350Brooklyn, All Our Energy, Capital District Zero Waste Group, Elected Officials to Protect America, Environmental Advocates NY, Food & Water Watch, Fridays for the Future Capital District and New York City, GELF, Grassroots Environmental Education, Interfaith Climate Justice Community, Long Island Progressive Coalition, Mothers Out Front, NRDC, NYCAP, NYPIRG, NYRenews, PAUSE, Rivers & Mountains GreenFaith, SHARE, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Sisters of Mercy, Surfrider Foundation NYC, Third Act Upstate New York, United University Professions

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: Thursday, December 28, 2023

For more information: Blair Horner 518-727-450, bhorner@nypirg.org
Livestream at https://www.facebook.com/NYPIRG

100 TOWN, CITY AND COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND 180 YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS URGE GOVERNOR TO INCLUDE THE CLIMATE CHANGE SUPERFUND ACT IN HER BUDGET, JOINING 250 OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

2023 “TAXPAYER TALLY” OF CLIMATE COSTS IS $2.1 BILLION OR $272 PER HOUSEHOLD; TAXPAYERS ARE ONLY REVENUE SOURCE FOR SOARING CLIMATE EXPENSES AS BIG OIL RACKED UP $750 BILLION IN PROFITS SINCE 2021

NEW NATIONAL POLL FINDS OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT MAKING BIG OIL PAY INTO A CLIMATE SUPERFUND

(Albany, N.Y.) Governor Hochul today received two letters from 280 local elected officials in Elected Officials to Protect America (EOPA) and youth groups such as Fridays for the Future, urging her to include the Climate Change Superfund Act in her Executive Budget next month. Their letters joined growing public support for the legislation, (S.2129A/A.3351A), including another letter to the governor from 250 civic, environmental, labor, public health, and religious organizations, including 350Brooklyn, ALIGN, Climate Reality Project, District Council 37, EOPA, Environmental Advocates NY, Food & Water Watch, Fridays for the Future Capital District and NYC, NYPIRG, NRDC, NY Renews, NYS Council of Churches, NYS Nurses Association, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Third Act Upstate New York, and UAW Region 9A.

In EOPA’s letter to the governor, more than 100 mayors and local elected officials stated there is no need for taxpayers to be severely burdened with the total climate bill, stating, “Our communities are on the front lines of the climate crisis, bearing the full weight of its impacts. We need the state to act now to hold the biggest polluters accountable. We need the Climate Change Superfund Act.” Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Albany Council President Corey Ellis and New York City Comptroller Brad Lander are some of the co-signers on the letter. https://protectingamerica.net/ny/new-york-supporting-climate-change-superfund-act/

The letter from 180 youth organizations stated: “New York State’s growing climate burden will grow from billions now to tens of billions by our middle age. Currently, New York taxpayers are footing the entire bill resulting from climate damages – rising sea levels, more intense storms, hotter temperatures, more pollution, etc. That is not fair to anyone today and nor is it fair to future generations who will bear those mushrooming costs. Instead, those responsible – most notably the largest oil companies – should be held financially accountable.”

A recent national poll by Data for Progress finds an overwhelming majority of American voters support making oil and gas Companies pay a share of climate costs caused by pollution.

NYPIRG released an analysis showing that NYS taxpayers were heavily burdened by over $2 billion in climate costs from December 2022 to December 2023, or $272 per household. (See page 4.) The analysis shows that without a revenue source for climate programs, by default the costs have been placed on the backs of state taxpayers while Big Oil companies have made a whopping $750 billion in profits since 2021. The groups called on Governor Hochul to put fiscal fairness and environmental justice front and center by including the Climate Change Superfund Act in her FY 2024/25 Executive Budget, which passed the Senate during the 2023 legislative session. The bill would require Big Oil companies responsible for the release of large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to pay apportioned fees totaling $3 billion a year. It is based
The groups’ call came weeks after deadly storms rocked the state; with serious flooding upstate, the Adirondacks getting pummeled, Long Island took a big hit also, and New York City got soaked. There can be no doubt that as the climate warms, storms will worsen. As the governor develops her state budget, the groups argued, are New York taxpayers going to bear the burden alone? So far, the answer has been yes. The governor has so far refused to embrace legislation that would make the largest oil companies pay their share of those costs. That legislation builds in protections so these costs wouldn’t fall back on consumers, according to an analysis from the prestigious Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law.

And those costs are expected to skyrocket. It is estimated that Long Island faces up to $100 billion in climate costs. A study from NYS Comptroller DiNapoli found that over a ten-year period (the last five and next five years), 55% of New York localities’ municipal spending outside of NYC was or will be related to climate change. New York City estimates as much as $100 billion will be needed to upgrade its sewers for more intense storms. And those costs are on top of the $52 billion that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has estimated is needed to protect New York Harbor from rising sea levels. Those costs – like the temperature of the planet – are expected to keep increasing. New Yorkers could see those costs rise to as much as $10 billion annually. New York taxpayers shouldn’t have to bear that burden alone.

