1. **Phase out fossil fuels in electricity generation by 2040.**

Many of New York's fossil fuel plants are already at retirement age (72% of gas turbines!) Express your support for the process laid out in the Scoping Plan for regulations that ensure a continual decline in GHG emissions from power plants, reaching **zero** by 2040. The Final Scoping Plan must also:

* Prioritize retirement of fossil fuel-fired plants whose emissions disportionately harm disadvantaged communities, consistent with the Climate Act.
* Ensure protections for all communities facing plant closures, including:
  + Training and supportive services for displaced workers, beginning well before plant retirement, to enable a smooth job transition.
  + Sufficient funding of the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program to reduce the local property tax impacts of plant closure on municipalities and school districts.
  + Plant-owner responsibility for the costs of site remediation.
* Encourage re-use of power plant sites for battery storage. This would not only support the clean energy transition but would also help to mitigate the revenue and jobs impacts of plant closure.

1. **Deny new gas infrastructure permits to avoid increases in GHG emissions and creation of more stranded assets.**
2. **Accelerate renewable energy development to reach the Climate Act's near-term target of generating 70% of electricity from renewable resources by 2030.**

* Direct the NYS Office of Renewable Siting to set annual goals for megawatts of renewable resources to be permitted each year through 2030.
* Incentivize "agrivoltaics," or the integration of solar with agricultural production on the same land, and direct NYSERDA and the Department of Agriculture and Markets to produce educational materials and guidance for farmers, renewable energy developers, local governments, and other stakeholders. Agriculture and renewable energy can be complementary and mutually-supporting land uses, and agrivoltaics has great potential to minimize land-use conflicts and strengthen community support for renewable siting.

1. **Support high-value renewable projects that contribute to equity, resilience, and smart land use.**

* Prioritize pairing of solar with electrification in low-income housing, and expanded opportunities for low-income participation in community renewable energy.
* Develop incentives to encourage solar projects on rooftops, over parking lots and on brownfields to be paired with battery storage.
* Require utilities to expand the capacity of the local grid to interconnect with solar (i.e., "hosting capacity"), taking into account any priority locations for solar identified by local governments as well as optimal siting areas, like brownfields.
* Direct utilities to speed up the pace of processing interconnection applications so that investments can be made in a timely manner.

1. **Provide communities with the support they need to partner in the renewable energy transition.**

* Provide resources and assistance to local governments to streamline permitting and zoning for renewable energy.
* Develop a Clean Energy Development Mapping Tool for local governments to help them plan/site renewables.
* Encourage Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs to 1) support 100% renewable energy for supply, 2) integrate community renewable energy and other local energy programs, 3) include programs for low-income customers, and 4) engage in robust public energy education. Authorize counties, and not just villages and towns, to form CCAs.
* Expand benefits to communities hosting large-scale renewable projects, and tailor those benefits to community needs and priorities.

1. **Ramp up battery storage development and demand-side solutions to reduce peak demand and enhance grid reliability.**

Support Scoping Plan recommendations to:

* Expand the Clean Energy Standard to include energy storage (or create a separate Storage Standard), requiring utilities and energy suppliers to procure increasing amounts of battery storage and other forms of energy storage, such as gravity-based systems (especially those that can provide energy storage for longer periods than lithium-ion batteries; days, weeks or longer) over time as the grid becomes more reliant on solar and wind.
* Promote clean-energy solutions to reduce peak demand and maintain grid reliability, including geothermal heating and cooling and demand response programs.

1. **Prioritize climate education and awareness-raising about the benefits of renewable energy. Successful implementation of the Climate Act depends upon public support and engagement to meet climate goals. It also depends on inspiring young people to pursue clean energy careers and create the workforce needed to transform New York's economy.**

The Final Scoping Plan should:

* Direct NYSERDA to support a well-funded statewide public information/education campaign, utilizing all forms of media. Engage partners in direct outreach, including Clean Energy Hubs, educational and community-based partners.
* Direct the State Education Department to develop climate change curricula & clean energy jobs training and opportunities in K-12 schools.

1. **Develop the workforce for the clean energy transition.**

* Engage the NYS Education Department, SUNY/CUNY system, labor, community-based organizations, and workforce development and private sector partners to develop and implement a strategy to recruit, train, and skill up the clean energy workforce required to shift to a zero-carbon electricity system.
* Create a State Office of Just Transition to ensure a coordinated, proactive approach to addressing issues related to economic development, job quality, socio-economic impacts,  job loss, worker displacement, and job-readiness requirements for employment opportunities in emerging industries.
* Ensure that strong labor standards and protections exist across all clean energy sectors.