

ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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JEN METZGER
County Executive



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EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-2023

Executive Order Regarding Implementation of the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

WHEREAS, the Report of Working Group II of the Sixth Assessment of the International Panel on Climate Change (Report), released on February 28, 2022, finds that climate change is causing dangerous and widespread disruption in nature and affecting the lives of billions of people around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Report concludes that rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) are necessary, including accelerated action in this critical decade, to limit global warming to within 1.5°C and 2°C in this century; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2019, the Governor of the State of New York signed into law the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ("NYS Climate Act"), which commits the State to:

- Reduce GHG emissions by forty percent (40%) below 1990 levels by 2030, and by eighty-five percent (85%) below 1990 levels by 2050, with the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050;
- meet seventy percent (70%) of electricity needs from renewable resources by 2030, and one hundred percent (100%) of electricity needs from zero-emissions resources by 2040;
- ensure a just and equitable transition that prioritizes emissions reductions in Disadvantaged Communities; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2019, the Ulster County Legislature passed, by near-unanimous vote, Resolution 409 declaring a Climate Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2022, the New York State Climate Action Council approved a Scoping Plan to meet New York's emissions-reduction and equity requirements under the NYS Climate Act; and

WHEREAS, the Scoping Plan calls for shifting to energy-efficient electrification in buildings and transportation as the primary solution to replace fossil-fuel combustion in these sectors, which together account for 60 percent of the state's carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Scoping Plan calls for a phase-down of emissions from fossil fuel-fired electricity generation, while ensuring support and protections for affected workers as they transition to clean energy jobs;

WHEREAS, the 2021 NYS Jobs Study required by the NYS Climate Act estimates that the climate law's implementation will result in a net gain of 189,000 jobs across the state by 2030 and 268,000 jobs by 2050; and

WHEREAS, implementing the NYS Climate Act will not only help mitigate dangerous warming but also deliver considerable additional benefits to the people of Ulster County, including protecting public health and safety, strengthening energy security, supporting the local economy, creating thousands of family-sustaining jobs, protecting agricultural land and open space, and improving the quality of life of residents; and,

WHEREAS, Ulster County has long been a climate leader, and achieved Silver-level certification as a Climate Smart Community in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Government has seen a significant increase in energy costs driven by high and inherently volatile fossil fuel prices, and can reduce and stabilize those costs through continued efforts to improve energy efficiency, conservation, and a greater reliance on clean, renewable resources; and

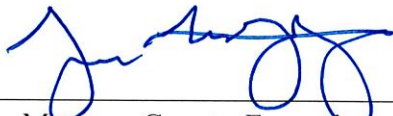
WHEREAS, pursuant to Section C-25(B) of the Ulster County Charter, the Ulster County Executive has the power and duty necessarily implied or incidental thereto to "supervise, direct and control the administration of all departments" of the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JEN METZGER, County Executive of the County of Ulster, in accordance with the aforementioned and in furtherance of my statutory duties, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. The Ulster County government shall reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by forty percent (40%) by 2030 and eighty-five percent (85%) by 2050, with an interim target of twenty-five percent (25%) by 2025.
2. Ulster County shall set a goal of achieving reductions of community-wide GHG emissions of forty percent (40%) by 2030 and eighty-five percent (85%) by 2050.
3. Ulster County shall promote a fair, equitable, and environmentally just clean energy transition, consistent with the NYS Climate Act.
4. Ulster County shall create diverse and inclusive opportunities in the green economy, and address the legacy pollution that has burdened tribal communities, communities of color, and low-income communities.
5. Ulster County shall endeavor to divert one hundred percent (100%) of organic waste from landfills and incinerators by 2030 to reduce climate-damaging emissions of methane, beginning with organics separation and recycling at County facilities.
6. The Office of the County Executive, in coordination with the Departments of Public Works, Planning, and Environment, shall ensure consistency of the Capital Plan and the Government Operations Climate Action Plan with the County climate goals, and with recommendations of the NYS Scoping Plan, as appropriate.
7. The Department of Environment shall review County Green Purchasing and Sustainable Green Fleet policies in light of the findings of the Integration Analysis for the NYS Scoping Plan and Plan recommendations, and make recommendations by August 2023 to the Ulster County Legislature to strengthen these policies, as appropriate.
8. The Ulster County Government shall prioritize onsite renewable generation and renewable siting on brownfields, where possible, as the Government endeavors to meet 100% of its annual building and fleet electricity needs from locally-generated renewable energy sources by 2030.
9. The Department of Environment, in coordination with the Departments of Planning, Purchasing, and Public Works, shall by August 2023 complete an assessment of the feasibility, cost, and payback period of renewable energy siting, with and without battery backup, for County buildings and facilities, taking into account the availability of new federal funding for this purpose.

10. For new construction and major renovation of County buildings commencing after the date of this Executive Order, the Purchasing Department, in coordination with the Departments of Public Works and Planning, shall ensure that buildings minimally comply with the most recent version of the NYS Stretch Code, shall be all-electric, and shall be equipped with solar (in the case of new construction) and electric vehicle charging facilities (in the case of new construction and major renovation).
11. The Department of Environment, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Ulster County Sheriff, shall seek grant funding to complete, by 2025, the installation of electric-vehicle charging at County buildings and facilities where County-owned light-duty vehicles are parked overnight to support a transition to a zero-emissions fleet.
12. Ulster County Area Transit shall develop a plan to expand routes and scheduling to enable wider, faster, and more convenient access to public transportation, shall develop a public education and marketing campaign to encourage public transit use, and shall only purchase all-electric buses and transit vehicles, consistent with the federal replacement schedule.
13. The Office of the County Executive, with input from the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer and in coordination with the Departments of the Environment, Economic Development, Planning, and Social Services, and the Office of the Aging, shall develop a public engagement and outreach plan by August 2023 to help residents and small businesses reduce energy costs and improve efficiency by taking advantage of state and federal assistance and incentives, and shall include in this plan targeted outreach to, and meaningful engagement with, low- and moderate-income households and communities of color.
14. The Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise superseded or revoked.

The County of Ulster



Jen Metzger, County Executive

Dated: January 30, 2023
Kingston, New York