

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a renewable energy landscape. In the foreground, there are rows of blue solar panels. Behind them is a field of yellow wildflowers. In the distance, several white wind turbines are scattered across a green, hilly landscape under a clear blue sky. A dark blue rectangular box is centered over the middle of the image, containing white and red text.

STATEMENT : APRIL 2019

HUDSON VALLEY BUSINESS LEADER STATEMENT

**IN SUPPORT OF IN-STATE
CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION**



BUSINESSFORWARD
FOUNDATION

HUDSON VALLEY BUSINESS LEADERS TO ALBANY AND THEIR NEXT GOVERNOR:

LET'S STOP IMPORTING \$50 BILLION IN OIL, GAS, AND COAL EACH YEAR.

Business Forward has organized hundreds of briefings across the country on clean energy, climate change, and energy security. These briefings have included two Secretaries of Energy, two EPA Administrators, dozens of U.S. Senators and Congressmen, and hundreds of other officials.

Over the past several months, we have asked business leaders in New York to sign the following letter in support of efforts to produce more clean energy in state. Over 1,500 business leaders, representing 58 of New York's 64 counties, responded. 182 of those leaders are from Hudson Valley.



TO THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE:

1. Keep Our Money Here.

New York spends \$50 billion each year importing coal, gas, and oil. That \$50 billion pays for jobs, schools and road repairs in places like Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Texas. By switching to solar and wind, we can keep more of that spending here, creating jobs and fixing infrastructure across New York.

2. Everyone Benefits.

No matter where in the state we produce this power, all New Yorkers will benefit. Taxes paid by wind turbine operators in Oswego will help fund roads in New Rochelle. Grid upgrades in Syracuse will help reduce rates in Utica.

3. Jobs Where We Need Them, Environmental Justice.

Clean energy economies favor many counties that deserve a break. Mill towns and farmland upstate enjoy some of the region's steadiest and strongest winds, and new financing models for solar create business opportunities in urban areas. A New York energy boom could create jobs where we need them most.

4. If Not Clean Energy, What?

Few industries are as big, as local or as jobs-intensive as energy. Let's bring some of that \$50 billion back.

INSIGHT:

This transformative clean energy program can be accomplished at little to no cost to consumers. This is because the average cost of delivering a given supply of electricity from clean renewable sources will be roughly equal to, if not cheaper than, virtually all fossil-fuel based technologies.

Source: Clean Energy Investments for New York State, R. Pollin, H. Garrett-Peltier, J. Wicks-Lin, University of Massachusetts, November 2017

FACT:

**ONLY 3 PERCENT
OF THE ENERGY
NEW YORK
PRODUCES IS
RENEWABLE**

FACT:

**EXTREME WEATHER
COSTS NEW YORK
\$10+ BILLION/YEAR**

**DUE TO COASTAL FLOODING,
AGRICULTURAL DISRUPTION,
AND HIGHER ELECTRICITY
COSTS (HEAT WAVES).**

**BURNING OIL, COAL, AND
GAS CAUSES ANOTHER \$33
BILLION IN PUBLIC HEALTH
COSTS EACH YEAR.**

FACT:

**NEW YORK COULD
CREATE 145,000 TO
160,000 NEW JOBS
PER YEAR**

**IF INVESTMENTS ARE
MADE TO ACHIEVE A
50 PERCENT EMISSIONS
REDUCTION BY 2030.**

SIGNATORIES

Abigail Podrecca, East Jewett
Allison Bird, High Falls
Alyssa Owens, Chatham
Amanda Montgomery, Woodstock
Amy Anderson, Kingston
Amy Scott, Suffern
Amy Zawitowski, Watervliet
Andres Veranes, New Paltz
Angela Benesch, Albany
Ann M Muligan, Thiells
Anne Cleary, Orangeburg
Anthony Digregorio, Poughkeepsie
Any D'lions, Spring Valley
Audrey Fishburne, Freehold
Baani Singh, East Greenbush
Barbara DelDuca, Pine Plains
Barbara Isole, Mahopac
Beth Hoeffner, Montgomery
Carol Reingold, High Falls
Charlene Pray, Hoosick Falls
Christian Steiner, Spencertown
Claudette Aldebot, Rock Tavern
Colleen Galasso, Brewster
Courtney Cole, Pawling
Daniel Gaynor, Hoosick Falls
Daniel Lessin, Cohoes
Daphne Reis, Troy
Darren Skotnes, Delmar
David Miranda, Harriman
Dawn Naccarato, Shokan
Debbie St. Onge, Poughkeepsie
Deborah Boomhower, Albany
Deborah Weltsch, Tillson
Debra Wilson, Kinderhook
Dinah Hufcut, Port Jervis
Donald Luke, Kingston
Douglas Pneuman, Athens
Edward Quinn, Newburgh
Eileen Daugherty, Delmar
Elissa Kane, Albany
Ellen Gersh, Beacon
Frances Matone, Thiells

“

For the planet's sake, it is past time to invest in, develop, and implement renewable energy resources. We need a healthy, thriving environment or there will be no life, forget making a living. There is no Planet B.

