Quick Guide | Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan (1/2022)

For NYS Adaptation Practitioners

I. What it is

The Draft Scoping Plan is the plan developed by the Climate Action Council, including its advisory groups, to lay out how NYS will achieve the goals of the Climate Leadership Protection Act (Climate Act) to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net-zero emissions,
- increase renewable energy usage, and
- ensure climate justice and just transition.

II. Why it’s Important

To reach the statutory emission limits laid out in the Climate Act and move towards changes that will have an impact on climate long term, this Act outlines rapid action towards decarbonization. However, action needs to be both quick and thoughtful, so there are not unintended consequences such as exacerbating inequities or hindering adaptation efforts. Insights from practitioners can be key to making this a thoughtful process.

Further, this Action Plan will impact how lots of NYS policies and resources are allocated and directed through 2040. Having the voice of people who have experience working in communities with climate adaptation can make this a better process.

III. Timeline

Comments are due by the end of April 2022—120 after the beginning of the public comment period January 1, 2022

IV. Road Map

There is a lot in these documents and there are many places where the insights of members of the network would make a large contribution. But here we identify a few key sections of the 800+ pages of documents that might be particularly relevant to NYS adaptation professionals and, in turn, good places for your comments and feedback.

Feedback Guidance

Here is some guidance from DEC on where your feedback might be particularly helpful.

The Assistant Director of the NYS DEC Office of Climate Change, Mark Lowery, said the most useful feedback from this network would be:

- “honest appraisals of the value and likely effectiveness of any of the individual recommendations,
- comments on relative priorities, and
- any information that would help justify implementation of individual recommendations based on risk to New Yorkers.”

DEC’s documents have also stated needs from commenters:

- To identify areas where additional clarity is needed in the scoping plan
- To further understand relevant needs and priorities of members of the public and how they connect to existing (or additional) climate strategies
- Highlight where New York residents and businesses can participate in achieving the State’s climate goals
Relevant Sections of Draft Scoping Plan

I. Chapter 21: Adaptation and Resilience Overview (pp. 308-320)
   - Key Strategies organized by 3 themes: Building Capacity, Communities and Infrastructure, and Living Systems
     - Outlined in Table 16
     - Brief Description: Strategies for Building Capacity (pp. 311-320)
     - Full Description: Strategies for Building Capacity
       - Appendix H: Adaptation & Resilience Recommendation Components (23 pages)

II. Appendix A: Land Use and Local Government Advisory Panel Recommended Strategies (pp. 192-210)
   - Land Use
     - Enabling Strategies:
       - LU1- Guide future growth, redevelopment, and conservation at the multi-municipal scale through regional planning. (A-199-200)
       - LU2- Empower Local Government to Achieve Smart Growth Planning and Development. (A-201-203)
       - LU3- Enhance Resources to Enable Equitable Smart Growth. (A-204-206)
       - LU-4- Align state funding priorities. (A-206-208)
       - LU-5- Accelerate Transit Oriented Development. (A-208-210)
   - Carbon Sequestration
     - Mitigation Strategies
       - CS-2- Freshwater Wetlands—maintain and enhance (A-222-224)
     - Enabling Strategies
       - CS-3-Mapping, Research, Planning, and Assistance (A-226-229)

III. Appendix A: Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel (pp. A-104-164)
   - Good, detailed table of contents (p. A-105)
   - Avoided Land Conversion Subgroup (pp. A-124-132)
     - Mitigation Initiatives (pp. A-124-128)
       - Mitigation Initiative #1: Avoided Forest Conversion/Keep Forests as Forests (pp. A-124-126)
     - Enabling Initiatives (pp. A-129-132)
       - Enabling Initiative #3: Enhance Local Government Planning for Land Conservation (pp. A-130-132)
   - Forest and Forest Management Subgroup (pp. A.132-164)
     - Mitigation Initiatives (pp. A-132-138)
       - Mitigation Initiative #2: Afforestation/Reforestation (pp. A-135-137)
       - Mitigation Initiative #3: Urban Forestry (pp. A-137-138)
     - Enabling Initiatives (pp. A-139-164)
       - Initiative #3: Outreach and Education (pp. A-143-144)
         - “Bolster urban forestry and natural resource education and outreach, especially in underserved communities.”
         - “City and Municipality Engagement: Provide outreach messaging toolkits to urban foresters, city planners, and local officials. Toolkits will focus on the climate and other co-benefits of urban forests...”

IV. Appendix B: Climate Justice Working Group
   - Observations and General Impressions (p. B-2)
   - Input to the NYS Climate Action Council on:
     - Land Use and Local Government and Agriculture (pp. B-10-13)
     - Forestry Panel Recommendations (pp. B-14-16)

Resources:
1. Where to submit comments: https://nyserda.seamlessdocs.com/I/DraftScopingComments
2. Draft Scoping Plan Overview: https://climate.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Climate/Files/Draft-Scoping-Plan-Overview.ashx