

Proclamation of the Albany County Legislature

- Whereas,** The scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and
- Whereas,** The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Summary for Policymakers notes that, “reducing GHG [greenhouse gas] emission across the full energy sector requires major transitions, including a substantial reduction in overall fossil fuel use, the deployment of low-emission energy sources, switching to alternative energy carriers, and energy efficiency and conservation. The continued installation of unabated fossil fuel infrastructure will ‘lock-in’ GHG emissions; and
- Whereas,** New York State passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act in 2019 which mandates a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by 85 percent over 1990 levels by the year 2050 (with an interim target of 40 percent by 2030), a target of 70 percent renewables by 2030, and 100 percent zero emission generation by 2040 with the goal of transitioning New York State off of fossil fuels by 2050; and
- Whereas,** In a 2021 referendum, New York State passed an Environmental Rights Amendment, guaranteeing all residents the right to clean air, clean water and a healthful environment; and
- Whereas,** Albany County is also impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly for residents who face socioeconomic and health ingenuities; and future generations face major lifelong health, ecological, social and economic impacts from the prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change; and
- Whereas,** Albany County has committed to making measurable changes to be more sustainable and energy efficient, transitioning from fossil fuels, increasing electric vehicles in its fleet, developing solar farms, protecting green spaces, expanding parklands, and making walking and cycling more accessible; and
- Whereas,** Albany County is becoming the site of the first wind turbine manufacturing plant in the U.S. and is seeing clean energy business growth, demonstrating a commitment to investments that will create jobs, decarbonize our economy and reduce climate change impacts; and
- Whereas,** A new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C and accelerate equitable transition plans; and
- Whereas,** The economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities in an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction; and now, therefore be it
- Resolved,** The Albany County Legislature endorses the call for a global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and requests the federal government to develop and enact a federal Climate Emergency Plan and Declaration of a national climate emergency to create millions of jobs transitioning to a 100% clean energy economy, phase out fossil fuel production, and invest in communities on the frontlines of environmental injustice; and therefore be it further
- Resolved,** The Albany County Legislature pledges to help Albany County meet its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and the Paris Climate Agreement by exploring further policies to promote a clean energy future and avoid fossil fuel expansion in order to protect public health and safety; and be it further
- Resolved,** The Albany County Legislature encourages municipal policies ending fossil fuel expansion and will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with other local jurisdictions on these types of policies; and be it further
- Resolved,** That a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to Albany County, local municipalities, and state and federal elected representatives.

In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the County Legislature of Albany County to be affixed on this 6th day of April, 2022.

Hon. Andrew Joyce

Chairman

Albany County Legislature

Hon. William Reinhardt

Chairman

Conservation, Sustainability, &
Green Initiatives Committee