



NY Renews  
50 Broadway, 29th Floor  
New York, NY 10004

June 9, 2020

New York State Climate Action Council  
c/o NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Basil Seggos and Alicia Barton, Co-Chairs of the Climate Action Council,

We are writing to express our concern that the second meeting of the Climate Action Council has not yet been convened. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act requires that the Climate Action Council develop a scoping plan within two years, and that the Climate Justice Working Group be convened by the DEC within six months. We have now reached the six month mark, and urge the Climate Action Council to convene as soon as possible in order to comply with the timeline laid out in the CLCPA.

In addition, the development of the scoping plan and the work of the Climate Justice Working Group both require significant public input in order to provide a path forward for our state. We fear that any further delay will lessen the Council's ability to meaningfully solicit and incorporate public feedback.

We recognize that we are living through extraordinary circumstances, but climate change and injustice will not wait for the current pandemic to end. We need urgent action on both reducing our greenhouse gas emissions as well as repairing the harm pollution and climate change are causing in Black and Brown communities.

In this moment, it is particularly critical that the Climate Action Council focus on ways New York State can meet and exceed its goal to invest 40% (and mandate to invest no less than 35%) of state energy and climate funds in communities most impacted by climate change and pollution, largely Black and Brown communities who have suffered disproportionate sickness

and death during the Covid-19 pandemic, and who are experiencing ongoing police violence now.

The clock is ticking for our state to meet its legal obligations under the CLCPA. We hope that the Climate Action Council can be convened soon, so it can continue its critical work.

Thousands of New Yorkers mobilized to turn the vision of a just transition for New York into law. We wish to reiterate that in developing this scoping plan to achieve New York's climate goals, you are doing the people's work to bring the vision and spirit of the CLCPA into reality. This includes:

- **A rapid transition to a 100% renewable economy.**
- **Significant investment in communities most impacted by the climate crisis, at least 40% to meet the mandate of the CLCPA.**
- **Strong labor standards and a just transition for workers.**
- **Democratic participation in this process.**

These principles are even more important in this moment as the public health crisis, and looming economic crisis, deepen the threat from climate change.

Finally, we hope that despite needing to convene the Climate Action Council virtually, you will provide ample opportunity for public presence, input and comment. Numerous agencies and bodies throughout the country have developed best practices for open meetings and public transparency in these times.

As you continue to meet and develop New York State's scoping plan, we are ready and willing to provide any necessary assistance or feedback to ensure the voices of the people are reflected in your work.

We look forward to working with you to transition our state to a just, sustainable economy for all.

Sincerely,

NY Renews

See the full list of coalition members at [www.nyrenews.org](http://www.nyrenews.org)

Cc: Members of the Climate Action Council  
Governor Andrew Cuomo  
New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie