Sierra Club 2023 Draft Legislative Priorities

**Budget:**
- At least a $400 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) with no staffing offloads
- $1 billion Clean Water Infrastructure funding with a focus on PFAS remediation
- Climate and Community Protection Fund ($10 Billion to facilitate the enactment of CLCPA)
- 230+ additional DEC staff to accommodate additional work from CLCPA and enforcement of new laws

**Building Decarbonization: Budget**
50% of Schools and State Building Decarbonized by 2030 (approximately 190,000 buildings)
- Labor Standards, Project Labor Agreements, Direct Entry, Local Workforce
- Schools (K-12 & SUNY/CUNY) and state buildings could be anchors for Thermal Energy Networks - prioritizing disadvantaged communities
- $2 Billion for a Green Affordable Pre-Electrification (GAP) fund, to allow thousands of low-to-moderate (LMI) households could weatherize and/or electrify their homes

**Building Decarbonization: Legislation:**
- All-Electric Buildings Act S.562-A (Kavanagh)/A.920-A (Gallagher): Ends fossil fuels in new construction starting in 2024
- NY Home Energy Affordable Transition Act S.2016 (Krueger)/A.xx (Fahy): Aligns utility regulation with state climate laws and emission reduction targets, ends the 100-foot rule, eliminates obligation to serve, and establishes an energy burden cap.
- Energy Efficiency Equity and Jobs Act: S.2469 (Parker)/A.2655 (Hunter): Establishes energy efficiency measures by the Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority including requiring utilities to hire and train employees who are from priority populations or living in areas designated as environmental justice communities.
- Fossil Fuel Subsidies Elimination Act: S.3389 (Krueger): In a time of economic uncertainty, NYS should be eliminating wasteful state tax exemptions and subsidies to fossil fuel companies. These long held entitlements represent hundreds of millions of dollars. The state is bleeding away every year to the benefit of corporations that endanger public health and thwart our climate goals.

**Fossil Fuel Facilities Replacement and Redevelopment Blueprint Act S.2935 (Parker):** Provides a blueprint to guide the replacement and redevelopment of New York's fossil fuel facilities and their sites by 2030. The "Blueprint Act" would help facilitate a just transition to a renewable energy economy that protects workers, recognizes the priorities of frontline communities, and ensures resource adequacy.

**Toxics Priorities**
- Personal Care Products: S.4265 (Webb): Relates to the regulation of ingredients in personal care products to include chemicals of concern which shall be provided on lists identified by the commissioner.
- Birds and Bees Protection Act: S.1856 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A.3226 (Glick): Enacts the birds and bees protection act; prohibits the sale of certain pesticides or use of seeds coated with such pesticides; requires the department of environmental conservation to review the latest scientific information concerning certain pesticide active ingredients.

**Tackling the persistent PFAS crisis** - Over the past few years the Sierra Club and partners campaigned to ban PFAS chemicals in fire fighting foam, packaging, and apparel and the legislature responded. In 2023, the Sierra Club intends to pursue further restrictions on upstream sources of harmful “forever chemicals” while tackling the PFAS crisis at water treatment facilities, landfills, and in public drinking water supplies.
Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act
S.4246 (Harckham): Enacts the “packaging reduction and recycling infrastructure act” to require companies selling, offering for sale, or distributing covered packaging materials and products to reduce consumer packaging, improve recycling and recycling infrastructure, including supporting reusable and refill infrastructure, financially support municipal recycling programs, reduce toxins in packaging and require producers of products to bear the onus for end of life solutions to product packaging.

Transportation Agenda Priorities:

Green Transit (S.3535-C/A.3090-A)*, Green Jobs bills (S.3405/A.2083)* (Kennedy/Dinowitz) *2022 bill numbers: The Green Transit aspect of this bill package would phase in zero-emission buses and paratransit vehicles across New York State, requiring all public transportation systems to purchase only zero-emissions buses and related equipment starting in 2029 as part of the normal replacement of their fleets. The Green Jobs aspect of the bill package would require that evaluating procurement contract proposals for these buses and equipment be done under a best-value contracting framework.

Electric Planes, Trains, & Ferries: S.2966 (Kavanagh)/A.2246 (Simon): This bill will require certain watercraft, aircrafts, and trains to be zero emission by 2030; and require certain monetary incentives for those zero emissions vehicles.

Deforestation-Free Procurement Act S.4859 (Krueger): This legislation would require that companies contracting with the state do not contribute to tropical or boreal intact forest degradation or deforestation directly or through their supply chains. Forest products procurement decisions made in New York have implications across the globe. New York must stop contributing to forest degradation and deforestation by halting the purchase of goods and products that are produced in unsustainable and exploitative supply chains. Employing sustainable management and purchasing practices increases the resilience of human and natural systems to the impacts of climate change, and aligns with goals outlined in the CLCPA.

Fixing SEQRA Standing A.4287(O’Donnell)/S.567 (Kavanagh): The Atlantic Chapter’s legal challenges related to new fracked gas pipelines and new power plants, egregious water withdrawals, landfill expansions to accommodate fracking waste, development of “forever wild” lands, and violations to the Clean Water Act have yielded significant decisions that have shaped environmental policy across New York. But we still face enormous hurdles in challenging violations to the State Environmental Quality Review Act purely on the court’s unreasonable tests for who has the right to sue. This bill would grant standing to any litigant who can demonstrate they have or will be affected by an environmental injury.