



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State recognizes that environmental protection surpasses all geographic boundaries and we support global efforts to ensure the sustainability of natural resources through programs and policies that safeguard our drinking water, maintain clean and healthy air, develop renewable energy sources, and conserve open spaces – and in this spirit, all New Yorkers join in the 52nd anniversary celebration of Earth Day and reflect on the responsibility each of us has to preserve our environmental heritage for the future; and

Whereas, protecting air and water quality, reducing pollution from toxic chemicals and emerging contaminants, and addressing the urgent threat of climate change guides New York State's continued efforts to model nation-leading efforts with our federal and local partners to improve protections for people, wildlife, and natural resources; and

Whereas, New York State's nation-leading implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act is combating climate change by fostering the growth of a clean energy economy, reducing harmful emissions, and creating jobs through increased investments in renewable energy on the state's path to achieve economy-wide carbon neutrality with aggressive goals calling for 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035, 6,000 megawatts energy storage by 2030, and 10,000 megawatts of distributed solar by 2030 as we strive for 70 percent renewable energy production by 2030, 100 percent zero emission electricity by 2040, and an 85 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, to help preserve and protect our planet; and

Whereas, protecting clean water is a top priority, and New York State's historic investments through the Clean Water Infrastructure Act are continuing to grow the largest infrastructure financing program in the nation; and

Whereas, to address growing global challenges in recycling and improve waste management, New York State has enacted a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags and expanded polystyrene foam containers and loose fill packaging, launched an organic material recycling program to increase food recycling and donation initiatives, and is expanding efforts to improve recycling and develop new markets for recyclable materials; and

Whereas, so that historically underserved communities also benefit from the expanding clean energy economy, New York State prioritizes investments and emissions reduction with a commitment of at least 35 percent and a goal of 40 percent of the overall benefits of spending on clean energy and energy efficiency programs, projects, or investments in disadvantaged communities, while implementing pollution-monitoring and mitigation projects, bolstering the capacity of local organizations, and ensuring climate justice and representation through the Climate Justice Working Group; and

Whereas, New York State is blessed with abundant forests, lands, lakes, rivers, and streams that not only provide unique opportunities for people to explore and enjoy the outdoors, but also reflect our commitment to healthy environments and sustainable regional economies, and to continue to increase protection of critical open spaces, acquiring 45,856 acres in fee, and 17,631 Acres in conservation easements, for a total of 63,487 acres since 2016; and

Whereas, to ensure New York State's continued stewardship of our environmental treasures, the state has increased its Environmental Protection Fund at a record-high \$400 million this year, providing significant resources for the conservation of open space that provides wildlife habitat, sequesters carbon, ameliorates flooding, protects water supplies, and provides abundant public recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, environmental protection is a cornerstone of New York State government and its legacy of sound public policy, effective programs, and responsible laws, and Earth Day serves as a focal point for people worldwide in evaluating their own efforts to restore and protect our natural environment, as we all should act as stewards of our precious environmental heritage for this and future generations;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2022 as

EARTH DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighteenth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor