

Celebrating and Protecting our Planet

Earth Day is a time to celebrate the planet we live on and raise awareness of steps we can take to protect it and lead more sustainable lives. In that spirit, here is a round-up of resources intended to help anyone looking to take some Earth-friendly actions this weekend, this month, and beyond.



Make Yourself Heard During Indian Point Decommissioning

The safe decommissioning of Indian Point is the number one issue constituents write to me about. To accommodate additional public statements in advance of the next Decommissioning Oversight Board (DOB) meeting, a virtual public statement hearing has been scheduled for **6 PM on Tuesday, April 25, 2023**, two days prior. While there will be a limited opportunity (30 minutes) for public statements at the DOB meeting, the April 25 hearing will be dedicated entirely to public statements. A verbatim transcript of this public statement hearing will be submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for inclusion in the record of this matter.

For more information on this hearing, including how to register to speak, visit <https://bit.ly/indianpoint2023>. **To make a statement during the meeting, you must pre-register to do so by noon on Monday, April 24.**



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Earth Day & Related Events in the District

Our district is home to a number of excellent environmental action committees hosting large events featuring food, fun, and education about sustainability. I will be in attendance at many of these celebrations - hope to see you there!

Saturday, April 22

- **Green Ossining's 13th Annual Earth Day Festival**, 10 AM - 5 PM at Louis Engel Park in Ossining. Note: my office will be co-hosting a booth at this event with State Senator Pete Harckham. Stop by for constituent services as well as to learn more about pro-environment legislation in the works (or scroll to the end of this message).
- **Briarcliff Manor's Earth Day Celebration**, 10 AM - 2 PM in the Law Park Pavilion.
- **The "Battle of Yorktown" Earth Day Cleanup**. Yorktown is hosting a big trash clean-up day in honor of the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day. Orange bags, safety vests, and litter grabbers will be available (while supplies last) at the Refuse & Recycling Department located at 2279 Crompond Road (behind the police station). Please call (914) 245-4438 to register so they know where you will be cleaning.
- **Household Recycling Day (HRD)** at Yorktown's FDR State Park. Westchester County will be hosting one of its HRDs on Earth Day in Yorktown from 9 AM - 3 PM. HRDs offer households the opportunity to recycle items like old medications, chemicals, paints, electronics, textiles, and more. Click here for more details on what can and can't be recycled during an HRD.
- **Cold Spring In Bloom**, 11 AM - 6 PM on Main Street in the Village of Cold Spring. This event is also a celebration of the 177th anniversary of the Village of Cold Spring's incorporation; stop by Village Hall (85 Main St.) to get historical trivia from the Putnam History Museum for a chance to win prizes from participating local businesses.

Saturday, April 29

- **Village of Croton Earth Day Festival**, 10 AM - 4 PM at Senasqua Park.

Saturday, May 6

- The 12th Annual **Riverkeeper Sweep** will be taking place at various locations along the Hudson River. Click [here](#) to learn more and sign up to volunteer.



Saturday, May 6 (continued)

- Parks & Trails New York will host their annual **I Love My Park Day** events across the state, with several locations in the 95th Assembly District (parks in Ossining, Croton, Yorktown, and Philipstown). To learn more and sign up to volunteer, click [here](#).
- The Town Board of Cortlandt will be sponsoring a big **Rally to Save the River** starting at 2 PM at Cortlandt Waterfront Park (77 Riverview Avenue, Verplanck) to demonstrate opposition to Holtec International's plan to discharge nuclear waste into the Hudson. There will be live music, including performances by Dar Williams; a large flotilla of watercraft; children's activities; and more. Click [here](#) to read more.

Rewards for Smart Energy Usage

GridRewards

Con Edison households, take note: you can earn money for reducing energy usage by participating in [GridRewards](#). You can download the app to your [iPhone](#) or [Android](#) phone or sign up online to get energy-saving tips and notifications about special GridRewards events during which you can earn higher rewards. You can also earn cash for referring friends to the program. Average households can earn over \$100 per year over and above the money they save by reducing their energy usage. To learn more, including how to enroll, visit <https://sustainablewestchester.org/gridrewards>.




SmartCharge

If you have an electric car and live in the Con Edison service area, you can earn cash rewards for charging during off-peak times by enrolling in the SmartCharge program. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Assistance and Incentives for Efficiency Upgrades and More

New tax credits are available to help you save money while making environmentally sustainable upgrades to your home and vehicle. The Inflation Reduction Act offers various tax credits and rebates for the purchase of energy-efficient goods and services that help consumers do their part to combat climate change without spending a fortune.





Save money and reduce emissions!

Energy-efficient home renovations, appliances and even vehicles are now more affordable to eligible consumers through Inflation Reduction Act credits.

You can help create a green future!
Inflation Reduction Act tax credits and rebates are here



You could save thousands on:

- ★ Energy-efficient home renovations
- ★ Appliances
- ★ Vehicles purchased this year


Take charge of your green future!



Tax credits are available for electric vehicles and charging equipment!

- Up to \$7,500 for new
- Up to \$4,000 for used
- Up to \$1,000 to install charging equipment

Save some green while greening up your home



Save up to \$1,200 per year on energy efficient upgrades with tax credits for:

- Insulation
- Doors
- Windows
- Heat pumps
- And more!

- Now through the end of 2034, the Inflation Reduction Act's tax credits can cover up to 30% of qualifying purchases of renewable energy technology, with no cap on the total purchase price. This includes the cost of labor, permits and inspection. For more information, including availability and income eligibility, visit <https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2022-40.pdf>.
- The Inflation Reduction Act also contains tax credits that can help you save money on both new and used energy-efficient electric vehicles purchased after Jan. 1, 2023. For more information, including income eligibility, visit <https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2022-42.pdf>.
- Save money when you electrify your appliance. Rebate programs are expected to become available in the fall of this year and include up to \$840 for an electric stove or oven. For more information, visit <https://www.energystar.gov/products/ask-the-experts/get-federal-tax-savings-and-other-rebates-for-energy-efficiency-home-upgrades>.



The EmPower New York Program *is here to make your home energy-efficient – for free!*



Find out today if you're eligible for no-cost assessments and clean-energy upgrades to your home!

NYSERDA's EmPower New York program provides no-cost energy efficiency solutions to income-eligible New Yorkers. Homeowners and renters will be connected with a participating contractor to assess if a home would benefit from free energy upgrades such as:

- Home energy assessment to identify areas of possible energy improvements
- Tips on how to save energy
- Installation of high-efficiency lighting
- Attic and wall insulation
- Installation of clean heating and cooling heat pumps
- Replacement of old, inefficient refrigerators and freezers
- Water-saving showerheads
- A monthly electric bill credit of between \$5-\$15 from community solar.

To check your eligibility and apply, click [here](#).

Environmental Legislation Update

There are hundreds of bills relating to the environment currently pending in the Legislature. Some highlights include the following:

- **A5338/S5181:** Senator Pete Harckham and I are the prime sponsors of the bill that will give the state authority to ban radiological discharges into New York waterways, if passed. Click [here](#) to read more about it and show your support if you are interested.



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- The **Birds & the Bees Protection Act** would ban specific types of pesticides linked to bee colony collapse. Protecting pollinators means protecting our food web. This legislation would also protect humans from these chemicals, which persist for a long time in the environment and are linked to health problems and developmental disorders in children.
- A number of bills aim to eliminate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in various products, to protect our health.
- The **Bigger Better Bottle Bill** would make more bottles eligible for return and raise the handling fee, encouraging more recycling.
- Senator Harckham's **Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act** would require companies selling or distributing covered packaging materials and products to reduce consumer packaging, improve recycling and recycling infrastructure, financially support municipal recycling programs, reduce toxins in packaging, and require producers of products to take responsibility for end of life solutions to product packaging.
- **A2467** would establish additional state and municipal composting programs and require government offices and agencies to start composting programs for their own buildings.
- The **New York Home Energy Affordable Transition, or NY HEAT, Act.** If passed, this bill would establish protections for low-to-moderate income customers to facilitate their transition to pollution-free appliances and ensure that no one pays more than 6% of their income on their energy bills. It would also eliminate ratepayer subsidies for gas system extensions, so the public isn't paying for infrastructure that will become obsolete.
- The **Build Public Renewables Act** will cut energy costs for households by enabling the New York Power Authority to start its own renewable energy projects.
- The **All-Electric Buildings Act** would require new buildings to be constructed without fossil fuel combustion systems or appliances. (Note that this bill would not authorize the government to take existing gas appliances out of homes.)



If you have questions or suggestions about these bills or anything else, please feel free to reach out to my office at levenbergd@nyassembly.gov or [\(914\) 941-1111](tel:914-941-1111).

