



**NCSE**  
National Center for  
Science Education



**To: Governor Kathy Hochul, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Senator Shelley B. Mayer**  
**Date: February 24, 2023**  
**Re: FY 2024 New York Budget**

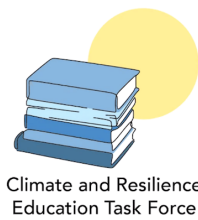
New York's Final Scoping Plan for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), states (p.427) that "**P-12 climate change education curricula,**" as well as "**a coordinated effort on outreach and education across all sectors of the economy,**" are **priority actions required to meet the state's decarbonization goals.** States such as New Jersey, Maine, Washington, and California have already allocated funding in their state budgets for climate education and Massachusetts, Oregon, and others are following suit.

NY State's **\$47 billion education budget, however, does not include any allocations to climate education - a missed opportunity for New York State to be a climate education leader in the nation.** Climate education must not be an afterthought, but an integral part of New York State's policy agendas and budgets in FY24 and beyond, as per the CLCPA. Putting New York on a path toward carbon neutrality will only be possible if its students, workers, and communities are given the necessary tools to participate in a just transition.

We urge you to pass an FY24 budget with robust funding specifically for P-12 climate education. Without it, New York will fall far short of achieving the Climate Act's climate justice and climate action mandates.

**We respectfully request a total allocation of \$12 million in the state education budget, with consideration for annual budgetary increases specifically for P-12 climate education.** Distributing funding and resources for climate education at the state-level will enable school districts and partners to implement the below recommendations, which include but are not limited to:

**\$3 million: A Task Force and an Office of Climate Education and Workforce Development.** The Task Force will be composed of community members, youth, local school board members, representatives from the state federal government, non-profit environmental advocacy groups, higher education, labor unions and the private sector. This list is not exhaustive.



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Over the course of several months, and in partnership with state education groups, the Task Force will create a needs assessment, collect feedback from districts across the state, and create a blueprint for state implementation.

The body will undertake the important task of conducting a gap analysis to determine needs and opportunities in the P-12 education, CTE, and workforce development sectors that are necessary to provide New York's students with a modern climate education. The committee will also develop key recommendations, focusing on areas of professional learning, curricular resources, school and community-based climate education, and the role of school boards.

After the recommended Task Force convenes and identifies needs related to climate education and workforce development at the state level, a permanent Office of Climate Education and Workforce Development will ensure that there is consistent oversight and management of these programs, as well as collaboration between internal government agencies and external partners.

**\$250K: Creation and maintenance of a climate education resource hub**, like New Jersey's partnership with Subject to Climate and teachers across the state.

**\$5 million: Professional Learning:**

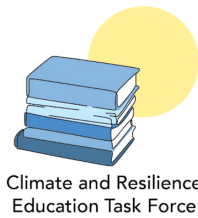
The development of professional learning modules and subject guides aligned to resource hubs, on interdisciplinary climate education for in-service P-12 educators, micro-credential and other training opportunities by partners, and prioritizing underserved districts. Some of these funds could be distributed to state Teacher Centers and BOCES for the facilitation of statewide professional learning.

**\$3 million: Development of Green Career & Technical Education Programs for NY State**

The development of green CTE programs for New York State in clean energy, energy efficiency, and other emerging sectors focused on decarbonization and climate solutions. Public-private partnerships will be key.

**\$500K: In partnership with SUNY and CUNY, development of a framework for climate education pre-service programs for teachers.**

Environmental and climate change content knowledge should be included on all state tests for teacher certification, and all colleges should mandate that teacher candidates take at least two courses in environmental studies/climate change as part of their certification package.



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**\$250K:** Ensuring that some RECOVS Learning and Mental Health funding is allocated to mental health professionals that specialize in climate anxiety.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss the above.

Thank you,

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 Vicki Sando, PS 41, New York City  
 Camille Licate, Founder, Kids for Positive Change  
 Don Haas, Director of Teacher Programming, The Paleontological Research Institution  
 Greg Borman, Director of Science, NYC Public Schools

*The Climate and Resilience Education Task Force (CRETF), managed by the National Wildlife Federation and WE ACT for Environmental Justice, and with a body of 68 individual adult and organizational members and 35 high school student members of a Youth Steering Committee, works to expand access to interdisciplinary P-12 climate education across New York State.*

For a complete list of our members, visit [www.cretf.org/membership](http://www.cretf.org/membership)