The groups argued that the biggest oil companies should pick up the tab. The groups stated that it was the world’s largest oil companies that had conducted the cutting-edge research in the 1970s that concluded with precise accuracy what would happen if fossil fuels continued to be combusted. Moreover, the groups argued that the oil lobby spent big bucks on public relations and lobbying campaigns to undermine independent science and block public health initiatives. Had those reforms been embraced years ago, the groups argued, the world would not be facing the climate crisis it is today. The groups also cited that the oil industry has been raking in record-setting profits over the past few years.

“The New York taxpayers are in a ‘perfect storm’ situation created by the devastating impacts of the escalating climate crisis and the huge costs faced to mount a response” said Blair Horner, NYPIRG Executive Director. “A growing number of New Yorkers expect Governor Hochul to ease the climate burden by making sure that the largest climate polluters pick up a substantial portion of those costs and to do so in a manner that prohibits the companies from passing those costs onto the public, by including the Climate Change Superfund Act in her upcoming Executive Budget. It’s a lesson we all learned as kids: you make a mess; you clean it up. Big Oil should be on the financial hook.”

“In our farming town, we were hit by two 100-year storms in 5 years, causing millions of dollars in damages. Roads and bridges were washed out. Farmers couldn't bring produce to the market. Our taxpayers can't afford this year after year,” said Dominic Frongillo, former Councilmember and Deputy Supervisor of Caroline, NY and co-founder of Elected Officials to Protect America. “Big Oil must pay. That's why 100 mayors and local elected officials from every region of the state are urging Governor Hochul to include the Climate Superfund Act in her budget.”

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, the prime sponsor of the Climate Superfund Act, said: "More and more people are realizing what my colleagues in government from around the state, youth and environmental organizations already know: Big Oil and its products are the primary reason we are facing the current climate crisis. While the oil companies continue to make astronomical profits, the astronomical costs to adapt to the impacts of climate change are very real, with the estimated climate expenditures for New York City alone topping $163 billion. Including the Climate Change Superfund Act in next year's budget will ensure our constituents won't shoulder the entire costs of combating this climate disaster. It is time for us to act with due haste to ensure that Big Oil, who made this mess, is required to help clean it up."

“Notwithstanding the agitprop of conspiracy theorists, that climate change is a hoax; Al Roker, the meteorologist points out that 2023 was the hottest year ever on earth,” said Merton D. Simpson, Albany County Legislator, District 2 and Co-Chair, of the Sheridan Hollow Alliance for Renewable Energy (SHARE). “In June of 2023, NYC had the distinction of having the worst air quality in the world. When SHARE held a December 2023 press conference at the Capitol for the Renewable Capitol Act the temperature was over 50 degrees with intense rain; for most of my 69 years this would have been snow. Sheridan Hollow in my district has been polluted since 1911 with coal, oil, trash and now fracked natural gas which is used to fuel the 98-acre Empire State Plaza and surrounding buildings; it must be converted to green energy. It is essential that Big Oil polluters pay for their past and ongoing pollution. In the present existential climate crisis Governor
Hochul must include the Climate Change Superfund Act in her budget if the goals of the CLCPA are to be met and our grandchildren and future generations will have a sustainable planet.”

“Municipalities are stuck footing the bill for climate-related damage and resilience project costs,” said Michael Hofmann, City of Hudson Mayoral Aide and Hudson Valley Flood Resilience Network Advisory Committee member. “Communities of all sizes across the state are directly impacted by climate change, but smaller towns, villages, and cities like Hudson are hit even harder because of our limited resources and an already overburdened tax base. It is beyond time for fiscal fairness: Big Oil companies should pay their fair share. We urge the Governor to include the Climate Superfund Act in the Executive Budget.”

Michael Richardson of Third Act Upstate New York, stated, “While the United Nations and leading climate scientists issue severe climate warnings on a regular basis, the Governor and the NYS Assembly have failed year after year to sufficiently fund our landmark NYS Climate Act. Given the immense cost of mitigating climate disruption, what has been done so far is too little and too late. Including the Climate Change Superfund Act in the Governor’s Budget will provide substantial annual payments toward funding repairs for climate-related damages and damage repairs and build new infrastructure to mitigate against future storms.”

“As we confront the escalating climate crisis, let’s be clear: the Climate Change Superfund Act is not just a bill; it’s a powerful climate change solution,” said Vanessa Fajans-Turner, Executive Director, Environmental Advocates NY. “It’s a call for fairness and accountability from the polluters who profit as our disaster burden continues to rise. Oil companies actively lobby against our efforts to mitigate and defend ourselves from climate change, then turn a blind eye to the communities across New York State that are already bearing the brunt of its soaring costs. It's time for the oil companies doing business in New York to step up and contribute to the very solutions they've blocked for far too long. Governor Hochul, including the Climate Change Superfund Act in the Executive Budget is a crucial step towards an equitable, safe, sustainable, and affordable New York.”

