

ISSUE BRIEF : APRIL 2019

NEW YORK STATE CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION ACT



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business Forward is a national trade group that has 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 Members of Congress, and hundreds of other officials. **We have worked with more than 11,000 business leaders across New York.**

NYRenews is a coalition of 125 labor, community, and environmental justice organizations, united to pass ambitious climate policies that move New York to 100 percent renewable energy, while creating jobs, protecting workers, and ensuring true environmental justice.

Over the past several months, **we helped over 1,500 New York business leaders demand that state officials do more to increase clean energy production and create clean energy jobs.** They represented 58 of New York's 64 counties. [Click here to read their letter.](#)

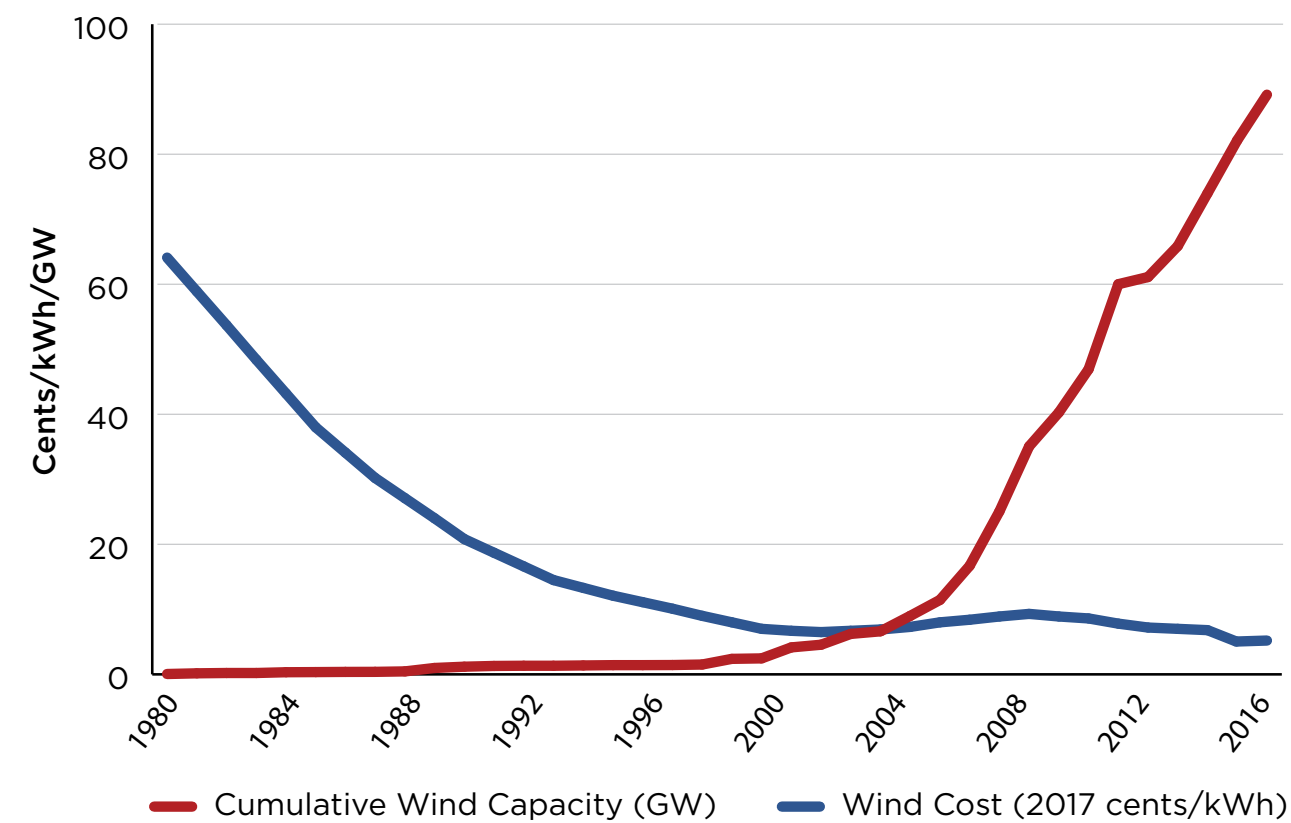
We also asked business leaders in New York to tell us what this state should to become a leader in clean energy production. More than 400 business leaders responded, covering a range of topics, including: environmental justice, tax credits and financing, public education and communication about the benefits and availability of clean energy, government action, and general support for increasing local wind and solar capacity. [Click here to read the survey responses.](#)

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 transitions 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.

