



Bold leadership and a strong state-local partnership have helped New York State become a trailblazer on environmental policy. On this Earth Day, NYSAC acknowledges the Governor and Legislature for another pro-environment state budget and a year of sustained partnership to protect our residents, planet, and local economies. The following highlights from the FY 2020 State Budget and past year will reduce carbon emissions, promote solid waste management, and keep our waterbodies clean and safe.

Budget Highlights

- The FY 2020 Budget builds on an unprecedented \$2.5 billion investment in **clean water infrastructure** with an additional \$500 million appropriation. In his 2019 State of the State, the Governor committed to doubling investment in clean water.
- Funding for the **Environment Protection Fund** is renewed at an historic \$300 million in the FY 2020 Budget. This includes \$18 million for farmland protection, which is vital to local economies across the state.
- **Congestion pricing** for vehicles that travel into Manhattan at 60th Street or below will reduce congestion and its environmental impacts.
- A ban on **single-use plastic bags** will reduce litter in our streets, trees, and waters and cut down on costly operational issues at local municipal recovery facilities. Prior to the enactment of this legislation, NYSAC Executive Director Stephen Acquario was a Member on the NYS Plastic Bag Task Force to provide a local perspective. The final legislation, which provides a statewide solution to plastic bags and a local option on paper bags, shows that the State listened to county concerns.
- The FY 2020 State Budget included language requiring certain food generators to divert **food waste** for donation or recycling. This will reduce the state's carbon footprint and address hunger in New York State.
- During budget negotiations, the Governor and lawmakers recognized the need to update the NYS Returnable Container Act ("**Bottle Bill**") to keep up with changing trends and shifts in global and domestic markets. Adding a deposit to additional glass containers would dramatically increase glass recycling and support municipal recycling operations, which are vital to sustainable waste management. NYSAC continues to participate in discussions about a Bottle Bill expansion with state leaders.

Highlights from FY 2018-19

- In December 2018, the **NYS Drinking Water Quality Council** recommended that DOH adopt the nation's most protective maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS, as well as the nation's first MCL for 1,4-dioxane. The Governor has committed \$200 million to addressing these contaminants. County environmental health directors are working with state partners to keep our residents safe from harmful drinking water chemicals.
- A \$65 million initiative to aggressively combat **Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)** in twelve priority lakes across the state allowed counties to develop plans and pilot programs to protect drinking water quality and the upstate economy.
- State leaders took action on **climate change** in 2019 by introducing the Climate Leadership Act and the Climate and Community Protection Act, to reduce statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve the resiliency of the state.
- NYSAC has created a **Climate Resiliency Committee** under the leadership of Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz to help counties reduce GHG emissions while creating jobs and growing local economies.
- The State continues to help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and save taxpayer dollars through grants and technical assistance available through the **Climate Smart Communities** and **Clean Energy Communities** programs. To date, there are 253 registered Climate Smart Communities and 542 participating Clean Energy Communities.
- The **NY Green Bank** set an ambitious goal of raising an additional \$1 billion in private sector funds in 2017. In 2018, the State worked to secure that investment to expand financing availability for clean energy projects.
- The Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 included \$75 million for **septic system replacement**. In 2018, counties selected for the first round of funding worked to administer septic system replacement programs that will help eligible residents to replace failing septic systems and install more environmentally effective systems.
- **Electric vehicle (EV)** rebates available through DEC and NYSEERDA have made it possible for counties to purchase or lease new clean vehicles for their fleets.
- NYSAC works with state leaders and agencies, including PSC, DEC and NYDERDA, to promote **renewable energy**, including community solar, hydropower, and community choice aggregation to relieve dependency on the state's electricity grid and reduce greenhouse gasses. Hydropower alone, through remote net metering, will power the equivalent of nearly 15,000 households and offset the greenhouse gases emitted from over 85 million pounds of coal in the next five years.
- DEC convened stakeholders to identify new initiatives that will support municipalities as they respond to changes in global **recycling** markets.
- The State continues to protect and preserve our **forests** through state-local partnerships that curb deforestation and generate carbon credits.
- By 2020, NY Parks will leverage private philanthropy and other public dollars to yield a \$900 million investment in **State Parks**. Our parks and historic sites are visited by 62 million people a year, contributing to a robust tourism industry.