

# Interfaith IMPACT of New York State

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## Memorandum of Support for a Goal of 100% Clean, Renewable Energy in New York by 2030

As faithful stewards of the environment, the members of Interfaith Impact of NYS call on the Legislature and Governor to commit to achieving a goal of 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030.

We believe this can be accomplished by 1) investing in energy conservation, 2) energy reduction, 3) investment in wind, solar and geothermal energy sources, and 4) the immediate cessation of investments in oil, coal, gas, fossil fuel and nuclear infrastructure. Studies show that this is not only technologically feasible but that the transition will create millions of new jobs and significantly lower electric rates.

The necessary legislation has been introduced by Assembly Member Colton (A7497) and Sen. Hoylman (S5527).

Given the growing threat of global anthropogenic climate change and the impacts that current energy systems have in contributing to this issue, the state must take a stand in stopping our contribution to the pending disaster. We also note that the change to all-electric energy has enormous economic development potential that can be rapidly realized.

Interfaith Impact of NYS recognizes Gov. Andrew Cuomo's leadership in moving toward an alternative energy future in New York, which includes a moratorium on hydrofracking, denial of oil pipeline permits, and the Renewable Energy Vision. But the world-wide transition to electrical energy is happening very quickly now, and the proposed timeline for a transition to all green energy is much too long. We can do it by 2030.

In addition to the measures outlined in A7497/5527, IINYS favors a NYS carbon tax and an increase in insurance requirements for oil transportation. We note that oil transport by rail has become a growing concern for the health and well-being of communities all across our state.

We oppose the storage of drilling wastes in New York from out-of-state fracked wells, the construction of new oil and gas pipelines, and the storage near Seneca Lake of highly-pressurized products of fracking, such as methane, propane and butane gasses.

Interfaith Impact has long advocated increasing use of alternative forms of energy to replace the fossil fuels on which we have become so dependent. We take heart in the wind, solar, energy conservation, and bio-mass projects being undertaken by the state, and encourage their rapid expansion.

In supporting these policies IINYS relies on the Jewish and Christian biblical tradition of stewardship for the earth. The Unitarian Universalist tradition avows in its seventh principle the "interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." It is essential that the state and the nation take a value-intensive, long-range view of global climate change and humanity's role in it, instead of an impulsive money-driven policy. We believe New York can lead the United States in this effort.

*The earth is not a mine to be exploited, but a garden to be tended.*

*A statewide coalition of congregations and individuals from Protestant, Reform Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, and other faith traditions working for the common good through progressive religious advocacy*