

Statement of Peter M. Iwanowicz
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When it was passed by the Legislature, [*The New York Times* called the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act \(CLCPA\) “One of the world’s most ambitious climate plans.”](#)

While a bold pronouncement and attention-grabbing headline, it was by any measure an accurate depiction of the legislation. For the CLCPA is legislation written by those on the frontlines of the climate crisis for the benefit of those on frontlines of the climate crisis. At the time a novel approach and a testament to how policy should work.

I have viewed the primary work of the Climate Council to be creating a plan that lives up to this billing. I am grateful that the Speaker of the Assembly, Carl Heastie appointed to me the Council.

I am honored to have been a member of the Council and to work with the other members on the recommendations to the people of New York, the Governor, and the Legislature.

The hard work is still ahead, but our vision lays out the path to success.

The CLCPA provided us the promise and—through multiple provisions in the law—the guidance to make the right decisions on the pace and scale of the change needed.

At its core, the CLCPA is about establishing standards into law so that New York does its share to create a planet that is healthy enough for humans to inhabit.

What we learned through our process is that zeroing out all greenhouse gas emissions through a massive transformation of our economy is the only viable and certain path.

What truly makes the CLCPA the most ambitious of plans is the legal assurance that those disproportionately impacted by climate change and poor air quality will have their needs, health, and communities prioritized. That, and we will not leave any worker behind as the transition unfolds.

What we have developed is a solid blueprint to guide the public and lawmakers on how to secure the promises of our climate law.

The plan shows the pathway forward to provide big benefits, including:

- Reducing energy bills
- Improving our health and lowering health care costs
- Reversing decades of environmental injustice that has caused such harm to those who live, work, and play in our state's disadvantaged communities.

The costs of acting are not trivial, but the analysis that the council has agreed to revealed that the cost of inaction is greater than the cost of acting.

Our plan shows that the quicker the public, the Governor and Legislature move to electrify all sectors, the faster we'll realize the benefits.

The prioritization of all-electric buildings and zero-emission vehicles are a hallmark of the plan's effort to achieve the 40% cut in emissions by 2030.

In practical terms, it means that more than a quarter of **all** vehicles on the roads in New York must be zero-emissions by

2030. We must achieve this objective if we are to have any hope of meeting the law's 2030 goal.

A key feature of the plan is that it does not rely on the gimmicks and shortcuts that other states and nations have used to address their jurisdiction's role in the climate crisis.

Key features of our plan include:

- the honest limits we see for alternative fuels like biogas and green hydrogen;
- the recognition that offsets as a compliance strategy will have little or no role; and
- the understanding that clean fuel standards for transportation must be truly clean by focusing on electricity and rejecting the 'trading' schemes of other state programs.

As we emerge from our planning process and others pick up the ball to move it further down the field, here are my thoughts on the near-term keys to success:

- √ Stop digging the hole deeper. We no longer have the luxury of leaving all options on the table;
- √ Assure that all entities of the state are running all decisions through the analysis required under section 7.2 and 7.3 of the CLCPA;
- √ Listen to climate justice leaders as the discussion on how to fund the climate plan through a cap and invest program commences—the issues of regressivity must be addressed

and safeguards must be in place to prevent pollution hot-spots and disproportionate impacts;

- √ Secure partnerships with local governments to ensure that implementation of building codes, zoning, and other land decisions are aligned with the goals of the CLCPA and not contrary;
- √ Commit to equitable distribution of state and federal funds so every New Yorker can benefit;
- √ Prioritize the vision of communities so that the transition to the new economy is a just and equitable one; and,
- √ Post the plan in every state employee's office space and set annual performance goals based on achieving the plan.

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It's been a pleasure to work as a member of the Council on this plan. Traveling the state to hear from so many New Yorkers about their hopes for climate action and asks for us to address their fears was an educational experience that I will not soon forget.

I think the final plan is better because we took the time to listen, and to work things through together as a Council this summer and fall.

When fully implemented the plan will secure all the promises of the CLCPA: climate action and justice for communities and workers.

Onward.