



ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE





OVERVIEW

New York State's environmental, energy and agriculture agencies are on the front lines of the climate change fight: conserving and protecting precious natural resources; promoting New York State as a natural destination for tourism and recreation; ensuring the integrity of freshwater resources; and supporting the kind of agricultural development that is critical to New York State's robust farming industry.

The Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) mission is to conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment while enhancing the health, safety, and well-being of New York State's citizens.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) provides safe, enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for New York State residents and visitors, and functions as a steward of New York State's valuable natural, historic, and cultural resources. OPRHP operates the State Park System, a network of 181 State parks and 35 historic sites. In 2020 the system welcomed a record 78 million visitors.

Together, DEC and OPRHP oversee 5.35 million acres of open space statewide, including 2.6 million acres in the Adirondack Park and nearly 300,000 acres in the Catskill Forest Preserve.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) has wide-ranging responsibilities, including food safety inspection, agricultural economic development, farmland protection, animal and plant health surveillance, and control of agricultural runoff.



The Department of Public Service (DPS) functions as the staff arm of the Public Service Commission (PSC), which regulates the rates and services of public utilities – an industry with an estimated \$33

billion in annual revenue. DPS oversees the siting of major utility infrastructure and provides oversight of cable franchise agreements and telecommunications service.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) advances innovative energy solutions in ways that improve New York's economy and environment. NYSERDA is the primary state entity tasked with energy market research and development and oversees a variety of energy programs including NY-Sun designed to make solar energy more accessible and the electric vehicle rebate program.

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) supplies power statewide through two large hydroelectric facilities and more than 1,400 miles of transmission lines. NYPA is also helping to reimagine New York's energy system by providing enhanced clean energy services to its customers and moving towards becoming the first fully digitized utility in the country to more effectively manage its assets.

Last year, despite being in the midst of an global pandemic, New York announced the largest combined clean energy solicitations ever issued in the United States, seeking up to 4,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy. Under Governor Hochul's leadership, work continues on expanding New York State's offshore wind capacity, building the nation's largest offshore wind program as the State continues to move toward its goal of 9,000 MW of offshore wind energy by 2035.

RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

DEC staff from every division - including forest rangers and environmental conservation police officers - continue to assist in the response to COVID-19. To-date, more than 1,000 staff have volunteered to help combat the pandemic, supporting thousands of public health missions throughout New York.

AGM, along with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), implemented the Nourish NY program to create a lifeline for New York State's families and farmers who had been struggling with the changes brought on by COVID-19. This critical program helps people who are food insecure to access the nourishment that they need, while providing a market for farmers to sell their products. Building on this initiative, New York State also launched the Restaurant



Resiliency Program through which participating restaurants provide nutritious meals and other food-related items to New Yorkers experiencing food insecurity, with a focus on serving those living in distressed or underrepresented communities.

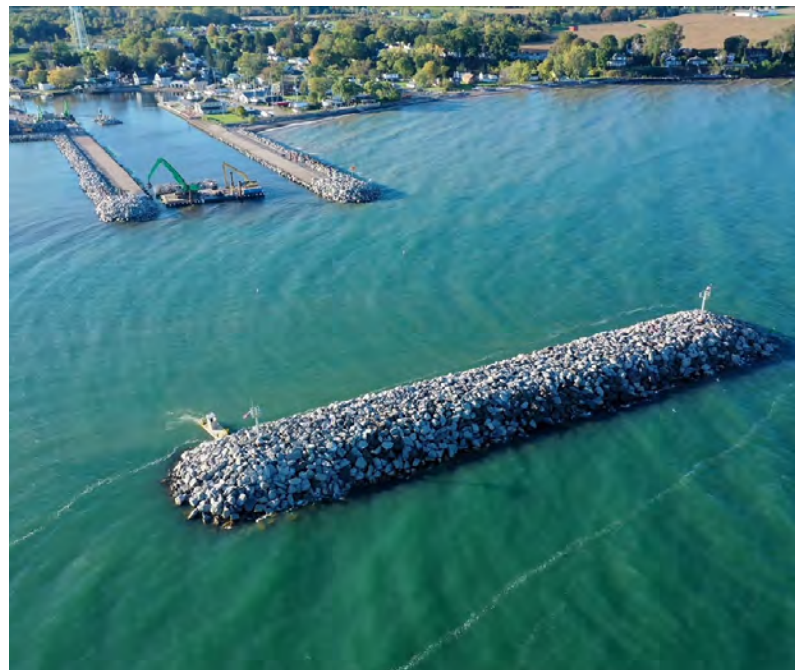
LEADING THE NATION

In her historic State of the State Address, Governor Hochul made it clear that combating climate change will be a top priority for New York State going forward. We know that the cost of inaction is far too high, so New York State will implement an aggressive agenda that will lead the nation in transitioning to a sustainable green energy economy, as we confront the urgency of an unprecedented global crisis.

Recently, Governor Hochul -- alongside United States Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm -- announced the finalization of contracts between New York State and Empire Wind Offshore LLC and Beacon Wind LLC, representing a key milestone in the advancement of offshore wind development in New York State. Upon completion, these offshore wind farms will yield a combined 2,490 MW of carbon-free energy; create more than 5,200 jobs, and unleash \$8.9 billion of economic activity in New York State.

In addition to taking decisive action on the climate crisis, Governor Hochul's Executive Budget will provide the funding New York State needs to preserve, protect and enhance our natural resources, expand our outdoor recreation opportunities, and drive economic growth through sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism. Highlights of the Executive Budget include:

- \$4 billion for the landmark Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. This historic initiative will provide the support New York State needs to restore critical environmental habitats; reduce flood risks; conserve additional lands and open spaces; protect and improve our water resources; and invest in climate change mitigation projects that will reduce pollution and lower carbon emissions. The Bond Act will also support a substantial investment in the Clean Green Schools initiative that will reach every public school located in a disadvantaged community.



- A \$500 million investment to develop the State's offshore wind supply chains and port infrastructure. This nation-leading initiative will create 2,000 jobs in a growing industry, while helping to make New York State the offshore wind capital of the country for years to come.
- An additional \$500 million in clean water infrastructure funding, bringing the State's total clean water investment to \$4.5 billion since 2017. This critical investment in our State's infrastructure will ensure New Yorkers have access to clean drinking water and will allow municipalities to invest in efficient and effective wastewater treatment strategies.



- \$400 million -- a record level of funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) -- is provided to support critical projects that work to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve agricultural resources, protect our water sources, advance conservation efforts, and provide recreational opportunities.
- \$90 million, an increase of \$15 million from FY22, for DEC to address a variety of capital needs to improve access to state lands, rehabilitate campgrounds, and upgrade its recreational facilities, all as part of the Adventure NY program. This funding will also provide for health and safety repairs to state infrastructure, including dams, wetland restoration, state lands, and fish hatcheries. The Executive Budget also includes an additional \$20 million in funding for infrastructure improvements at the state-owned Conklingville Dam.
- \$200 million, an increase of \$90 million from FY22, for OPRHP to invest in enhancing and improving our State parks. This substantial level of funding will aid the ongoing transformation of New York's flagship parks and support critical infrastructure projects throughout the park system.
- \$12 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program and \$12.5 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to support climate-friendly and environmentally-focused agriculture.
- Transferring the National School Lunch Program from the State Education Department (SED) to AGM in order to better connect schools and farmers and support local production.



