



**THE COUNCIL *of* THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER SANDY NURSE**

**New York State Climate and Community Protection Act**  
**Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan Brooklyn Public Hearing**

May 3, 2022

Good Evening Everyone,

My name is Sandy Nurse and I am the Council Member representing New York City Council District 37, covering the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bushwick, East New York, Cypress Hills, City Line, Ocean Hill, and Brownsville. I am here today in solidarity with my constituents, local environmental justice and community organizations, youth advocates, and workers fighting for a Just Transition in Brooklyn and New York State.

The New York State Climate and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates transformative emission reductions, renewable energy targets, and climate justice investments. The CLCPA will shape the future of our city across many sectors from solid waste to power generation to transportation and land use. We must meet these transformative climate and equity mandates with fierce advocacy and clear pathways for policy implementation.

According to the new state maps, nearly my entire district is a designated Disadvantaged Community – a frontline community that now must be prioritized in New York State’s historic transition to cleaner, greener sources of energy, reduced pollution and cleaner air, and economic opportunities.

In my role as Chair of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, I recognize the urgency in which New York City and New York State must move in meeting our climate change, environmental justice, and sustainability goals – including 85% emission reduction by 2050, 100% renewable energy by 2030, 35% prioritized investments in disadvantaged communities, and of course Zero Waste by 2030.

In the waste sector, New York City is working to meet our climate, equity, and zero waste goals through key laws and policies including:

**Commercial Waste Zones**, a law creating a more sustainable private sanitation sector by eliminating local pollution from unnecessary truck miles, requiring higher standards for recycling and composting, and prioritizing worker safety and job creation in the local waste industry.

**Waste Equity**, a law aimed at reducing the amount of solid waste sent to transfer stations in the four overburdened community districts that are predominantly low-income communities of color.

**Extended Producer Responsibility**, a proposed policy aimed at ending the ongoing public subsidy for corporations who take no responsibility for the end-cycle of their products. This new system requires strong environmental justice accountability, mandated waste reduction, rejection of false solutions like chemical recycling, and removal of toxic chemicals from packaging materials.

**Community Composting and Recycling Networks**, a proposed law aimed at increasing equitable access to composting and recycling in New York City by requiring easily accessible drop-off sites for organics in all community districts, as well as the collection of recyclable materials like electronics and textiles.

**Universal Curbside Composting**, a proposed law mandating universal residential composting by the end of 2023 for nearly every building in New York City.

There is so much more to be done to achieve these climate and waste goals, including public investments in the program, operations, education, and infrastructure needed to make it happen. NYC's currently limited composting opportunities and curbside/containerized recycling diversion rate of 17.6% is far behind where we need to be.

The CLCPA Draft Scoping Plan highlights that much of our waste streams end up in landfills and incinerators both within the state and out of state. Without these key policies, our city will continue the environmentally racist practice of sending millions of pounds of trash to facilities near communities of color. Let me be clear – waste incineration and combustion is a false solution.

The CLCPA Draft Scoping Plan recommends Key Strategies for Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling that I would like voice alignment and support for today including: **(1) Organic Waste Reduction and Recycling, (2) Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling, and (3) Extended Producer Responsibility** – all with continued public engagement and decision-making. Furthermore, New York Needs to follow through with “Scenario Three” for Clean Air and a Healthy Environment.

At all levels of government there has been an enormous amount of planning, visioning, and lawmaking aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the just transition away from fossil fuels. And now, it is the time to invest, build, and implement. New York needs dedicated funding to catalyze the reduction of both greenhouse gas and co-pollutant emissions and to begin the state's large-scale transition to an equitable renewable and regenerative economy. NYC can and must lead by example. I look forward to working with allies to implement the CLCPA and help build a more renewable and sustainable New York.