Climate Jobs New York
Annual Report 2019

ADVANCED A PRO-CLIMATE, PRO-WORKER AGENDA IN NEW YORK
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The urgent need for bold climate action continues to grow, and with it the opportunity to step up to the plate by building clean-energy industries with good, union jobs. Climate Jobs New York (CJNY) and the unions in our coalition continue to fight for a new green economy that works for all New Yorkers, and in 2019 we reached important milestones, demonstrating the power of labor leading on climate.

We continued our push for a robust offshore wind industry in New York. Back in 2017, we announced the Clean Climate Careers initiative in partnership with Governor Cuomo and the Worker Institute at Cornell’s ILR School, going on to support significant steps forward for wind in New York, from the announcement of major offshore wind projects to the creation of a first-in-the-nation offshore wind master plan. And in January 2019, Governor Cuomo announced an unprecedented goal of 9,000 megawatts from offshore wind by 2035. In July 2019, this commitment was enshrined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and New York State entered into an offshore wind agreement for nearly 1,700 megawatts, the largest renewable energy procurement of any state in U.S. history, expected to create more than 1,600 jobs and $3.2 billion in economic activity.

Governor Cuomo’s 2019 clean energy and jobs agenda also doubled distributed solar deployment to 6,000 megawatts by 2025, another important CJNY priority, and established the Environmental Justice and Just Transition Working Group, along with a number of other steps to make New York a leader on climate.

In 2019 we also began the process of developing a curriculum—working with our regular and close partner, the Worker Institute at Cornell—to train union members on the science of climate change and the opportunity to build a new green economy to combat it. Going forward, this curriculum will help us engage union members across the state, creating a corps of union climate activists and empowering them to drive a climate jobs agenda.

Organizationally, CJNY and our newer sister organization, the Climate Jobs New York Education Fund, took important steps to build our capacity in 2019. With generous support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the NorthLight Foundation, and other donors, we are building an organization that can make sure New York moves from big commitments on climate to successful implementation. I was thrilled to join late last year as executive director—I feel very lucky to be working with unions that are leading the way toward the clean energy economy of tomorrow—and we hired a great organizer to lead our efforts on Long Island, supporting offshore wind development there.

Looking ahead to 2020, we are excited to move forward with the Long Island offshore wind campaign, and we plan to lean into similar efforts to promote solar retrofits on schools. And we will continue to push for substantial, timely investment in port infrastructure that will make New York a manufacturing hub for the offshore wind industry. We will also host a Climate Jobs and Just Transition Summit during Climate Week in September, which will bring together labor leaders, union climate activists, clean-energy developers, environmental and environmental justice advocates, policymakers, scientists and others from around the country and around the world. We plan to lead a fact-finding trip to learn from the U.K.’s offshore wind industry. And we will continue to be a voice for climate jobs in forums across the state, working with the broad range of partners who share our interest in a cleaner, greener, more equitable future.

Throughout, we will continue to harness the power of labor to drive bold action that can meet the challenge of climate change, create good union jobs, and support more equitable communities and a more resilient New York. We hope you will join us.

In solidarity,
Jeff Vockrodt
Climate Jobs New York (CJNY) is a growing coalition of labor unions—representing more than 2.6 million working New Yorkers—united to combat climate change and reverse inequality. CJNY’s mission is to advocate for a clean energy economy at the scale climate science demands, create good union jobs, and support more equitable communities and a more resilient New York.

We empower New Yorkers, especially workers, to advance a low-carbon, equitable economy. We engage all sectors—elected officials, policymakers, businesses and community—around pro-climate, pro-worker policies. And we take on the dual crises of climate change and stark, growing inequality.

One of the reasons CJNY is unique—and uniquely effective—is that our broad coalition includes building trades and energy sector unions that represent members who currently work in the fossil fuel sector, operating and maintaining coal, oil, gas and nuclear plants that will be phased out as the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy accelerates. With the leadership of our participating unions, we continue to build a new green economy that works for all New Yorkers while mapping a just transition for fossil fuel workers and their communities.
To prevent large-scale, irreversible damage to the climate and communities around the world, the scientific consensus is that global warming must be limited to 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius. So far, the earth's temperature has increased just over one degree Celsius, and the impact has been far worse than scientists expected.

