



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Thomas Meara | [tmeara@kivvit.com](mailto:tmeara@kivvit.com) | 718-309-3506

**MORE THAN 175 NEW YORK ORGANIZATIONS LAUNCH NEW COALITION TO PROTECT FUNDING FOR CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT JOBS AND CLEAN WATER**

*The Effort Will Include Robust Advocacy Aimed at New York's Congressional Delegation and State Leaders to Continue Funding Environmental Priorities*

*The Newly Formed Coalition Calls for the Reinstallation of the \$3 Billion Environmental Bond Act on a Future Ballot*

**NEW YORK** – More than 175 groups today launched a new coalition to protect funding for critical environmental programs that support hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, fortify local New York economies, protect clean drinking water, create new parks, advance environmental justice, and mitigate the intensifying climate crisis. These state programs include:

- **Environmental Protection Fund (EPF):** The EPF supports 350,000 jobs across the state and approximately \$40 billion in economic activity each year. The program has a strong track record in preventing pollution, improving water quality, protecting family farms, and expanding parks, trails, gardens, and zoos across the state.
- **Clean Water Infrastructure Act:** New York's drinking water and wastewater systems need tens of billions of dollars in upgrades to ensure our communities have safe drinking water. To date, the State has provided \$3.9 billion for water infrastructure programs, including the Clean Water Infrastructure Act, and Governor Cuomo committed an additional \$1.5 billion over the next three years as part of the FY19 budget for a total commitment of \$5.4 billion. This program is a job generator, with every \$1 million in state investment resulting in 17 local jobs.

- **NY Parks 2020 and DEC Capital Funding:** Over the last 10 years, Parks 2020 has funded \$1 billion in upgrades to NY's world-class state parks system. Every dollar invested in state parks generates \$5 of economic activity. Likewise, the DEC NY Works Program has improved public recreation opportunities throughout the state and ensured the agency can address pollution that threatens both public health and natural resources.
- Over the course of the program, \$228 million of **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** funds (17% of total funding) have been transferred by NYSERDA to the state General Fund, depriving New Yorkers of funding that could have lowered energy bills and created good jobs. RGGI funds need to be fully dedicated to New York's climate change initiatives, including meeting the state's ambitious climate goals.

The coalition, New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs, is also calling for the reinstatement of the Environmental Bond Act on the ballot. If put back on the ballot and passed by voters, the Environmental Bond Act would dedicate \$3 billion to create jobs, protect clean water, modernize outdated water infrastructure, and address climate change.

The coalition is also advocating for federal aid for New York as the state grapples with a massive budget deficit bought on by the pandemic.

Environmental programs have historically driven state economic recovery, serving as a proven investment that makes New York communities stronger and healthier. The ongoing pandemic and the escalating climate crisis put further urgency on protecting environmental programs that improve public health, safeguard clean water, strengthen the economy, allow New Yorkers to spend time in nature, and enable communities to reduce local climate risks.

Coalition members include:

+ POOL

Adirondack Council

Adirondack Land Trust

Adirondack Mountain Club

Adirondack Wild: Friends of the Forest Preserve

Agricultural Stewardship Association

Alley Pond Environmental Center, Inc

Alliance for a Green Economy

Alliance for the Great Lakes

American Farmland Trust

Appalachian Mountain Club

Association for a Better New York

Atlantic States Legal Foundation

Audubon New York

Audubon Society of the Capital Region

Bedford Audubon

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Capital Roots

Catskill Center  
Catskill Mountainkeeper  
Central Westchester Audubon Society  
Champlain Area Trails  
Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy  
Chemung Valley Audubon Society  
Citizens Campaign for the Environment  
City Parks Foundation  
Clean and Healthy New York  
Climate XChange  
Coalition of Living Museums  
Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor  
Columbia Land Conservancy  
Concerned Citizens of Montauk  
Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley  
Defend H2O  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
Ducks Unlimited  
Earthjustice  
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society  
Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.  
Empire State Forest Products Association  
Environmental Advocates NY  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance  
Finger Lakes Land Trust  
Food & Water Action  
Four Harbors Audubon Society  
Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation  
Friends of the Bay  
Friends of the Upper Delaware River  
Friends of Tillson Lake, Inc.  
Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve  
Genesee Land Trust  
Genesee Valley Audubon Society  
Genesee Valley Conservancy, Inc.  
Grassroots Gardens WNY  
Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition  
Great South Bay Audubon Society  
Green Ossining  
Greene Land Trust  
Groundwork Hudson Valley  
Group for the East End  
HabitatMap

