



PEAK Coalition
Statement on the 2023 New York State Budget
May 8, 2023

The PEAK coalition—UPROSE, THE POINT CDC, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA), New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), and Clean Energy Group (CEG)— aims to end the long-standing pollution burden from power plants on the city’s most climate-vulnerable people. This coalition is the first comprehensive effort in the US to reduce the negative and racially disproportionate health impacts of a city’s peaker plants by replacing them with renewable energy and storage solutions.

PEAK Coalition is delighted to see the New York State Budget proposal for New York Power Authority to develop and operate renewable energy facilities and put the Authority on a pathway to emissions-free electricity production by 2030.

PEAK Coalition has long advocated for New York Power Authority (NYPA) to close and transition the Power Authority’s gas peaker power plants (also known as Small Clean Power Plants), often located in Disadvantaged Communities, to clean alternatives, such as battery storage and solar generation sited on and near current fossil fuel plants. [“The Fossil Fuel End Game”](#) report published by PEAK Coalition in 2021 advocated for NYPA to close these peaker plants by 2030. This was followed by a collaborative study with NYPA, released in 2022, that demonstrated the technical feasibility of replacing these peaker plants with battery storage individually by 2030, which resulted in a request for proposals (RFP) for battery storage development for several of these fossil fuel generation facilities. NYPA’s new ability to construct and operate renewable energy resources will only make it more feasible to achieve 100% emissions reduction by 2030.

With the potential for federal government funding that directly supports public power authorities to build and construct renewable energy, this is a critical time for New York State to aggressively deploy every available tool to meet the unprecedented challenge of the climate crisis. Robust labor standards and build mandates included in this budget will further ensure that no communities are left behind as we move toward a cleaner environment. New York must ensure that solutions for energy transition do not include false solutions, such as green hydrogen combustion, that perpetuate harm in environmental justice communities. We are grateful that the Budget clearly states that any application of green hydrogen must be put towards emissions-free applications for the displacement of fossil fuels.

We thank the State Legislature and the Governor for broadening NYPA’s scope and responsibilities in order to achieve the mandates of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. PEAK will continue to advocate in collaboration with all stakeholders for a just transition of all private and public peaker power plants while maintaining the safety, affordability, and reliability of our energy system.