



SURVEY REPORT : Q3 2018

NEW YORK BUSINESS LEADERS ON CLEAN ENERGY

▶ BUSINESS FORWARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Last month, **Business Forward** asked **New York business leaders to tell us what their state should do to become a leader in clean energy**. Their responses covered a range of topics, including: tax credits and financing, public education and communication about the benefits and availability of clean energy, government action, and general support for increasing local wind and solar capacity.

Three out of 10 comments focused on financing clean energy purchases (e.g., homeowners installing solar panels) or clean energy production (e.g., companies installing wind turbines). Tax incentives were the most common suggestion.

One out of five comments focused on building New York's clean energy infrastructure, from improvements to the power grid to training for clean energy workers.

One in 10 focused on ending subsidies for coal and other fossil fuels, restricting fracking, taxing carbon, and fighting NIMBY objections to wind turbines and solar panels.

One in 20 called for state officials to raise awareness about the promise of clean energy jobs (particularly in rural areas) and how recent investments are driving clean energy prices down, increasing demand, and encouraging further investment.

Most of the comments made by these business leaders are addressed by the New York State Climate and Community Protection Act and its companion bill to generate massive investment in clean infrastructure, just transition for workers, and energy rebates for low and middle-income New Yorkers through the creation of a polluter fee. This legislation would mandate an economy-wide shift to renewable energy and ensure that investments benefit the whole state not just in wealthy communities that can front the cost on their own. In April, the New York State Assembly passed the CCPA for the third consecutive session, by a margin of 99 to 31. But the measure has consistently stalled in the New York Senate. Six Democratic state senators, who worked with Republicans to block the CCPA, lost their primary elections in September. [Click here to read Business Forward's issue brief on the CCPA.](#)

NEW YORK BUSINESS LEADER SURVEY

Business Forward is a national trade group that has worked with more than 11,000 business leaders across New York. We've organized hundreds of briefings on clean energy, climate change, and energy security. These briefings have included two Secretaries of Energy, two EPA Administrators, dozens of U.S. Senators and Congressmen, and hundreds of other officials.

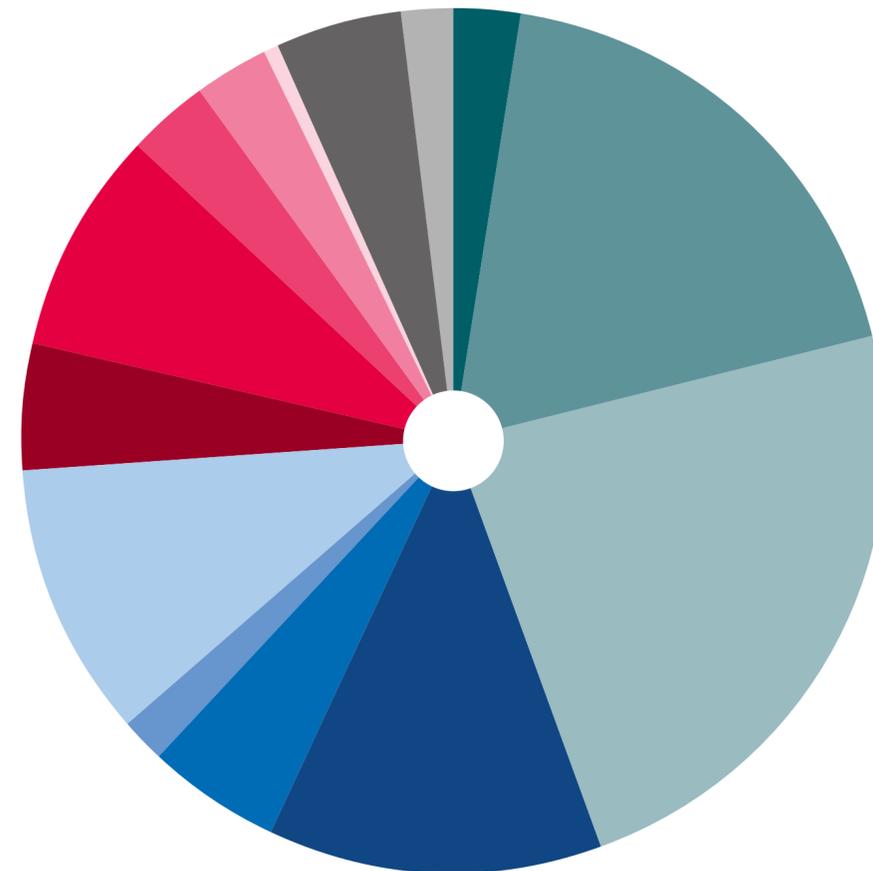
Last month, we asked business leaders in New York to tell us what their state should to become a leader in clean energy production. More than 300 of them provided recommendations. Their responses covered a range of topics, including: tax credits and financing, infrastructure investment, public education, ending subsidies for fossil fuels, banning fracking, and taxing carbon.

