



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, environmental protection extends beyond all geographic boundaries and requires our collective commitment to safeguard our drinking water, maintain clean and healthy air, develop renewable energy sources, and conserve open spaces – and in this spirit, all New Yorkers join in the 53rd anniversary celebration of Earth Day and to reflect on the responsibility each of us has to preserve our environmental heritage for the future; and

Whereas, addressing the urgent threat of climate change guides New York State's national leadership with our federal and local partners to improve protections for communities, wildlife, and natural resources, and New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) sets targets for 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035, 6,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030, and 10,000 megawatts of distributed solar by 2030 as we strive for 70 percent renewable energy production by 2030, 100 percent zero-emission electricity by 2040, and an 85 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and

Whereas, the Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan, which outlines recommendations for actions to help New York meet the goals of the Climate Act, helps set a course for New York to advance our clean energy future, support healthier communities, and combat climate change through the reduction of harmful greenhouse gas emissions, the growth of a clean energy economy, and creation of jobs through increased investments in renewable energy; and

Whereas, New York is advancing one of the largest public renewable energy portfolios in the nation with 120 large-scale renewable and transmission projects across the state and is reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality by adopting zero-emission vehicle regulations, including requiring all new passenger cars and trucks sold in the state be zero emission by 2035; and

Whereas, a fair and equitable clean energy transition that benefits all communities includes advancing climate and environmental justice and, with the finalization of the disadvantaged communities criteria, New York State is directing at least 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of the benefits of clean energy investments toward disadvantaged communities through programs like the statewide community air monitoring program and clean energy hubs; and

Whereas, protecting clean water is a top priority, and New York has proven this through its clean water infrastructure investments, with additional resources made available for local and statewide projects that put people to work protecting drinking water sources, combatting harmful algal blooms, and addressing emerging and legacy contaminants in water and the environment by cleaning up polluted sites across the state; and

Whereas, to address growing global challenges in recycling and improving waste management, New York State promotes reuse to reduce harmful emissions that contribute to climate change, successfully implementing a statewide organic material recycling program to recycle food scraps and donate wholesome food to New Yorkers in need, and undertaking expanded efforts to improve recycling and develop new markets for recyclable materials; and

Whereas, to ensure New York's continued stewardship of our environmental treasures, including forests, lands, lakes, rivers, and streams, the State created and maintains the Environmental Protection Fund, providing significant resources for the conservation of open space that provides wildlife habitat, reduces carbon, mitigates flooding, protects water supplies, and provides abundant public recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, these investments will be bolstered by the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, a \$4.2-billion, once-in-a-generation opportunity approved by New York voters in 2022 to support critical projects that will further protect water quality, preserve our state's natural beauty, address the impacts of climate change, and secure a more resilient future for many generations to come; and

Whereas, with the support and partnership of our federal partners, New York State is well-positioned to leverage federal funds provided by the 2022 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act to advance our ambitious climate objectives and reduce our impact on the planet -- an effort that reflects the State's recognition of the urgency of the climate crisis; and

Whereas, Earth Day was created in 1970 to focus on the health of our planet and the importance of environmental stewardship, safeguarding our natural resources to ensure present and future generations will have a clean, healthy world to live, work, and recreate in, and New York respectfully joins in the international celebration of this Earth Day 2023;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2023 as

EARTH DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twentieth day
of April in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh