

To: Draft Scoping Plan Comments  
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Re: Comments on the New York State Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan  
Comments are in italics.

## Chapter 16 Waste

*A fundamental problem with this chapter is the use of the term waste instead of material in many locations in the chapter. Reuse and repair of materials is a business opportunity, including production of compost; architectural salvage; thrift, antique and consignment shops; and repairs shops for appliances, furniture, bicycles, shoes, and more. There should be much more focus on the circular economy.*

*“The “circular economy” refers to an “economy that uses a systems-focused approach and involves industrial processes and economic activities that are restorative or regenerative by design, that enable resources used in such processes and activities to maintain their highest value for as long as possible, and that aim for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, and systems (including business models). It is a change to the model in which resources are mined, made into products, and then become waste. A circular economy reduces material use, redesigns materials to be less resource intensive, and recaptures “waste” as a resource to manufacture new materials and products.” USEPA National Recycling Strategy (2020).*

*Extended Producer Responsibility and refrigerant reduction and diversion are very important strategies.*

## Chapter 19 Land Use

### LU4 Protect and Restore Wetlands

*The value of tidal and non-tidal wetlands should be acknowledged with strategies to value **the Ecosystem Services** provided, such as *Payment for Ecosystem Services*.*

**Freshwater Wetlands (page 284-285)** *This section is well written and clear with important suggestions and strategies. Additional content should include referring to the role of municipalities in protecting small wetlands through local land use laws.*

**Tidal Wetlands (page 285-286)** *This section is well written and clear with important suggestions and strategies. Additional content should include the public trust doctrine and its role in marsh migration.*

### LU5. Mapping, Research, Planning, and Assistance

#### Page 288 Assist local governments to create land-use policies:

*I agree with this section, especially funding for Conservation Advisory Commissions and Environmental Management Councils, because these volunteer groups have a important role in preserving open space, including producing natural resources inventories and open space plans. Funds are needed to help with the many details of applying for grants and carrying them out, for attending training and for outreach materials. These groups help protect important natural areas that sequester greenhouse gases and store water to enhance resilience.*

Page 288 **Provide conservation incentives to landowners:** The State should enhance and create landowner incentives and other techniques to conserve and restore tidal and non-tidal wetlands, forests, grasslands, and natural areas and utilize living shoreline and nature-based solutions (such

as tax abatement programs, tax incentives, land conservation programs, and PES). *This sentence needs editing: the examples in parentheses are not nature-based solutions, they are primarily financial incentive programs.*

*There should be more use of PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services) as a strategy for conserving land and enhancing resilience with nature-based methods, besides just in this section and in Chapter 15 (Agriculture and Forestry).*

*The state should utilize the public trust doctrine and strategies such as rolling easements to allow for migration of tidal wetlands to protect the public trust as sea-level rise changes the location of the shoreline.*

**Page 289 Develop a service corps program:** DEC and OPHRP should create a conservation and restoration service corps program for early and experienced professionals.

*AmeriCorps' Student Conservation Association already fulfills this role for early inexperienced professionals, SCA already works with DEC and OPHRP to provide members. It would be better to fund the SCA organization and others like them, rather than to start from scratch.*

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**Support the development of local natural resource inventories:** State agencies, such as DEC, DOS, and/or AGM, should provide funding to further development of natural resource inventories, critical barriers, and other local and regional smart growth planning and decision-making resources (such as maps to identify suitable reforestation locations) that include forestland and farmland. These resources should support local and regional smart growth planning and decision-making (such as maps to identify suitable reforestation locations, highest value cropland, and idle lands for farming).

*This section needs some copy editing. Conservation Advisory Commissions are tasked by state law with creating municipal Natural Resource Inventories: providing funding for CACs and providing technical assistance and grants would further this goal. These maps and inventories would need to be paired with help in developing local laws or other incentives to protect farmland and reforestation areas.*

## Chapter 21 Adaptation and Resilience

*This chapter is well written and comprehensive. There needs to be more emphasis on sea-level rise.*

### **AR1. Commit to Creating, Implementing, and Updating a Comprehensive and Equitable State Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan**

*Strategies in this section are very important.*

#### **Living Systems AR10, 11 and 12.**

*There should be mention of valuing ecosystem services, natural and nature-based solutions, tidal wetland migration, valuing ecosystem services and public trust doctrine.*