From: Megan Ahearn
To: erda.sm.scopingplan
Subject: My Scoping Plan comment to the Climate Action Council
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Climate Action Council Climate Action Council ,,

Hi,

As the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report underlines: “It’s now or never, if we want to limit global warming to 1.5°C (2.7°F)...” During this critical time, below are key actions I urge the State to take in response to the climate crisis.

Fossil Fuel Infrastructure: The Scoping Plan should prohibit new fossil fuel plants and infrastructure build out. The Scoping Plan should establish emissions reduction target timetables for existing facilities, in order to meet the law’s 2030 and 2050 goals.

Buildings: The Scoping Plan should match NYC’s electric buildings law so all new building construction, starting in 2024, mandates electric cooking, hot water, and space heating and cooling. The Scoping Plan should prioritize replacing heating systems with electric heat pumps in at least 2 million homes by 2030.

Stop Giving Polluters Public Subsidies: The Scoping Plan should end the indefensible, longstanding practice of giving taxpayer subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Public money should not be going to industries that pollute our air and water and are primarily responsible for the climate crisis.

Climate Report Cards: New Yorkers need clear, understandable information on how the state is doing in meeting Climate Act goals. The Scoping Plan should require the state and utilities to create real-time dashboards and annual Climate Report Cards on progress meeting key metrics of the Climate Act by sector, including advancements on Climate Justice for Disadvantaged Communities, and a just transition for workers with green jobs.

Investing in Our Future: Adequate state funding for climate action is a generational climate justice issue. Students today will deal with the worsening impacts from climate chaos. The Scoping Plan must invest in infrastructure, like electric buses, charging stations, and offer financial support to people to accelerate a transition to electric vehicles and electrify their homes. The Scoping Plan also should include a $15 billion infusion of state funds to springboard the Climate Action Plan. Our future depends on it.

Electric Vehicles (EVs): The Scoping Plan must quickly make charging stations universally accessible across the state, including free public stations. New York must allow electric vehicle

makers to sell directly to consumers to boost sales with a goal of at least a third of cars (3+ million) being EVs by 2030. (There are only around 60,000 EVs in New York as of 2022.)

Cryptocurrency: The Scoping Plan must prohibit the conversion of power plants to facilities that primarily engage in excessively high-energy consumption cryptocurrency mining operations.

Beware of Greenwashing: The Climate Action Council and the Scoping Plan should be deeply skeptical about so-called “green hydrogen” and “renewable natural gas” as a part of the state’s energy future. These and similar fuels should be off the table until they pass a rigorous climate, public health and safety review.

Battery Storage: The Scoping Plan needs to fund research and development of short term (8 hours or under) and longer term (several days) battery storage and support the acquisition of batteries. The Climate Act requires the state to boost its 2030 battery storage goals to at least 4,200 MW. Battery storage is critically important to decarbonizing our lives, meeting peak energy use demands, supporting a resilient grid, and keeping consumer costs affordable.

Solid Waste: The Scoping Plan must prioritize solid waste reduction to reduce GHG from this sector, e.g., methane and CO2 from landfills and incinerators. In addition to food diversion and recycling, which are not enough on their own, manufacturers must be required to reduce waste, including single use products and excess packaging. This is particularly true regarding products and packaging made from fossil fuel derived plastics. The Scoping Plan must ban trash incineration and reject false and hazardous solutions like “chemical recycling.”

Thank you

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