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AES appreciates the Climate Action Council for organizing and hosting the Draft Scoping Plan Public Hearings April and May. AES was represented at all meetings and most of those comments are below.

[04/04/2022 - Bronx Hearing – Michael Farrell, Director of Development New York/NE](#)

[04/06/2022 - Brookhaven – Andrew Gordon, Senior Developer Solar](#)

[04/12/2022 - Albany Hearing – Jesse Cutaia](#)

Good afternoon, my name is Jesse Cutaia, I live in the Town of Clermont in Southern Columbia County and I'm here to represent AES, a Fortune 500 global energy company accelerating the future of energy. My role at AES is as Development Manager, focused here in NYS on CDG solar projects that further bolster the State's leading role in community solar development. In New York, AES has over 80 employees with office locations in northern NY, western NY, and New York City. We currently operate 809 megawatts (MW) of reliable, safe, and clean wind and solar power and are developing 2GW of solar and standalone storage, at the community and utility-scale. AES supports the provisions in the Draft Climate Action Plan that support and enable development of wind and solar power and other renewable electricity technologies. While my comments will focus on the electricity sector, I would like to convey AES's support for the recommendations focused on energy efficiency improvements and decarbonization of buildings, and transportation electrification as well. We strongly support the fundamental component and objective of the Climate Act to ensure that NY's transition to a low-carbon economy results in beneficial outcomes for traditionally underserved communities. We also agree with the Draft Scoping Plan that the State should continue engagement and outreach to local municipalities, communities, and residents to increase awareness and improve acceptance of energy delivery projects and I am proud that AES prioritizes this engagement in our project development processes. I must also highlight for the Climate Action Council that to achieve the 70% by 2030 mandate, New York needs to advance a significant number of wind, solar, and battery projects into construction. New York needs to ensure projects actually get to groundbreaking and completion in order to contribute to state goals. There are many ways the state can support this goal of getting projects built, especially: By continuing procurement on an aggressive schedule of at least 4,500 gigawatt hours/year thru 2026. By ORES continuing to improve and streamline the permitting process for cost-effective, timely, and environmentally responsible siting of renewable energy projects, while ensuring significant benefits to local communities. At AES, we know that implementing this aggressive plan and ensuring that new renewable energy gets built will not be easy and we want to thank the Climate Action Council for their continued efforts. We appreciate NY's focus and we look forward to continuing to do business in NY.

04/12/2022 - Binghamton Hearing - Stephanie Hince, Stakeholder Relations Analyst

Good afternoon, my name is Stephanie Hince, I live in Campbell Hall down in Orange County, NY and I represent AES and our work in NY and the northeast.

AES is a Fortune 500 global energy company with a significant presence and investment in NYS. We currently operate over 800 megawatts (MW) of reliable, safe, and clean wind and solar power in NY with 2GW in development at the community and utility-scale, including:

- redevelopment of the former Somerset Coal Plant to produce solar power, and
- repowering the largest wind portfolio in the state – 612 MW in western and northern NY.

AES supports the provisions in the Draft Climate Action Plan that support and enable development of wind and solar power and other renewable energy technologies.

My message for the Climate Action Council is that to achieve the 70% by 2030 mandate, New York needs to advance a significant number of wind, solar, and battery projects **into construction**. **There are many ways the state can support this goal of getting projects built, especially:**

- By continuing procurement on an aggressive schedule of at least 4,500 gigawatt hours/year, 2022 thru 2026.
- By ORES continuing to improve and streamline the permitting process for cost-effective, timely, and environmentally responsible siting of renewable energy projects, while ensuring significant benefits to local communities.

Finally, solar development and successful agriculture can both thrive in NYS. The state provides strong incentives for solar projects to avoid prime soils and should continue to encourage collaboration between the renewable energy industry and the farming community. AES and ACE-NY stand ready to participate in this collaboration.

Thank you to NY's Climate Action Council for their development of the draft plan, and for holding these hearings. At AES, we know that implementing this aggressive plan and ensuring that new renewable energy gets built will not be easy. But we appreciate the state's focus and we look forward to continuing to do business in NY.

04/14/2022 - Syracuse Hearing – Eric Will, Senior Developer

Good afternoon my name is Eric Will. I live here in Syracuse and represent AES Clean Energy as Senior Manager of Development. AES is a Fortune 500 company accelerating the future of energy.

In NY we have over 80 employees and currently operate 809 MW of wind and solar generations facilities with 2 Gigawatts of solar and standalone battery storage under development.

We're very supportive of the Climate Action Council's plan to transition NY to a low carbon economy while creating beneficial outcomes for underserved communities. To achieve 70% by 2030 mandate, NY needs to facilitate the advancement of a very significant number of wind, solar and battery storage projects from development to construction and there are ways the state can support making this happen, including:

- Continuing outreach and education for communities to increase awareness and acceptance of clean energy generation projects
- Procuring at least 4500 gigawatt hours of clean energy each year through 2026 to provide market demand necessary to attract the private investment needed to ensure projects get built
- Streamlining the permitting process for the responsible siting of projects
- Facilitating investments in New York's transmission and distribution system to allow for the efficient flow of the clean energy generated
- And, encouraging collaboration between the renewable energy industry and the farming community. Solar development and agriculture can both thrive in NY

AES would like to thank the Climate Action Council for its development of the draft plan and for holding these hearings. Implementing this aggressive plan won't be easy, but we appreciate NY's commitment to improving our environment and look forward to continuing to do business in here NY.

04/27/2022 - Buffalo Hearing – Josh Baird

05/03/2022 - Brooklyn Hearing Mario Rice

Good evening, my name is Mario Rice, I live here in Brooklyn and represent AES as Solar Development Manager in NY and the northeast, focusing on utility scale solar projects.

