

Rise and Resist General Meeting - Zoom Edition - 4.20.2021

Rise and Resist Contact Information

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 - Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm on Zoom. To sign up for the Zoom meeting [click here](#)
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Facilitators: Jenny and Alexandra **Notes:** Livvie

Jennnifer cautioned about more rigorous facilitation to make sure everyone gets time to speak.

Facilitators opened the floor for discussion of the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial: guilty on all three counts. A long silence. Somber comments. No joy in the verdict. Sadness for George Floyd and family. Despair at how ingrained and systemic the flaws in policing.

Good news:

Biden will raise the refugee cap after pushback.

Biden will withdraw troops from Afghanistan on the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Charges for arrestees in the Albany Fund Excluded Workers action were significantly reduced.

Report backs:

4.17. Bankrupt Line 3 action.

A successful coalition effort. Street theater at BlackRock, three entrances to the Chase construction site were blocked for an hour while 80 people marched around the construction site.

4.18. Police brutality banner action.

Next to Flatiron building. Good location, lots of contact with passersby, mostly positive.

New Actions:

4.22, 12:00 noon. NW Corner 42nd and 2nd. Pfizer action

Timed with Pfizer shareholders meeting. We'll hold a people's shareholder meeting outside their corporate HQ. It's a kick-off for the National Week of actions on global vaccine access. Pushing to get WHO to make companies end their patents so other countries can manufacture vaccines for their people. We're cosponsoring with a bunch of other groups. 6 people committed to attend.

Beds Not Bodybags

Date tbd. May 15 or May 22. In Brooklyn

Coordinating with Kingsbrook Hospital

4.22. Immigration Vigil. 5:00-6:00. Staten Island Ferry

Ongoing action, every two weeks. Staten Island Ferry Terminal is a good location. We need to keep doing it!

5.7 - 5-8, noon to noon. Filibuster to End the Filibuster.

Several people gave updates on the planning. Things still needed:

Wooden podium, media and social media, marshals - 2 per 4 hour shift, stage managers - 2 per 4 hour shift.

5.12, 11:00. AIG: Stop Insuring Fossil Fuels, 175 Water Street

Action is timed with the AIG Shareholders meeting.

5.17, 3:00. Times Square Recruiting Station.

Protesting spending our tax dollars on the military.

Talk on HR 1/S 1. Date tbd.

Speaker has two times available. 4.27 3-5, 4.29 11-1. Tell Sandy.

Non Rise and Resist Actions

May 22 March condemning BIPOC injustice.

High school kids organizing. RaR will help them.

April 26. Action to extend the eviction moratorium. Foley Square.

Ways to take action on housing. <https://www.fairchancehousing.org/take-action>

Climate Group signed on to two letters, attached, re: **CCIA** and **No New Gas Fired Plants.**

LETTERS BELOW

RISE AND RESIST



SUPPORTS

The Climate and Community Investment Act

S.4264A (Parker, et al.) | A.6967 (Cahill, et al.)

The Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA) is the people's bill and the gold standard of national climate justice policy--it places investment in disadvantaged and environmental justice communities at its center while funding the just transition to renewable energy that New York State needs and deserves.

The CCIA is the next step in New York's climate policy, and creates the necessary infrastructure and investment to make the mandates outlined by 2019's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act a reality.

The CCIA will:

- Invest in quality, energy efficient public housing, public schools, child care facilities, 21st-century public transportation, locally owned renewable energy, and community-led resiliency projects;

- Creates programs to lower utility costs, particularly for low-income New Yorkers;
- Provides rebates to low- and middle-income New Yorkers to ensure that they don't bear the brunt of the costs of the state's transition away from fossil fuels;
- Place a fee on greenhouse gases and dangerous, toxic co-pollutants to generate between \$10-15 billion each year and create 150,000 jobs in the transition to a just and renewable economy;
- Ensure that workers employed on projects, or in buildings, that receive state assistance from the law, receive prevailing wages and benefits;
- Create a Worker and Community Assurance Fund which would provide guaranteed economic support to displaced workers, and support to re-train and re-equip workers to prevent layoffs. This includes income support, pension support, and funds for early retirement; and
- Puts disadvantaged and environmental justice communities at the center of the policy--ensuring that those communities hit first and worst by the climate crisis are where New York invests so that no one is left behind.

