Solar panels, Javits Center, New York City, NY.

- **Making New York Buildings More Sustainable.** Reducing emissions in the building sector by prohibiting fossil fuel equipment and building systems in new construction, phasing out the sale and installation of fossil fuel space and water heating equipment in existing buildings, and establishing building benchmarking and energy grades.
- **Implement the Waste Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act.** A statewide producer responsibility program that will transfer the responsibility of end-of-life management for packaging and paper products back onto the producer. This initiative will increase recycling rates, save local governments money, and protect the environment.
- **Clean Up Forever Chemicals Initiative.** A commitment of \$60 million from the clean water investment to fund the first year of the Clean Up “Forever Chemicals” initiative. This new grant program will provide funding for municipalities to investigate and remediate sites contaminated with emerging contaminants like Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
- **State Fairgrounds.** \$14 million for the on-going maintenance and improvements of the State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.
- **Eliminating Food Scarcity.** A commitment to addressing food scarcity in New York by providing a \$10 million in grant funding to aid retail food stores in creating new access points for markets, shorten supply chains, and promote equitable food distribution. This new program will work toward the establishment of farm markets, supermarkets, food cooperatives, and other similar retail food stores, along with supporting infrastructure in underserved communities and regions of the state.