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Completion of New York's 11 Public Hearings on Climate Plan

May 24, 2022

The Climate Action Council (CAC) held [11 public hearings](#) throughout April and May to receive public input on the Draft Scoping Plan, the initial framework for how the State will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, achieve net-zero emissions, increase renewable energy usage, and do so in a just manner. [Written feedback](#) is still possible until June 11th. All feedback will be used to create the Final Scoping Plan, which will guide the implementation the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). As the Climate Act requires, the Final Scoping Plan will be posted online and delivered to the Governor and Legislature by January 1st, 2023.

Policy Analyst and Director of Large Scale Renewables, Kyle Rabin, represented ACENY at the April 6th meeting at Brookhaven Town Hall. His comments highlighted that ACE NY supports the State's permitting regime and plan to streamline cost-effective, timely and environmentally responsible siting for large-scale wind and solar projects and encourages the State to continue facilitating collaboration between the renewable energy industry and the farming community.

Fred Zalzman, Director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance (NYOWA), an ACE NY initiative, spoke at the April 5th meeting held at Bronx Community College. His comments were focused on the Plan's offshore wind-related elements, emphasizing the success of offshore wind in New York and the potential it has in serving as the cornerstone of the transition to a decarbonized grid.

Deb Peck Kelleher, Director of Policy at ACE NY, spoke at the May 10th Tupper Lake hearing with remarks focused on building electrification and the need for continued and accelerated energy efficiency investment and standards. She also touched on the need for aggressive deployment of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

Kathleen Gasperini, Director of Communications and Marketing, highlighted the need for increasing outreach and education on the Climate Action Plan, especially in Upstate NY where much of the siting will take place, and the importance of engaging community supporters of renewable energy into the siting and collaboration process.

Many ACE NY members also represented over the course of the hearings, lending supportive comments on various aspects of the Plan. The remainder of the in-person meetings were held on April 26th, April 27th, May 3rd, and May 12th in Syracuse, Buffalo, Brooklyn, and Peekskill, respectively. The virtual sessions were held on May 7th and May 11th. Recordings of all hearings can be found on the [CAC website](#).

Union members from utility sectors expressed concern about potential job losses, while various groups in support of the transition expressed that the plan would create new union jobs and increase job opportunities overall. Other common concerns included a lack of infrastructure to support the transition, grid reliability, and unknown costs to consumers. Supporters of the Plan such as those representing ACE NY addressed such concerns, improving public awareness on how the Plan will benefit not only the environment but the job sector and disadvantaged communities as well.

NY has [posted talking points](#) for members to consider for public comment. Comments can be submitted via the online [public comment forum](#), via email to scopingplan@nyserda.ny.gov, or via U.S. Mail addressed to:

Draft Scoping Plan Comments
NYSERDA, 17 Columbia Circle
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