

My name is Joe Wilson. I am a retired public official, educator, and lawyer. I am a current, local policy-maker. During my 15 years of retirement, I have devoted most of my time to seeking positive solutions to our Climate Crisis and the necessity to reduce our use of fossil fuels. I am supportive of the thrust of the CLCPA Scoping Plan in general save for the fact that, in most instances, the timelines/deadlines and/or milestones are not aggressive enough or are stated in ways that make delay likely. I am also the spokesperson and co-coordinator of the Tompkins County-based advocacy group called Coalition for Outreach, Policy, and Education. We are approximately 25 in number. I submit these Comments on the Coalition's behalf as well as my own. More specifically:

Public health and economic benefits

- Full electrification is essential because the results will include greater public health, less deaths because of fossil fuel contamination of the air we breathe and a dramatic increase in jobs in the fields bolstered by the conversion to all-electric and non-fossil fuel generated energy production.
- As noted in the Plan, the facts are that the economic benefits of implementing the Plan outweigh the economic costs of inaction by between \$90 and \$120 billion. This includes accounting for expected damage to sectors across the economy and public health costs of inaction.
- * Reducing both the domestic production and use of fossil fuels will reduce both the health and inflationary impacts of climate change/global warming which is harming every one of us all in every walk of life and every aspect of our lives at all socioeconomic levels and will reduce our dependence on our monopolistic domestic fossil fuel producers and on the autocratic, oppressive and monopolistic over-seas fossil fuel producers.
- * Aggressive, progressive mandates for manure reduction will reduce the harmful health effects of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions in rural communities.

Agriculture

- There is too much reliance on volunteerism. Like all entrepreneurs, those in the agricultural industry need predictability and the level playing field brought about by regulation and mandates.
- *CAFOs and other industrial agriculture must be required/mandated to reduce emissions on a specific, progressive schedule. Such reductions will simply not occur otherwise or on any timeline that will significantly affect global warming.
- Manure reduction must be done at the source. The Plan should include aggressive, progressive mandates for manure reduction to reduce the harmful health effects of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions in rural communities.
- There should be a fertilizer fee to reduce nitrous oxide emissions.
- There should be subsidies for renewable/best climate practice agriculture practices.
- Production of "biogas" and "biomass" for export off-site should be disallowed. It simply prolongs the life of no-longer-needed fossil gas infrastructure and increases the global warming effects of methane/greenhouse gas emissions.

Buildings

- New York State must commit to meeting the estimated \$1 billion annually for energy efficiency and electrification in disadvantaged and moderate income households. The Plan should specify this.
- The Plan should require that each County create a workforce development/just transition Plan for jobs related to energy efficiency and electrification and begin implementation by 2030. We believe that the Tompkins County Legislature has such a draft plan in hand which could be used as a model.
- Starting in 2024, the use of fossil fuels for any purpose should be disallowed in the operation of any single-family, duplex, and low-rise residential units built on or after 2024. The same for all buildings built on or after 2027.

*NYSERDA should accelerate its drafting schedule for advanced energy building codes for new buildings and renovations. The State should immediately adopt each and promulgate them State-wide based on an up-to-date set of climate zones.

Electricity

- Nuclear must, as suggested, remain an option for meeting demand in the face of the on-again-off-again nature of wind and solar.

- * Hydro Energy storage in the form of moving water “up” to a reservoir when power is readily available and then allowing it to run through turbo-generators when power is at a premium should be a supported component of energy generation.

The “Explore Technology Solutions” section is full of questionable initiatives such as “renewable natural gas”, “blue” and “green” hydrogen. They will result in more greenhouse gases and concomitant pollution plus the perpetuation of fossil fuel infrastructure when reducing/eliminating the gases and the infrastructure are the way forward.

- *Waste-to-energy and bio-energy should not be part of the Plan for reasons stated immediately above.

- *The Plan should in no way encourage or support the expansion of fossil fuel combustion. Rather the Plan needs means for a mandatory reduction schedule.

- We agree with NY Renews that “the State should make proactive and timely investments in local transmission and distribution infrastructure and associated cost-sharing associated with the utilities in these upgrades.”

- *The Plan appears to currently lack sufficiently clear deadlines and milestones for replacing fossil fuel combustion for energy production and the transition to renewables.

fuel power plants already reaching their end of life are not replaced by more fossil fuel power plants.

- The speed by which climate change is affecting our lives makes necessary the most rapid siting of renewable projects.

- *The Plan should include a ban on crypto currency because the benefits of an alternative, unregulated currency system are far outweighed by the demands for energy which the coin harvesting technology puts on our energy-production system. China got it right; so should we.

Transportation

- We strongly oppose the so-called “clean energy supply standard” because it will extend the life of the current fossil fuel infrastructure, prolong the negative consequences of the associated pollutants and global-warming impacts of greenhouse gases.

- The Plan should recognize the need for expanding, via public subsidies, the availability of and accessibility of public, multiple-user transportation.

- We support:

- direct electric vehicles sales,
- adoption of California’s Clean Cars 2 Regulations,
- reforming utility rate design for EV charging,
- transitioning to a zero-emissions state fleet,
- investing in zero emissions public transit and EV charging stations,
- a Feebate program offering direct rebates for electric vehicle purchases supported by a fee on gas powered vehicles.

Gas System Transition

- The Plan should prohibit fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations and the subsidization of air or ground-source HVAC for space heating plus electric cooking and hot water production.

- The cost of decommissioning the gas system must be spread equitably across rate classes to ensure low to moderate-income households and renters are not left behind in the transition.

- The Plan should NOT include direct or indirect support for so-called “renewable natural gas”. Such support would prolong and possibly exacerbate all the negative consequences of our current production, transportation, and use of fossil gases.

Economy-Wide Strategies

* We support an economy-wide polluter tax in addition to mandatory deadlines for achieving the goals of the CLCPA.

* We support previously recommended approaches which direct the spending of the proceeds of such a tax to prevent its potential regressive effects.