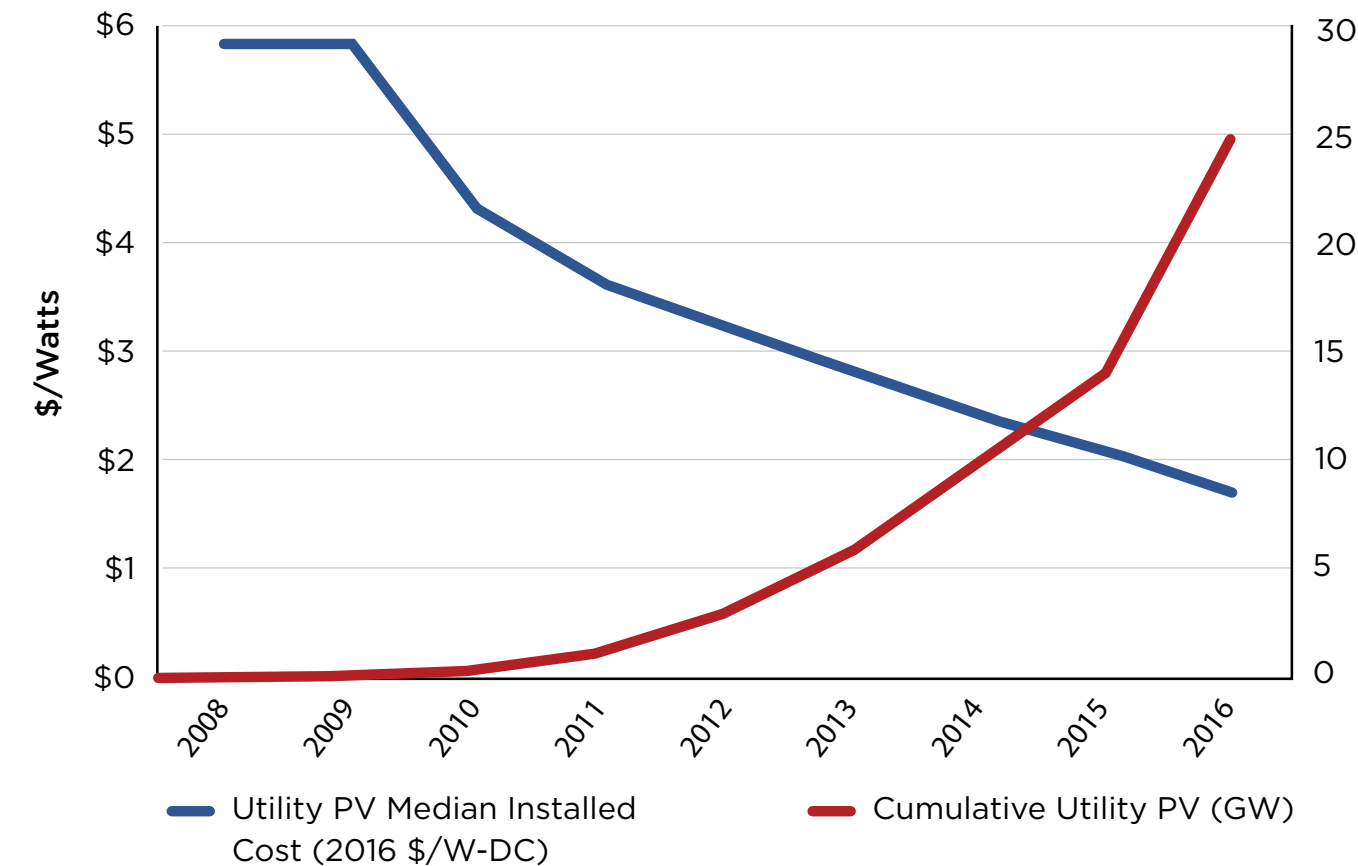
NEW YORK'S RECORD ON CLEAN ENERGY

States across the country are investing in renewable energy, particularly solar and wind. Prices are down, capacity is up, employment is growing, and investment dollars are flowing.

