



# Vote On New York's 2022 Environmental Bond Act

On November 8, 2022, New York voters have an historic opportunity to protect drinking water and clean air, preserve open space, and update infrastructure by voting on the Environmental Bond Act!

This is an important moment in New York's environmental history. The \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act will allow our state to undertake urgently needed environmental improvement projects that are vital to New York's future. It has been 26 years since the last Environmental Bond Act was adopted—this year's Bond Act will provide necessary and overdue investments to solve pressing public health and environmental problems.

If approved by voters, the **Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act** will protect clean drinking water, upgrade water infrastructure, preserve open space, fight climate change, strengthen New York's economy, and support local jobs. The Bond Act will allocate \$4.2 billion to a variety of environmental programs and projects across four categories: water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure, restoration and flood risk management, open space land conservation, and climate change mitigation. Additionally, the Bond Act will provide crucial support for New York's economy—supporting over 100,000 jobs.

**Water Quality Improvement and Resilient Infrastructure** Long Island's beaches, bays, harbors, lakes, and estuaries are impaired by aging and failing sewage and septic systems, harmful algal blooms, polluted runoff, and other sources of pollution. Nitrogen pollution impacts every major surface water body in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, as well as our sole-source aquifer system which provides drinking water to three million residents.



Suffolk County has 360,000 septic systems and cesspools which need to be upgraded to nitrogen-removing wastewater treatment systems. Aging sewage systems need to be upgraded and expanded. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) such as red tide, brown tide, rust tide, and blue-green algae threaten our drinking water quality, beaches, fisheries, and human health.

**New York State is making laudable investments in water infrastructure, such as funding septic replacement programs, expanding sewers, protecting drinking water, and combating harmful algal blooms; however, a long-term solution is needed to fund our backlog of water quality and infrastructure needs. Over the next 20 years state agencies estimate that over \$80 billion is needed to repair and upgrade New York's sewage and drinking water infrastructure alone. Our water infrastructure and water quality improvement need continue to outpace available funding; the Bond Act will help fill the gaps in funding by investing at least \$650 million to protecting water quality to address these problems.**

### Restoration and Flood Risk Management

Hurricanes, tropical storms, and other severe weather events have greatly impacted Long Island. Severe weather events are occurring more frequently and are having disastrous impacts on our communities. Damage caused by severe storms and flooding is projected to cost over \$50 billion statewide for the next decade. Restoration and coastal resiliency measures strengthen infrastructure and protects vulnerable communities and ecosystems from extreme weather events.

Funding through the Bond Act would provide investments in New York's natural and manufactured coastal resiliency systems. Fortifying these natural environmental and manufactured defenses against flooding and storm surges is essential to protecting Long Island. Examples of these types of projects include shoreline protection, wetland restoration, local waterfront revitalization, green infrastructure, and voluntary buyout programs. \$1.1 billion of the Bond Act will be allocated to restoration and flood risk management. Investing in these programs now will promote resiliency and protect vulnerable communities from the damages of flooding.





## Open Space Land Conservation

Open spaces provide numerous benefits to New York's residents, environment, and economy. From forests and parks to farmland and waterfronts, access to open space is essential. Conserving open spaces benefits wildlife habitats, food production, outdoor recreation, and reduces runoff—all while preserving New York's natural scenery. The Bond Act will invest at least \$650 million to conserve open space, preserve farmland, and improve fish hatcheries.

The Bond Act funding will expand existing open space conservation programs, promote outdoor recreation, protect natural resources, improve biodiversity, and benefit threatened and endangered species. There are still 1000s of acres of open space on Long Island that could be preserved instead of developed. Additionally, this funding will keep family farms in business and help farmers maintain food production while facing the many challenges of climate change and extreme weather. Long Island's maritime culture, including healthy fish and shellfish populations, serves a crucial role in the local economy. The Bond Act will invest in restoring and maintaining native fish populations and increase public access to our waterways.

## Climate Change Mitigation

The impacts of climate change are happening across the state and particularly on Long Island. In fact, Long Island is on the front lines for adverse impacts from climate change. We need long-term efforts and investments to mitigate these impacts, or they will continue to worsen and become more costly. New York is a national leader in the fight against climate change, and investments from the Bond Act will build on this progress. By funding projects that expand clean energy infrastructure, increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect air and water quality, the Bond Act will help fight and mitigate climate change.

Bond Act projects include retrofitting public buildings to be more energy efficient, building green roofs to reduce heat, planting trees, and building community cooling centers that can save lives during heatwaves. Additionally, Bond Act investments will be allocated to reduce air and water pollution. These projects will increase energy reliability, improve public health and safety, and protect vulnerable communities from climate change.

**Voting YES and enacting the Bond Act would provide much needed long-term and dedicated investments for New York's environment and help meet our ever-growing funding needs.**

## Advance Environmental Justice

Every New Yorker deserves clean air and water and access to open space, however, many marginalized communities have been denied this for far too long. These communities are harmed by pollution, which negatively impacts their health and the areas they live in. To correct this, the state requires Bond Act funds for the benefit of disadvantaged communities.

## Strengthen New York's Economy and Create Jobs

The Bond Act would provide an unprecedented \$4.2 billion investment in New York's environment. While this funding will safeguard drinking water quality, upgrade infrastructure, conserve open space, and mitigate climate change, it will also benefit New York's economy and create jobs.

Updating water infrastructure, retrofitting buildings, constructing resilient infrastructure, building clean energy projects, and maintaining open space all create jobs, revitalizes economies, and builds healthy communities. **The Bond Act would support nearly 100,000 local jobs and will help revitalize local cities, towns, and villages.**



Flip your ballot over on November 8<sup>th</sup>  
and vote on New York's \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean  
Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act!

