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## Cuomo Is A Climate Disaster: A Fact Sheet

*Despite holding the office of Governor during some of our movement's biggest wins on climate and environmental justice, Governor Andrew Cuomo's record is ultimately one of fossil fuel allyship, working to undercut climate action at turn after turn. As we look ahead to his current billionaire-funded run for Mayor of New York City, it's no different.*

### No Climate Platform In His Race For Mayor

- Throughout his race for Mayor, Andrew Cuomo has been vague on what policies he supports. He used ChatGPT to write a confusing, vague, and illogical plan on public safety and housing ([HellGate](#)). He's failed to announce any platform on climate or environmental issues.

### Cuomo Is Funded By Fossil Fuel Billionaires

- From January 2015 to mid-January 2018, Gov. Andrew Cuomo received nearly \$113,000 in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry.
- In 2018, he refused to stand by a pledge against fossil fuel money campaign contributions ([HuffPost](#)). He's since continued to take fossil fuel funding.
- His current campaign is being bankrolled by the same big real estate money that is leading the opposition to our landmark Local Law 97 climate law ([POLITICO](#)).

### Cuomo's Disastrous Climate Record As Governor

- *He Worked To Block New York City's Landmark Climate Law:* In 2021, former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo proposed a budget provision that would have allowed building owners in New York City to use renewable energy credits (RECs) to offset emissions and evade Local Law 97's carbon emission limits. This proposal aimed to weaken the law, which requires large buildings to meet stringent carbon emission targets. The Legislature ultimately rejected Cuomo's proposal, keeping Local Law 97 in effect ([AIA New York](#)).
- *Weakened CLCPA:* Before eventually signing New York's landmark Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA) in 2019, he negotiated to weaken it significantly. Originally, the CLCPA targeted zero carbon emissions, economy-wide, by 2050. After a compromise with Cuomo, the CLCPA targeted net zero by 2050, which equated to an 85% reduction, and 15% of emissions made up by offsets. Furthermore, he weakened the 2030 emission targets from 50% to 40%, decreased the mandated Environmental Justice spending proportion from 40% to 35%, and reduced worker protections ([Vox](#) & [ClimateXChange](#)).
- *Slowed CLCPA Enforcement:* After signing the law, he delayed the first meetings of the Climate Action Council, responsible for enforcement, in 2020 and delayed appointments from July of 2019 until February of 2020. All together, he failed to support any of the legislation our movements pushed for regarding implementation ([Jacobin](#)).
- *Supporting Republicans:* While California, for example, was able to pass landmark climate legislation long before 2019, Cuomo empowered the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), effectively creating a Republican Majority in the state legislature. This effectively made any legislative climate action impossible for almost a decade ([City & State](#)).

- *Fossil fuel approvals:* Despite, thanks to our organizing, rejecting some fossil fuel projects, former Governor Cuomo was easily convinced to approve dozens of projects. These include the Dominion Pipeline Expansion (2016, [WRVO](#)), Cricket Valley fracked gas power plant (2012, [Poughkeepsie Journal](#)), and the CPV fracked gas plant in Orange County ([Times Union](#)), among others.
- *Criminal Friends:* In a huge 2018 story, Cuomo's top aide and close friend, Joe Percoco, was sentenced to 6 years in prison for accepting bribes in exchange for approval of the CPV fracked gas power plant. After his conviction, Governor Cuomo refused to revoke the illegally approved permits for the plant and allowed it to operate, polluting the air and water of Orange County. ([Lohoud](#)).
- *Defunding Clean Water:* Cuomo raided \$511 million from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund for the construction of the Tappan Zee Bridge in 2013 ([StreetsBlog NYC](#)).

### **Worked To Dismantle The MTA, Leading to The “Summer Of Hell” Crisis in 2017**

- *Continually Raided MTA Funds:* This also led to the “Summer of Hell” crisis in 2017.
  - 2011 – Cuomo raids \$200 million from MTA. Later that year, Cuomo also signed a \$250 million cut to the MTA payroll tax for small businesses ([City & State](#)).
  - 2013 – Cuomo raids \$20 million from MTA operating funds to service state debt taken out on behalf of the authority ([City & State](#)).
  - 2014 – Cuomo raids \$30 million in MTA operating funds to service the debt ([City & State](#)).
  - 2015 – Cuomo raids \$20 million in MTA operating funds to service the debt ([City & State](#)).
  - 2016 – Cuomo orders the MTA to cut a \$4.9-million check to bail out three upstate ski resorts ([Streetsblog NYC](#)).
  - 2017 – The state reduces funding to cover the 2011 payroll tax cut by \$65 million. ([City & State](#)).
  - 2019 – Cuomo spoke out against his own appointed MTA leadership for moving ahead with biennial scheduled fare hikes, giving the MTA the short shrift while lying about his veto power over its budget decisions ([Streetsblog NYC](#)).
  - 2020 – Cuomo used the Covid-19 crisis to justify a \$261 million cut from the MTA's operating budget ([Streetsblog NYC](#)).
  - 2021 – Cuomo even proposed taking \$145 million out of the state's MTA contribution in 2021 amid a deluge of sexual misconduct allegations – though state legislators managed to stop him that time at least ([Streetsblog NYC](#)).

### **There Are Alternatives!**

- Other candidates, on the other hand, have all committed to not taking fossil fuel money, enforcing Local Law 97 without loopholes, divesting the city's pension funds from dirty money managers, rejecting fossil fuel approvals, increasing transit accessibility, and funding environmental justice issues across the city. We deserve leaders who work for us and our future, not for billionaires and the fossil fuel industry.