



# Vote On New York's 2022 Environmental Bond Act

On November 8, 2022, New York voters have an historic opportunity to protect drinking water and clean air, preserve open space, and update infrastructure by voting on the Environmental Bond Act!

This is an important moment in New York's environmental history. The \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act will allow our state to undertake urgently needed environmental improvement projects that are vital to New York's future. It has been 26 years since the last Environmental Bond Act was adopted—this year's Bond Act will provide necessary and overdue investments to solve pressing public health and environmental problems.

If approved by voters, the **Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act** will protect clean drinking water, upgrade water infrastructure, preserve open space, fight climate change, strengthen New York's economy, and support local jobs. The Bond Act will allocate \$4.2 billion to a variety of environmental programs and projects across four categories: water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure, restoration and flood risk management, open space land conservation, and climate change mitigation. Additionally, the Bond Act will provide crucial support for New York's economy—supporting over 100,000 jobs.

## Water Quality Improvement and Resilient Infrastructure

New York's rivers, lakes, and streams supply drinking water to millions of New Yorkers every day but threats to our water quality continue to grow. Lead service pipes, aging and failing sewage and drinking water systems, harmful algal blooms, polluted runoff, and other sources of pollution are all growing threats to water quality across the state.



There are an estimated 360,000 lead water service lines throughout New York that pose a serious risk of leaching lead into our drinking water. According to reports generated by New York's Sewage Pollution Right to Know law, there are 5 overflows of raw or partially treated sewage into New York waters every day. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) threaten drinking water quality, recreation, wildlife, and human health. In 2020, there were 920 confirmed HABs in over 180 New York water bodies.

New York State is making some laudable investments in water infrastructure, such as replacing lead service lines, protecting source water, and combating harmful algal blooms; however, a long-term solution is needed to fund our backlog of water quality and infrastructure needs. Over the next 20 years state agencies estimate that over \$80 billion is needed to repair and upgrade sewage and drinking water infrastructure alone. **Our water infrastructure and water quality improvement needs continue to outpace available funding; the Bond Act will help fill the gaps in funding by investing at least \$650 million to protecting water quality and addressing these problems.**

### Restoration and Flood Risk Management

Hurricanes, tropical storms, and other severe weather events have greatly impacted New York. Severe weather events are occurring more frequently and are having disastrous impacts on every region in the state. Damage caused by these storms and flooding is projected to cost over \$50 billion for the next decade. Restoration and flood risk management strengthens infrastructure and protects vulnerable communities and ecosystems from extreme flood and storm events.

Funding through the Bond Act would provide investments in New York's natural and man-made flood risk mitigation systems. Fortifying these environmental and man-made defenses against flooding is essential to protecting New York communities. Examples of these types of projects include shoreline protection, wetland and stream restoration, local waterfront revitalization, projects to reduce inland flooding, and voluntary buyout programs. \$1.1 billion of the Bond Act will be allocated to restoration and flood risk management. Investing in these programs now will promote resiliency and protect vulnerable communities from the damages of flooding.





### Open Space Land Conservation

Open spaces provide numerous benefits to New York’s residents, environment, and economy. From forests and parks to farmland and waterfronts, access to open space is essential. Conserving open spaces benefits wildlife habitats, food production, outdoor recreation, and reduces runoff—all while preserving New York’s natural scenery. The Bond Act will invest at least \$650 million to conserve open space, preserve farmland, and improve fish hatcheries.

Funding from the Bond Act will expand existing open space conservation programs, promote outdoor recreation, protect natural resources, improve biodiversity, and benefit threatened and endangered species. Additionally, this funding will keep family farms in business and help farmers maintain food production while facing the many challenges of climate change and extreme weather. Recreational fishing is a major component of New York’s ecotourism—New York’s trout, salmon, and walleye are prized catches for many fishermen. The Bond Act will invest in restoring and maintaining native fish populations and increase public fishing access.

### Climate Change Mitigation

The impacts of climate change are being felt across the state—without long-term efforts and investment these impacts will continue to worsen and become more costly. The 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act made New York a national leader in the fight against climate change, and investments from the Bond Act will build on this progress. By funding projects that expand clean energy infrastructure, increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand urban forestry, and protect air and water quality, the Bond Act will help fight and mitigate climate change.

Bond Act projects include retrofitting public buildings, building green roofs to reduce urban heat, building efficient green buildings, installing green infrastructure, planting urban trees, and building community cooling centers that can save lives during heatwaves. Additionally, Bond Act investments will be allocated to reduce air and water pollution. These projects will increase energy reliability, improve public health and safety, and protect vulnerable communities from climate change.

**The Bond Act would provide much needed long-term and dedicated investments for New York’s environment and help meet our ever-growing funding needs.**

## Advance Environmental Justice

Every New Yorker deserves clean air and water and access to open space, however, many marginalized communities have been denied this for far too long. These communities are the most harmed by pollution, which negatively impacts their health and the areas they live in. To correct this, the state requires 35% of Bond Act funds for the benefit of disadvantaged communities, with a goal of reaching 40% of total funds directed to environmental justice communities.

## Strengthen New York's Economy and Create Jobs

The Bond Act would provide an unprecedented \$4.2 billion investment in New York's environment. While this funding will safeguard drinking water quality, upgrade infrastructure, conserve open space, and mitigate climate change, it will also benefit New York's economy and create jobs.

Replacing lead pipes, updating water infrastructure, retrofitting buildings, constructing resilient infrastructure, and maintaining open space all create jobs, revitalizes economies, and builds healthy communities. The Bond Act would support nearly 100,000 local jobs and will help revitalize local cities, towns, and villages.



Flip your ballot over on November 8<sup>th</sup>  
and vote on New York's \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean  
Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act!

