NEW YORK

NEW YORK’S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act requires the state to achieve a carbon-free electricity system by 2040 and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 85% below 1990 levels by 2050, setting a new standard for states and the nation to expedite the transition to a clean-energy economy.

Climate Framework and Laws In 2019, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the historic Climate Leadership and Communities Protection Act (CLPCA), which requires the state to reduce GHG emissions 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 and offset the remaining 15%. Under Governor Cuomo's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy, New York is building a clean, affordable, and resilient energy system for all New Yorkers. In 2017, Governor Cuomo co-founded the U.S. Climate Alliance and issued Executive Order 166 (EO 166), reaffirming New York's commitment to emissions reductions in the face of the federal government's retreat from the Paris Agreement.

New York is also a founding member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Power Generation The state's new Clean Energy Standard will dramatically increase New York's electricity from renewable energy to 70% by 2030; by 2040, all electricity will be derived from carbon-free sources. On July 18, 2019, Governor Cuomo announced the procurement of 1,700 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind, the nation's largest offshore wind procurement. And since 2012, the distributed solar sector has grown 1,700% in the state. New York will be one of the largest global
economies to end the use of coal for electric generation. The move follows the adoption of regulations requiring all power plants in New York to meet new emissions limits for carbon dioxide that will ultimately end the use of coal in New York State power plants by the end of 2020. In April 2019, Governor Cuomo announced up to $30 million to support projects to improve the resilience, flexibility, and integration of renewable energy resources onto New York’s electric grid while also soliciting 1.5 terawatts (TW) of large-scale renewable energy projects under the state’s Clean Energy Standard. And under the CLPCA, clean-energy targets announced by the governor in January will be codified: 3 gigawatts (GW) of energy storage by 2030, 6 GW of distributed solar by 2025, and 9 GW of offshore wind by 2035.

**Energy Efficiency** The state’s New Efficiency: New York initiative is an ambitious acceleration of energy efficiency and includes a wide range of strategies to help households, developers, building owners, and industrial facilities reduce energy consumption. The initiative will enable New York to save the energy equivalent to that of 1.8 million homes by 2025. The CLCPA calls for a specific target of increasing energy efficiency in the state 23% above 2012 levels by 2030. In 2019, New York State launched the Buildings of Excellence Competition, a $30 million competition with $10 million being offered in each of three rounds for low-carbon building design and development.

**Transportation** The Charge NY program is accelerating the transition to a self-sustaining market for plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) in New York State. In its first phase, the program established a goal of 30,000 to 40,000 PEVs by the end of 2018. The recently announced Charge NY 2.0 aims to attain at least 10,000 charging stations by 2021. New York Power Authority’s EVolve NY program will invest $250 million in the electric vehicle (EV) marketplace by 2025, including funding 200 fast chargers across the state through 2020. New York’s $55 million Drive Clean NY program provides EV rebates to consumers, and the state’s Environmental Protection Fund supports municipal purchases of zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs) and infrastructure. New Yorkers are buying EVs at a record pace, with sales increasing by 63% in 2018.

**Resilience** Climate Smart Communities is an interagency partnership that provides no-cost state support to local governments that pass resolutions to act on climate change. Across New York, 270 communities representing 41% of the population have taken the 10-point Climate Smart Communities Pledge, and 24 communities have gone beyond the pledge to become certified Climate Smart Certified Communities. The Community Risk and Resiliency Act requires state agencies to consider sea-level projections, extreme weather events, and other climate change impacts in implementing programs, and New York’s Department of State has developed best practices for building, resilience, and land use.

**Climate Finance** In 2013, Governor Cuomo established NY Green Bank to accelerate clean-energy deployment by working in collaboration with the private sector to transform financing markets. As of August 2018, the Bank’s committed investments of $522 million are expected to mobilize $1.46 to $1.7 billion in sustainable infrastructure investment in clean-energy projects in New York State.

**Short-Lived Climate Pollutants** New York announced its intention to propose regulations in 2019 to prohibit the use of high-warming hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), consistent with the 2015 and 2016 U.S. EPA Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) rules.