“In September, 75,000 people of all generations, faiths, and backgrounds took to the streets of Manhattan calling for an end of the fossil fuel era,” said Keanu Arpels-Josiah, age 18, on behalf of Fridays For the Future NYC. “Fossil fuel companies have polluted our communities, well-being, and future: it’s time to make polluters pay. Governor Hochul and the legislature must include the Climate Change Superfund Act in the next fiscal budget.

“Over four decades ago, more than 700 Niagara Falls residents were trapped in the Love Canal neighborhood,” said Roger Cook and Sister Eileen O’Connor, Co-conveners, Interfaith Climate Justice Community of Western New York. “They were exposed to a dump filled with over 22,000 tons of the most toxic chemicals known to humankind. Hooker Chemical, which buried the wastes there, refused to accept responsibility. Local governments didn’t have the will or resources to move the residents or to remediate the site. Thanks to the activism of the Love Canal homeowners and to Congressman John LaFalce, Congress passed, and President Carter signed the Federal Superfund Act. Hooker Chemical and chemical companies around the country were held financially responsible for relocating residents and cleaning up the mess they had created. Governor Hochul should include the Climate Change Superfund Act in her state budget. Requiring the fossil fuel companies to pay for the mess they’ve made by dumping billions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The “polluters pay” principle that was adopted at Love Canal should also apply to the Big Oil giants. They are making record profits while the superstorms they’ve caused are destroying our public facilities such as our drinking and wastewater plants, harbors, roads, bridges and highways. We respectfully ask the Governor to join us in ensuring that those most responsible for the damages done to our communities, pay their fair share to repair and make more resilient our public infrastructure across the state.”

“The climate disasters that we are witnessing today aren’t natural disasters; these are premeditated crimes. The oil and gas industry knew decades ago that their products cause grave harm and chose to spend billions of dollars to lie to the public and lobby the politicians to block climate action – a practice that the industry continues unabated to date,” said Anshul Gupta, Policy & Research Director at New Yorkers for Clean Power. “The Climate Change Superfund Act would hold the largest historic climate polluters accountable and would require them to help partly shield New York taxpayers from the tens of billions of dollars that the state will end up spending in the coming years to fund disaster recovery, remediation and resilience.”
“With extreme weather breaking out across the planet in 2023, the UN Secretary-General has declared that the lack of climate action by governments has opened the gates to hell. New York needs to dramatically accelerate its actions to combat global warming, and that starts with making polluters pay to help address the damage they cause,” said Mark Dunlea, convenor of People of Albany United for Safe Energy (PAUSE), the Capital District 350.org affiliate. “The Climate Superfund Act needs to be one of several critical climate measures that Governor Hochul includes in her 2024-25 proposed Executive Budget.”

S2.1 BILLION IN TAXPAYERS’ MONEY PLEDGED FOR CLIMATE DAMAGE, PROTECTION AND RESILIENCY PROJECTS

DECEMBER 2022 – DECEMBER 2023

ACCORDING TO GOVERNOR HOCHUL NEWS RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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<td>December 2022 to December 2023 Time Period Average of $272 per NYS Household</td>
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Dear Governor Hochul,

As elected representatives of villages, towns, counties, and cities across New York State, we write to urge you to include the Climate Change Superfund Act (S.2129/A.3351A) in your Executive Budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Our communities are on the front lines of the climate crisis, bearing the full weight of its impacts – from the deadly blizzard that struck Buffalo last winter to the unprecedented 1,000-year flooding that submerged parts of the Hudson Valley this summer; from destruction wrought by Superstorm Sandy on Long Island to increasingly frequent catastrophic rainfall in NYC; from choking wildfire smoke that shut down schools in June to scorching heat waves that shut down schools in September.

Our constituents feel this looming risk year after year, through all four seasons. Between 2011 and 2021, New York State endured 16 major disaster declarations, sparing no region of the state. During this period, FEMA allocated over $17 billion in assistance to New York State. This staggering sum is more than just a number, it represents countless New York families who lost their homes or livelihoods. Our local governments see the impact of this growing threat in our budgets, as we struggle to both repair and rebuild from previous extreme weather events and invest in measures to adapt and become more resilient in the face of the climate emergency. A recent study from the State Comptroller found that from 2018 to 2028, 55% of New York localities’ municipal spending outside of New York City was or will be related to the climate emergency.

