

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State has long been recognized as a national leader in environmental stewardship and its work to protect, restore, and improve our lands, air, and water – while connecting people to nature and the great outdoors; and

Whereas, the federal government is dangerously rolling back protections for air and water, undermining sovereignty and weakening efforts to reduce pollution from toxic chemicals and emerging contaminants, and failing to address the urgent threat of climate change; the state continues to challenge this federal assault on our environment, leading efforts to improve protections for wildlife and natural resources; and

Whereas, to combat climate change, New York's nation-leading 'Green New Deal' is fostering a clean energy economy through increased investments in renewable energy, which reduce harmful emissions and create jobs, and is putting the state on a path to achieve aggressive goals of 70 percent renewable energy production by 2030, 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2040, and an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

Whereas, New York continues to champion the economic potential of market-based emissions-reduction programs through the successful Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and is implementing an additional 30 percent cap reduction and including highly polluting peaking units, while also greening the transportation sector by promoting the increased use of electric and other clean fuel vehicles; and

Whereas, New York co-founded the United States Climate Alliance to uphold the targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change, which now includes twenty-three governors representing more than half of the nation's population; and the state has inspired 252 New York counties, cities, towns, and villages to adopt the Climate Smart Community pledge to reduce emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and promote a low-carbon economy; and

Whereas, protecting clean water is a top priority, and New York's historic investments through the Clean Water Infrastructure Act are continuing to grow the largest infrastructure financing program in the nation with more than \$3 billion dedicated to on-the-ground projects that put people to work protecting drinking water sources, combatting harmful algal blooms, and cleaning up contaminated sites across the state; and

Whereas, to address growing global challenges in recycling and improve waste management, New York State has enacted a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags to address the scourge of pollution, launched a new organic material recycling program to recycle food scraps and donate wholesome food to those in need, and is undertaking expanded efforts to improve recycling and develop new markets for recyclable materials; and

Whereas, recognizing that safeguarding the environment for the benefit of all communities includes addressing environmental justice, the state is prioritizing investments in historically underserved communities to ensure that all benefit from the expanding clean energy economy, implementing pollution-monitoring and mitigation projects, and bolstering the capacity of local organizations; and

Whereas, New York State is blessed with abundant forests, lands, lakes, rivers, and streams that not only provide unique opportunities for people to explore and enjoy the outdoors, but also reflect our commitment to healthy environments and sustainable regional economies, and to continue to increase protection of critical open spaces, acquiring 41,498 acres since 2016; and

Whereas, to ensure New York's continued stewardship of our environmental treasures, the state has sustained its Environmental Protection Fund at a record \$300 million per year, providing significant resources for the conservation of open space that provides wildlife habitat, sequesters carbon, ameliorates flooding, protects water supplies, and provides abundant public recreational opportunities; and

Whereas, Earth Day was created in 1970 to allow us to reflect on the health of our planet and the importance of environmental stewardship, safeguarding our planet and its natural resources to ensure we and future generations will have a clean, healthy world in which to live, work, and recreate, and New York joins in the international celebration of Earth Day, in respectful observance of our natural environmental resources and with a reaffirmed commitment to their protection and preservation;

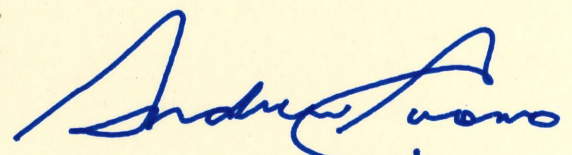
Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2019 as


EARTH DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixteenth
day of April in the year two thousand nineteen.


Governor


Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa