



SIERRA CLUB

ATLANTIC CHAPTER

2025 Legislative Priorities

Budget:

- Increase Environmental Protection Fund to \$500 million with no staffing offloads
- \$600 Million Clean Water Infrastructure Act with focus on PFAS remediation (and \$250 thousand for water and product testing, potentially fund state lab for testing)
- Implement the Cap and Invest Program to adequately fund the Climate and Community Protection Fund
- \$250 million for parks
- Additional DEC, ORES, PSC, DOH staff to accommodate additional work from CLCPA & enforcement of new laws
- Reauthorize and enhance NYS Superfund Program at \$1.5 billion over next 10 years
- Fund decarbonization of NY's top 15 building campuses including Empire State Plaza
- Fund a \$200 million Green Affordable Pre-Electrification Fund (GAP Fund) program in the state budget to remediate older houses and apartments of low- and moderate-income New Yorkers, readying them for weatherization and electrification.
- Funding for climate education & public service messages
- Fossil Fuel Subsidies Elimination Act: S.3389 (Krueger)

Legislative Priorities:

NY Home Energy Affordable Transition Act (NY HEAT) S.2016-A (Krueger)/A.4592-A (Fahy): Aligns utility regulation with state climate laws and emission reduction targets, ends the 100-foot rule, eliminates obligation to serve fossil fuels, and establishes an energy burden cap.

Hazard Warning for Gas Stoves S.9105-B/A.9572-B: Convincing medical evidence demonstrates that gas stoves can release carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, benzene, and formaldehyde, which is often the leading source of indoor air pollution. The public should know that. But studies show they are largely unaware of these risks. This bill requires the labeling of these health hazards on every new gas stove sold in NY.



Tackling the persistent PFAS crisis: Over the past few years the Sierra Club and partners campaigned to ban PFAS chemicals in fire fighting foam, packaging, and apparel and the legislature responded. In 2024, failed to act on any "forever chemical" related legislation. In 2025, the Sierra Club intends to pursue further restrictions on upstream sources of harmful "forever chemicals" while tackling the PFAS crisis at water treatment facilities, landfills, and in public drinking water supplies. Priority PFAS bills include:

- **Comprehensive PFAS Ban S.5648-F/A.3556-E:** Would ban the sale of certain products sold in NY that contain intentionally added PFAS
- **Ban on PFAS in Menstrual Products: S.3529-C /A.5990-C**
- **Beauty Justice Act S.4265-B /A.6969-B:** (bans PFAS in cosmetics)
- **Biosolids Land Application Prohibition A.8317:** (Sets strict contamination standards for the landspreading of sewage waste)

NY Electric Planes, Trains, & Ferries S.2966 (Kavanagh)/A.2246 (Simon): This bill will require certain watercraft, aircrafts, and trains to be zero emission by 2030; and require certain monetary incentives for those zero emissions vehicles.

Clean Deliveries Act S.2127-C/A.1718-C: This bill would give the DEC authority to better regulate emissions from warehouse distribution centers and set in motion the electrification of fleets that are currently highly polluting, especially in disadvantaged communities.

Fixing SEQRA Standing A.4287/S.567 (Kavanagh): The Atlantic Chapter's legal challenges related to new fracked gas pipelines and new power plants, egregious water withdrawals, landfill expansions to accommodate fracking waste, development of "forever wild" lands, and violations to the Clean Water Act have yielded significant decisions that have shaped environmental policy across New York. But we still face enormous hurdles in challenging violations to the State Environmental Quality Review Act purely on the court's unreasonable tests for who has the right to sue. This bill would grant standing to any litigant who can demonstrate they have or will be affected by an environmental injury.

Packaging Reduction & Recycling Infrastructure Act S.4246-A (Harckham)/A.5322-A (Glick) (with the potential to add a comprehensive expansion to our bottle redemption law): Enacts the "packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure act" to require companies selling, offering for sale, or distributing covered packaging materials and products to reduce consumer packaging, improve recycling and recycling infrastructure, including supporting reusable and refill infrastructure, financially support municipal recycling programs, reduce toxins in packaging and require producers of products to bear the onus for end of life solutions to product packaging.



Wilderness Protection: TBD, depending on what happens with the bills on the governor's desk

Keeping pace with our climate goals: Issues we would like to see addressed in 2025

- Reform of rules that allow power plants to exploit appeals process, and operate for years after permit denials.
- Extend moratorium on energy consumptive cryptocurrency mining
- Setting enforceable emissions limits in the building sector
- Setting more ambitious targets for renewable energy, battery storage, and EV charging infrastructure
- Defending against wetlands rollbacks, false solutions (hydrogen, incineration, RNG, redefining definition of renewables, nuclear pilots).

