

"Hello, my name is Hennessy Garcia from Sixth Street Community Center. I work with a group of teens from all over NYC who I have the honor of educating on the climate crisis; telling their climate stories; and prepping them on speaking with legislators such as all of you. We are a part of the Renewable Heat Now campaign and have been fighting so hard for the NY HEAT Act. I am asking that the Assembly and Senate put NY HEAT in the one house budgets. Without this bill, the transition off fracked gas can not really begin. By stopping subsidies for expanding the gas system, NY HEAT avoids future costs that would be borne most by those who can afford it least, the people in my community. But people need meaningful bill relief now, the 6% limit on utility bills will make a real difference to me and to the young people I work with, families that struggle to provide for themselves. I personally find it hard to pay rent given I work part time and as a college student let alone paying my utility bills, especially in the summer. NY HEAT pushes us to a path for a renewable transition from gas to thermal energy networks (TENS). NY HEAT ensures we have green jobs and fulfill the mandates mentioned in NY's climate law.

Lastly, being a part of GenZ, I am extremely sad that I have to pass this fight on to Gen Alpha. As a Black and Latino person who grew up in the Bronx, the place I grew up still has the highest asthma rates in the nation. It is still very polluted because of the peaker plants and 4 highways (Bruckner, Sheridan, Major Deegan, and Cross Bronx) that pass through it. I hope one day in my lifetime that I get to see a green Bronx."

Regards,
Hennessy