



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State has long been recognized as a national leader in environmental stewardship for its efforts to protect, restore, and improve our lands, air, and water – benefitting the health of New Yorkers and connecting people to nature and the great outdoors; and

Whereas, ensuring the quality of air and water, reducing pollution and exposure to emerging contaminants, and addressing the urgent threat of climate change guide New York State's continued efforts with our federal and local partners to improve resilience and other protections for people, wildlife, and natural resources; and

Whereas, in November 2022, New Yorkers demonstrated their environmental commitment by approving the historic \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act to invest in restoration and flood risk reduction, open space land conservation and recreation, climate change mitigation, water quality improvement, and resilient infrastructure projects; and

Whereas, New York State's implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) is combating climate change by reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions while fostering job growth that supports a clean energy economy and investing in an equitable, clean energy future that advances climate justice for all New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the state is advancing a suite of actions to implement the Climate Act, including development of the New York Cap-and-Invest program and other complementary policies to address climate change by reducing climate-altering emissions 40 percent by 2030 and 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels; and

Whereas, to strengthen the infrastructure of the future, the state is investing in large-scale renewable and transmission projects, measures to reduce building emissions, ways to scale up solar, the development of new clean transportation initiatives, and additional NY Green Bank commitments; and

Whereas, recognizing that safeguarding the environment for the benefit of all communities means advancing environmental justice, New York State is prioritizing investments in historically underserved and disadvantaged communities to ensure those most vulnerable see equitable benefits from the expanding clean energy economy as well as pollution-monitoring and mitigation projects that help improve air and water quality, while bolstering the capacity of local organizations; we continue to uphold this commitment with a minimum 35 percent and a goal of 40 percent of Climate Act clean energy, energy efficiency programs, and Environmental Bond Act investments to benefit disadvantaged communities; and

Whereas, New York State's historic investments through the Clean Water Infrastructure Act represent the largest infrastructure financing program in the nation, ensuring New Yorkers have access to clean drinking water and empowering more municipalities to invest in efficient and effective wastewater treatment strategies; and

Whereas, New York State's new Solid Waste Management Plan serves as a roadmap to address one of the state's largest contributors to climate-altering greenhouse gases by bolstering existing efforts to divert waste from landfills, return materials back to productive use, and reduce climate emissions; and

Whereas, to ensure the continued stewardship of our environment, the state is sustaining its Environmental Protection Fund at a record-high \$400 million, supplying significant resources for the conservation of open space that provides wildlife habitat, sequesters carbon, ameliorates flooding, protects water supplies, preserves farmland, advances environmental justice, and enriches abundant public recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, Earth Day was created in 1970 to encourage us to reflect on the health of our planet and our environmental heritage, acting in ways to preserve our natural resources to ensure we and future generations will have a clean, healthy world in which to live, work, and enjoy at leisure, and New York joins in the international celebration of Earth Day, in respectful observance of our natural environmental resources and with a reaffirmed commitment to their protection and preservation;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2024 as

EARTH DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twentieth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-four.


Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh


Governor