

Environment, Energy & Climate Meeting Agenda



Committee Chair: Erika Pierce

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Thursday, September 29, 2022

11:00 AM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES APPROVAL

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[2022-468](#) RES-Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022

A RESOLUTION supporting the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & CLIMATE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION

Guests: Budget: Larry Soule, Director; Office of the County Executive: Peter McCartt, Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability; New York League of Conservation Voters: Patrick McClellan, Policy Director; Sustainable Westchester: Nina Orville, Executive Director

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

George Latimer
County Executive

August 31, 2022

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators,

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is a resolution expressing that the passage of the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 will improve many aspects of Westchester's water infrastructure and environment.

Westchester County has experienced the impact of climate change in severe storms such as the remnants of Hurricane Ida, Hurricane Sandy, and Hurricane Irene. These storms bring intense flooding, cost millions in property damage, and have claimed the lives of our residents.

The Environmental Bond Act of 2022 is the first environmental bond act in over 25 years. The Bond Act, if approved by voters, would authorize New York State to sell \$4.2 billion in State bonds to mitigate the effects of climate change across the state.

The Bond Act would make funding available to improve flood mitigation efforts in Westchester; it would also support efforts to combat climate change which, if successful, will prevent severe weather events from becoming more frequent and more damaging.

Due to the significance of this Environmental Bond Act to Westchester's residents, the County respectfully requests affirmative action on the proposed resolution.

Sincerely,



George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

GL/cc

Res _____ 2022

**Resolution supporting the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs
Environmental Bond Act of 2022**

WHEREAS, manmade climate change is increasing the frequency of severe storms, damaging our ecosystem, and threatening coastal regions, placing Westchester County at risk; and

WHEREAS, New York State urgently needs improved wastewater and drinking water infrastructure; critical water infrastructure is well past its intended lifespan and some systems are over 100 years old; and

WHEREAS, Westchester County has experienced severe flooding brought on by more frequent and severe storms; the remnants of Hurricane Ida caused between \$16 billion and \$24 billion in damage to our region, damaged or destroyed many homes and demonstrated vulnerabilities in municipal water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, investing in our water infrastructure will reduce flooding, reduce exposure to lead and other hazardous substances, and create jobs and other tangible economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature has proposed the first environmental bond act in 20 years: The Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022, which will be on the ballot for approval by New York's voters on November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 would authorize \$4.2 billion in bonds to finance critical environmental restoration and action to mitigate the impact of climate change, to finance the protection of New York State's clean water reserves, to finance infrastructure projects rebuilding in areas damaged by flooding and projects that reduce the risk of flooding in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 provides the crucial resources necessary to respond to the crises facing our state and our county; now, therefore, be it

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators believes the passage of the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 will be helpful to improve many aspects of Westchester's environment.