

Comment on the CAC Scoping Plan

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Thanks for giving concerned New Yorkers a chance to comment on the Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan. I hope you will take our remarks seriously in finalizing this crucial document. I am writing as a lifelong New Yorker, a homeowner, a climate activist and a mom who wants an inhabitable planet for her children and grandchildren. Here are my comments on the scoping plan.

- We must, as a species on this beautiful planet, stop burning things! Thus, the scoping plan first and foremost must prohibit all new fossil fuel plants and any infrastructure build out (from plants to pipelines). NY has been dancing around and avoiding doing this for too many years. Time is running out — climate can't wait! In addition to banning any new fossil fuel infrastructure, the scoping plan must also address existing fossil fuel facilities and establish serious and enforced emissions reduction target timetables for them. If the scoping plan does not do this, how will we meet the mandates of the CLCPA? (We will not!)
- We know that buildings are the major source of GHG emissions in NY, so the scoping plan must match the New York City law banning gas hook ups in new construction starting in 2024 and, further, prioritize working to replace heating systems with electric heat pumps in at least 2 million homes by 2030. We have to go gas free. It's not an option to do anything else.
- It is a mind-boggling outrage that fossil fuel companies get taxpayer subsidies. This must stop! The scoping plan must eliminate them. How can our hard-earned dollars be given to the very industry that is killing our planet?
- We must have massive funding to meet the mandates of the CLCPA and insure environmental justice for those in frontline communities who have been most negatively impacted by the location of fossil fuel plants and other polluters in their communities. Additionally, we need a just transition for workers in the fossil fuel industry. These must all be a part of the scoping plan.
- The scoping plan must also include a ban (or at least a moratorium) on converting power plants to facilities that will use proof-of-work crypto mining—which we all know is an environmental disaster in many ways (excessive use of electricity often powered by fossil fuels, huge amounts of e-waste, warming of rivers and lakes). New York has far too many power plants that are ripe for the picking by this planet-destroying industry. We can't let this happen.
- We need to reduce solid waste through collection and composting of food scraps, a stringent set of rules for extended producer responsibility (we particularly need this for refrigerant-containing appliances), and a rejection of hazardous false solutions like "chemical recycling."

I know you are getting many written comments and are hearing from all of us who love NY and our planet at your hearings around the state. Please take our comments seriously. Thank you for all the work you have put into the scoping plan. It has many great aspects. Please use our comments to make it as strong as it needs to be.