Hampton Bays Civic Association  
Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association  
HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK  
Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee  
Hudson Highlands Land Trust  
Hudson River Audubon Society of Westchester  
Hudson Valley Fishermen's Association  
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Inc.  
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society  
Indian River Lakes Conservancy  
Institute for Ocean Conservation Science at Stony Brook University  
Keuka Outlet Trail  
Kingston Land Trust  
Lake Agawam Conservancy  
Lake George Land Conservancy  
Lake Placid Land Conservancy  
Land Trust Alliance  
Lewisboro Land Trust  
Long Island Contractors' Association, Inc.  
Long Island Pine Barrens Society  
Manhasset Bay Protection Committee  
Mianus River Gorge  
Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy  
Mohonk Preserve  
Moms for a Non Toxic New York  
Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Nassau Hiking & Outdoor Club  
Natural Areas Conservancy  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New York Botanical Garden  
New York Building Congress  
New York City Audubon  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
New York Restoration Project  
New York State Assc. of Reduction, Reuse and Recycling (NYSAR3)  
New York State Laborers' Union  
New York State Pollution Prevention Institute  
New York State Urban Forestry Council  
New York-New Jersey Trail Conference  
New Yorkers for Parks  
Newtown Creek Alliance  
Northeast Organic Farming Association – New York (NOFA-NY)  
North Fork Audubon Society  
North Fork Environmental Council

North Salem Open Land Foundation  
North Shore Audubon Society  
Northern Catskills Audubon Society, Inc.  
Northern New York Audubon  
NY Climate Reality Chapters Coalition  
NY Product Stewardship Council  
NYC Audubon  
NYPIRG  
Onondaga Audubon  
Ontario Bays Initiative, Inc (OBI Land Trust)  
Open Space Institute  
Orange County Audubon Society  
Orange County Land Trust  
Otsego Land Trust  
Our Outer Harbor Coalition, Buffalo  
Palisades Parks Conservancy  
Parks & Trails New York  
Peconic Baykeeper  
Peconic Estuary Protection Committee  
Peconic Land Trust  
Pollinator Conservation Association, Inc  
Preservation League of New York State  
Protect the Adirondacks!  
Putnam County Land Trust  
Rebuild by Design  
Renewable Energy Long Island (reLI)  
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance  
RETI Center  
Riverkeeper  
Riverside Park Conservancy  
Rochester Museum and Science Center  
Sag Harbor Village Harbor Committee  
Saratoga PLAN (preserving land and nature)  
Save The Great South Bay  
Save the Sound  
Saw Mill River Audubon  
Scenic Hudson  
Seatuck Environmental Association  
Serpentine Art and Nature, Inc.  
Setauket Harbor Task Force  
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter  
Somers Land Trust  
South Shore Audubon Society  
Southampton Town Civic Coalition

Southern Madison Heritage Trust  
St. Lawrence Land Trust  
Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (SWIM) Coalition  
Surfrider Foundation  
Sustainable Westchester  
SWANA - New York Chapter  
Syracuse Cultural Workers  
Teatown Lake Reservation  
The Conservation Fund  
The Nature Conservancy  
The North Shore Land Alliance, Inc.  
The Trust for Public Land  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust  
Urban Green Council  
Van Cortlandt Park Alliance  
Vision Long Island  
Wallkill Valley Land Trust  
Waterfront Alliance  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice  
Westchester Land Trust  
Western New York Environmental Alliance  
Western New York Land Conservancy  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Winnakee Land Trust  
Woodstock Land Conservancy

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**New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs**

New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs is a broad coalition formed to demonstrate the vast support for New York environmental funding and programs that protect clean water and air, create jobs, and address the climate crisis. For more information on the website, please visit: [www.cleanwaterandjobs.org](http://www.cleanwaterandjobs.org). Follow us on social media: [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).