

Press Release from the Pragmatic Environmentalist of New York Blog
Time to Reconsider the Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA)

Findings presented at the [State Energy Planning \(SEP\) Board meeting](#) on December 1, 2025 coupled with the Oct. 24, 2025, [Albany County New York Supreme Court decision](#) ordering the Department of Environmental Conservation to issue final regulations establishing economy-wide greenhouse gas emission (GHG) limits on or before Feb. 6, 2026 or go to the Legislature and get the CLCPA 2030 GHG reduction mandate changed lead to the inescapable conclusion that reconsideration of the law is necessary.

The Hochul Administration and DEC [appealed](#) the decision on November 25, 2025 claiming that “it is impossible for the Department to simultaneously comply with both the Court’s order and its substantive statutory obligations.” While this appeal may stall the inevitable reckoning, the SEP meeting findings indicate that implementing the CLCPA will be unaffordable and complying with the schedule is impossible.

There are two findings in State proceedings that compliance with the CLCPA on the current schedule is unaffordable. During the trial the Attorney General Office submitted a [supplemental letter](#) that argued that promulgating regulations for the Climate Act target would cause “undue harm” because the CLCPA mandates are infeasible due to excessive costs that are “unaffordable for consumers”. Data presented at the SEP meeting [found](#) that for a moderate-income household in Upstate New York that uses natural gas, the difference between replacement of conventional existing equipment and the highly efficient electrification equipment necessary for CLCPA compliance increases monthly average energy expenditures \$593 when the capital costs are considered.

The Pathways Analysis presentation at the December SEP Planning Board meeting found that neither the CLCPA 40% GHG emission reduction target nor the electric system 70% renewable energy mandate would be achieved on time. The “Key Takeaways (3/3)” Slide (#31) in the [meeting presentation](#) states that “the state is currently not on track to meet the 2030 emission limit - Current Policies is estimated to hit 40% reduction in 2038 while Additional Action is estimated to hit 40% reduction in 2037.” Nick Pantane’s description of the Pathways Analysis mentioned in the Electric Sector Results: Additional Action slide (#21) states that “Pace of additions leads to delayed achievement of 70% renewable to 2036-2040”.

I conclude that because New York State entities have found that the Climate Act transition will be unaffordable and meeting the schedule is impossible that the only appropriate course of action is to reconsider the Climate Act.

Further Information

A documentation article at the [Pragmatic Environmentalist of New York Blog](#) supports this press release. Other articles describing [reasons to pause and reconsider](#) the CLCPA are available.

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