

# 2013 NEW YORK CITY SUSTAINABILITY COUNTDOWN

New York League of  
Conservation Voters

[www.nylcv.org](http://www.nylcv.org)



## TICK, TOCK ... LET'S MAKE THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS COUNT

In recent years, both the Bloomberg administration and the City Council have made great strides in strengthening New York City's commitment to the environment. There is perhaps no better example of this commitment than PlaNYC, which set forth a comprehensive agenda for tackling a wide range of sustainability challenges.

The final months of the Bloomberg administration and the current City Council term offer an invaluable window of opportunity. Now is the time to lock in forward-thinking sustainability policies and prioritize the most critical projects for completion.

Working with a wide range of partners – including transportation, environmental justice, energy and public health organizations – NYLCV developed this sustainability countdown to help focus the city's efforts for the remainder of 2013. Its goals are practical and achievable, and with the support of Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council, can be made realities by the year's end.

### KEEP NEW YORK RUNNING FASTER, SAFER & BETTER

- Get New Yorkers moving more efficiently by completing Select Bus Service routes now in development (M34/34a, M15, B44, Bx41, S79) and starting to plan for 2-3 new SBS routes.
- Enable more economical and sustainable commuting by requiring employers of 50 or more to offer tax-free federal transit benefits (Intro 106).
- Make streets safer for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists by codifying the New York City Department of Transportation's Street Design Manual and requiring it to be updated every 4-5 years.

### BUILD GREEN TO SAVE GREEN

- Improve energy efficiency in buildings by enacting key recommendations from the Green Code Task Force. These should include:
  - Training building operators in energy efficiency;
  - Limiting heat loss through exterior walls; and
  - Protecting street trees from construction activities.
- Make it easier for building owners and managers to go green by extending the early compliance period for audits and retro-commissioning under the Greener Greater Buildings Plan (Local Law 87).

## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

- Get a more complete picture of New York City's air quality by measuring street level pollutants that affect public health in all five boroughs. Tracking neighborhood air quality improvement should be a clear, codified, and funded responsibility of city government. Empower New Yorkers by making the data available to the public in an annual report.
- Reduce carbon emissions by requiring more city-owned, operated and leased vehicles to switch to biodiesel and increase the use of retrofit technology (Intro 1061, 1082 and 1074).
- Get dioxin out of our air by encouraging city agencies to ban the purchase of harmful polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic products under Local Law 120 of 2005.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- Make food and yard waste work for us with an expanded organics collection program. These wastes make up 25 percent of the residential waste stream; collecting them for composting and for anaerobic digestion-related energy production is a win-win (Intro 1107).
- Clean up New York's waste stream by expanding the ban on the purchase and usage of expanded polystyrene products (Intro 1060).
- Limit NYC's purchase of wasteful and environmentally harmful packing products by completing guidelines called for in Local Law 51 of 2011.

## PREPARE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- Make climate resilience a clear, codified responsibility of the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability. Track the city's progress by requiring annual reporting on milestones.
- Make new and existing buildings more resilient by approving Construction Code amendments.
- Protect against future flooding by scoping additional Bluebelts, Greenstreets, and natural areas throughout the city (Parks initiatives #4, 6, and 10 and water/wastewater initiative #10 from the "Special Initiative for Rebuilding & Resiliency" report).



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The New York League of Conservation Voters  
gratefully acknowledges the contributions  
of our Green Group partners:

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Tri-State Transportation Campaign ■ Urban Green Council  
WE ACT for Environmental Justice

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