It seems like year after year a new record is set, whether it’s for heat, or rainfall, or snow. Despite efforts to slash greenhouse gas emissions, it’s clear that the challenges posed by the climate emergency are going to get much worse before they get better. In the coming decades we need to invest in a series of high-stakes and costly infrastructure projects. These include significant coastal protections, including restoring coastal wetlands; elevating or buying-out threatened homes; improving storm water drainage and sewer systems; responding to toxic algal blooms; protecting our roads and utility infrastructure; retrofitting schools and other public buildings; and many other vitally important projects. We know that these projects are non-negotiable necessities. The major question is who will pay for them. The Chairman of the Long Island Regional Planning Council recently estimated the cost of climate-adaptive infrastructure improvements for Long Island at between $75 and $100 billion. Upgrading New York City’s sewer system is estimated to cost $100 billion, and a single project to protect New York Harbor from rising seas is estimated at $52 billion. For us on the local level, that means asking our residents to pay more in property taxes, fees, and other costs. Fortunately, there is another option to reduce this burden on local governments and taxpayers. Instead of asking New Yorkers to dig into their own pockets for the entire cost of climate adaptation, we can make the multinational fossil fuel companies that are responsible for and profiting from the climate emergency pay their fair share. That’s why we’re asking you to support the Climate Change Superfund Act.

Under the Climate Change Superfund Act, thirty to forty of the largest multinational oil, gas, and coal companies would be required to pay $75 billion over 25 years to New York State for damages arising from their past activities, money that would be earmarked to help localities like ours pay for climate-adaptive infrastructure. Companies deemed responsible for the emission of over one billion tons of greenhouse gases since the year 2000 will pay a portion of the total amount based on their share of the total emissions of all responsible companies. That means companies like Exxon and Saudi Aramco, who have made record-breaking profits in the last several years, will pay a portion of the bill, rather than our residents and local businesses. And, critically, the Superfund is designed as an assessment of damages for past behavior that cannot be passed on to consumers. The cost of living across New York is already too high – we simply cannot afford to place the cost of adapting to the climate emergency solely on the backs of our constituents. We need the state to act now to hold the biggest polluters accountable. We need the Climate Change Superfund Act.

Sincerely,
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Albany County
County Executive Daniel McCoy, Albany County
County Legislator Merton Simpson, Albany County
Council President Corey Ellis, Albany, Albany County
County Legislator Sam Fein, Albany County
Councilmember Sergio Adams, City of Albany, Ward 7, Albany County
Councilmember Joyce Love, City of Albany, Albany County
Mayor Kamal Johnson, City of Hudson, Columbia County
Mayor Nicola Armacost, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County
Trustee Nicole Asquith, Pleasantville, Westchester County
Councilmember Alexa Aviles, New York City, Kings County
Councilmember Jacqueline Berger, Town of Amherst, Erie County
Councilmember John Bouvier, Town of Southampton, Suffolk County
County Legislator Travis Brooks, District 1, Tompkins County
Councilmember Tiffany Caban, New York City
Supervisor Ellen Calves, Town of Bedford, Westchester County
Supervisor Ann Carvill, Town of Potsdam, St. Lawrence County
Supervisor Michael Chameides, City of Hudson, Columbia County
County Legislator Terry Clements, District 11, Westchester County
Councilmember Lisa Copeland, City of Mount Vernon, Westchester County
Councilmember Christine Corrado, Town of Brighton, Monroe County
Supervisor Claire Cousin, Columbia County
Trustee Ben Darfler, Village of Trumansburg, Tompkins County
Legislator Deborah Dawson, Tompkins County
Town Supervisor John Deer, Town of Manlius, Onondaga County
Trustee Anthony Del Plato, Village of Interlaken, Seneca County
Council President Thomas DePietro, City of Hudson, Columbia County
Councilmember Eric Dinowitz, New York City, Bronx County
County Legislator Cynthia Doran, Rensselaer County
Trustee Tom Drake, Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County
Councilmember Christina Dravis, Town of Dryden, Tompkins County
County Legislator Jeffrey Elder, Niagara County
Supervisor Paul Feiner, Town of Greenburgh, Westchester County
Town Supervisor Elizabeth Feldman, Town of Ossining, Westchester County
Trustee Morgen Fleisig, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County
Fmr. Councilmember Dominic Frongillo, Town of Caroline, Tompkins County
Town Supervisor Joel Gagnon, Town of Danby, Tompkins County
Trustee Jessica Galen, Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County
Councilmember Jim Gennaro, New York City
Trustee Debra Gitterman, Village of Philmont, Columbia County
Town Board Member Bill Goodman, Town of Ithaca, Tompkins County
County Legislator Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County
Councilmember DuWayne Gregory, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County
Councilmember Jennifer Gutierrez, New York City, Queens and Kings counties
Councilmember Shahana Hanif, New York City
Mayor Ronny Hardaway, Village of Lansing, Tompkins County
Legislator Susan Hughes-Smith, Monroe County
Legislator David Imamura, Westchester County
Mayor Nancy Kaboolian, Ardsley, Westchester County
Town Councilor Katelyn Kriesel, Town of Manlius, Onondaga County
Councilmember Shekar Krishnan, New York City, Queens
Alderperson Tiffany Kumar, City of Ithaca, Ward 4, Tompkins County
Deputy Supervisor Dan Lamb, Town of Dryden, Tompkins County
Trustee Mary Lambert, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County
Comptroller Brad Lander, New York City
Town Supervisor Jason Leifer, Town of Dryden, Tompkins County
Mayor Rika Levin, Village of Ossining, Westchester County
Trustee Georgia Lopez, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County
Councilmember Natalie Luczkowiak, City of Dunkirk, Chautauqua County
Council Vice President Mary Lupien, City of Rochester, Monroe County
Councilmember Christopher Marte, New York City, New York County
School Board Trustee Theresa McCaffrey, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County
Town Councilmember Heather McCarty, Town of Newfield, Tompkins County
Trustee Susan McGraw-Keber, Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County
Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, Ulster County
Legislator Matthew Miller, Albany County
Mayor Pro Tem Ramona Monteverde, City of Newburgh, Orange County
Mayor Chance Mullen, Pelham, Westchester County
Councilmember Tim Murray, Town of Caroline, Tompkins County
Councilmember Sarah Marte, New York City, Kings County
School Board Trustee Theresa McCaffrey, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester County
Mayor Michael Nappi, Town of Southold, Suffolk County
Councilmember Mercedes Narcisse, New York City
Mayor Steve Noble, City of Kingston, Ulster County
Councilmember Sandy Nurse, New York City, Kings County
County Legislator Joseph O'Brien, Albany County
Mayor Gina Picinich, Mt. Kisco, Westchester County
Trustee Klaus Proemm, Village of Canton, St. Lawrence County
Town Supervisor Stephanie Redmond, Town of Enfield, Tompkins County
Legislator William Reinhardt, Albany County
Mayor Thomas Roach, City of White Plains, Westchester County
Trustee Jared Rodriguez, Sleepy Hollow, Westchester County
Councilmember Cate Rogers, Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County
Mayor Tim Rogers, New Paltz, Ulster County
County Legislator Ellen Rosano, Albany County
Trustee Shari Rosen Archer, Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County
Trustee Matthew Rosenberg, Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County
Mayor Martin Rutyna, Sleepy Hollow, Westchester County
Mayor Peter Scherer, Pleasantville, Westchester County
Councilmember Tommy John Schiavoni, Town of Southampton, Suffolk County
Councilmember Elect Anne Smith, Town of Southold, Suffolk County
Supervisor Jim Sofranko, Town of Olive, Ulster County
Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia, Town of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County
Deputy Mayor Nicole Sullivan, Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County
Mayor Austin Tylec, City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County
Councilmember Rick Werwaiss, Chatham, Columbia County
Town Board Member Joseph Wetmore, Lansing, Tompkins County
Mayor Robert Williams, Village of Elmsford, Westchester County
Councilmember Robin Wilt, Town of Brighton, Monroe County
Town Councilmember Tom Wood, Town of Plattsburgh, Clinton County

1 New York Atlas of Disaster, Rebuild By Design, 2023
2 New York's Local Governments Adapting to Climate Change: Challenges, Solutions and Costs, Office of the State Comptroller, 2023
3 Rising ocean, bay tides could eventually reshape Long Island, Newsday, April 24, 2023
6 Enacting the “Polluter Pays” Principle, Institute for Policy Integrity, 2022
Dear Governor Hochul:

As organizations representing the youngest adults in New York, we write to urgently appeal that you include the Climate Change Superfund Act in the FY 2024-2025 Executive Budget. The staggering and growing climate burden that we will have to bear must be offset by revenues from those responsible for the largest greenhouse gas emissions.

As you know, New York State’s growing climate burden will grow from billions now to tens of billions by our middle age. Currently, New York taxpayers are footing the entire bill resulting from climate damages – rising sea levels, more intense storms, hotter temperatures, more pollution, etc.

That is not fair to anyone today and nor is it fair to future generations who will bear those mushrooming costs. Instead, those responsible – most notably the largest oil companies – should be held financially accountable.

The bill we support (S.2129A/A.3351A) is a just source of revenue to address the climate crisis. Based on the “polluter pays” legal principle, this legislation ensures that the largest oil companies are held financially responsible for the rising costs of the climate catastrophe, specifically for funding climate damage repair and resilience projects. Under the bill, the companies responsible for the largest greenhouse gas emissions are charged an aggregate $3 billion annually (the more GHG that a company is responsible for, the greater the share of the $3 billion).

The revenues generated are to be used for the state’s climate costs – improved infrastructure, air conditioning in schools, etc. The legislation is designed to ensure that the oil companies cannot pass those charges from the Climate Superfund onto the public.