”

- PAMELA ELENA ALCID
TROY, RENSSELAER COUNTY

“

Invest in solar, wind, and electric and phase out dirty oil.

”

- ANGELA BENESCH
ALBANY, ALBANY COUNTY

“

New York State is at the forefront of smart grid solutions using energy storage, wind and solar power plus electric vehicles. Continue with the regulatory mandates of state power companies and continue setting an example for the rest of the nation and world. This will keep the jobs and investments in the state.

”

- ALYSSA OWENS
CHATHAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY

“

Invest in solar and wind power.

”

- JANE GRAY
ALBANY, ALBANY COUNTY

SIGNATORIES

Frank Kara, Poughkeepsie
Ganima Duffie, Troy
Gerard Strommer, Washingtonville
Gerard Zoehfeld, Lake Peekskill
German Pizarro, Monsey
Harold King, Newburgh
Heidi Lockwood, Hudson
Hillary Sheperd, Patterson
Hollis Griffin, Stony Point
Jackie Broder, Ellenville
Jacqueline Gardner, Hyde Park
Jaime Whitehurst, Nyack
Jane Gray, Albany
Jane LaLone, Poughkeepsie
Jane Stabile, Kingston
Jay Myrow, Warwick
Jean Robin Schwartz, Delmar
Jean Sweezey, Putnam Valley
Jeanine Harpis, Valatie
Jeffrey Haas, Coxsackie
Jeffrey Judd, Hillsdale
Jennifer Pugh, Harriman
Jenny Bowden, Middletown
Jenny Wonderling, Gardiner
Jessica Koock, New Paltz
Jo Cagg, Altamont
Joan McNerney, Ravena
Johannes Van Meeuwen, Kingston
John Cavuoto, Nyack
John Flynn, Highland
John Futia, Albany
Joseph Caird, Troy
Joyce Mosher, Delmar
Julian Ketchel, Red Hook
Julie Mitterholzer, Highland Mills
Karen Graves, Suffern
Karen McGovern, Chester
Karla Guererri, Troy
Kathleen Benedetti Fisher, Shokan
Kathy Dundorf, Kingston
Kellie Sandberg, New City
Ken Greene, Mahopac

“ We are an energy efficiency retrofit company and provide jobs in the green jobs field. Addressing clean energy is KEY to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the environment, and solving respiratory health issues for millions of Americans. ”

- MELINDA MCKNIGHT
PORT EWEN, ULSTER COUNTY

“ The state should invest in wind farms, solar, and hydro. ”

- AMY ZAWITOWSKI
WATERVLIET, ALBANY COUNTY

“ Living in a superfund area, I think we could use contaminated land to house solar, wind, and other energy [resources], and sell the energy locally. ”

- CHARLENE PRAY
HOOSICK FALLS, RENSSELAER COUNTY

“ By supporting (rather than taxing) alternative and sustainable energy. It's a no-brainer, really! ”

- VALENTIA LEANZA
AVERILL PARK, RENSSELAER COUNTY

SIGNATORIES

Kevin Erickson Sr., Tivoli
Kevin Halloran, Melrose
Kimberley Travis, Amenia
Kimberly Monforti, Wappingers Falls
Laura Gray, Garrison
Lauren Noonan, Beacon
Lenore OConnell, Saugerties
Liana Turner, Bearsville
Lillian Martinez, Glasco
Linda M Montague, East Nassau
Linda Ramirez, Dover Plains
Lisa Bonita, New Windsor
Loren Brown, Nassau
Lucy Verhave, Poughquag
Lynne Lekakis, Albany
Lynne Lester-Oliver, Albany
Martha D. Perlmutter, New City
Melinda McKnight, Port Ewen
Michael Zaretsky, Valley Cottage
Michelle Morales, Ellenville
Michelle Wells, Saugerties
Mike Merenda, West Hurley
Mike Oliveri, East Greenbush
Miriam Poluzzi, Staatsburg
Nancy Schwartz, Pomona
Nicole Porto, Beacon
Nilda Rodriguez, Hunter
Nora Grillo, Albany
Oliver Lambkin, Poughkeepsie
Pam Jones, Catskill
Pamela Alcid, Troy
Pat Van Alstyne, Troy
Patricia Mulligan, Garrison
Patrick Flanagan, Hopewell Junction
Paula Ward, Stanfordville
Penelope Raco, Latham
Peter Cahill, Ravena
Philomena Valente, Averill Park
PJ Le'Mon, Earlton
Rae Pelletier, Valley Cottage
Rebecca Roy, Port Ewen
Richard Franklin, Staatsburg

“

I say wind power and solar energy is a money saver and good for the environment.

