

Policy Close Up

2022 Scorecard on New York's Progress Toward Its Climate Goals

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NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE ACT 2022 SCORECARD

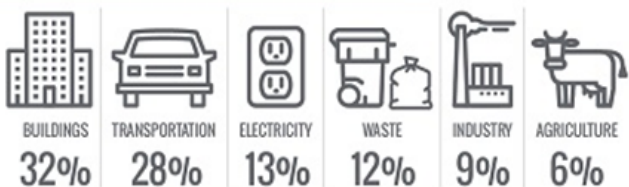
SUMMARY

New Yorkers have been told that their State will move aggressively to tackle the climate crisis. However, the State has not yet provided annual reporting on the progress that it is making toward those critical goals. Three years ago, the State promised progress. NYPIRG's *Scorecard* reviews publicly available information to chart the State's progress and will continue to do so until New York government produces its own. Findings highlight:

- The State is failing to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. It is imperative to meet legally mandated goals, guided by a recommended NYS 2022-2050 Climate Action Plan, Annual Progress Reports and Scorecards.
- The State is behind schedule in taking action on the largest greenhouse gas emission sectors of buildings and transportation.
- The State is on track with proposals to expand renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, energy storage and efficiency, however, the approval and implementation timetable is unclear.

Main Sources Of Greenhouse Gases in NYS

New York must reduce GHG emissions 85% by 2050



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Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 40% in 2030, and by 85% in 2050

Goals: The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) established goals to: reduce GHG emissions from 1990 levels by 40% in 2030; 85% in 2050; and to require 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040.

Current Data: The DEC's *2021 Statewide GHG Emissions Report* states New York reduced total statewide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by only 6% from 1990 levels.¹ In 2019, statewide gross GHG emissions were 379.43 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (mmt CO₂e) using CLCPA accounting.² All this data is based on more than two-year-old information from 2019. NYSERDA's on-line *Clean Energy Dashboard* shows a reduction of approximately 3 million metric tons of CO₂e emissions for 2020 and three-quarters of 2021. Neither agency provides clarifying information on how much these GHG reductions contribute to the 2030 GHG reduction goal which underscores the need for a *2022-2050 Climate Action Plan*. The PSC is starting to move forward by facilitating strategic planning for a statewide transition to non-fossil fuel heating systems for utilities.³

Improvements: GHG emission reductions must be greatly accelerated across all sectors, particularly from buildings (32% of GHG emissions) and transportation (28% of GHG emissions), and adequate funding must be established.⁴ Emissions reductions must exceed 4.25% annually until 2030. The DEC, DPS, NYSERDA, and PSC should immediately develop and release a comprehensive *2022-2050 Climate Action Plan* with sector-specific milestones, a timetable, and detailed actions, including necessary regulations, programs, legislation and funding, to proactively achieve the CLCPA goals, and annual *Scorecards* and *Progress Reports*.

Increasing Renewable Energy for Electricity

Goals: The CLCPA requires: 1) 70% renewable electricity and 40% GHG reduction by 2030; 2) 100% zero-emissions by 2040; and 3) 85 percent GHG reduction by 2050 from 1990 levels. It requires 6,000 megawatt (MW) distributed solar by 2025; 3,000 MW energy storage by 2030; and 9,000 MW offshore wind by 2035.⁵

Current Data: New York obtains 6.8% of its electricity from solar, wind and energy storage plants, ranking 31st in the nation.⁶ With the inclusion of hydropower, these combined resources provide 27.4% of the electric load.⁷ NYSERDA reports plans for a pipeline of "large-scale renewable generation projects" are expected to result in a 59% increase from 2020 to 2021, including offshore wind and solar incentive programs, noting 2021 was "the busiest construction year for new large-scale renewables in the State's history."⁸ In 2020, NYSERDA stated, "The combined renewable generation portfolio of operating, contracted, and awarded projects is expected to generate approximately 63% [of the required 70%] of New York State's projected 2030 electricity demand."⁹

Improvement: Recently awarded projects must move through to energy generation and transmission in a timely manner. The full and timely implementation of NYSERDA's planned renewable energy projects, and additional projects to close the 7% gap, are necessary to achieve the 2030 goal.

Expanding Solar Energy

Goal: The CLCPA goal requires 6,000 MW of distributed rooftop and community solar energy by 2025. In addition, NYSERDA and the DPS developed the *Distributed Solar Roadmap*, a pathway to achieve an expanded target of a total of 10,000 MW of distributed solar deployment by 2030.¹⁰

Current Data: New York has installed 3,585 MW of solar energy, with 666 MW in 2021 alone.¹¹ The Solar Energy Industries Association reports the state's solar energy is expected to grow 4,731 MW from 2022 - 2027.¹² NYSERDA reports that New York State is on track to achieve its 6,000 MW distributed solar target by 2025 with nearly 95% of the

projects either completed or at an advanced stage of development.¹³ The Roadmap recommends geographical and segment-based incentive blocks for the additional 4,000 MW target, with the balance achieved by solar projects.

Improvements: While projections are promising, in order to meet the CLCPA goal, New York must increase its annual installation to over 800 MW of solar per year to 2025.

Expanding Wind Energy

Goal: The CLCPA establishes a goal of 9,000 MW of wind energy by 2035.

Current Data: New York has installed 2,192 MW of wind energy.¹⁴ NYSERDA procured a “combined portfolio of over 4,186 MW” with an additional 132 MW from the South Fork Wind project in 2021.¹⁵ The agency also reported that, “The combined renewable generation portfolio ... is expected to generate approximately 63% [of the required 70%] of New York State’s projected 2030 electricity demand.”¹⁶ The agency has created a Wind Offshore Master Plan to determine the most responsible pathways for developing offshore wind energy, and it will be implemented in 2022.

Improvements: While projections are promising, the full and timely implementation of these plans are necessary to achieve the goal. New York must install over 485 MW of solar per year until 2035.

Expanding Energy Storage

Goals: The CLCPA requires 1,500 MW storage capacity by 2025, and 3,000 MW by 2030. In January 2022, Governor Hochul announced the state’s intention to double the State’s energy storage target to at least 6,000 MW by 2030.¹⁷

Current Data: The Public Service Law Section 74 directed the PSC to establish a statewide energy storage target and the agency adopted a suite of initiatives to achieve these goals. These goals were then codified in the CLCPA. The earlier law requires annual public reports on the achievements and effectiveness of this policy. In 2021, the PSC reported 1,230 MW in energy storage capacity, or about 82% of the 2025 target of 1,500 MW and 41% of the 2030 target of 3,000 MW of energy storage.¹⁸ DPS reports over 12,000 MW of energy storage projects are presently in “interconnection queues, although some of these projects may not be built due to unfavorable project-specific economics and for other reasons.” The DPS recommended that “no corrective actions are necessary at this time,” and reported that they are working with NYSERDA to update the Energy Storage Roadmap to reflect the expanded goal of 6,000 MW.¹⁹

Improvements: While projections are promising, interconnection hold ups must be ameliorated and New York must add at least 90 MW of storage capacity per year until 2025.

Improving Energy Efficiency Standards

Goal: In 2018, the Governor set an efficiency target for reduction of energy use in buildings of 185 trillion Btu, with a sub-target of 3% annual electric efficiency savings by 2025. This target was codified in the CLCPA.

Current Data: New York consumed 3,354 trillion British thermal units (Btu) of energy, as of 2020.²⁰ The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy ranked the State 5th in energy efficiency in 2020 (2019 data), and due to the pandemic did not rank states in 2021.²¹ NYSERDA reports that meeting new energy efficiency targets delivers nearly one-third of the GHG emissions reductions needed to meet the State’s climate goal of 40% reduction by 2030, and called on the State’s investor-owned utilities to achieve more in both scale and innovation.²²

Improvements: The State put into effect a voluntary NYStretch Code 2020, however, more needs to be done as the agency stated in its 2020 report that “The State’s investor-owned utilities have been called on to achieve more in both scale and innovation through their energy efficiency activities.”²³

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- ¹ Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) *2021 Statewide GHG Emissions Report*, Pg. 8, https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/ghgsumrpt21.pdf
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Public Service Commission, News Release, 5/12/2022, [https://www3.dps.ny.gov/pscweb/WebFileRoom.nsf/Web/8240969C7564FBD485258840005DBC35/\\$File/pr22043.pdf?OpenElement](https://www3.dps.ny.gov/pscweb/WebFileRoom.nsf/Web/8240969C7564FBD485258840005DBC35/$File/pr22043.pdf?OpenElement)
- ⁴ DEC Website as of June 23, 2022, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/99223.html>
- ⁵ Climate Action Council, *Draft Scoping Plan Overview*, Pg. 150, <https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act/Draft-Scoping-Plan>
- ⁶ American Clean Power website as of 6/23/2022, <https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/New-York-clean-energy-factsheet.pdf>
- ⁷ NYS Energy Research & Development Agency, *Clean Energy Standard Annual Progress Report: 2020 Compliance Year*, Pg. S-1, <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/.../CES-2020-annual.ashx>
- ⁸ Ibid, Pg. S-2 and 17.
- ⁹ Ibid, S-1.
- ¹⁰ Governor Kathy Hochul, News Release, 4/14/2022, <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Newsroom/2022-Announcements/2022-04-14-Governor-Hochul-Announces-New-Framework-to-Achieve-Ten-Gigawatts-of-Distributed-Solar>
- ¹¹ Solar Energy Industries Association, *NY Solar Fact Sheet*, <https://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/New%20York%20Solar-Factsheet-2022-Q2.pdf>
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ NYS Energy Research & Development Agency, *Clean Energy Standard Annual Progress Report: 2020 Compliance Year*, Pg. S-1, <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/CES-2020-annual.ashx>
- ¹⁴ U.S Department of Energy WindExchange, *Wind Energy in New York*, accessed 6/23/2022, <https://windexchange.energy.gov/states/ny>
- ¹⁵ NYS Energy Research & Development Agency, *Clean Energy Standard Annual Progress Report: 2020 Compliance Year*, Pg. 7, <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/.../CES-2020-annual.ashx>
- ¹⁶ Ibid, Pg. S-1
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ NYS Public Service Commission, 4/1/2022, State of Storage Report, <https://www.bing.com/search?q=nyserda+annual+state+of+storage+report&cvid=90a3ca5ee5b248a5aa8806b1d8b5c78d&aqs=edge.0.0j69i64l2.7483j0j1&pglt=41&FORM=ANNTA1&PC=DCTS>
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ U.S. Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/state/data.php?sid=NY>
- ²¹ ACEEE, *2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard: New York*, https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/AEEE_ScrSht20_NewYork.pdf and ACEEE *2021 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard Progress Report*, <https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/u2201.pdf>
- ²² NYS Energy Research & Development Agency, *Clean Energy Standard Annual Progress Report: 2020 Compliance Year*, <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/CES-2020-annual.ashx>
- ²³ Ibid.