WIND POWER



UTILITY & DISTRIBUTED SOLAR PV



Innovative, forward-thinking states follow a pattern: modernize the state's grid; work with utilities to scale wind and solar; encourage individuals to install solar in their homes; and create community-based models that allow more households to participate. They're training workers to install and service solar panels and wind turbines. They import less oil, gas, and coal, which means they keep more of their energy spending in-state.

Today, only three percent of the energy New York produces is renewable. As a result, New Yorkers import more than \$50 billion in coal, oil and gas each year. By comparison, California just announced it will reach 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. New Jersey's governor announced his support for 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

New York, a leader in everything else, can do better on clean energy.

HOW CCPA WORKS

The CCPA mandates that New York reach 100 percent renewable energy, economy-wide, by 2050. The CCPA would cut greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors of the economy, protect communities and workers on the front lines of climate change, and ensure that jobs in the new energy economy conform with fair labor standards.

Achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 would save tens of billions of dollars currently spent by households and businesses on fossil fuels, and stimulate the creation of tens of thousands of jobs annually.



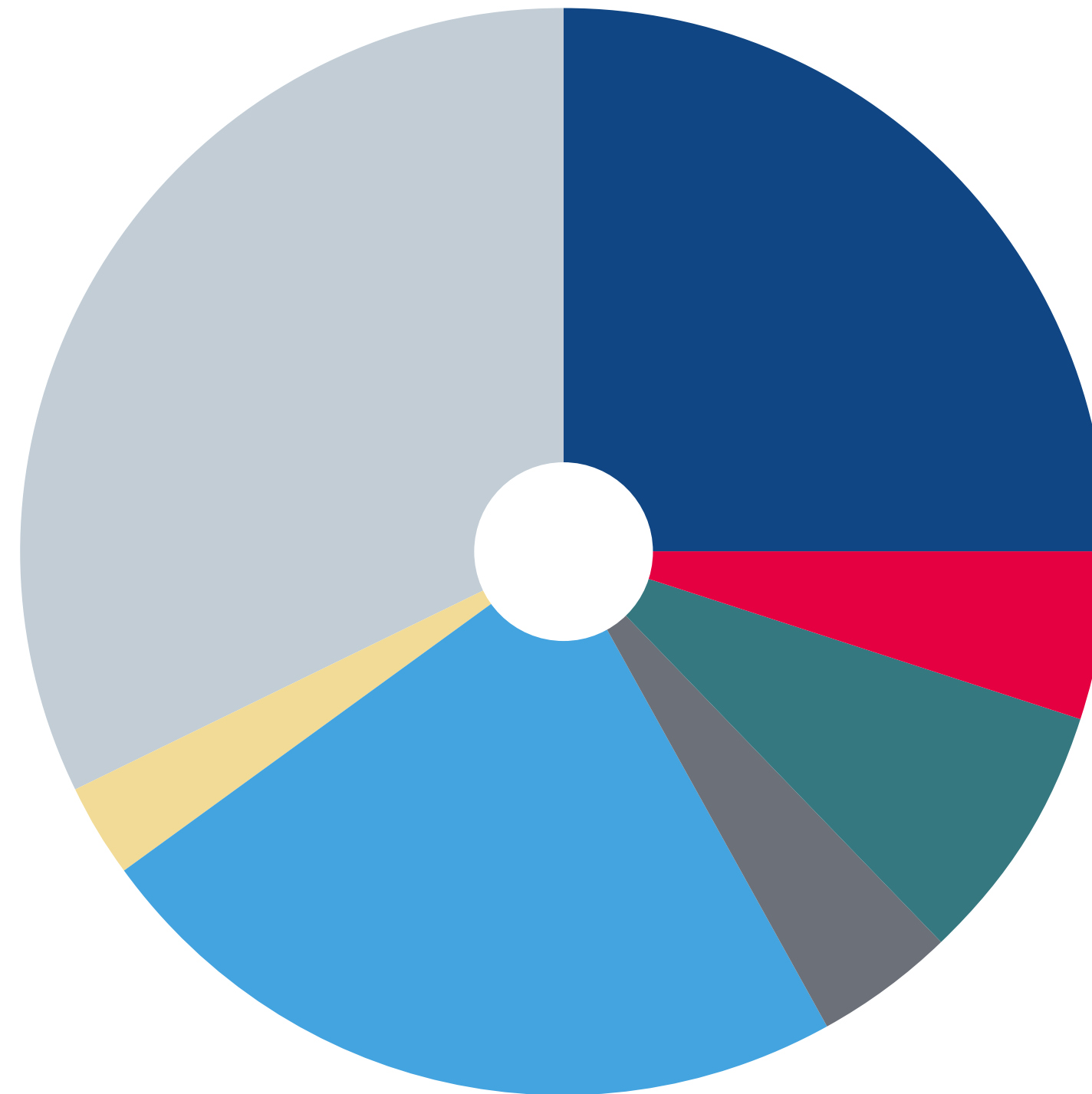
This transformative clean energy program can be accomplished at little to no cost to consumers. This is because the average cost of delivering a given supply of electricity from clean renewable sources will be roughly equal to, if not cheaper than, virtually all fossil-fuel based technologies.