Why should Big Oil be on the hook? It was, after all, the decisions of those companies that have resulted in the worsening climate catastrophe that we are experiencing. Why should we bear the entire cost?

We shouldn’t, and your inclusion of the Climate Change Superfund Act in your budget will change that. Failure to make Big Oil financially accountable means that we will bear this burden for the rest of our adult lives. We urge you to stand with, and protect, New York taxpayers.
And the companies have the money. The largest oil companies have raked in $750 billion in profits since 2021. New Yorkers’ financial exposure from rising climate costs has been estimated at $100 billion according to a statement by Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos in a Capital Tonight interview. “Listen, we know from two years of very intensive research that the cost of inaction on climate in New York far exceeds the cost of action by the tune of over $100 billion.”

As you know, the Climate Change Superfund Act passed the Senate last session, has 68 legislative sponsors combined in both houses, and is strongly supported by over 240 national, statewide, and regional environmental, environmental justice, health, faith, labor and community organizations, such as Building Performance Contractors Association, Citizen Action, DC 37, Environmental Advocates, League of Women Voters, NYPIRG, NRDC, NY-GEO, NYS Council of Churches, NYS Nurses Association, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, UAW Region 9A, United University Professions and WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

The climate crisis poses an immediate and grave threat to our future. Our organizations strongly urge you to include S.2129A/A.3351A in your FY 2024-2025 Executive Budget. New York State should be a leader with this first-in-the-nation, just and fair approach to ensure the state’s efforts to respond to global warming are funded by the industry that profited from and is responsible for the climate crisis. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Club or Organization Name | College Campus
---|---
5 percent | SUNY New Paltz
Acorns to Action | SUNY ESF
Active Minds | SUNY New Paltz
African International Club | College of Staten Island
American Fisheries Society (AFS) | SUNY ESF
Animation Appreciation Club | SUNY New Paltz
Anime Club | Queens College
Anime Club | Borough of Manhattan Community College
Anthropology Club | Brooklyn College
Anthropology/Media Studies Club | SUNY Purchase
Arabica Culture Club | Borough of Manhattan Community College
Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) | College of Staten Island
Asian Student Union at Hunter College | Hunter College
Bangladeshi Student Association (BSA) | Queens College
BC Sustainability Club | Brooklyn College
BCC Student Government Association | Bronx Community College
Bengali Student Association of Hunter College | Hunter College
Best Buddies | SUNY Cortland
Best Buddies | Hunter College
Black Student Union | Brooklyn College

Youth Leaders Urge Support for Climate Change Superfund Act, Page 2
Black Student Union
Blacksmithing Club
BMCC Music Club
BMCC Painting Club
Brooklyn College Anime Manga Corps
Brooklyn College Dream Team
Brooklyn College Speech and Debate Team
Business Society
Campus Activities Board (CAB)
Caribbean Student Coalition
Carribean Students Association
CCNY Green
Cheese Club
Chi Alpha
Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
Chinese Cultural Association Club
City Tech Library
Climate Families NYC
Climbing Club
Computer Programming Club
Creative Media Club
Crochet Club
CSI Campus Activities Board
CSI Finance and Economics Club
CSI Hiking Club
Democracy Matters
Entomology Club
Environmental Club at High School for Health Professionals (HPHS)
Epic Glee Club
ESF Friends of Recreation, Conservation, and Environmental Stewardship (FORCES)
Fashion Flick Society Club
Fridays for Future Capital District NY
Friends of Oakwood
Garden Club
Graduate Student Association
Guy A. Baldassarre Birding Club
Hawkappella
Healing Blessings
Health & Wellness Club
Hillel at Purchase College