”

- WILLIAM ROGERS
TROY, RENSSELAER COUNTY

“

We should have goals like Hawaii. Why should the Empire State be dependent on coal? We should be in the forefront of energy independence. Every store roof should have solar arrays on it; we should have more wind turbines; homes should have solar panels; state tax rate incentives should be used to encourage solar and wind energy production. Every new construction, [from] every private home to every enormous industrial building, should be mandated to include some type of solar or wind energy that would supply part of the energy need of that particular structure.

”

- PAT VAN ALSTYNE
TROY, RENSSELAER COUNTY

“

New York should concentrate on showing that there is money to be made in solar and wind energy. Money talks.

”

- MICHELLE WELLS
SAUGERTIES, ULSTER COUNTY

“

Encourage municipal and businesses solar installations, along with home-based installations.

”

- DEBBIE ST. ONGE
POUGHKEEPSIE, DUTCHESS COUNTY

SIGNATORIES

Richard Ryan, Lagrangeville
Robert Couture, Dover Plains
Robin Gross, Valatie
Sally Brodsky, Ghent
Sanford Bush, Salt Point
Sean Sweeney, East Nassau
Shannon Ferguson, Rhinebeck
Shari Stahl, Accord
Sherie Burch, Cold Spring
Sherri Stevenson, Hoosick Falls
Sienna Reid, Hudson
Soraya Michelen, Troy
Star Stevens, Marlboro
Stephanie Cecelia, Saugerties
Stephen Callahan, Red Hook
Steve Lopez, Modena
Steven Jennings, Warwick
Steven Nasta, New City
Steven Ventura, Beacon
Susan Arrant, Rensselaer
Susan Beale, Albany
Susan Epstein, Woodstock
Susan Isop, Pawling
Susan VanDemark, Ellenville
Susan Westling, Rensselaer
Susan Wooster, Delmar
Sylvia Barnard, Albany
Tina Sugameli, Newburgh
Tracey Williams, Saugerties
Ubalдино Ferrer, New City
Valentia Leanza, Averill Park
Valerie Lucznikowska, Warwick
Vernon Perrone, Cornwall
Vicki Grieves, Highland Falls
Vickie Smith, Poughkeepsie
Vincent J. DeThomas, Mahopac
Wendy McDaris, Hudson
William Rogers, Troy
Willis Van Dyne, Cohoes
Yan Tsirklin, Valley Cottage

“

**Start up new businesses,
make New York City attractive
to these businesses.
Get the word out.**

”

- AUDREY FISHBURNE
FREEHOLD, GREENE COUNTY

“

**More solar farms
and solar panels on homes
and businesses.**

”

- KATHY DUNDORF
KINGSTON, ULSTER COUNTY

“

**First, we need to educate and train.
A workforce in a field such as this needs
intense schooling. We can use our
SUNY/CUNY system to provide training
right here. This will create jobs for
instructors. Next, ensure that companies
have incentives to endeavor into alternate
energy sources. Once these sources are
shown to provide adequate energy,
they will no longer need incentives
to make them appealing.**

”

- PAT VAN ALSTYNE
TROY, RENSSELAER COUNTY

“

**Solar training,
lower installation costs
with grants.**

”

- BETH HOFFNER
MONTGOMERY, ORANGE COUNTY

“ The great state of New York has to get with the program. We need to get ahead and make sure we are focusing on long-term sustainable policies. ”

- CLAUDETTE ALDEBOT
ROCK TAVERN, ORANGE COUNTY

“ Affordable solar and residential wind turbines should be made more easily available with tax incentives. Mandated all new construction have solar and or wind turbines. ”

- MICHAEL ZARETSKY
VALLEY COTTAGE, ROCKLAND COUNTY

“ We are an energy efficiency retrofit company and provide jobs in the green jobs field. Addressing clean energy is KEY to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the environment and solving respiratory health issues for millions of Americans. ”

- MELINDA MCKNIGHT
PORT EWEN, ULSTER COUNTY

“ Yes! New York should create clean energy jobs! Involve all communities by holding informational forums and brainstorming. ”

- SUSAN WOOSTER
DELMAR, ALBANY COUNTY

“ We should create clean energy jobs. We could invest in underserved communities by hiring the jobless to clean up pollution and creating ways to stop flooding. ”

- DEBORAH BOOMHOWER
ALBANY, ALBANY COUNTY

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