SOURCE: CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENTS FOR NEW YORK STATE, R. POLLIN, H. GARRETT-PELTIER, J. WICKS-LIN, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, NOVEMBER 2017

ENERGY JOBS FOR NEW YORK

A landmark study by economists at the University of Massachusetts found that investments to achieve a 50 percent emissions reduction by 2030 would create 145,000 to 160,000 new jobs in New York per year.

Investments to achieve a 100 percent emissions reduction by 2050 would create 50,000 to 90,000 new jobs in New York per year.



NEW ENERGY JOBS (BY %)

- BUILDING RETROFITS - 25%
- PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION - 5%
- GEOTHERMAL ENERGY - 8%
- INDUSTRIAL EFFICIENCY - 4%
- WIND ENERGY - 23%
- ELECTRICAL GRID UPGRADE - 3%
- SOLAR ENERGY - 32%

A TRANSITION THAT HELPS PAY FOR ITSELF

By shifting market incentives and driving investments, CCPA makes renewable energy more competitive and generates the funds to underwrite a rapid but equitable transition. A polluter fee that begins at \$35 per ton of emissions and increases gradually would generate about \$7 billion in revenue every year over the first 10 years. This money would be invested in transitioning to clean energy and growing New York's local economy:

33%

Would target low-income communities that are hardest hit by pollution and climate change (e.g., incentives for renewable energy projects that reduce emissions, reduce power bills, and create local jobs).

30%

Would be rebated directly to consumers, reducing energy bills for low and medium-income families.

30%

Would be dedicated to large scale projects that reduce emissions and target areas of economic need (e.g., improving public transportation upstate and funding energy efficiency projects across the state).

7%

Would pay for retraining and other assistance to fossil-fuel workers.

BP, Exxon Mobil, Royal Dutch Shell, and General Motors have each endorsed a carbon tax.

SEE WWW.CLCOUNCIL.ORG

GROWING CLIMATE COSTS FOR NEW YORK

Severe weather driven by climate change is affecting commodity prices, disrupting supply chains, harming plants and equipment, and hurting consumer demand. Coastal flooding, agricultural disruption, and higher electricity costs (heat waves) cost New York more than \$10 billion each year. Superstorm Sandy cost New York nearly \$33 billion. Burning oil, coal and gas causes another \$33 billion in public health costs each year.

\$10
BILLION

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BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN ALBANY – AND A ROADBLOCK

Last 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.

The mayors of Syracuse, Utica, Nyack, and White Plains; 13 New York City Council members; the Brooklyn Borough President; and 140 other state and local officials support transitioning to 100 percent renewables by 2050.

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