

STATEMENT : APRIL 2019

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BUSINESS LEADER STATEMENT

**IN SUPPORT OF IN-STATE
CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION**



BUSINESSFORWARD
FOUNDATION

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BUSINESS LEADERS
TO ALBANY AND THEIR NEXT GOVERNOR:**

**LET'S STOP IMPORTING \$50 BILLION
IN OIL, GAS, AND COAL EACH YEAR.**

Business Forward has organized hundreds of briefings across the country 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.

Over the past several months, we have asked business leaders in New York to sign the following letter in support of efforts to produce more clean energy in state. Over 1,500 business leaders, representing 58 of New York's 64 counties, responded. 54 of those leaders are from Westchester County.



TO THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE:

1. Keep Our Money Here.

New York spends \$50 billion each year importing coal, gas, and oil. That \$50 billion pays for jobs, schools and road repairs in places like Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Texas. By switching to solar and wind, we can keep more of that spending here, creating jobs and fixing infrastructure across New York.

2. Everyone Benefits.

No matter where in the state we produce this power, all New Yorkers will benefit. Taxes paid by wind turbine operators in Oswego will help fund roads in New Rochelle. Grid upgrades in Syracuse will help reduce rates in Utica.

3. Jobs Where We Need Them, Environmental Justice.

Clean energy economies favor many counties that deserve a break. Mill towns and farm-land upstate enjoy some of the region's steadiest and strongest winds, and new financing models for solar create business opportunities in urban areas. A New York energy boom could create jobs where we need them most.

4. If Not Clean Energy, What?

Few industries are as big, as local or as jobs-intensive as energy. Let's bring some of that \$50 billion back.

INSIGHT:

This transformative clean energy program can be accomplished at little to no cost to consumers. This is because the average cost of delivering a given supply of electricity from clean renewable sources will be roughly equal to, if not cheaper than, virtually all fossil-fuel based technologies.

Source: Clean Energy Investments for New York State, R. Pollin, H. Garrett-Peltier, J. Wicks-Lin, University of Massachusetts, November 2017

FACT:

**ONLY 3 PERCENT
OF THE ENERGY
NEW YORK
PRODUCES IS
RENEWABLE**

FACT:

**EXTREME WEATHER
COSTS NEW YORK
\$10+ BILLION/YEAR**

**DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING,
AGRICULTURAL DISRUPTION,
AND HIGHER ELECTRICITY
COSTS (HEAT WAVES).**

**BURNING OIL, COAL, AND
GAS CAUSES ANOTHER \$33
BILLION IN PUBLIC HEALTH
COSTS EACH YEAR.**

FACT:

**NEW YORK COULD
CREATE 145,000 TO
160,000 NEW JOBS
PER YEAR**

**IF INVESTMENTS ARE
MADE TO ACHIEVE A
50 PERCENT EMISSIONS
REDUCTION BY 2030.**

SIGNATORIES

AC Phillips, Croton on Hudson
Adrian Kringas, Tarrytown
Anda Lieberman, Croton on Hudson
Ann Innes, West Harrison
Ann Quota, Croton on Hudson
Anna Sherling, Rye Brook
Bruce Stockler, Larchmont
Carol Herd Rodriguez, Hastings on Hudson
Connie Haack, White Plains
David Franck, Purchase
Dawn Cavrell, Tarrytown
Diane Lombardi, Valhalla
Dolores Mackey, Yonkers
Donna Pagan, Yonkers
Helen Goodspeed, White Plains
Inge Verhalle, Croton on Hudson
Isola García, Yonkers
Jimmy Ching, White Plains
Juan Cruz, Cortlandt Manor
Justin M. Crasto, Sr., Bedford
Kenneth Feldman, White Plains
Linda Fighera, New Rochelle
Lynn Nickles, Mount Vernon
Mairin Loftus, Buchanan
Mariam McDonnell, Yonkers
Meredith Donahue, Croton on Hudson
Michael Mangino, Valhalla
Mike Coble, Pelham
Nestor Guzman, Yonkers
Nicole Sands, Ossining
Nils Osterberg, White Plains
Patricia Chiulli, Yonkers
Peter Sweeny, Pleasantville
Renee Donow, Yorktown Heights
Robert Hechler, Peekskill
Robin Richards, Mount Vernon
Shelmar Tinsay, Mount Vernon
Steven Coleman, White Plains
Suk Chan, Bronxville
Susan Romanski, North Salem
Tamara Nieman, Croton on Hudson
Thomas Holman, Peekskill
Thomas Rocchio, Bedford Hills
Toni King, Port Chester
Vigor Gorodischer, Mamaroneck
Virginia Roebuck, Bedford Hills
Wendi Cohen, Ossining
William Rosa, Mount Vernon

“

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

”

- WILLIAM ROSA
MOUNT VERNON

“

Tax incentives for clean energy providers and investors.

”

- AC PHILLIPS
CROTON ON HUDSON

“

[We should] work with the county executive, municipality admin, and vote for legislators who will work to make it happen.

”

- DIANE LOMBARDI
VALHALLA

“

Without a doubt, we should be creating clean energy jobs. We are in a battle for the earth and for our children and grandchildren's benefit.

”

- MAIRIN LOFTUS
BUCHANAN

“

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

”

- BRUCE STOCKLER
LARCHMONT

“

[New York should invest in renewable generation technologies like] geothermal, solar, wind, wave, and small water wheels (no dams).

”

- TONI KING
PORT CHESTER

“

We should create green jobs in low-income neighborhoods.

”

- MICHAEL MANGINO
VALHALLA

“

I think if we give tax breaks to clean energy companies instead of fossil fuels, that will stimulate investment in clean energy. Taxing carbon emissions or punishing polluters financially might also help.

”

- MEREDITH DONAHUE
CROTON ON HUDSON

“

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

“

Give tax credits to clean energy companies that locate or expand in New York.

”

- JOHN W. GIBBON
LYONS

“

The state can bring clean energy jobs by making solar panels in New York.

”

- PATRICIA CHIULLI
YONKERS

INFO@BUSINESSFWD.ORG

BUSINESSFWD.ORG

**1155 CONNECTICUT AVENUE NW
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036**

202.861.1270



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FOUNDATION