

Declaring Support for the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

WHEREAS, the Sixth Assessment of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finds that climate change is causing dangerous and widespread climate and environmental disruption affecting the health and welfare of billions of people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC Assessment concludes that rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are must occur in this critical decade, to limit global warming to within 1.5°C and 2°C in this century; and

WHEREAS, the New York State legislature recognized the urgent need to reduce and eliminate GHG emissions in the atmosphere in passing the **2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act** ("Climate Act") committing the State of New York to:

- reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent by 2030 below 1990 levels, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;
- meet 70 percent of electricity needs from renewable resources by 2030, and 100 percent of electricity needs from zero-emissions resources by 2040;
- ensure a just and equitable transition that leaves no one behind, and dedicate up to 40 percent of the benefits of clean energy investments to Disadvantaged Communities; and

WHEREAS, the New York State **Climate Action Council** has approved for public comment a **Draft Scoping Plan** to meet the State's climate and equity goals; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Scoping Plan calls for shifting to **energy-efficient electrification** in buildings and transportation as the primary solution to replace fossil-fuel combustion in these sectors, which together account for 60 percent of carbon emissions in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Scoping Plan calls for a **phase-down of emissions** from fossil fuel-fired electricity generation, while ensuring support and protections for impacted workers as they transition to clean energy jobs;

WHEREAS, the 2021 Jobs Study by the Just Transition Working Group for the NYS Climate Action Council estimates that meeting the climate goals of the State of New York will result in a **net gain of jobs** across the State of New York by 2030, alone, with a ratio of jobs gained to jobs displaced of 10 to 1; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Scoping Plan includes measures that would expand the development of renewable resources and battery storage, encourage "agrivoltaics," or the co-location of agricultural activities with solar and wind, and provide resources to communities to assist with **renewable siting and land-use planning**; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Scoping Plan recognizes the critical role that rural landscapes play, both natural and working lands, in sequestering carbon emissions and enabling the State of New York to achieve net-zero emissions, and the importance of agricultural land preservation, open space protection, support for farmers to improve soil health, and policies that expand afforestation and reforestation and incentivize and assist private landowners in implementing sustainable forest management practices; and

WHEREAS, the Integration Analysis for the Scoping Plan finds that meeting emissions reduction goals of the Climate Act is technically feasible and will have the additional and significant benefit of **improving public health** by eliminating co-pollutants from fossil fuel combustion, resulting in an estimated \$50 to \$120 billion in health-related savings by 2050; and

WHEREAS, according to NYSERDA, over half of what New Yorkers currently spend on energy leaves the State of New York, mostly to purchase fossil fuels and our communities would be better served by keeping energy spending primarily within the **local economy**; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Town of Chatham affirms the critical **importance of meeting the emissions and equity goals** of the Climate Act, which will help mitigate dangerous warming while delivering the additional benefits of improving public health, economic opportunities, agricultural land and open space protection, and quality of life for the people of the Town of Chatham; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Chatham declares its support for **prohibiting an expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure**, which contradicts the goals of the Climate Act, and for transitioning to efficient electricity-based solutions for buildings and transportation; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Chatham supports the recommendations of the Draft Scoping Plan for **advanced building codes** that will improve the energy efficiency of new buildings, creating healthier living and work environments while reducing monthly energy costs; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Chatham supports the recommendations of the Draft Scoping Plan to phase in code requirements **prohibiting on-site combustion of fossil fuels in new buildings** over a 2024-2027 period; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Town of Chatham calls on the Climate Action Council to include in the Scoping Plan incentives and financing assistance to **help owners of existing buildings** improve energy efficiency and transition to zero-emissions equipment, ensuring cost parity with fossil systems; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Clerk shall forward copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, President of NYSERDA, Chair of the NYS Public Service Commission, the NYS Climate Action Council, and Members of the State Senate and Assembly representing the Town of Chatham.

For municipalities with gas-line hook-up:

RESOLVED, the Town of _____ supports a managed transition of the utility gas system that maintains affordable, safe, and reliable utility service and protects low- and moderate-income households from an undue burden in the transition; and be it further

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For municipalities with public transportation:

RESOLVED, the Town of _____ urges the Climate Action Council to include in the Scoping Plan recommendations to expand assistance for all-electric upstate municipal transit systems; and, be it further