

Re. Climate Action Draft Schopin Plan: Directing Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities

Dear NYS Climate Action Council,

Thank you so much for passing the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (Climate Act) of 2019. The CLCPA is such an essential and meaningful bill that will significantly impact the lives of New Yorkers.

Having seen my family affected by extreme weather and witnessing environmental and climate injustice in my home city of New York, I am very passionate about tackling this existential threat. As I write this, members of my high school's Environmental Justice Club, which I lead, ^{are writing} ~~write~~ our public comments on your Council's Scoping Draft Plan.

In particular, I wanted to comment on the plan's Directing Benefits to Disadvantaged Communities section. I especially appreciate that disadvantaged communities will receive 40% of these clean energy efficiency benefits. Additionally, as a life-long public school student, the Clean Green Schools initiative, which will invest \$59 million to 500 P-12 schools in NYS is close to my heart. Our public education system has an *immense role* in preparing students for green careers and reducing schools' substantial carbon footprint. I appreciate that the most funding will go to schools in historically disadvantaged communities. **However, I believe the Clean Green Schools provisions can be more robust and impactful. In particular, the majority of schools (including the 800 other public schools in NYC alone and 5,000+ in the entire state) should also receive green career preparedness and climate education, as well as the building upgrades crucial for more resilient and healthy learning environments.**

In particular, I would propose adding more robust and expansive climate education initiatives for public schools, as outlined by the Aspen Institute K-12 Climate Action Network and the Climate & Resilience Education Taskforce (CRETf), an organization I work with.

Thank you for your council's vital work to ensure New York leads the fight for sustainability, justice, and resilience in a greener world. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to share my input on our state's vital climate blueprint!

Sincerely,

Ellery


Student at NEST+m High School

