

New York State Climate Action Council

**Statement of Thomas Falcone, Chief Executive Officer of the
Long Island Power Authority**

December 19, 2022

Thank you, Chairs Harris and Seggos and fellow Climate Action Council members for the opportunity to make a statement today.

My name is Thomas Falcone, and I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Long Island Power Authority, the non-profit, public power utility that provides electricity to 1.2 million customers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and the Rockaways.

This Council's mission was to reduce New York State's carbon footprint, make our communities more resilient, and support our economy with well-paying clean energy jobs.

It has been my pleasure to serve with you over the last 30 months to advance this important work. The Council's Scoping Plan is an impressive and substantial effort that furthers our mission.

Even more important is the work to come to implement this ambitious plan until the next Council meets to begin its work in a few years. The Scoping Plan provides appropriate guidance to the regulatory agencies, which now have much work to do before we meet again.

Often when I speak to public audiences, their sentiment is that our clean energy transition is in the future. But we are well on our way. For example, our efforts are significantly decarbonizing the electric grid today. On Long Island, the carbon emissions of the electric grid will decline by more than 70% by 2030. This clean electricity will serve as the fuel of the future for heating, transportation, and other sectors of the economy.

No doubt this Scoping Plan requires a significant investment in the future. But the clean energy transition will allow New Yorkers to save "green" and be "green" at the same time. LIPA for its part is helping its customers save both money and carbon by switching from oil heat to a heat pump, or from an internal combustion engine to an electric vehicle. And those customers see the savings.

Meanwhile, there are some things that despite our best efforts, we can't know today but that will become important to this effort over the years to come. Decades-long projections are a feature of electric utility planning and in my experience looking back at past plans is humbling because many things simply aren't predictable, like the cost and pace of new technology. The good news is that technological progress often comes faster and cheaper than projected.

We have also struck the right balance in this Scoping Plan of adopting actionable recommendations to guide the State's regulatory agencies while leaving future Councils to make decisions with better information than is now available. If we accomplish all that we have planned over the next five years, New Yorkers will have much to be proud of.

Finally, I would like to thank both our Chairs and our staff. They are dedicated public servants of the first order. It is only through their efforts that progress is possible. I wish all my Council members a happy holiday and a safe and joyous new year.