Three out of 10 comments focused on financing clean energy purchases (like helping consumers install solar panels) or clean energy production (like helping wind turbine operators connect to the grid). Tax incentives were the most common suggestion.

One out of five comments focused on building New York's clean energy infrastructure, including improvements to the power grid, training for clean energy workers, improving energy efficiency, and growing local capacity to create wind and solar energy.

One in 10 focused on ending subsidies for coal and other fossil fuels, restricting fracking, taxing carbon, and fighting NIMBY objections to wind turbines and solar panels.

One in 20 called for state officials to raise awareness about the promise of clean energy jobs (particularly in rural areas), the availability of low and no-cost residential options, and how recent investments are driving clean energy prices down, increasing demand, and encouraging further investment.



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PROVIDE HELP WITH FINANCING

Three out of 10 comments focused on financing clean energy purchases (like helping consumers install solar panels) or clean energy production (like helping wind turbine operators connect to the grid). Tax incentives were the most common suggestion.

“Tax incentives.”

- ANNE DILLENBECK
REXFORD, NY

“Incentives for solar power, subsidies for electric vehicles, incentives for green energy investment funds.”

- BRUCE STOCKLER
LARCHMONT, NY

“Make the clean energy business tax free for the first 25 years.”

- CHRISTOPHER JANSEN
BUFFALO, NY

“Tax incentives for start-ups. Pilot for new factories, tax cuts for businesses and homeowners who install wind and solar. There are so many...”

- DAVID CAMPBELL
PHOENIX, NY

“Reward buildings and businesses for going green.”

- MARGARET SMITH
STATEN ISLAND, NY

“Bond issues for local communities establishing municipally/community-owned energy generation via wind and solar.”

- RICHARD SIGNOR
KING FERRY, NY

“Continue to incentivize deployments as well as encourage energy product developers and manufacturers to set up in the state.”

- BRENDA GROBER
BALLSTON LAKE, NY

“Offer incentives to landowners who are willing to use their land for wind or solar energy.”

- DEBRA KERWAN
WATKINS GLEN, NY

“Provide low-interest financing to anyone who wants to install a renewable energy system.”

- DAVID STUDER
AVALON ELECTRIC CORP.,
NEW YORK CITY, NY

“Government funding instead of tax credits to put solar on every residence in NY”

- PATRICK MOSER
BUFFALO, NY

BUILD CLEAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

One out of five comments focused on building New York's clean energy infrastructure, including improvements to the power grid, training for clean energy workers, improving energy efficiency, and growing local capacity to create wind and solar energy.

“ Better subsidize community distributed renewable energy and microgrid projects, advanced battery storage, EVs, and electrification of passenger and freight rail transportation. ”

- J. BURDGE
GREATER NYC AREA

“ Flood control barriers should double as an energy source and a water filtration system. ”

- A. SEALL
NEW YORK, NY

“ Why not a solar array on every rooftop and commercial building? And why not the innovative uses of turbines in our rivers, lakes, and streams for power generation? ”

- SETH ADAMS
ITHACA, NY

“ Incentivize the cost of EV charging and electrify mass transit. ”

- KAT FISHER
GREATER NYC AREA

“ Solar panels on rooftops and wind turbines. ”

- A. BLAIR
NEW YORK, NY

“ Retool some of the rundown factories that run along the Mohawk for making wind turbines and solar panels. ”

- B CAVALERI
DOLGEVILLE, NY

“ By going green, jobs are created [and] the ancient tech can be eliminated. Clean water, air, and land. We cannot keep using ancient tech to solve tomorrow's problem. ”

