

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the draft Climate scoping plan. My name is Judith Myerson and I live in Pine Bush, New York, in the town of Mamakating. I am asking that you meet the goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, insure that our state has an effective and realistic plan in place to meet climate goals. By doing so we can serve as a model for other states and the world for a just transition to renewable energy and insure a future for humans and other species on Earth. While I am 72, and will not be here to see the results if we do not quickly shift our path, my grandchildren and their children will reap the consequences of our actions or inactions. We owe it to them to act ethically, morally, and comprehensively now, and do all that is possible to create a livable, sustainable, safe and equitable world for all.

INDUSTRY SECTOR:

Please include the following comments and recommendations in the Industry Sector of the plan. This will insure that the outcomes of this plan are driven by both climate and environmental justice, as required by, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA):

The final scoping plan must clarify that this chapter's objective is to promote climate and environmental justice, not business development.

The scoping plan emphasizes low-carbon procurement, workforce development, and incentive-based measures, and posits that near-term emissions reductions will come from energy efficiency and limited electrification, while longer-term reductions will depend on innovation including low-carbon fuels and carbon capture and storage (CCS).

As the Climate Justice Working Group emphasized, it is essential that BIPOC communities are involved in creating workforce development programs. Moreover, there must be support and leverage of public procurement to promote low-carbon materials; demand-side changes may be made to reduce materials waste.

The sector of this chapter must omit any reliance on carbon capture and sequestration, (CCS) which is not a true zero-emissions measure.

Furthermore, the final plan should call for a moratorium on "proof of work" cryptocurrency mining—an enormously energy-intensive industry that threatens our climate goals—until a full environmental impact statement can be completed.

Finally, industrial heat should be electrified wherever feasible. Reliance on green hydrogen must be severely limited, especially where hydrogen combustion would overburden disadvantaged communities. We need data collection and reporting requirements to accurately show how industrial facilities impact these communities.

REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH

This section lacks vital information on the public health impacts of industry on disadvantaged communities. While the sector mentions that combusting hydrogen can produce harmful levels of nitrous oxide emissions (NO_x), it does not address the other pollutants it produces. Current technologies that attempt to control emissions are far from ready. Further, the negative health impacts created by hydrogen disproportionately impacts disadvantaged and low-income communities.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The final scoping plan must clarify that climate and environmental justice is its main objective—not business development.
- We need to electrify. Industrial heat must be electrified wherever feasible and reliance on green hydrogen and hydrogen combustion needs to be drastically limited, as it continues to place an overwhelming burden on disadvantaged communities and are not long term solutions.
- I oppose reliance on carbon capture and sequestration, and I am calling for a moratorium on "proof of work" cryptocurrency mining until a full environmental impact statement is completed.
- If the state can focus on incentive based measures catered to energy efficiency, workforce development will thrive, emissions reductions standards will become feasible, and reaching our emission goals by 2050 will be possible.
- Demand-side changes must be leveraged to reduce materials waste.