

New York State Climate Leadership: The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

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ABSTRACT

Global greenhouse gas emissions must approach zero by mid-century to avoid 1.5°C warming by 2100. In response, New York State has enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which requires reduction of economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 40% of their 1990 levels and by 85% by 2050. The Climate Action Council created by the CLCPA is required to develop a plan both to achieve these levels of emission reductions and to achieve carbon neutrality by sequestration of emissions equal to 15% of 1990 emission levels. This presentation will describe the CLCPA's statutory requirements, the prescribed planning process, the status of agency plans to lead planning, and strategies necessary to achieve required emission reductions.

BIOGRAPHY

Maureen Leddy is the Director of the Office of Climate Change at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Office of Climate Change works to advance strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in NYS through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, promote climate change adaptation and resiliency planning through the Community Risk and Resiliency Act, and support community action through the Climate Smart Communities Program. Maureen's major focus is on developing policies across all economic sectors that achieve the emissions reduction and equity requirements of the

Climate Act. Prior to joining the DEC, Maureen worked in the Large-Scale Renewables program at NYSERDA supporting the development and implementation of New York's Clean Energy Standard. Maureen has a background in carbon finance for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and in environmental consulting on regulatory compliance matters. Maureen holds a graduate degree in Natural Resource Management and Environmental Planning from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and an undergraduate degree from SUNY Geneseo.