- WILLIAM ROSA
MOUNT VERNON, NY

“ Commitments to purchase power from these sources from municipalities, schools, and hospitals. ”

- LARISSA POTAPCHUK
SOUTHAMPTON, NY

“ By investing in clean energy alternatives. Good for the planet, good for the economy. ”

- ROBERT RAVENS
EAST MEADOW, NY

“ Lower taxes to attract new infrastructure. It's not a D or an R thing but good business. ”

- DARREN WARREN
BROOKLYN, NY

END SUBSIDIES FOR FOSSIL FUELS

One in 10 focused on ending subsidies for coal and other fossil fuels, restricting fracking, taxing carbon, and fighting NIMBY objections to wind turbines and solar panels.

“ Increase manufacturing of clean energy components, such as solar, wind, and geothermal parts and systems. Lobby for subsidies for implementing and manufacturing such systems. Permanently ban fracking in New York State and the whole country. ”

- MARTHA TARANTO
ITHACA, NY

“ Wind mills on the Great Lakes. Use the energy of Niagara Falls. ”

- NAVI CLANG
CLARENCE, NY

“ Invest in solar, wind, and electric and faze out dirty oil. ”

- ANGELA BENESCH
ALBANY, NY

“ Perhaps if we unsubsidized dirty, unsustainable energy sources we will have a clear winner in the free market. ”

- E. BRAUN
MORRISVILLE, NY

“ Build more off-shore and on-shore wind farms along with using old parking lots in urban areas to be repurposed for major solar farms. ”

- J. STEPHENS
BUFFALO, NY

“ Climate change is one of the reasons customers turn to us, since we design and install solar energy systems on Long Island. We are doing our part to reduce the carbon footprint here, and wish world leaders would do more legislatively to make solar energy more popular, and support the extension of the federal investment tax credit to keep solar energy affordable for homeowners and business owners. ”

- DAN SABIA
WANTAGH, NY

“ Clean and sustainable power is a great long-term goal and government needs to provide leadership to promote clean and sustainable power through incentives and laws following a carrot and stick approach. Removing regulations might seem tempting to reduce business costs, but in the long term businesses will pay more for healthcare as their workers get sicker because of the added work space pollution as well as degrade their brand image when polluting the air and water more. Short term gains may seem like a good idea initially, but lose appeal over time. As Benjamin Franklin said, ‘The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten.’ ”

- MIKE COBLE
PELHAM, NY

RAISE AWARENESS OF GREEN JOBS AND CLEAN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

One in 20 called for state officials to raise awareness about the promise of clean energy jobs (particularly in rural areas), the availability of low and no-cost residential options, and how recent investments are driving clean energy prices down, increasing demand, and encouraging further investment.

“ Bring more solar and wind here by creating an education program for people in New York to do these jobs. ”

- J. SMITH
SYRACUSE, NY

“ Connect the dots for the consumers between doing air sealing through an energy efficiency upgrade and how it solves common problems like reducing pests, frozen pipes, ice dams, and how you can have a smaller solar array by reducing how much energy they will use. ”

- M. MCKNIGHT
WEST HURLEY, NY

“ People need to see the long-term effects of committing to clean energy. ”

- R. FERRIN
BROOKLYN, NY

“ We are an energy efficiency retrofit company and provide jobs in the green jobs field. Addressing clean energy is KEY to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the environment and solving respiratory health issues for millions of Americans. ”

- MELINDA MCKNIGHT
PORT EWEN, NY

“ Solar training, lower installation costs with grants. ”

- BETH HOFFNER
MONTGOMERY, NY

“ We need a marketing campaign for energy efficiency that connects the dots between air sealing and solving common problems in buildings. ”

- M. MCKNIGHT
WEST HURLEY, NY

“ Support businesses focused on clean energy and provide free vocation training for developing employees for those jobs. Make sure those are union jobs and pay a middle class wage. ”

- TRICIA MCDERMOTT
BAY SHORE, NY

“ State investment in clean energy materials plants. More thorough education and providing of clear, concise information on wind farming for local municipalities. Development of eco-tourism industry. ”

- MICHAEL SWEENY
YOUNGSTOWN, NY

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