



# EPIC FAIL: CUOMO ADMIN IGNORES CLIMATE LAW FOR GAS UTILITIES

Governor Cuomo's Department of Public Service (DPS) has finally released its proposal for how gas utilities should plan to meet New York's legally mandated greenhouse gas reductions. Unfortunately, the plan is that there is no plan. Join us to tell Governor Cuomo and his appointed Public Service Commission that **we must have an orderly, affordable, and equitable process to phase out gas for heating and cooking in New York. Anything less sets us on track to miss New York's 2030 climate goals.**



## HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**May 15, 2019:** Activist pressure successfully blocks Transco's permit to build fracked gas Williams pipeline, which would have run through waters off of Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Rockaways.

**May 29, 2019:** National Grid retaliates by refusing to hook up new customers in need of heating to gas service. (This is the third gas moratorium declared by a utility in New York.)

**July 18, 2019:** The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act passes, setting a statewide goal to reduce emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and then to 85% below 1990 levels by 2050.

**September 2019 - February 2020:** Activists show up at the Public Service Commission (PSC) six months in a row to protest the lack of a plan to get off gas.

**March 19, 2020:** The PSC launches Gas Planning proceeding to develop a planning process that will align gas utilities with the CLCPA and avoid unplanned moratoria.

**July 17, 2020:** Renewable Heat Now files comments requesting that the utilities be held to clear emissions reductions goals via a managed, just, affordable transition off gas to beneficial electrification and energy efficiency measures.

**December 2020:** 190 elected officials join the demand for an orderly, affordable, and equitable transition to renewable heating.

**Today:** The proposal (called a "White Paper") from the Department of Public Service Staff (career professionals who work for the PSC) does not meet the demands of our elected officials, communities, and renewable heat experts. **We need to tell the PSC exactly what the white paper is missing in order to meet the goals of the CLCPA.**



## CALL TO ACTION: SUBMIT A COMMENT

We're flooding the PSC with our demands for a safe transition off of gas. Join us and file your own comment by May 3rd using this form: <https://renewableheatnow.org/we-need-a-real-plan-to-get-off-gas/>.

We need an orderly transition away from gas in order to ensure that our most vulnerable households have affordable access to energy throughout this period of change.

## The gas planning proceeding could be the foundation of a just transition off of gas, but as the current proposal stands, we see several glaring areas for improvement:

### No mention of equity and affordability in the white paper presented by DPS staff.

No expectation that utilities will ensure that low income communities, who face the greatest energy burdens, have affordable options for renewable heating and cooking.

### Gas is still treated as the default service and is expected to keep growing.

No gas reduction milestones that the utilities must meet. This gives the utilities permission to continue selling gas indefinitely.

Fails to address the risks and harms to our health, our climate, and our future of the existing gas system.

### Heat pumps are still characterized as an alternative.

Only proposed to replace gas investments when deemed "economic" under a "benefit-cost analysis" tightly controlled by the utilities and regulators, when we know a rapid scale up of building electrification is the path to reducing emissions.

No requirement for gas utilities to plan with electric utilities to ensure there is sufficient renewable electricity to meet our heating and electricity needs under the CLCPA.