What does the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act do?

Protects our planet
The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) states that New York must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 85%, and be completely carbon-neutral, by 2050. It also sets interim benchmarks for these goals.

Invests in marginalized communities
The bill states that 35% of the benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency funding must go to "disadvantaged" communities: typically low-income communities and communities of color hit first and worst by the climate crisis.

Sets renewable energy targets for NY State
Under the CLCPA, 70% of our electricity must come from renewable sources by 2030. By 2025, we must increase our solar capacity by 250%, and by 2035, we must build enough offshore wind to power 6 million homes.

Who's making this happen?

Climate Action Council
22 people, including representatives from relevant state agencies and people appointed by the legislature and the governor, who come up with the plan to make NY fossil fuel free by 2050. Advised by the working groups.

Just Transition Working Group
Makes sure that green jobs are good jobs, jobs are available to underrepresented groups, workforce disruption is minimized.

Climate Justice Working Group
ID's "disadvantaged communities" for funding opportunities through the bill. For example: areas burdened by pollution.

Other Advisory Groups
Advisory groups made up of experts. Groups include: transportation, local government, housing, agriculture, and others.
When does this go into effect?

July - December 2019: Appointments to the Climate Action Council (CAC)

2020-2022: CAC works with advisory groups to create draft scoping plan to decarbonize NY

2022: Opportunities for public comment on the scoping plan & revisions

January 2023: Final scoping plan due and implemented; revised every 5 years

How will this impact my community?

Many of the details will be worked out by the Climate Action Council, but we anticipate New Yorkers will see the following changes:

Transportation
To reach our emissions goals, NY State will invest in better public transportation not just in NYC, but upstate and on Long Island. We will increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations and electric cars will become cheaper.

Homes and buildings
There will be incentives for home and property owners to invest in efficiency and weatherization, so buildings will require less energy to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. State and city-owned buildings will do the same.

Public health and air quality
Rates of asthma and other respiratory illness will go down, particularly in neighborhoods near power plants and highways. The CLCPA creates new air quality monitoring requirements to make sure we have clean air for all NYers.

Jobs and Industry
New jobs will become available installing solar panels, maintaining wind turbines, and retrofitting buildings. Studies predict that implementing the CLCPA will create up to 150,000 good jobs for New Yorkers over the next 10 years.

How can I get involved?

NY passed the boldest climate law in the country because of 4 years of organizing, lobbying, and advocacy by NY Renews and our nearly 200 member organizations, and we're not done fighting. We need to make sure the CLCPA is implemented in line with our vision of climate justice and a 100% renewable New York. Get involved through NY Renews (www.nyrenews.org), or check out any of our nearly 200 member organizations in your area (www.nyrenews.org/our-coalition)