



# **ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & AGRICULTURE**



New York State’s environmental, energy and agriculture agencies are on the front lines of the ongoing fight against climate change; are tasked with 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 educational 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 over 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches, and more - welcoming more than 84 million visitors annually.

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 operation of the Great New York State Fair.

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 \$43 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 the electric vehicle rebate program and NY-Sun, designed to make solar energy more accessible.

The **New York Power Authority (NYPA)** supplies power statewide through three large hydroelectric facilities and more than 1,400 miles of transmission lines. NYPA is also helping to lead the transition to a carbon-free, economically vibrant New York through customer partnerships, innovative energy solutions, and the responsible supply of affordable, clean, and reliable electricity.

## LEADING THE NATION

From the beginning of her administration, Governor Hochul has made it clear that responding to climate change remains a top priority for New York State. Acknowledging that the cost of inaction greatly outweighs the cost of any actions we can take together, New York will continue to pursue an aggressive agenda in transitioning to a sustainable green energy economy, in a way that is both environmentally effective and economically affordable for all New Yorkers.

Energy demand is expected to grow substantially in coming years, driven in part by Artificial Intelligence and semiconductor manufacturing industry growth. To assist in meeting this demand for clean energy generation, Governor Hochul is committed to developing a Master Plan for Responsible Advanced Nuclear Development with New York leading a multi-state consortium on nuclear energy focused on driving down energy costs and strategic risk-sharing.

The Governor will direct state agencies and NYPA to enter into contracts in pursuit of achieving 100 percent renewable energy for State agencies by 2030, in line with Executive Order 22. These contracts will result in at least 500 megawatts of renewable energy while bolstering clean energy development, creating 9,000 union jobs, and reducing emissions.

## PROPOSED FY 2026 BUDGET ACTIONS

In addition to announcing critical new programs and advancing new investments related to climate change, Governor Hochul's proposed budget will provide the funding New York 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 FY 2026 Executive Budget include:

**Historic Climate Investment.** Governor Hochul is directing New York to embark on the single-largest climate investment in the history of the state budget, directing over \$1 billion in new funding towards achieving a more sustainable future. This landmark investment will generate new jobs, help reduce household energy bills, and cut down on harmful pollution and its impacts on our families.

**Decarbonizing State Government.** An additional \$50 million is included to support New York's ongoing efforts to reduce its own carbon footprint. This continued investment will accelerate State facilities' decarbonization efforts and provide resources to initiate procurement practices that prioritize sustainable and climate-resilient design initiatives.

**Clean Water Infrastructure Funding.** An additional \$500 million in clean water infrastructure funding is advanced to bring New York's total clean water investment to \$6 billion since 2017. This continued investment in our communities' infrastructure will ensure New Yorkers have access to clean drinking water and will allow municipalities to invest in efficient and effective wastewater treatment strategies. Recognizing the urgency of addressing lead service lines, the Executive Budget will continue leveraging State and Federal funds to assist municipalities in their efforts to replace these service lines.

**Environmental Protection Fund.** \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is again 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.

**Hazardous Waste Superfund.** \$125 million is included in the FY26 Executive Budget for a newly reauthorized 10-year Hazardous Waste Superfund. This additional funding over the coming decade will continue the effort to remediate and restore industrial sites containing significant levels of hazardous waste.

**Sustaining our Environmental Resources.** \$90 million is available for DEC to address a variety of capital needs to facilitate access to state lands, ensure the safety and durability of our state's dams, rehabilitate campgrounds, and upgrade a variety of widely used recreational facilities. This funding will also provide critical repairs to other public property, including wetlands, trails, waterfronts, and fish hatcheries.

**Investing in Our State Park System.** \$200 million for OPRHP to invest in enhancing and improving 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.

**Unplug & Play.** Over \$200 million for OPRHP and partner agencies to invest in various grant programs that will continue the New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NYSWIMS) program supporting municipalities in the renovation and construction of inground pools; support municipalities and non-profits in undertaking high-impact community center projects through the New York Building Recreational Infrastructure for Communities, Kids, and Seniors (NYBRICKS) program; and launch New York Places for Learning, Activity, and Youth Socialization (NYPLAYS) which will help New York communities construct new playgrounds and renovate existing playgrounds.

**Investing in the State Fairgrounds.** The Executive Budget will provide an additional \$35 million in capital projects investments at the State Fairgrounds, including upgrading stages and the Expo Center for year-round festivals and music events.

**Canal Infrastructure Investments.** The Executive commits another \$50 million for the improvement of the Canal System. These funds will be used for dam and lock repair, flood mitigation, infrastructure improvements, canal system resiliency, and other projects that will improve the overall canal system.