

Clean Energy Standard Endorsements

Lisa Dix, New York Senior Representative for the Sierra Club said, "The Clean Energy Standard is a monumental step forward in ensuring the Governor achieves his ambitious 50 percent by 2030 renewable energy goal. Governor Cuomo has shown his commitment to climate leadership by moving New York, and the nation, towards a renewable energy future, while at the same time creating thousands of jobs across the state, protecting ratepayers from volatile fossil fuel prices, and improving New Yorkers' public health and environment."

Kit Kennedy, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's energy and transportation program said, "This is a historic day for renewable energy progress in New York and the nation. New York now joins California in requiring that 50 percent of the state's energy comes from renewable energy resources like solar and wind by 2030. We look forward to working with Governor Cuomo and others to achieve and surpass the target well before 2030 to give New Yorkers a rapid and orderly transition to a truly sustainable and pollution-free energy future that moves beyond risky fossil fuels and nuclear power."

Marcia Bystryn, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters said, "Today, Governor Cuomo and his administration are demonstrating New York's global leadership role on climate change with its comprehensive plan to support clean and renewable energy sources. These actions will ensure we reduce harmful emissions and build a stronger economy. We applaud Governor Cuomo for establishing the nation-leading Clean Energy Standard and laying out a real plan to supply 50 percent of the state's electricity with renewable resources by 2030."

Climate scientist Dr. James Hansen, Columbia University said, "I applaud Governor Cuomo, the New York Public Service Commissioners and the labor and community leaders for achieving this important victory to protect New York's nuclear plants and thus the planet from climate change. Doing the right thing is sometimes controversial, and that was the case here. Renewable energies, which I strongly support, continue to receive far more in subsidies than nuclear power, but in the minds of many people any support for nuclear is too much. As such, what Governor Cuomo and the Commissioners did was an act of courage, putting the common good ahead of political expediency. Governor Cuomo, by banning fracking and supporting nuclear power, has put himself head and shoulders above other Governors, showing that he is able to make tough scientifically justified decisions for the benefit of the environment and the future of young people. California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Ohio and other states around the nation should take notice of what real climate action looks like."

Peter Iwanowicz, executive director at Environmental Advocates of New York said, "New York has set visionary climate and clean energy goals—what was missing was the requirement to turn them into action for the electricity sector. The Clean Energy Standard establishes aggressive benchmarks that utilities must meet on renewables. It's not a suggestion; it is a requirement. We applaud the Public Service Commission for

beginning to operationalize the Governor's commitments, and look forward to the administration's next steps on offshore wind power, expanding energy efficiency, and developing an economy-wide climate action plan."

Anne Reynolds, Executive Director, Alliance for Clean Energy New York said, "Governor Cuomo's commitment to reach 50% renewable electricity by 2030 can dramatically change and modernize the energy landscape in New York, sending a strong signal to attract new private investment in renewables, like wind and solar. The Clean Energy Standard will allow New York to be ahead of the curve in creating clean energy jobs in the renewable energy industry."

Karl R. Rábago, Executive Director, Pace Energy and Climate Center said, "While the long-term goal for New York should be to replace the state's existing nuclear fleet with renewables that are additional to the CES target, over the next 12 years, the Governor's plan to support the state's nuclear fleet will ensure that New York is able to achieve its carbon emissions targets while making rapid progress towards the CES goal. Without emission-free generation from the Upstate nuclear fleet it is reasonable to expect a large portion of it to be replaced with in-state or imported fossil-fuel based power. This would minimize the emissions impacts of the CES while making it more difficult for New York to achieve the State Energy Plan's overall emissions target."

Stuart F. Gruskin, chief conservation and external affairs officer for The Nature Conservancy in New York said, "Mandating that clean energy goals be achieved by 2030 cements New York's role as a leader in addressing climate change. This important policy declaration comes at a critical time, and, as our recent research demonstrates, the State's renewable energy goal is supported by a vast majority of New Yorkers. We appreciate Governor Cuomo's and the Public Service Commission's continuing commitment to battling climate change and comprehensive focus on energy and the environment."

Jules Kortenhorst, CEO, and Lena Hansen, Managing Director, Rocky Mountain Institute said, "We congratulate New York for taking another bold step towards transforming its electricity system for a better and cleaner future. Its 50% renewable energy mandate demonstrates a smart, pragmatic approach to embracing change, which complements the state's leadership through REV to modernize the electricity system."

Mario Cilento, President of the New York State AFL-CIO said, "We applaud Governor Cuomo for taking the lead in recognizing that nuclear energy must remain a part of the state's clean energy plan. Existing nuclear facilities play a critical role in ensuring we are safely able to achieve clean energy goals while at the same time maintaining jobs in those communities where nuclear facilities exist. The clean energy standard sets a high but realistic goal that will show the nation we can fight climate change while preserving jobs at our existing nuclear plants and create new jobs as we build a clean energy economy for the future."

Phil Wilcox, Business Representative of Local 97 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers said, "Protection of existing zero-carbon generation and rewarding major new renewable energy investments in an extremely cost effective manner makes the Clean Energy Standard truly remarkable and a national and world model. To continue the existing power markets and do nothing to address the costs from the likes of Hurricane Sandy would be cowardly and irresponsible."

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers said, "Governor Cuomo's Clean Energy Standard boldly addresses climate change while creating well-paying jobs across New York State by investing in the state's renewable energy capacity. It will also preserve millions of dollars in tax payments to schools, protect thousands of high paying jobs, and create new opportunities for economic growth and innovation across the state. Today's action demonstrates that one can both protect the climate and create jobs and economic growth through balanced climate change policy that will benefit our communities now and protect our children's future."

Fred Kowal, President, United University Professions said, "Today's announcement by the Governor is just another example of his forward-looking agenda. Having 50% of all energy in New York State be renewable by 2030 will provide benefits to many aspects of the economy including higher education, as they strive to offer more programs and train more workers in clean energy."