



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, in the past four years, New Yorkers have endured some of the most severe weather events in our history, their catastrophic results leading to the stark realization that extreme weather is the new normal; we have witnessed firsthand the destructive force of powerful storms and extreme weather events that have crippled the state, from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, to Superstorm Sandy in 2012, to Niagara County and Mohawk Valley flooding in 2013; each of them has taken an immeasurable toll in terms of the loss of precious lives and the destruction of homes and businesses, prompting increased attention to the issue of climate change; and

Whereas, recent events demand that we get serious about climate change once and for all by acting proactively instead of reactively by reducing emissions that cause climate change; and

Whereas, New York State has been a national leader in reducing emissions through the implementation of innovative policies and programs such as joining the nation's first program to use an innovative market-based mechanism to cap and cost-effectively reduce carbon dioxide emissions that cause climate change called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI); and

Whereas, because of the leadership of New York State, the RGGI cap was lowered in 2013 to further reduce the harmful effects of emissions; and

Whereas, New York State also is a leader in energy efficiency and clean renewable energy, including the Renewable Portfolio Standard; Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard; the New York Green Bank; NY-Sun Initiative; Charge NY; BuildSmart NY; Renewable Heat NY; NY Prize; 5 Cities Energy Master Plans; the Cleaner, Greener Communities program; the Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Act; and regulatory changes envisioned in Reforming the Energy Vision (REV); and

Whereas, New York State has launched a \$17 billion strategy to transform New York's infrastructure, transportation networks, energy supply, coastal protection, weather warning system, and emergency management to better protect New Yorkers from the impact of climate change, including future extreme weather; the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery is utilizing over \$4 billion in flexible funding provided by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to enable homeowners, small businesses, and 66 communities affected by recent storms to build back stronger and more resilient than before; and

Whereas, the issue of climate change takes center stage in New York City as leaders in government, business, and civil society gather during the sixth annual Climate Week to collaborate on low carbon initiatives, to mobilize the worldwide population to become engaged in this effort, and to keep global warming a universal theme of discussion in today's world; in support of this critical cause, all people in New York State join in the goals of this weeklong observance; and

Whereas, New York State will not allow the national paralysis over climate change to stop us from pursuing the necessary path for the future;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim the week of September 22 - 28, 2014 as

CLIMATE WEEK

and call upon international business, financial, and civic leaders of the world to unite in a common goal and commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as necessary to avoid catastrophic climate change, and to make our nations and communities more resilient to climate hazards.

Given under my hand and the privy seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-first day of September in the year two thousand fourteen.



Governor

Secretary to the Governor