



RESOLUTION OF THE [MUNICIPALITY i.e. COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, VILLAGE]

RESOLUTION NO. _____ AUTHORITY FOR [MUNICIPAL BODY]
PROPOSED BY: [RESOLUTION SPONSOR]

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A “GREEN AMENDMENT” TO THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the right of New Yorkers to clean water, air and a healthy environment is not given any protection in the State of New York’s Constitution; and

WHEREAS, clean water, air, a stable climate and healthy environment are fundamental to sustaining healthy lives and a healthy economy;

WHEREAS, New York State has a long history of environmental protection and leadership to protect the New Yorker’s health and environment;

WHEREAS, while environmental laws are designed to manage pollution, clean up and remediate contamination, and conserve natural resources, these laws do not support the notion that clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment are fundamental, inalienable rights;

WHEREAS, there are still a multitude of issues threatening New York’s water, air, natural resources, such as climate change, emerging contaminants, such as PFAS and PFOA, in our drinking water supplies, poor to failing air quality, and disproportionate environmental impacts environmental justice and frontline communities.

WHEREAS, [Municipal Body] is particularly concerned about [Fill in issues of particular interest and importance to the municipality].

[Example topics of concern/interest]

- WHEREAS, the biggest threat to New York’s environment is climate change, which may particularly impact New York City by sea level rise, leading to an eventual loss of the Rockaways and downtown Manhattan;
- WHEREAS, climate change impacts are contributing to a loss of habitat and wetlands; detrimental changes to coast lines, including erosion and accretion of land; loss of agricultural productivity; loss of property, injury and death from more severe storms and flooding;
- WHEREAS, increased temperatures during the summers have created more dangerous heat days each year leaving those who live in urban heat islands at greater risk of extreme heat mortality
- WHEREAS, peaker plants that produce fossil fuels continue to pollute in New York’s most vulnerable communities causing higher rates of asthma and other illness
- WHEREAS, acid rain caused from combustion of fossil fuel continues to devastate natural resources, including the Catskill and Adirondack Mountains

- WHEREAS, combustion of fossil fuels produces pollution that leads to respiratory infections, lung cancer, stroke and cardiopulmonary disease, diabetes, and birth defects
- WHEREAS, extreme storms and severe flooding occur more frequently, destroying homes and businesses and causing long term physical and financial damage in Western New York, North Country and Central New York
- WHEREAS, excessive application of road salt in the North Country corrodes plumbing and contaminates the drinking water of private well owners
- WHEREAS, corporate polluters dumped the chemical 1,4-dioxane into Long Island's groundwater aquifer over decades, contaminating the Island's only source of drinking water
- WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of lead service lines are still buried underground and contaminating drinking water, including in the older, industrial cities of Western New York
- WHEREAS, fracking waste is still being dangerously dumped in municipal landfills in the Southern Tier, releasing radioactive and toxic chemicals into our water supplies
- WHEREAS, harmful algal blooms in the Finger Lakes make swimming dangerous and threaten local economies dependent on tourism
- WHEREAS, over 2 billion gallons of untreated sewage are discharged annually into the Hudson River, a drinking water source for tens of thousands in the Hudson Valley;
- WHEREAS, overdevelopment has degraded our streams and wetlands and left our drinking water sources vulnerable to pollution

WHEREAS, in recognition that Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Senator David Carlucci sponsored Green Amendment Bills ([A.2064/S.2072](#)) that passed the New York State Legislature in April 2019, which stated that:

“proposing an amendment to article 1 of the constitution, in relation to the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment”

WHEREAS, in recognition that to enact a Green Amendment in the New York State Constitution the above mentioned bill must be passed by the New York State Legislature in 2021 and then be voted on as part of a statewide referendum;

WHEREAS, the [**Municipal Body**] hereby supports the Green Amendment Bill ([A.2064/S.2072](#)) that passed the New York State Legislature in 2019; and further

RESOLVED, that the [**Municipal Body**] supports the second passage of the Green Amendment Bill by the New York State Legislature in 2021 so that the voters may choose whether to add the right to a clean air, water and healthful environment to the Bill of Rights of the New York State Constitution.

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the municipality's State Legislative Delegation.

For more information, visit: www.NYGreenAmendments.org