

**More Than 180 NY Community, Youth, and Climate Groups Call On Speaker Heastie And Governor Hochul to follow the Senate's lead and support the *Stop Climate Polluter Handouts Act* In The Final FY2024-25 Budget**

March 22, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
Capitol Building  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker of the Assembly  
932 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Kathy Hochul and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie,

Twelve years ago, we saw Hurricane Sandy tear apart our homes, displacing thousands of New Yorkers and causing \$19 billion worth of damage to New York City.<sup>1</sup> In September, our roads were buried under inches of floodwater following severe, unpredictable rain. At the height of winter, snow melts as soon as it touches the ground. Meanwhile, while our skies turn orange, the fossil fuel industry continues to ramp up production and bring in record profits.<sup>2,3</sup> Commuting home from school or work through flooded streets and traversing muddied train stations leaves our generation and our communities with one question: how much worse will it get?

It's undeniable that these extreme weather events and disasters are the product of the climate crisis—something we're directly subsidizing as New Yorkers.

New York State every year gives about \$1.6 Billion in subsidies and tax breaks to the fossil fuel industry—an industry we know is responsible for 92% of climate crisis-causing emissions in the US, an industry we know has lied to our faces whilst expanding deadly fossil fuels, and an industry that right now is continuing to expand, despite any expansion being out of line with, not only the survival of our communities

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<sup>1</sup> NYC Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery. "Hurricane Sandy - CDBGDR." NYC.gov, 2024, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/cdbgdr/hurricane-sandy/hurricane-sandy.page>. Accessed 18 March 2024.

<sup>2</sup> **Fossil fuels are the most profitable industry in history, raking in \$3 billion a day with profits that doubled from 2021 to 2022. Taxpayer money should not be used to further inflate industry profits.**

<sup>3</sup> Carrington, Damian. "Revealed: oil sector's 'staggering' \$3bn-a-day profits for last 50 years." The Guardian, 21 July 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/21/revealed-oil-sectors-staggering-profits-last-50-years>. Accessed 18 March 2024.

and of our generation but also the survival of humanity.<sup>4,5</sup> Why are we as New Yorkers funding an industry that's destroying our future and harming our communities? As UN Secretary-General António Guterres put it, "investing in new fossil fuels infrastructure is moral and economic madness," so why are we doing it in New York?<sup>6</sup>

Today, we're writing to you as 183 groups representing large swaths of our communities, representing the young voters who turned out in record numbers to the polls in 2020, and representing the New York climate justice movement, **calling on you, our leaders in Albany, to support inclusion of the Stop Climate Polluter Handouts Act (S.3389/A.7949A (Krueger/Simon)) in the FY2024-25 State Budget.**

This bill is critical to ending about \$330 million of the fossil fuel tax breaks and subsidies we currently hand out in New York and allows us to directly reappropriate that money this year to what our communities need. We must stop funding the fossil fuel industry at the expense of our communities and climate goals, and instead choose to fund housing, education, renewable energy, and the many other needs we have this deficit budget year.

A majority of the bill was included this year in the Senate One-House budget proposal, now it's time for the final budget to follow suit. Our planet, our communities, and our future cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,

Fridays For Future NYC  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)  
The Climate Reality Project New York Chapters Coalition  
Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative (TCCPI)

Alliance For A Greater New York (ALIGN)  
Beyond Plastics  
Big Reuse  
Citizen Action of New York  
Environmental Advocates NY  
Food & Water Watch

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<sup>4</sup> Milman, Oliver. "Revealed: Exxon made 'breathhtakingly' accurate climate predictions in 1970s and 80s." The Guardian, 12 January 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/jan/12/exxon-climate-change-global-warming-research>. Accessed 18 March 2024.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. "Where greenhouse gases come from - U.S. Energy Information Administration." EIA, 22 August 2023, <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/energy-and-the-environment/where-greenhouse-gases-come-from.php>. Accessed 18 March 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Energy Voice. "Investing in new fossil fuels is 'moral and economic madness' - UN chief." YouTube: Home, 9 November 2017, <https://www.energyvoice.com/oilandgas/400595/investing-in-new-fossil-fuels-is-moral-and-economic-madness-un-chief/>. Accessed 18 March 2024.