Limiting global warming to two degrees Celsius requires carbon emissions to be reduced 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. In order for New York State to meet its share of responsibility for this goal, each sector must reduce its emissions at several times the rate of current efforts, as the table to the right shows.

Implementing bold, forward-thinking climate job policies can meet our emissions reductions targets, as well as create good jobs that provide benefits and family sustaining wages.
CJNY 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In partnership with our allies in the environmental and environmental justice movements, we drove significant progress on climate action and good jobs last year.

Increased New York State’s commitments to invest in renewable energy infrastructure

- Commitment by Governor Cuomo to 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind power, leading the nation in scope and impact
- Doubled distributed solar deployment to 6,000 megawatts by 2025
- Offshore wind procurement contracts require Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), ensuring that projects will create high-quality union jobs and expand training opportunities
- Commitment to $200 million investment in port infrastructure to build New York’s offshore wind industry

Commitment to 100% clean power by 2040 and net-zero carbon economy by 2050

Emissions Reduction and Economic Development in New York City

- Strongest carbon reduction law in the nation for commercial buildings, mandating important retrofits

Building CJNY’s Capacity

- Hosted inaugural gala honoring Mike Bloomberg, Jim Slevin and Allison Ziogas and raising $300,000
- Hired new executive director and Long Island offshore wind organizer
Spotlight on Long Island

LONG ISLAND IS POISED TO BECOME A MODEL FOR OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT

Long Island is poised to play a central role in the development of offshore wind (OSW) in New York State. Governor Cuomo has set an unprecedented goal of 9,000 megawatts from OSW in New York by 2035, and at least three major OSW projects are to be sited off of Long Island. These projects offer the opportunity for significant economic development, creating a skilled green-economy workforce and establishing a foothold in what will be a major industry in the near future all while combating climate change and driving the state’s success in meeting its goal of 70 percent electricity from renewable energy by 2030. The South Fork, Sunrise Wind, and Empire Wind projects will eventually power over one million homes, create more than 1,600 new jobs and pump $3.2 billion of private investment into our economy. OSW is vital to the growth of Long Island’s economy, workforce, and overall sustainability.

We are investing in a campaign to engage both union members and the public in support of offshore wind development on Long Island. Mariah Dignan, our Long Island lead, is working with partners from across the Island to build an Island-wide coalition that will help drive OSW development for years to come.

Our goal is for Long Island to become a model of OSW development in New York, with the workforce and infrastructure to support installation, operations and maintenance, power storage, and land-based connections and grids. To get there, we need to build and strengthen the coalition of OSW allies, counter misinformation, and create a training center to build the OSW workforce of the future.

"Long Island should be a hub of offshore wind development. With our strategic location centered on the East Coast and an advanced supply chain from the aerospace industry, the region is poised to lead. Let’s put our men and women back to work — on a project that could propel a new American energy industry."

John Durso, President, Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, and the president of Local 338
WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE EVERYONE WHO MADE OUR 2019 INAUGURAL GALA, HONORING MIKE BLOOMBERG, JIM SLEVIN AND ALLISON ZIOGAS, A SUCCESS
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR INAUGURAL GALA SPONSORS

**CLIMATE JOBS CHAMPION - $50,000**
- BUILD NYC
- ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND
- NORTHLIGHT FOUNDATION

**WIND WARRIOR - $25,000**
- 32BJ SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU)
- TRANSPORTATION WORKERS UNION
- LOCAL 30 CLIMATE JUSTICE AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND

**RIGHTS HERO - $10,000**
- NEW YORK STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION
- NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

**CLEAN ENERGY EMISSARY - $5,000**
- LONG ISLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR
- NATIONAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
- ALEX LASKY
- INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS (IUOE) LOCAL 30
Looking Ahead to 2020

As CJNY and the Climate Jobs New York Education Fund move into 2020, here is a look at some of our key priorities for the year

**Long Island Offshore Wind**
Long Island is poised to play a central role in the development of offshore wind in New York, with three projects already set to be located there and the potential for more. These projects offer the opportunity for significant economic development, creating a skilled green-economy workforce and establishing a foothold in what will be a major industry in the near future, all while combating climate change and driving the state’s success in meeting its goal of 70 percent electricity from renewable energy by 2030. We are investing in a campaign to engage both union members and the public in support of offshore wind development on Long Island, working with partners from across the Island.

