

1 **2024 NYSAC Fall Seminar**  
2 **Standing Committee on Climate Action, Energy & Environment**  
3 **Resolution #2**

4  
5 **Resolution Urging New York State to Improve Education on the Benefits**  
6 **and Resources Available for Climate Action**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) recognizes the  
9 importance of taking climate action not only to mitigate the most severe impacts of  
10 climate change but also to harness the extensive co-benefits that such actions can  
11 provide to communities, residents, and businesses; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, aligning climate policies with the non-environmental needs and priorities  
14 of communities, such as health improvements and economic security, can engage a  
15 wider audience, garner additional support, and help to ensure a just transition; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, there are numerous ways that decarbonization initiatives directly benefit  
18 the finances, health, and quality of life of New Yorkers:

- 19 • the transition to clean energy sources and energy-efficient technologies can  
20 significantly reduce energy bills for residents, businesses, and local governments;  
21 and
- 22 • investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency create green jobs and  
23 drive innovation, providing a competitive edge for businesses and positioning  
24 New York as a leader in the clean energy economy; and
- 25 • increased use of electric vehicles and public transportation improves outdoor air  
26 quality, reducing respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, premature deaths,  
27 and healthcare costs; and
- 28 • enhancing resilience mitigates the impacts of extreme weather events like floods,  
29 heatwaves, and storms, thereby protecting infrastructure, reducing recovery  
30 costs, and safeguarding lives and property; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 is the single largest investment  
33 in climate action in our nation’s history, providing an estimated \$369 billion in tax  
34 credits and financing for clean energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies;  
35 and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, the IRA offers significant incentives for homeowners, businesses, and  
38 municipalities to invest in solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and electric vehicles,  
39 which not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also lower utility bills, operational  
40 costs, and air pollution; and

1 **WHEREAS**, because the cost to transition to alternative energy infrastructure is  
2 unknown and will be borne by our citizens, businesses, and municipalities, these cost  
3 estimates, as well as the net cost, should be included in the public awareness campaigns  
4 and outreach programs available for the Climate Act; and

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, New York State offers additional incentives through programs like NY-  
7 Sun, which provides financial support for solar installations, and New York State Clean  
8 Heat, which offers rebates for heat pumps and other energy-efficient heating and  
9 cooling systems; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, to meet the Climate Act goals and avoid the most severe consequences of  
12 climate change, there is a critical need to enhance public education and awareness about  
13 the ancillary benefits of climate action and the incentives, grants, and technical  
14 assistance available to support these initiatives.

15  
16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NYSAC calls on the State of New  
17 York to increase efforts to educate the public, businesses, and local governments about  
18 the myriad of benefits of climate action, including financial savings, improved public  
19 health, job creation, and economic growth; and

20  
21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, New York State provide a practical roadmap and  
22 plain language summary of the costs, benefits, needs, and requirements of reaching the  
23 state’s mandated targets; and

24  
25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges New York State to launch  
26 comprehensive public awareness campaigns and outreach programs to disseminate  
27 information on the resources available through the Inflation Reduction Act and state  
28 programs, ensuring that all stakeholders are well-informed and able to contribute to the  
29 Climate Act goals; and

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31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this resolution shall be forwarded to all counties  
32 urging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

33  
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to  
35 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the New York State  
36 Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the New York State Energy  
37 Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and all others deemed necessary and  
38 proper.