



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Sierra Club Guide on Testifying at Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

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Background

The New York Climate Action Council Scoping Plan is a document that lays out our pathway to a clean economy in NY state. There are going to be ten hearings (eight virtual) across the state to discuss this plan. More information about the plan can be found below, but it is important that everyone who cares about climate action speak out at these hearings.

The opposition – the fossil fuel industry and its allies – is mobilizing to oppose climate action and weaken our nation-leading climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. It's our job to ensure that decision-makers like Gov. Kathy Hochul see that **more people support climate action (and want the plan to be even stronger) than oppose it.**

How to Speak Out at a Hearing

[Register using this link \(click through\).](#)

After signing up, be sure to promptly attend the hearing and wait to hear your name called to give testimony. <https://nyserda.seamlessdocs.com/f/PublicHearings>

Note that it is not necessary to register ahead of time for the in-person hearings, but it is highly recommended.

Hearings (date, time, location)

There are **eight hearings** planned in person and two virtual hearings. [More Info Here](#)

Date and time	Area	Location
Tuesday April 5 4:00pm	Bronx	Bronx Community College Roscoe Brown Student Center Hall of Fame Playhouse
Wednesday April 6 4:00pm	Brookhaven	Brookhaven Town Hall 1 Independence Hill Farmingville, NY 11738
Tuesday April 12 4:00pm	Binghamton	Binghamton University Symposium Hall 85 Murray Hill Rd Vestal, NY 13850
Thursday April 14 4:00pm	Albany	Empire State Plaza, Meeting Room 6 Albany, NY 12242
Tuesday April 26 4:00pm	Syracuse	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Gateway Center 1 Forestry Drive Syracuse, NY 13210
Wednesday April 27 3:30pm	Buffalo	Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Mason O. Damon Auditorium 1 Lafayette Square Buffalo, NY 14203
Tuesday May 3 4:00pm	Brooklyn	New York City College of Technology The Theater at City Tech 285 Jay Street Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tuesday May 10 4:00pm:	Tupper Lake	The Wild Center 45 Museum Drive Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Tips for Your Testimony

- **Identify yourself as a Sierra Club member, supporter, or volunteer!**
- Remember - 2 minute time limit! 1 minute = 150 words; **keep your remarks under 300 words if you want to have the full time.**
- Practicing can help you feel confident.
- Make it personal - talk about why this matters to you. What are your hopes or fears? What experiences have you had?
- Include a few key facts, but **don't worry about including highly technical information**. The state has this information. They're looking for testimony that represents the perspective of everyday New Yorkers.

→Take a minute to think about...

- Why do you want to stop climate change? What do you want to protect?
- What do you love about your community? What do you fear about the future?
- What dreams or hopes do you have for a clean economy future? What do people do for work? What are their homes like? What does your neighborhood or town look like? How do you get around? What can you do now that you couldn't do before?

Major, High-Priority Talking Points

- **“New Yorkers support climate action and the CLCPA, with no compromises.”** We want to see a full and complete transition to a clean economy by 2050, with a zero-emissions electric grid by 2040 and a clear, detailed roadmap toward a fully electrified transportation sector.
- **“The scoping plan must be stronger on gas.”** We need a clear moratorium on new fossil fuel plants, clear deadlines for phasing out dirty energy and procuring renewables, a 2024 mandate for all-electric new building construction, and a massive investment in getting existing homes off fossil fuels. *We cannot solve this problem and meet our mandate without stopping the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, from pipelines to power plants.*
- **“In addition, I am concerned about...”** [Select talking points from any of the following documents]
 - [Energy Sector One Pager](#)
 - [Transportation Sector One Pager](#)
 - [Heating/Cooling/Buildings Sector One Pager](#)
 - [Lands and Forest One Pager](#)
 - [Waste Sector One Pager](#)

With Supporting Points:

- **New Yorkers support climate action and the CLCPA, with no compromises.** We want to see a full and complete transition to a clean economy by 2050, with a

zero-emissions electric grid by 2040 and a clear, detailed roadmap toward a fully electrified transportation sector.

- The plan's analysis shows that this is possible, and that we can fully phase out fossil fuel combustion.
- Analysis by the Climate Action Council shows that it will save New York and New Yorkers money - over \$90B compared to inaction.
- This will also create jobs: The net job impact of a full transition would be an addition of over 189,000 jobs.
- It will also protect our health. Even absent the health implications of climate change, combustion – burning fuels – is a massive contributor to both indoor and outdoor air pollution.
 - This pollution causes asthma and triggers asthma attacks;
 - This pollution is connected with higher risks of severe outcomes from COVID-19
 - This pollution increases the risk of heart and lung disease.
- **The scoping plan must be stronger on gas.** We need a clear moratorium on new fossil fuel plants, clear deadlines for phasing out dirty energy and procuring renewables, a 2024 mandate for all-electric new building construction, and a massive investment in getting existing homes off fossil fuels. *We cannot solve this problem and meet our mandate without stopping the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, from pipelines to power plants.*
 - We do not need new fossil fuel power plants to meet our electricity needs, especially as new large-scale renewable energy projects are about to come online.
 - We must begin a massive investment in retro-fitting existing homes. We need 2 million NY homes retrofit for energy efficiency and electric heating and cooling by 2030, and a roadmap from the plan to make it happen. *Retrofits will make our homes better, safer places to live (removing mold, lead, asbestos) as well as protecting our climate.*
 - The final scoping plan must set a 2024 deadline for all-electric new construction. It doesn't make sense to build new gas-reliant buildings when we have the technology for electric heating, cooling, and cooking, and the gas distribution networks must be phased out anyways to meet our climate mandates.
 - New Yorkers need Scenario 3 of the draft plan: Accelerated Electrification + limited combustion of alternative fuels

What to Expect

Virtual Hearings:

You can expect that there will be many people on these calls, and that they will give you - at most - a heads up one or two people before you're in line to speak. They typically call elected officials first.

Because these are virtual, you can feel free to call in to the hearings and listen in while you do whatever you want - dishes, house tasks, busy work, anything else.

You can choose to join via the WebEx online platform or by phone. If you join by phone, you will be asked to raise your hand when they call your name by pressing *3. They will unmute you; make sure to unmute your phone as well (if you have muted it).

There may be some opposition - people speaking in support of fossil fuel infrastructure, false solutions, etc. Typically, this will be from either fossil fuel industry folks or chambers of commerce/business interests. If we do our work right, they will be a very small minority.

In-Person hearings:

These might be packed with people - it's hard to know what to expect! There will be people who are concerned about a broad variety of issues, with a huge variety of familiarity.

In some locations, we are expecting opposition. We know that the fossil fuel industry - including the American Petroleum Institute - is trying to get comments *against* climate action, and possibly even hearing attendance. It is always best to be positive and keep your cool, even if the hearings become contentious.

Typically, elected officials are called first; then, we expect it to go by order of registration. If you sign up in person, you will likely be towards the end. We do not know how long these will go.

We are working to find “hearing captains” for each in-person hearing. Those volunteers would get a list of Sierra Club attendees and a big box of visual resources (buttons, etc). They would be responsible for taking attendance of Sierra Club members and supporters who speak out, and handing out materials to anyone interested.

If you would like to be a hearing captain, please contact Shay O'Reilly (shay.oreilly@sierraclub.org) or Jes Enzmann (jessica.enzmann@sierraclub.org).

Sector Specific One Pagers

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