



Statement: Climate Recommendations Following the 2026 State of the State Address

ALBANY, NY, January 13 - Today, Governor Hochul shared the 2026 State of the State Address. In it, she communicated a renewed willingness for a healthier, safer, and more affordable New York through initiatives such as a new statewide demand response program, expanding utility affordability initiatives, and building solar in schools. While NYC-EJA is glad to see the Governor demonstrate action over these vital issues, we were disappointed not to see any mention of new climate funding. We urge the Governor to allocate at least another \$3B for the Sustainable Futures Program in the budget. There is still much more that needs to be done, and we look forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to best serve the people of New York.

In the last five years, New York has taken a step back in its role as a national climate leader. New Yorkers are now struggling with energy unaffordability, climate-related health issues, and worsening disasters. We must avoid tendencies to use outdated assumptions on energy affordability and reliability to undermine our nation-leading Climate Act and embrace proven solutions that will put money back in New Yorkers pockets and create jobs by investing in clean energy and making polluters pay.

The following recommendations are intended for the State to ensure the health and long-term safety of all New Yorkers: expand investments in renewable energy and battery storage to eliminate reliance on peaker power plants; implement a warehouse indirect source rule to address the emissions from new and existing facilities to protect communities from unregulated truck traffic and air pollution; and fully fund and implement the DEC/NYSERDA Extreme Heat Action Plan and the DEC Community Air Monitoring Initiative's recommendations for mitigation and adaptation.

Finally, Governor Hochul is right. Nobody is above the law, which is why we're calling on the Governor to follow NY State law and release the delayed cap-and-invest regulations to make polluters pay and use that money to put money back in New Yorker's wallets and our communities.

About the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance:

Founded in 1991, NYC-EJA is a non-profit, citywide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. We empower our member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable burdens through the coordination of campaigns designed to inform City and State policies. Through our efforts, our members coalesce around specific common issues that threaten the ability for low-income communities of color to thrive.