New York’s environmental programs protect our clean air and water, local parks and farms, and good, local jobs.

**JOBS**

$40 billion to New York’s economy each year

**HEALTH**

Access to nature is vital in protecting public health

**SAFETY**

Reduce climate risks that put millions of New Yorkers in danger

Environmental programs are essential for the health, safety, and prosperity of all New Yorkers:

Over the past three years, the New Yorkers for Clean Water and Jobs coalition has worked closely with the Executive Chamber and Legislature to craft an [Environmental Bond Act](#) that will benefit all New Yorkers. We support Governor Hochul’s proposal to grow the measure from $3 billion to $4 billion and allocate the additional $1 billion to the four existing Bond Act programs as they are widely supported. If enacted, the Bond Act would be the largest measure in New York history and would support more than 84,000 jobs and at least $8.7 billion in project spending. We also support the requirement that at least 35 percent of the funding be dedicated to projects in disadvantaged communities. We urge the Legislature to support these changes.

Governor Hochul has proposed the **largest ever Environmental Protection Fund** in her Executive Budget. Her landmark proposal to increase the EPF by $100 million, from $300 million to $400 million, will advance work to protect our environment and improve quality of life in every county of New York State. We urge the Legislature to support a $400 million EPF during budget negotiations. This funding marks a huge step forward on the path to achieve the environmental community’s long-term goal of a $500 million EPF. By supporting 350,000 jobs across the state and $40 billion in economic activity every year, the EPF generates $7 in economic returns for every $1 invested in the fund. EPF programs improve water quality, create parks and trails, support our zoos, aquaria, and botanical gardens, support environmental justice programs, conserve wildlife habitat, protect farms and forests, fund zero-emission municipal fleets, pay for community recycling programs, and prevent pollution in every county in the state. Many of these programs have years-long waiting lists or backlogs for funding and the infusion of additional funding will ensure projects can move forward.
New Yorkers for Clean Water & Jobs is a broad coalition with over 180 members formed to demonstrate the vast support for New York environmental funding that will protect and restore clean water, clean air and other natural resources necessary for the HEALTH, SAFETY and PROSPERITY OF ALL NEW YORKERS. Learn more at CleanWaterandJobs.org

$1 Billion for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act. New York’s drinking water and wastewater infrastructure is old, failing, and can’t keep up with the extreme weather climate change is delivering. The total need for upgrades across the state is estimated to be $80 billion over the next 20 years.

Since 2017, the State has committed over $4 billion for water infrastructure programs, including the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. This funding enables local governments to modernize infrastructure, protect clean drinking water, and prevent pollution from reaching our lakes, rivers, bays, and harbors while supporting good, local jobs. For every $1 million in state investment in this program, 17 local jobs are created or supported.

We also support the proposal to increase capital funding for the Department of Environmental Conservation to $90 million, an increase of $15 million. NYSDEC has received approximately $40 million in New York Works funding annually for critical environmental capital projects, including approximately $55 million to support the “Adventure New York” program, aimed at creating new recreational opportunities and infrastructure to support the record visitation our state lands are now experiencing. These projects protect natural resources, enhance visitor safety and enjoyment, and create new access to the outdoors in all regions of the state. In addition to Adventure New York, capital funding for NYSDEC supports critical health and safety projects that protect the environment and New Yorkers.

We support increased funding to each of these programs and applaud Governor Hochul for prioritizing them. As budget negotiations continue, we urge members of the Senate and Assembly to support increasing funds to these programs and **proposed increases to staff levels at environmental agencies.** New York’s environmental agencies are working to implement ever-larger mandates – including our nation-leading climate act – while continuing to provide critical permitting, public safety, and conservation services that allow businesses, farms, and cultural institutions to operate and the public to safely enjoy all New York’s lands and waters have to offer.