**Solar on Schools**
Doubling state funding for solar retrofits on schools was an important priority for CJNY, and to build on that victory we are planning a campaign to increase school districts' adoption of solar on schools, working with young people and their communities to highlight the potential for reducing emissions and creating good jobs.

**Climate Jobs and Just Transition Summit**
On September 22, during Climate Week 2020, we will host a Climate Jobs and Just Transition Summit. It will bring together labor leaders, union climate activists, clean-energy developers, environmental and environmental justice advocates, policymakers, scientists and others from around the country and around the world. And it will provide an opportunity to highlight the inextricable link between climate change and inequality, explore specific opportunities for action, and discuss a holistic approach to just transition from fossil industries for workers and their communities. This summit will provide the foundation for the next phase of climate jobs action in New York and beyond.

**Fact-Finding Trip to the U.K.**
Visiting Denmark to learn about their transition to offshore wind was an important early step for CJNY. We are preparing to lead a fact-finding trip to the U.K. in 2020 to study their offshore wind industry, including their approach to port infrastructure.

**Clean Energy Infrastructure Stimulus**
With a growing likelihood that infrastructure spending will be needed to stimulate the economy coming out of the Covid-19 public health crisis, we will work to identify and advance the green infrastructure projects that can both put people to work quickly and create the infrastructure we need for tomorrow's economy. Successfully combating climate change requires investment on a scale that can be a significant driver of economic growth and recovery.
1. RETROFIT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Retrofit all public schools in New York State to reach 100% of their energy efficiency potential by 2025.

2. REDUCE ENERGY USE IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Reduce energy use in all public buildings by 40% by 2025.

3. EXPAND ACCESS TO RESIDENTIAL RETROFIT PROGRAMS
Streamline and expand access to residential retrofit programs.

4. INSTALL 2 GW OF SOLAR ENERGY ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Install 2 GW of solar energy on public schools by 2025.

5. INSTALL 2 GW OF UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR PROJECTS
Install an additional 2 GW of utility-scale solar projects.

6. INSTALL 7.5 GW OF OFFSHORE WIND BY 2025
Install 7.5 GW of offshore wind by 2025.

7. REPAIR AND EXPAND NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC TRANSIT
Bring New York City public transit to a state of good repair and expand service.

8. ESTABLISH A BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) PROGRAM
In Upstate New York, conduct a feasibility study of update on BRT routes. In New York City, add two new BRTs—Bush Terminal to JFK and East Bronx to East Harlem.

9. CONSTRUCT A HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR
Construct and improve Adirondack and Empire high-speed rail corridor between Albany and Buffalo and between New York City and Montreal.

10. ESTABLISH A JUST TRANSITION TASK FORCE
Establish a Just Transition Task Force in New York State that can ensure a fair and equitable transition to a new, clean energy economy.

CJNY’s foundational policy platform came out of a process led by the Worker Institute at Cornell University’s ILR School, culminating in the 2017 report, Reversing Inequality, Combating Climate Change. For the full report, visit https://archive.ilr.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/InequalityClimateChangeReport.pdf.
THANK YOU TO OUR OFFICERS

GARY LABARBERA, PRESIDENT, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK

VINCENT ALVAREZ, PRESIDENT, NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

MIKE FISHMAN, FORMER SECRETARY TREASURER, SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU)

CJNY MEMBER UNIONS

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MICHAEL PROHASKA, BUSINESS MANAGER, LABORERS LOCAL 79

ROGER CLAYMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LONG ISLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR

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MARIO CILENTO, PRESIDENT, NEW YORK STATE AFL-CIO

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TONY UTANO, PRESIDENT, TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION LOCAL 100

JOHN MURPHY, INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (UA)

JAMES SLEVIN, PRESIDENT, UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA LOCAL 1-2, REGIONAL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA