

PROPANE MATTERS

in New York



HOW DAMAGING ARE NEW YORK'S PROPOSED CLIMATE ACTION PLANS?

NY's Climate Action Plans have been released for public comment. We believe they would be devastating for families and businesses in New York. Roger Caiazza is a meteorologist who has worked on NY's electric grid reliability for four decades, including seven years as the executive director of the Environmental Energy Alliance of NY.



Roger Caiazza

What concerns you most about the plans that were recently proposed under the state's CLCPA law?

From my analysis, they appear to have substantially inflated the benefits, underestimated the costs, and glossed over very important electric grid reliability issues that could prove disastrous.

Why are you concerned about the electric grid?

I've spent years studying and working on electric grid reliability. NY plans to rapidly eliminate natural gas and oil in producing electricity and replace them with solar and wind on a scale that has never been attempted anywhere on the globe. We are really entering into **unchartered territory** when it comes to massive storage needed and vulnerability to hurricanes and other disruption, at the same time as they would massively increase electricity demand by converting heating and transportation to electric.

What reservations do you have about how they calculated benefits?

It's entirely speculative. They say there will be \$39.5 billion worth of health care savings because people will walk and bike more. Come on. They also claim we'll save over \$235 billion by avoiding some of the costly climate change impacts of greenhouse gas emissions. But New York produces less than half a percent of the world's carbon emissions. Even if we fully eliminate all NY emissions, it barely impacts global weather patterns. In fact, if you just look at coal fired power plants recently built or coming online in India and China, the emissions saving benefits of NY's action will be overwhelmed in less than a year.

Let's talk about the cost side of CLCPA of the equation. What stands out?

The fact that they haven't released detailed information about how they estimated the true costs of this effort, which tells you all you need to know about what's going on here. It's going to be like nothing we've ever seen in this state, and I'm afraid those in the middle and lower-income categories will be hurt the most.

What do you most want New Yorkers to understand about this plan?

If we don't learn from history, we're condemned to repeat it. Historically high energy costs in Europe, blackouts in Texas and California — that could all happen here. There's no recognition of that in the plans.

We all want a cleaner environment, and I'm all for gradual, well-planned use of wind and solar where it make sense. **But propane gas and natural gas are good solutions**, along with nuclear and hydro, that don't put all our eggs in one fragile electric generating basket. People really need to speak up now.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NY'S CLIMATE ACTION PLANS AND ALTERNATIVES:

PragmaticEnvironmentalistOfNewYork.blog

SmarterNYEnergy.org and Facebook.com/SmarterNYEnergy

[The Empire Center of NY — EmpireCenter.org](https://TheEmpireCenterofNY.org)

[Path to Zero Podcast — bit.ly/3scxjTC](https://PathtoZeroPodcast.com)



MAKING THE CHANGE TO PROPANE

Beth and Steve A. weren't happy with the heat in their **Kingston, New York** home. They had electric-powered ductless mini-split heat pumps, which worked fine for air conditioning but were no good for heat.

"It was just **too expensive** to run the darn thing," Beth remembers. NY has some of the highest electric rates in the Country. "And it **couldn't heat the whole house** anyway!"

Their backup, an ancient oil-fired single speed furnace, wasn't much help. It only heated intermittently, often leaving them cold.

Last year, Beth and Steve spoke to an HVAC company about their heating woes. The technician suggested upgrading to a forced-air propane-fired furnace. The difference was like night and day!

"It stays warmer in the house," says Beth. "The heat is more even, and it's way more efficient. We have a five-bedroom house, and it heats the whole thing!"

She adds, "I love how quiet it is! It changed our life at home."

At a time when NY State is planning to force everyone to switch to electric heat pumps, her experience is certainly a cautionary tale.

IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

New Yorkers are rightly concerned about proposed regulatory plans that would "electrify everything" in NY. While we support the goal of reducing carbon output (propane has always been considered one of the cleaner fuels), this plan would be a disaster for NY families and businesses without significantly impacting climate change. The benefits have been exaggerated, costs underestimated, and risks glossed over. Natural gas, propane gas, oil and wood heating appliances, along with gasoline powered cars, snowmobiles, and boats — all would ultimately be banned and/or carbon-taxed. Expect to pay radically higher costs for all energy. Expect many more blackouts. Expect even more people and businesses to flee the state.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD NOW! IT'S EASY

The Climate Action Council wants to hear what you think. This is your best chance to say "You've gone too far!"



Go to SmarterNYEnergy.org — it will just take a minute to send them an important message.

PROPANE – A PRACTICAL GREEN ALTERNATIVE

Propane gas is one of the greener fuel options. Plus it is affordable and available to everyone everywhere, without requiring forced conversions to electric heat pumps, or overburdening the electric grid.

CONSIDER THE FACTS:

Propane gas, like natural gas, is **clean-burning and highly efficient**. Modern propane furnaces are 90% efficient, meaning very little heating energy is lost up the chimney and into the atmosphere. This also means your home burns less fuel to stay warm.

The minimal number of emissions released by a propane-heated house are cleaner than most alternatives. Propane contains **virtually no particulate matter** (a known carcinogen)* and releases significantly less carbon dioxide (CO₂) than other energy sources.**

Homes with propane-fueled furnaces emit up to **50 percent less nitrogen oxide and 82 percent less sulfur oxide** than electric furnaces.*



These emissions contribute to acid rain and cause respiratory ailments.

What does the future hold? Scientists are successfully increasing the renewable content of propane.

At the point of combustion, **renewable propane** is carbon neutral, meaning zero new carbon is added to the atmosphere!

Of course, this important work will not continue if New York lawmakers stifle innovation and force full electrification. Propane is a vital part of a balanced energy plan.

*Source: Propane Education & Research Council (PERC)

**Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

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