



Press Conference, January 25, 2022 Member Group Quotes

"2022 is the year that New York can break from business as usual and take its place as a climate leader. That means passing this suite of climate legislation to fundamentally advance us on the path to a just transition and fully funding the State's landmark climate law with \$15 billion in this year's budget. Without this scale of effort and investment, our nationally renowned climate law may become an empty promise, a promise we can't afford to break," **said Stephan Edel, Coalition Coordinator at NY Renews.**

"The IPCC and the UN have issued a Code Red warning that the actions taken by our governments since the Paris climate treaty fall far short of the actions needed to avoid climate collapse. More than 30 climate groups from throughout New York have laid out a dozen key bills and steps New York needs to adopt now to give future generations a chance of a decent living while creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs for today's workers," **said Mark Dunlea, coordinator of PAUSE (People of Albany United for Safe Energy), the 350.org affiliate in the Capital District.**

"With climate policy stalled in D.C. and the climate emergency worsening by the day, New York State must lead. New Yorkers' lives, futures and survival are at stake. The legislature must pass the 12 bills in the Climate Can't Wait package this year," **said Liat Olenick, from Indivisible Nation Bk.**

"In New York State, as with the rest of the world, we daily experience the deadly and worsening consequences of climate change. Temperatures continue to rise, increasingly heavy rainfall pummels our communities, sea levels push upward, formerly rare extreme weather events are now common, and each of these effects will continue to dramatically intensify if we wait to properly address them. Climate Can't Wait, a statewide coalition of more than 30 climate-focused organizations, offers effective solutions. Climate Can't Wait demands that the New York State Legislature and Governor Hochul lead in the spirit of our state's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, do what's best for New York, and pass eleven key bills and one proposal that comprise our critically important climate policy package," **said Kevin Wickersham, Executive Director, Hudson Center for Community and Environment.**

"New York State has some of the most dedicated climate activists in the nation, yet we passed no climate legislation in 2021. I believe it's largely because New York's climate organizations were all working in their own silos instead of banding together to harness our collective power. Climate Can't Wait 2022 is the answer, and it positions New York State to once again be a climate leader the rest of the nation can emulate. The climate crisis is urgent. We have a serious package of bills to address it. Now we need to make sure the Democratic super-majority in the legislature makes it happen," **said Jordan Dale, 350NJ-Rockland.**

“This past summer, New Yorkers experienced serious threats to health and safety due to the climate crisis: deadly flooding, extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and more. Despite the clear and present danger, those in power have yet to fully face up to the emergency we are in. With the passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, we've made strides toward a just transition to a renewable energy economy. Now we must fund that transition, starting with \$15 billion in this year's budget, and we must use every single tool in the legislative toolbox to work toward a safer and more just future for all New Yorkers,” **said Laurel Tumarkin, Peoples Climate Movement - NY.**

“Out of frustration that the legislature has not taken serious action to address the climate crisis since passing the CLCPA in 2019, this group of 32 statewide organizations has come together to demand, as one voice, that our representatives in Albany step up and take IMMEDIATE action. It's time to put a moratorium on destructive cryptocurrency mining, to implement a public renewable energy system, to fund a just transition, and to stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. Our package of bills to be passed this legislative session addresses these issues and more,” **said Natalie Polvere & Iris Hiskey Arno, Environment Committee co-chairs, NYCD16 Indivisible**

“Sunrise NYC is proud to join the Climate Can't Wait coalition to fight for this crucial package of climate legislation in NY state. As young New Yorkers, we have a huge stake in a just transition away from deadly fossil fuels and will not allow a future of increasing climate disasters to destroy our communities. We're here to demand that the New York State Legislature and Governor Hochul fulfill the promises of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), listen to the youth who need bold climate action, and make it happen in 2022 by passing these eleven urgently needed bills and a fully funded CLCPA,” **said Shea Rister of Sunrise NYC.**

“350Brooklyn stands with concerned New Yorkers from all corners of the state who recognize that the climate crisis is here, now. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019, of which we are justly proud, is aspirational — but aspirations are not enough. We must pass legislation NOW that will ensure that those aspirations are met, including funding sufficient to meet the scope of the crisis. And we must do so in ways that ensure that all New Yorkers, whatever their income or social group, have the full benefits of this transition,” **said Sara Gronim of 350Brooklyn.**

“New York State must face the climate crisis honestly” said **Livvie Mann, Rise and Resist.** “The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act passed in 2019 and hailed nationwide as a model legislation. Three years later the bill is still unfunded, and in that time the climate crisis has worsened significantly. We don't have time for empty gestures. The lives of our children and grandchildren are at stake. Governor Hochul and the legislature must face the gravity of our situation, treat it like the emergency it is, and fully fund the bold actions that we desperately need.”

