

Environment

1. Provide state support for environmental protection funding

Support Governor's State Budget proposal to increase EPF funding to \$300 million.

NYSAC supports the SFY 2017 Executive Budget increase in funding for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) from \$123 million to \$300 million. The budget includes a one-time increase of \$120 million from bank settlement funds to support capital projects within the EPF. Appropriations include \$33.8 million for solid waste programs, \$76.8 million for parks and recreation, \$156.9 million for open space programs, and \$32.5 million for a new climate change mitigation and adaptation program.

2. Provide state support for critical local water and sewer infrastructure projects

Support Governor's State Budget proposal to add \$100 million to for municipal drinking water and waste water infrastructure grants.

In response to recent events and NYSAC's calls for a state and local public drinking water integrity taskforce, Governor Andrew Cuomo is creating a Statewide Water Quality Rapid Response Team charged with identifying and developing plans to address critical drinking water contamination concerns, as well as related groundwater and surface water contamination problems. The Governor is also proposing statewide regulations on mulch-processing facilities to strengthen oversight.

Counties are also seeking a more streamlined process for notifying the public when violations of EPA standards are found. All aspects of water testing results should be shared with the public, and notice of contaminants and violations of EPA standards given in a timely manner.

Counties also support calls for an infusion of \$800 million of state funds to address long ignored local water infrastructure needs.

3. Provide support to municipalities managing electronic waste recycling

Support the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) plans to reimburse counties for 50% of e-waste recycling costs up to \$2 million per municipality.

NYSAC has been advocating for \$10 million of the \$120 million bank settlement funds allocated to the EPF in the Executive's proposed budget to be allocated as reimbursement to counties for e-waste management activities.

NYSAC continues to support and advocate for additional long-term regulatory reforms.

- NYSAC urges the DEC to promulgate the regulations authorized in the law to require manufacturers to comprehensively inform consumers on properly recycling e-waste.
- NYSAC would like clarification via regulation, that manufacturers are required to provide year-round, consistent support for collection sites regardless of whether their performance target has been met, for both rural and urban populations, to help alleviate the immediate financial pressure faced by local governments.