

My name is Anthony Ng. I am a steering committee member of the Queens Climate Project. We are a group of Queens neighbors and residents working towards a healthier and net zero emissions future for Queens and NYC.

8 months ago, the remnants of Hurricane Ida caused severe flooding in Queens. There was waist deep water at Queens Boulevard and Broadway, a 15 minute walk from my Jackson Heights home. My building experienced some mild flooding. And unfortunately, 11 Queens residents, who were mostly low-income Asian immigrants, died because their basement apartments flooded. The flooding caused by Ida was another sad reminder of the disproportionate impact that frontline communities of color face from extreme weather brought on by climate change.

This year, we must accelerate and scale up the climate solutions that can achieve the CLCPA's landmark greenhouse gas emission reductions, and renewable energy targets.

Profits over people can not win this time. We urge the Climate Action Council to stand strong in the face of fossil fuel interests, whose proposals for and concerns on the Climate Act don't reflect the courage, and urgency we need to address the climate crisis. The scoping plan must be bold and imaginative and prioritize environmental justice, public health and a just transition as follows:

- Nearly 48% of New York's households are of low-to-moderate income. With investments in green building upgrades in affordable housing, we can take a fairer approach to making homes and apts safer, by phasing out fossil fuels and combustion appliances and heating systems, and phasing in electrification, especially all electric construction by 2024.
- To reach the goal of 70% renewable energy by 2030, we need a big increase in renewable energy generation,, and a ban on any new or repowered gas plants. We thank Governor Hochul and the NYS DEC for denying the air permits for the NRG Astoria plant and urge that you uphold this decision in the face of NRG's appeal.
- To support the creation of 211,000 new jobs, New York State must direct funding toward workforce development, apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship programs. This will help environmental justice communities, and traditionally excluded workers obtain green jobs.
- The Climate Action Council (CAC) must establish a Worker and Community Assurance Fund to support displaced workers in fossil-fuel-dependent industries as well as to communities who rely on such industries.
- The CAC must support labor standards, prevailing wage and benefits, local hire, project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, and protect existing workers' wages.

We are counting on you, the Climate Action Council, to approve a scoping plan that boldly supports climate solutions, jobs and justice. Thank you.