Hunter College
SUNY ESF
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Brooklyn College
Brooklyn College
Brooklyn College
Queensborough Community College
College of Staten Island
Queensborough Community College
SUNY Cortland
City College of Manhattan
SUNY Purchase
Queens College
Queens College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
City Tech
Group that engages families, primarily those with young children, in climate activism
SUNY ESF
Borough of Manhattan Community College
Queens College
SUNY Cortland
College of Staten Island
College of Staten Island
College of Staten Island
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY ESF
HPHS
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY ESF
Borough of Manhattan Community College
SUNY Albany
SUNY ESF
College of Staten Island
SUNY ESF
SUNY ESF
Hunter College
Hunter College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
SUNY Purchase
Hispanic Club
Humans of Asian and Polynesian Ancestry (HAPA)
Hunter College Men’s Volleyball
Hunter College Undergraduate Student Government
Hunter Student Veterans Club
Hunter TREEage
Illustrator’s Club
In Living Color
Interfaith Climate Justice Community of WNY
International Student Association
Japanese Club of Hunter College
Japanese Visual Culture Club
Justice is Global (JiG)
Korean Culture Club
La Familia Latina
Latine Unidos (LU)
Latinos Of the Caribbean(LOCS)
LGBTQ CLUB
Life Drawing Club
Lost in Thought
Male Resource Center (MRC)
Marine Biology Society
Medical Roots Program
Medication Abortion
Men’s Basketball
Mighty Oak Student Assembly (MOSA)
Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Club
Model United Nations
Multicultural Center
Music Club
Muslim Student Association
Muslim Student Association
Muslim Student Association (MSA)
Muslim Students Association
Neuroscience Club
New Paltz Drag Collective
Non-Traditional Student Organization
Office of the Arts Ambassadors
Open Alliance Club
Open Minds Exchange
Organization of African Peoples in the Americas (OAPIA)
Queens College
SUNY Purchase
Hunter College
Hunter College
Hunter College
SUNY ESF
SUNY New Paltz
Buffalo State University (retired)
SUNY ESF
Hunter College
College of Staten Island
SUNY New Paltz
Brooklyn College
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Purchase
Hunter College
CCNY
Borough of Manhattan Community College
College of Staten Island
Queensborough Community College
City College of Staten Island
City College of Manhattan
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Purchase
SUNY ESF
Borough of Manhattan Community College
City College of Manhattan
SUNY Purchase
City Tech
College of Staten Island
SUNY New Paltz
Queens College
Queensborough Community College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Cortland
Hunter College
City College of Manhattan
College of Staten Island
SUNY Purchase
Outdoors Club
Outing Club
Philippine American Organization (PAO)
Philippine American Society
Poetry Club
Poetry of the East Club at Hunter
Political Science Club
Political Science Club
Pratt Gaming Club
Pre-Law Society
Pre-Med Club
Public Service Club
Purchase Christian Fellowship
Purchase College Cheer Team
Purchase Men’s Lacrosse Team
Purchase Phoenix
Purchase Television
QC Soon Movement
Queer Student Union
Rainbow Panther Club
Restoration Pals/Eco Restoration/SER
Role Playing Games Club
Rubik’s Cube Club
Sculpture Club
Seekers Christian Fellowship
Sew Knotty
Sexuality & Gender Alliance (SAGA)
Sixth Street Community Center Teen Climate Justice Program
Society of Women Engineers
Spanish Club
Sport Management Club
StageCraft Club
Student Association
Student Government
Student Government Association
Student Government Association
Student Government Association
Student Government Association
Student Government Association (SGA)
Student Government of CSI
Student Life & Development (SLD)
Student Success Center

SUNY Purchase
SUNY New Paltz
City College of New York
College of Staten Island
SUNY ESF
Hunter College
Brooklyn College
Queens College
Pratt Institute
Borough of Manhattan Community College
SUNY Purchase
Borough of Manhattan Community College
SUNY Purchase
SUNY Purchase
SUNY Purchase
SUNY Purchase
Queens College
Hunter College
Borough of Manhattan Community College
City Tech
SUNY ESF
SUNY ESF
Community program
College of Staten Island
College of Staten Island
SUNY Cortland
City Tech
Syracuse University
College of Staten Island
SUNY Cortland
Queensborough Community College
City Tech
Pratt Institute
SUNY Purchase
College of Staten Island
City Tech
City Tech
Students for justice in Palestine (SJP) College of Staten Island
Sunrise SBU Stony Brook University
SUNY Cortland Animal Rights Activism Club SUNY Cortland
SUNY Cortland Panhellenic Association SUNY Cortland
SUNY Cortland Recreation Association SUNY Cortland
SUNY Cortland Recreation Association (SCRA) SUNY Cortland
SUNY ESF Music Society SUNY ESF
SUNY ESF Sustainable Energy Club SUNY ESF
SUNY New Paltz Environmental Task Force SUNY New Paltz
SUNY New Paltz Student Association Senate SUNY New Paltz
SUNY New Paltz Zine Collective SUNY New Paltz
SUNY NP Music Therapy Student Association SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Purchase Political Science Club SUNY Purchase
Sustainability Advisory and Outreach Committee SUNY Purchase
Swim Team SUNY Purchase
Take Back The Night SUNY New Paltz
The Alternative Center SUNY Purchase
The Banner College of Staten Island
The Caribbean Latin Coalition SUNY New Paltz
The Environmental Alliance SUNY New Paltz
The Evolutionary Studies Club SUNY New Paltz
The Fahari Libertad SUNY New Paltz
The Kinght News (TKN) Queens College
The Olivetree Review Hunter College
The Paper City College of Manhattan
The Wildlife Society SUNY ESF
Theatre Club Hunter College
Theta Phi Gamma Hunter College
Together Representing an Organization for Philippine Americans (TROPA) Queens College
Veterinary Club SUNY ESF
Video Game Club Queensborough Community College
WHCS Radio Hunter College
Women’s Club Lacrosse Team SUNY Cortland
Writers’ Guild Borough of Manhattan Community College
WSIA Radio College of Staten Island
Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA) Queensborough Community College
Young Democratic Socialists of America @ Syracuse University/SUNY-ESF Syracuse University
NEW YORK STATE’S CLIMATE REALITY
IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC INJUSTICE