Invest in Our New York  
New York Communities for Change  
NY Renews  
NYS Council of Churches  
NY Working Families Party  
PSC-CUNY  
Sunrise Movement NYC  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

350 Brooklyn  
350NJ-Rockland  
350NYC  
Adelphi U. Environmental Action Coalition  
Albany UU Green Sanctuary Team  
All Our Energy  
Alliance for a Green Economy (AGREE)  
Artists for Mutual Aid  
Beacon Climate Action Now  
Beloved Earth Community (of The Riverside Church, NYC)  
Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle  
Bronx Climate Justice North  
Bronx Jews for Climate Action  
Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon Society  
Broome Tioga Green Party  
Build a Better Planet  
Campaign for Renewable Energy  
Capital Region Interfaith Creation  
Care Coalition  
Center for Independence of the Disabled New York  
Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats  
Church Women United in NYS  
Citizens' Climate Lobby Brooklyn  
Citizens' Climate Lobby NY  
Clean Air Coalition Western NY Clean & Healthy NY  
Climate & Resilience Education Task Force  
Climate Families NYC  
Climate Reality Project - Capital  
Climate Reality Project - Finger  
Climate Reality Project - Westchester County Chapter  
Climate Reality Project - Western NY Chapter  
Climate Reality Project Long Island Chapter

Climate Reality Project NYC  
ClimateMama  
Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline  
Coalition for Outreach, Policy and Coordination  
Coalition to Protect NY  
Coastal Research & Education Society of Long Island, Inc  
Color Brighton Green  
Communities for Local Power Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment  
Community Advocates for a Sustainable Environment  
Concerned Health Professionals of NY  
Congregation Beth Shalom  
Creation Collaborative of American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region  
Deignan Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona U.  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
Divest NY  
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition  
Earth Day Initiative  
Earthkeeper Health Resources  
Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking  
Empire State Indivisible  
Environmental Justice Ministry of First Unitarian of Rochester  
Erie County Green Party  
Extinction Rebellion Mid Hudson/New Paltz  
Extinction Rebellion Mid-Hudson  
Extinction Rebellion NYC  
Fellowship of the Sacred Earth  
Food & Water Watch NY  
For The Many  
Forest Hills Green Team  
Fossil Free Tompkins  
FrackBustersNY  
Fridays For Future Capital District NY  
Fuerza Mundial Global  
Gas Free Seneca  
George Brown College Sustainability Team  
Grassroots Enviro. Education  
Greater Capital Region Ch. Clean Air Coalition of Greater  
Green Education & Legal Fund  
Green Ossining  
Green Party of New York  
Green Sanctuary UU Congregation of Binghamton

GreenFaith  
HabitatMap  
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater  
Indivisible Harlem  
Indivisible New Rochelle  
Jewish Climate Action Network NY Metro  
Jewish Youth Climate Movement (JYCM)  
Justice Environment  
Long Island Progressive Coalition NY  
Marine Biology Society  
Mothers Out Front Tompkins  
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club  
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club  
National Wildlife Federation  
NE Organic Farming Association NY  
New Paltz Interfaith Earth Action  
New York Youth Climate Leaders  
New Yorkers for Clean Power  
North American Climate, Conservation & Environment (NACCE)  
North Bronx Racial Justice  
North Shore Audubon Society  
North Star Fund  
Northern Catskills Audubon Society, Inc.  
No North Brooklyn Pipeline Alliance  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
NY Catholic Climate Movement  
NY Climate Action Group  
NY Climate Advocacy Project  
NY Geothermal Energy Org.  
NYCD16 Indivisible  
NYPAN Greene  
Occupyradio  
People for a Healthy Environment  
People of Albany United for Safe Energy  
People's Climate Movement NY  
Physicians for Social Responsibility New York  
Progressive Action Network  
Progressive Schenectady  
Protecting Our Waters  
PSC Environmental Justice Working Group  
Putnam Progressives

Ravena-Coeymans  
Reinvent Albany  
Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga (RAFT)  
Riders Alliance  
Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith  
Riverside Salem UCC/DoC  
Roctricity LLC  
RootsAction.org  
Sane Energy Project  
Saratoga-Warren-Washington Progressive Action  
Seatuck Environmental Association  
Seneca Lake Guardian  
Sheridan Hollow Alliance for Renewable Energy (SHARE)  
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Rochester  
Sisters of Charity Federation  
Sisters of Charity of New York  
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Sixth Street Community Center  
South Asian Fund for Education Scholarship and Training Inc (SAFEST)  
South Bronx Unite  
South Shore Audubon Society  
Stand.earth  
Stop Cricket Valley Energy  
Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline  
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion  
Sunrise Ithaca  
Sunrise Westchester  
SUNY Cortland Crochet Club  
SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force  
Sustainability Committee Kendal at Ithaca  
Sustainable Finger Lakes  
Sustainable Warwick  
Target Majority NYC  
The Alternative Center  
The Fahari-Libertad  
Third Act Upstate New York  
Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona U.  
TIAA-Divest!  
TREEage  
United for Action

Upper Green Side

Veterans for Climate Justice

Vote Solar

WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

Westchester for Change

Western NY Drilling Defense

Young Democratic Socialists of America Queensborough Community College Chapter

Zero Waste NYC Workshop