

2012-
2013



Blueprint for a Greener New York City

NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS



Electing for the Environment



www.nylcv.org



ABOUT THE NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

NYLCV is the only nonpartisan, statewide environmental organization in New York that takes a pragmatic approach to fighting for clean water, healthy air, renewable energy and open space.

We're effective because we:

- Educate public officials about the steps they should take to improve the environment;
- Evaluate the performance of elected officials; and
- Endorse and elect environmental leaders.

New York League of Conservation Voters
30 Broad St., 30th Fl., New York, NY 10004
Phone (212) 361-6350 Fax (212) 361-6363
info@nylcv.org www.nylcv.org

Marcia Bystryn, President

Ricardo Gotla, Legislative Director

NYLCV's New York City Chapter Board

Jon R. Del Giorno, Chair

Rachel Amar

Henry T. Berger

David E. Bronston

Eduardo Castell

Sarah Currie-Halpern

Richard Farren

Kenneth K. Fisher

Laura Gallo

Jonathan Greenspun

Jeff Kay

Mike Klein

Lisa Linden

Denise M. Richardson

Peggy Shepard

Jason Sunshine

Matthew S. Washington

Toward A Greener, Greater City

In recent years, New York City has emerged as a national leader in the sustainability movement. In large measure, that is because members of the New York City Council have been pro-active in identifying creative solutions to the city's environmental challenges and adopting best practices that are being implemented in other cities around the globe. Mayor Michael Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and all 51 members of the Council deserve a round of applause for the impressive progress made in our city.

NYLCV's 2012-2013 Blueprint for a Greener New York City builds off these recent successes, by identifying new opportunities and approaches to persistent sustainability problems. NYLCV developed this agenda in close consultation with our environmental, transportation, parks and environmental justice partner organizations to embrace a wide range of views and objectives.

Decisionmakers in city government and in the City Council will find that the policy recommendations in this agenda are practical, proven and cost-effective – in fact, many will lead to permanent savings to the city's budget. It is our hope that the City Council will act on as many of these recommendations as possible before members' current term expires at the end of 2013.

On behalf of NYLCV's 20,000 members in the five boroughs, we look forward to working with the City Council, Speaker Quinn, Mayor Bloomberg and all city agencies to making New York City one of the most innovative and environmentally sustainable cities in the world.



Jon R. Del Giorno
Chair, NYLCV New York City Chapter



Marcia Bystryn
President, NYLCV

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY & AIR QUALITY

- Make New York City's existing building stock more energy efficient by effectively implementing the Greener, Greater, Building Plan, in addition to other initiatives to address market barriers to scaling up efficiency.
- Promote green buildings by completing the adoption and implementation of all 111 recommendations by the New York City Green Codes Task Force.
- Ensure that the dirtiest heating oils are phased out and replaced with the most cost-effective and least-polluting options.
- Pursue renewable energy projects and policies, e.g., develop solar generation on city-owned properties, harness East River tidal energy and update codes that inhibit the installation of renewable-energy technologies.
- Pursue adaptation strategies to protect the city from sea-level rise and extreme weather events.

TRANSPORTATION

- Implement bus rapid transit and select bus service projects in neighborhoods currently underserved by mass transit.
- Make streets safer for pedestrian use by adopting complete streets principles, e.g., traffic-calming measures, more walkable road designs, new traffic safety technology and reduced speed limits.
- Implement and expand, where appropriate, bike share and bike lanes.

PARKS & WATERFRONT ACCESS

- Explore innovative financing mechanisms to ensure adequate funding for the proper maintenance and operation of all city parks.
- Equitably distribute park staff and resources throughout the city's park system.
- Target underserved neighborhoods for new parks.
- Utilize sustainable materials for parks equipment and infrastructure.
- Expand public access to the waterfront on public and private property.

DRINKING WATER & WATERWAYS

- Ensure New York City's watershed is fully protected from the impacts of natural gas drilling.
- Develop more aggressive strategies to reduce impacts of combined sewer overflows. To the extent possible, incorporate green infrastructure strategies, e.g., permeable concrete and asphalt pavement, green roofs and enhanced tree pits.
- Throughout the five boroughs, restore ecological health to waterways impaired by New York City's industrial past.
- Invest in Jamaica Bay by, among other measures, restoring wetlands and reducing effluent release into the bay from nearby wastewater treatment plants.

FOOD EQUITY & SECURITY

- Ensure all New York City neighborhoods and schools have access to fresh produce and healthy foods. This can be achieved by expanding fresh food retail in underserved areas of the city and by improving the nutrition of school meals.
- Require New York City agencies to procure locally-grown food, which would preserve threatened farmland and protect our natural resources, grow the local economy and improve the health of New Yorkers.
- Enhance the city's food distribution system, in part, by modernizing the Hunts Point Distribution Center, including establishing a wholesale farmers' market in Hunts Point.

SOLID WASTE

- Implement a more robust recycling and waste prevention program to increase the city's diversion rate.
- Implement a pay-to-throw program for institutional waste generators serviced by the Department of Sanitation.
- Improve the cost-effectiveness, sustainability and borough equity of New York City's solid waste management system.
- Implement a pilot waste disposal project utilizing new, environmentally sound, conversion technologies.



NEW YORK LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

www.nylcv.org

© 2012 New York League of Conservation Voters