From: Joanna Taylor (joanna.t.taylor@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: NY Scoping Plan: We Want Our Voices Heard
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Dear Scoping Plan,

Dear Climate Action Council,

In order for the final Scoping Plan to fulfill its potential, you must take a stronger stand on the sources of pollution and include language specifying regulation of companies contributing to it. In addition, there should be clear metrics and intermediate benchmarks in a number of areas.?

The following issues must be addressed in the final scoping plan adopted by the state:?

* Clean electricity: The final scoping plan must prioritize emissions-free, renewable energy and energy storage technologies over false solutions for the electric sector like ?renewable natural gas? and hydrogen, and set year-by-year goals for scaling up new solar and wind farms and battery storage facilities. It must set enforceable interim targets for retiring existing fossil fuel plants, and direct regulations to enforce year-by-year emission reductions from burning fossil fuels, prioritizing disadvantaged communities, while putting a moratorium on all new fossil fuel plants. The plan should emphasize the necessity of full staffing at relevant state agencies. Finally, it must define policies that support meaningful consultation with indigenous nations.?
* Clean Transportation: The final scoping plan must include a more detailed roadmap to a fully electrified transportation sector, with clear roles and responsibilities for agencies to meet those electrification targets. This must include removing barriers to sales of electric vehicles, making buildings EV-ready, supporting charging infrastructure for medium and heavy duty vehicles, and increasing EV affordability and accessibility, particularly for members of disadvantaged communities. The final scoping plan must also identify a suite of policies for reducing vehicle miles traveled.
* Waste: The draft scoping plan recognizes the importance of making manufacturers responsible for the garbage they create and also highlights the need for a strong statewide organics/food waste reduction program. The final plan must include a robust Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program: a focus on ensuring producers are fiscally responsible for their waste that does not interfere with NYS?s beverage container law, and where materials collected do not end up in landfills and/or incinerators. Additionally, the final plan should highlight and align with the goals of the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation?s (DEC) Solid Waste Management Plan. As we grapple with the impacts of a changing climate, we must recognize that consumption without planning is not sustainable, and makes the crisis worse.?
* Lands and Forests: New York?s amazing landscapes are an ally in fighting climate change, and their stewardship is critical. The plan is right to support protecting freshwater wetlands and our forested ecosystems like the Adirondacks and Catskills; it must lean more towards official protections and regulations and away from voluntary incentives, with an accompanying recognition of the importance of state agency staffing.?
* Buildings and Gas: New York?s ability to break its dependence on gas for building and water heating will be crucial for achieving the CLCPA?s emissions mandates. The final document must stop the expansion of our gas distribution infrastructure, including mandating efficient and all-electric new construction by 2024 and eliminating the gas utility obligation to serve. It must also push a planned phase-out of existing gas, including robust support for retrofits and a sunset date at which all retiring appliances must be replaced by electric options. Finally, it must require the Public Service Commission to begin a proceeding at once to plan this transition in a manner that ensures the transition is safe and affordable for all New Yorkers.?

Like the vast majority of New Yorkers, I stand ready to support our shared mission of a bold, actionable climate plan that can be us.

Sincerely,

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This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lillian Miller at Sierra Club at core.help@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5500.