

1 **2023 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action**  
3 **Resolution #2**

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5 **Resolution Urging the Governor and Legislature to Evaluate and Address**  
6 **Barriers to Participation in New York State’s Weatherization and Energy**  
7 **Efficiency Programs**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, according to the Climate Action Council’s Final Scoping Plan, the  
10 buildings sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in New York State;  
11 and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, buildings were responsible for 32 percent of emissions statewide in 2019,  
14 with a significant portion coming from the combustion of fossil fuels in residential (34  
15 percent) and commercial buildings (19 percent); and

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17 **WHEREAS**, New York’s residential and commercial buildings are older than the  
18 national average, which presents an opportunity for buildings to be upgraded in ways  
19 that improve both quality of life and energy performance; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, New York State invests over \$1 billion in public funds annually for State-  
22 and utility-administered grant and market development programs focused on energy-  
23 efficient buildings, including NYS Clean Heat, the NYS Weatherization Assistance  
24 Program (WAP), and the EmPower New York Program; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, as noted in the Scoping Plan, financial incentive programs will need to  
27 scale up dramatically to motivate millions of homeowners and building owners to install  
28 high-efficiency electric heat pumps and make energy efficiency improvements, such as  
29 sealing air leaks, adding insulation, and using building controls; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, before the State scales up these programs, it will be important for  
32 policymakers to assess their limitations in order to increase participation, advance  
33 climate justice, and maximize the impact of these investments; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, one group that is often unable to participate in weatherization and energy  
36 efficiency programs is mobile homeowners because the owner of the housing unit does  
37 not also own the property on which it is located; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, health and safety issues often prevent New Yorkers who would otherwise  
40 qualify for assistance from taking advantage of it, as many of the State’s programs will  
41 not fund repairs that must be done prior to energy efficiency retrofits or weatherization  
42 projects; and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, the inability to use program funds for basic repairs – including addressing  
45 moisture issues, repairing roofs, and upgrading electrical panels – can make retrofits  
46 impossible or ineffective and contribute to health issues, such as asthma; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) – a public-private  
2 partnership between federal, state, and local governments, as well as national and local  
3 philanthropy – provides a model for how to redefine home-based health and safety  
4 funding and programs so that they are more effective in terms of health outcomes and  
5 more efficient in terms of cost savings.  
6

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
8 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and Legislature to investigate and address  
9 barriers to participation in state programs designed to support weatherization and  
10 energy efficiency retrofits, including streamlining application processes, implementing a  
11 “no wrong door” policy, and investing in more clean energy advisors to guide New  
12 Yorkers through the application process; and  
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14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to  
15 provide additional support for county energy coordinators in the FY 2024 State Budget  
16 to assist NYSERDA’s Regional Clean Energy Hubs; and  
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18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC supports the \$200 million EmPower Plus  
19 program proposed in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Executive Budget and urges the  
20 Governor and Legislature to create an additional \$200 million fund for home repairs  
21 targeted at low- and middle-income (LMI) households to address barriers to energy  
22 efficiency improvements and electrification with the goal of creating healthy, safe, and  
23 energy efficient homes; and  
24

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC encourages policymakers to use the  
26 GHHI as a model for improving state assistance programs so we can work towards  
27 achieving the Climate Act’s goals while also addressing the social determinants of health  
28 and racial equity through healthy housing; and  
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30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
31 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
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33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
34 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, New York State Energy  
35 Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) President and CEO Doreen Harris,  
36 Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) Commissioner and CEO RuthAnne Visnauskas,  
37 and all others deemed necessary and proper.