“A state at 6 percent wind and solar going three years without a single climate bill to fix it isn't the 'renewable energy capital of the nation,' it's in climate denial. After thousands of New Yorkers joined together to stop the NRG and Danksammer fracked gas plants from poisoning our lungs and futures, Governor Hochul's greenwashed climate plan is a slap in our faces. With temperatures spiraling faster than ever, we have a choice: build, or burn. If Albany is serious about fighting mass extinction, they must stop doing as little as they can get away with, and start doing everything they can,” said **NYC-DSA organizer Jay Wu.**

“The climate can't wait. It's that simple. Really. Passing the Climate Protection and Community Leadership Act in 2019 was a big step, but without the accompanying legislation that puts specific policies in place to ensure we meet the goals of the CLCPA, we're just whistling past the graveyard. The twelve bills backed by our coalition will help get the job done. Let's do it,” said **Peter Bardaglio, coordinator of the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative.**

“The twelve Climate Can’t Wait bills represent vital solutions that New York State urgently needs to further reduce carbon emissions, make a just transition to a renewable energy economy, create green jobs, and support frontline communities. These twelve bills will also accelerate our ability to meet the groundbreaking emissions reduction and renewable energy targets of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. We need to do everything possible this year to strengthen the climate policies that can best fight the climate crisis, and deliver equity and justice for our planet. We urge the New York State Legislature to pass these bills, and for Governor Hochul to immediately sign them into law upon passage,” said **Anthony Ng, Queens Climate Project**.

“It is unacceptable that no major climate legislation has been passed since 2019. Young New Yorkers have grown up only seeing increasing natural disasters and extreme weather events, but no major action from legislators. Treeage is proud to join the Climate Can’t Wait coalition because all these twelve bills need to be passed in order for us to have a livable future. We need immediate action, starting with huge investments in climate, jobs, and justice in the 2022 budget, and the passage of all the Climate Can’t Wait bills this year. Our lives are on the line and Governor Hochul and the New York legislature need to act now.” said **Kathryn Gioiosa, Political Organizing Director at Treeage**.

“The solutions are here, and we want a future away from harmful fossil fuels. We want to build something *new*. The old ways have gotten us into this mess, and it’s time we take bold approaches to saving the climate, while we still have the chance. We know and believe that prioritizing climate is a crucial step to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, and advance the state’s climate goals. Now more than ever we stand firm in our commitment to the movement for environmental justice and the self-determination of our communities,” said **Raisa Lin Garden-Lucerna, lifelong member and youth leader of El Puente**. “Governor Hochul, you have the power to focus on strong climate policies for renewable energy, green jobs, and fees on big polluters! Join us, because we will not stop fighting for the health of our communities and our environment! Pa’lante siempre palante!”

“Forest Hills Green Team represents many residents in Central Queens who are urgently concerned about the climate emergency. We join the over 30 groups in the Climate Can’t Wait 2022 collaborative to urge our elected officials to pass the twelve bills and allocate the fifteen billion dollar desperately needed as a down payment to assure we leave a sustainable planet for the next generations,” said **Eric Arnum of the Forest Hills Green Team**.

“New York claims to be a climate leader yet continues to spend \$1.6 billion a year on tax subsidies that support the use of climate destroying fossil fuels. The New York State and New York City pension funds are currently divesting from fossil fuels, but the NYS Teachers Retirement System (NYSTRS) continues to fund the fossil fuel industry with an estimated \$4.5 billion dollars. At this point in the climate crisis, funding the industry that threatens our future is unconscionable. We are proud to be part of Climate Cant Wait and call on the legislature to act on climate NOW including by passing the Teachers Fossil Fuel Divestment Act and the Act to End Fossil Fuel Subsidies,” said **Ruth Foster, Member, Divest NY**.

“The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act should poise New York as the country’s leader on climate, but there’s no way we’ll live up to that role if Governor Hochul continues to allow outside speculators to operate fossil fuel-burning plants as 24/7 Bitcoin mines. We should be moving away from burning fossil fuels completely, but instead these Bitcoin mining plants are allowed, completely unchecked, to pump CO2 into the air. They bring no benefit to the public while guaranteeing that we will never meet the critical goals outlined in the CLCPA. Governor Hochul: if you want New York to lead on climate, you must place a moratorium on proof-of-work crypto mining.

Repowering or expanding fossil fuel-burning plants to mine fake money in the middle of a climate crisis is literally insane,” said **Joseph Campbell, president of Seneca Lake Guardian.**