



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 15, 2024

CONTACT

Nydia Gutierrez, ngutierrez@earthjustice.org, (202) 302-7531

Brynn Fuller-Becker, brynn@nyforcleanpower.org, (914) 294-4372

**To Protect Communities and Workers, New York State Must Prioritize
Zero-Emission Transit Buses**

Earlier this week, the New York State Senate and Assembly unveiled their budget resolutions. The ElectrifyNY coalition issued the following statement in response:

ElectrifyNY applauds the Senate's decision to include the Green Transit, Green Jobs (S6089/A6414) bill in its one-house budget resolution. This marks a significant stride towards electrifying the State's extensive fleet of over 15,000 transit and paratransit vehicles. This proactive measure demonstrates a commitment to tangible progress within this year's budget.

Recognized experts affirm that transit buses are ripe for electrification, presenting an immediate opportunity to alleviate the disproportionate burden of toxic air pollution on disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, transitioning to zero-emission transit stands to invigorate a burgeoning industry while creating and maintaining quality employment opportunities across New York State. It offers millions of transit and paratransit riders access to cutting-edge, clean, and efficient zero-emissions vehicle technology that is crucial for advancing our climate and public health objectives.

We will persist in advocating for enacting this prudent policy, which is essential for realizing the greenhouse gas reduction targets outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

We are disappointed in the Assembly's omission of the Green Transit Green Jobs bill from its one-house budget resolution. This exclusion represents a missed opportunity to propel New York towards its climate ambitions, including the transition to zero-emission buses by 2035 and the cultivation of the burgeoning electric vehicle manufacturing sector with good community-sustaining jobs.

By leveraging the collective purchasing power of our transit agencies and adhering to a meticulously planned transition roadmap, as would be outlined by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the Department of Transportation, this bill would not



ELECTRIFYNY

only facilitate meeting climate mandates but also safeguards communities from the detrimental effects of vehicle pollution while creating good job opportunities in the green economy.

We urge Governor Hochul and Speaker Heastie to follow the Senate’s lead by including the Green Transit, Green Jobs bill in the final budget to push New York beyond the confines of outdated transportation norms, improve air quality, and help us reach our climate targets.

Lastly, we urge the Governor, the Senate, and the Assembly to allocate \$100 million in funding to support the transition for non-MTA transit agencies. This critical investment would ensure that all transit agencies across the state, regardless of size or location, have the necessary resources to make this transition. This funding support for infrastructure upgrades, vehicle procurement, and workforce training would jumpstart the widespread adoption of zero-emission vehicle technology. We call on our elected leaders to prioritize this imperative funding in the final budget to underscore their commitment to protecting communities and workers all across New York.

###

[ElectrifyNY](#) is a statewide coalition of advocates for environmental justice, public transportation, social justice, and good jobs fighting for a clean, equitable electric transportation future for New York. ElectrifyNY’s work aims to improve the environment and public health outcomes for the communities most affected by the negative impacts of the transportation sector’s dependency on fossil fuels.