The Climate Change Superfund Act
S. 2129A (Krueger) & A. 3351A (Dinowitz)
Will Generate Sustainable Funding from Polluting Big Oil Companies

PROBLEM: NYS taxpayers were burdened with nearly $2 billion in climate crisis costs over the past year. A state agency report estimates that up to $10 billion annually is needed to meet the State’s Climate Act goals.1

SOLUTION: Climate polluters should pay $3 billion a year for their past damaging greenhouse gas emissions. Big Oil companies are making skyrocketing profits with no fiscal accountability for the climate crisis they created.

The world’s biggest oil companies are reaping enormous profits while people across the globe suffer from unprecedented climate disasters. New York taxpayers were burdened with nearly $2 billion in climate damage and resiliency costs over the past 12 months according to a review of Governor Hochul’s news releases.2 At the same time, Big Oil companies have racked up staggering profits - $750 billion since 2021.3

Make the Climate Polluters Pay

It’s bad enough that New Yorkers are suffering from air pollution, extreme heat, intense storms, and rising sea levels; they are also on the hook for billions of dollars to deal with the costs of a worsening climate. The Climate Change Superfund Act is the obvious solution. If Governor Hochul and the NYS Assembly want to rectify this economic injustice, address affordability and the climate crisis, they must join the NYS Senate and pass the Climate Change Superfund Act to make corporate climate polluters - not hardworking New Yorkers - pay.

The Climate Change Superfund Act is first-in-the-nation legislation to put Big Oil, which is still driving the climate crisis, on the hook for climate damages and resiliency. The legislation is modeled on the “polluters pay” principle established in the 1980s under the successful Federal and State Superfund laws that require companies to pay to clean up their toxic waste dumps. We all learned the basic rule in kindergarten - you make a mess; you clean it up. Corporate climate polluters should be financially responsible for the environmental damage that they have caused. This bill would not result in consumer price increases according to an economic analysis by NYU Law’s Institute for Policy Integrity because “polluter pay” fees are for past greenhouse gas emissions.4

Big Oil is at fault, and it can certainly afford the “polluter pays” fees. The oil industry has known for decades that the burning of oil, coal, and gas would lead to global warming, but they mislead the public over the dangers.5 A Rebuild by Design report estimates NYS climate costs could be $55 billion by 2030.6 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates it will cost $52 billion to protect NYC Harbor alone.7 It was recently estimated that Long Island faces up to $100 billion in climate costs.8 Storms are worse, sea levels
are rising, and extreme heat and wildfires are increasing - and those repair and resiliency project expenses are unfairly burdening local and state governments.

The State Needs a Climate Change Superfund Act

The Climate Change Superfund Act is fair, just, and popular. According to a Data for Progress poll, 89% of New Yorkers support fossil fuel companies covering some of the cost for climate damages. Over 230 environmental, health, faith, labor, and community groups support the bill, stating in a letter to Governor Hochul that the fossil fuel industry should pay since their decisions led to global warming; justice requires they be financially responsible for the tragically enormous climate crisis impacts they created.

Hundreds of green jobs could be created with the Climate Change Superfund with monies for major projects to repair climate damage and build resiliency throughout the state.

The Climate Change Superfund Act would support:

- Massive statewide upgrades to roads and bridges, subways and transit systems;
- Unprecedented upgrades to storm water drainage, sewage treatment, and other water systems;
- Preparing the power grid for stronger hurricanes and other severe storms;
- Installing new systems to protect people from more frequent, escalating, deadly heat waves (e.g., the costs for ensuring that air conditioning exists in schools); and
- Responding to increased environmental and public health threats, such as air and water pollution.

New York State is a national leader with its landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The state now has the opportunity to set a precedent with the Climate Change Superfund Act which is a just and fair approach to make sure the industry responsible for the climate crisis is funding the work needed to address it.

For more information, contact Anne Rabe, NYPIRG, arabe@nypirg.org, 518-560-1849

2 Information collected by NYPIRG from the governor’s news postings, August 2022 through August 2023.
3 Information collected by NYPIRG from companies’ media releases and other public sources from largest publicly-owned Western oil companies & Saudi Aramco.
8 Rising ocean, bay tides could eventually reshape Long Island — and will alter how we live, work and play, experts say, Newsday, 4/24/2023, https://www.newsday.com/long-island/environment/climate-change-sea-levels-bay-tides-long-island-s1hsx81r.
9 Data for Progress, 12/2022, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JwVEOx2DaXvK9RTU8cWzoRcEs-zPw_s/view