For these reasons, **Rise and Resist** asks that all members of the NYS Senate and Assembly champion the CCIA: become a co-sponsor, raise the bill in conference, and vote yes when it comes before you.

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to take legislative action this session to ban the permitting, licensing, siting, and construction of all new gas fired power plants.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of The Legislature and Governor Cuomo, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates that the state achieves a 70% renewable energy grid by 2030, a zero-emission grid by 2040, and near-elimination of all greenhouse gases by 2050. Achieving these goals and averting the most catastrophic effects of our worsening, fossil-fuel driven climate crisis requires a departure from business as usual and a commitment across our state to embark upon the necessary planning and implementation to achieve a carbon-free grid in under two decades. However, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Siting Board) are continuing to process permits for major new fossil fuel power plants in Astoria, Newburgh, and Sunset Park.

We know that efforts are urgently needed in the next five years to plan for and work to build a reliable, resilient, and equitable electric grid that will be powered by one hundred percent renewable energy, battery storage, and energy efficiency solutions. Today, 68% of New York's energy capacity is fossil-fuel dependent. The construction of new gas plants is not aligned with the pollution reduction goals of the CLCPA. Rather, New York needs to devote its resources and analysis to rapidly phasing out existing oil and gas from the grid and replacing them in real time with solutions like improved transmission, utility-scale and distributed renewable energy, demand-side and energy efficiency measures, and battery storage.

At present, the CLCPA requires state agencies to identify actions that are inconsistent with the statute's climate obligations, but does not expressly authorize agencies to truncate or terminate their review where inconsistencies are found. However, in the context of building new large gas fired power plants over 25 MW, the state does not need a many-year review of the facilities to conclude what should be an obvious denial of siting authorization. The DEC and the Public Service Commission (PSC) have indicated that the CLCPA does not remove their obligation to follow every laborious step of a permitting review – regardless of how incompatible the project may be with the state's climate and social equity goals. In some cases, these reviews could take years and waste hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer resources. And DEC has even suggested that it lacks the authority to deny permits to projects that are inconsistent with the CLCPA's climate mandates.

Communities living near the proposed new gas plants in Newburgh, Astoria, and Sunset Park have made clear that these new plant proposals are unacceptable, and that the only just solutions for these sites are renewable energy and energy storage solutions. Communities historically burdened by air pollution from fossil fuel plants don't want to trade one gas plant for another-- public health, climate leadership, and climate justice

principles demand that no new gas or other fossil fuel plants be sited in these communities, or any others in our state.

Every pound of emissions we add to the atmosphere today makes our task of forestalling catastrophic climate change more difficult. The damaging health impacts of producing, importing, and burning fracked gas have been rendered even more urgent to address, as the Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately targets those with existing respiratory illnesses and a history of pollution exposure. Allowing new gas plants to operate until 2040 and then switch to alternative fuels treats those consequences as insignificant. They are not.

A ban will also send a direct and much needed signal to developers that they should be proposing energy projects that are truly CLCPA compliant. Companies would have the certainty that they're not going to get new gas plants approved and owners of the strategic interconnection and generation locations would likely then propose renewables, storage, a combination of the two, or transmission interconnection for those sites, instead of wasting years of time and millions of dollars trying to persuade the state that we still need more gas.

A ban on new gas power plants could take a number of forms. The legislature could directly proscribe DEC from issuing an air permit for a new or modified gas-fired electric generating unit on grounds that it does not comply with CLCPA. The legislature also could require DEC to update its greenhouse gas intensity standards for new gas plants to ensure that new fossil fuel generation is not compliant with state permitting requirements. Ultimately, this kind of action from the legislature would not be something new. In 2011, the legislature and Governor enacted a number of energy reforms that included emissions standards for power plants, designed to prohibit the construction of future coal facilities. More recently, the governor issued an executive order and DEC promulgated emissions regulations that effectively ended all coal-fired generation of electricity in the State by 2020.

New York has only 19 years to transition to an emissions-free grid. We are already reliant on fossil fuel generation for 68 percent of the state's generating capacity. We will not achieve the CLCPA's electric sector, job creation, or equity goals if we continue to build new gas plants. The Legislature must act to ensure our agencies have the authority they need to reject regressive proposals and focus on a just and equitable transition to a renewable and resilient New York. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and we stand ready to partner with you to achieve this.

Sincerely,