

1 **2022 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution to Support the Climate Action Plan Scoping Document**

5 **WHEREAS**, a changing climate is leading to stronger storms, erratic weather, rising  
6 seas, increases in invasive species and other negative impacts on our natural  
7 environment that adversely affect our residents and the New York State economy; and

8 **WHEREAS**, counties are on the forefront of responding to the impacts of a changing  
9 climate and building more resiliency into our natural and built infrastructures; and

10 **WHEREAS**, counties are leading efforts to combat climate change through initiatives  
11 that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance the state’s transition to renewable  
12 energy; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 2019, the State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community  
14 Protection Act (“Climate Act”); and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Climate Act requires New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse  
16 gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030 and no less than 85 percent by 2050 from 1990  
17 levels, and it sets a priority on climate justice, a just transition to renewable energy, and  
18 benefits to public health; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Climate Action Plan, developed by the 22-member Climate Action  
20 Council created by the Climate Act, provides recommendations, including provisions  
21 that impact county government operations for achieving the statewide goals set by the  
22 Climate Act; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the draft Scoping Plan includes an analysis that assessed the benefits of  
24 avoided greenhouse gas emissions, health co-benefits, and resource costs. The key  
25 findings from this assessment are as follows:

- 26 • The cost of inaction exceeds the cost of action by more than \$90 billion;
- 27 • Net benefits range from \$90 billion to \$120 billion;
- 28 • Net direct costs are small relative to the size of New York’s economy; and

29 **WHEREAS**, counties will be key to the implementation of many of the policy and  
30 regulatory recommendations, in addition to direct implementation of recommendations  
31 by county government facilities and operations; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Governor Hochul’s SFY 2023 Executive Budget contains several proposals  
33 that would support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including the  
34 following appropriations:

- 35 • \$4 billion for the Clean Water Clean Air, And Green Jobs Environmental Bond  
36 Act (“Bond act”);
- 37 • \$500 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act (CWIA); and

- 1 • \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

2 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
3 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon Governor Kathy Hochul and New York State Legislature to  
4 continue New York’s commitment to climate action by including the Executive Budget’s  
5 proposals for the Bond Act, CWIA, and EPF in the SFY 2023 Enacted Budget; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls upon Governor Hochul to ensure that  
7 county and local governments are engaged as active participants in the implementation  
8 and reviews of the Scoping Plan and provided with technical planning and zoning  
9 assistance in all areas where counties are relied upon to craft or revise local policy and  
10 regulations that serve to implement the recommendations of the Climate Action Plan;  
11 and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC supports the Scoping Plan’s recommendation  
13 to require the Department of Public Service (DPS) to enable county governments to  
14 authorize and form Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs with a local opt-  
15 out; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC agrees with the recommendation that the  
17 “...Department of State should expand Countywide Resiliency Planning grants to  
18 incentivize county-wide smart growth comprehensive plans that adhere to clear State  
19 goals and outcomes” (Climate Action Plan Scoping Document, p. 294); and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls upon the State to provide more direct  
21 funding assistance to counties to improve energy efficiency of county-owned or  
22 controlled assets and to transition to zero-emission county vehicles; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the Governor to establish a cabinet  
24 level lead or office to streamline implementation and improve coordination with  
25 counties and local governments in relation to the Climate Action Plan and other climate  
26 programs, such as the Climate Smart Communities program, which is currently  
27 sponsored by seven different State agencies: DEC, NYSERDA, NYPA, DOS, DOH, DOT,  
28 and DPS; and

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of  
30 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
32 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the Secretary of State,  
33 Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and all others  
34 deemed necessary and proper.