AES is a Fortune 500 global energy company accelerating the future of energy.

In New York, AES has over 80 employees with office locations in northern NY, western NY, and New York City. We currently operate 809 megawatts (MW) of reliable, safe, and clean wind and solar power and are developing 2GW of solar and standalone storage, at the community and utility-scale.

AES supports the provisions in the Draft Climate Action Plan that support and enable development of wind and solar power and other renewable electricity technologies. While my comments will focus on the electricity sector, I would like to convey AES's support for the recommendations focused on energy efficiency improvements and decarbonization for buildings, and transportation electrification as well.

We strongly support the fundamental component and objective of the Climate Act to ensure NY's transition to a low-carbon economy results in beneficial outcomes for traditionally underserved communities.

We agree with the Draft Scoping Plan that the State should continue engagement, outreach, education, and support for local municipalities, communities, and residents to increase awareness and improve acceptance of energy delivery projects.

I am proud that AES prioritizes local stakeholder engagement and bringing comprehensive benefits to the communities where we are developing and operating projects.

I must also highlight for the Climate Action Council that to achieve the 70% by 2030 mandate, New York needs to advance a significant number of wind, solar, and battery projects **into construction**. **There are many ways the state can support this goal of getting projects built, especially:**

- By continuing procurement on an aggressive schedule of at least 4,500 gigawatt hours/year, 2022 thru 2026.
- By ORES continuing to improve and streamline the permitting process for cost-effective, timely, and environmentally responsible siting of renewable energy projects, while ensuring significant benefits to local communities.
- As New York State moves forward in meeting the Climate Act requirements, there will be a need for investments in New York's transmission and distribution electricity system to allow for the utilization of new resources and to meet growing electric load due to electrification. We applaud the critical steps taken so far by New York
- For developers of wind, solar, hydro, and renewable fuel cell projects, the most critical element is a clear and certain market demand. The Public Service Commission's directive for NYSERDA to enter contracts for Tier 1 renewables (4,500 gigawatt-hours/year per solicitation) and offshore wind (700 – 1,000 megawatts/year) creates a strong market in New York and should attract the private investment New York needs to get an adequate number of projects under development.

Finally, solar development and successful agriculture can both thrive in NYS. The state provides strong incentives for solar projects to avoid prime soils and should continue to encourage collaboration between

the renewable energy industry and the farming community. AES and ACE-NY stand ready to participate in this collaboration.

Thank you to NY's Climate Action Council for their development of the draft plan, and for holding these hearings. At AES, we know that implementing this aggressive plan and ensuring that new renewable energy gets built will not be easy. But we appreciate NY's focus and we look forward to continuing to do business in NY.

[05/10/2022 - Tupper Lake Hearing – Neely Kelley](#)

Good afternoon, my name is Neely Kelley, I live in Rochester NY and represent AES as Stakeholder Relations Manager for New York and the northeast.

I am also a mom to Martha 14 and Jessie 16. It is because of them that I do this work. Too many of us know that the urgency of climate change is unparalleled.

AES is a Fortune 500 global energy company accelerating the future of energy and we **support** the provisions in the Draft Climate Action Plan that enable

- 1) development of renewable electricity technologies,
- 2) energy efficiency, and
- 3) decarbonization of buildings and transportation

We **strongly support** the Climate Act's prioritizing traditionally underserved communities benefit from NY's transition to a low-carbon economy.

We **agree w**ith the Draft Scoping Plan that the State should continue engagement, outreach, education, and support for all stakeholders in host communities .

I am proud of AESs commitment to: local stakeholder engagement and bringing comprehensive benefits to host communities

To achieve the 70% by 2030 mandate, New York must advance renewable energy projects **into construction.**

Ways to advance this goal:

- continuing procurement on an aggressive schedule of at least 4,500 gigawatt hours/year, 2022 thru 2026.
- Continuing to improve and streamline the ORES permitting process for cost-effective, timely, and environmentally responsible siting of renewable energy projects, while ensuring local communities benefit.
- New York must invest more in our transmission and electricity distribution system
- And finally, there must continue to be a clear and certain market demand through NYSERDA's Tier 1 program.

Thank you to NY's Climate Action Council for this draft plan, and for holding these hearings. At AES, we know that implementing this aggressive plan will not be easy. But we applaud the critical steps taken so far and look forward to continuing our business in the state. Thank you.

05/12/2022 - Peekskill Hearing – Cecilio Aponte

05/11/2022 Virtual Hearing Marisa Valdez

I am one of 80 employees working in NY - where we have offices located in northern NY, western NY, and New York City. We currently operate 809 megawatts (MW) of reliable, safe, and clean wind and solar power and are developing 2GW of solar and standalone storage, at the community and utility-scale, including:

- redevelopment of the former Somerset Coal Plant to produce solar power, and
- repowering the largest wind portfolio in New York – 612 MW in western and northern NY.

I am proud to work with a team that prioritizes engaging early and often with local stakeholders. As a team we work with our community partners on lasting social impact programs that meet the needs of the communities where we are developing and operating projects.

AES supports the provisions in the Draft Climate Action Plan that support and enable development of wind and solar power and other renewable electricity technologies. At AES, we know the technology to reach 70% renewables by 2030 exists, and many companies, like ours, are investing in New York right now to build wind and solar facilities, install battery storage, and invest in the transmission grid to make this transition happen.

My message for the Climate Action Council is that to achieve the 70% by 2030 mandate, New York needs to advance a significant number of wind, solar, and battery projects into construction. There are many ways the state can support this goal of getting projects built, especially:

- By continuing procurement on an aggressive schedule of at least 4,500 gigawatt hours/year, 2022 thru 2026.
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Thank you to NY's Climate Action Council for their development of the draft plan, and for holding these hearings. At AES, we know that implementing this aggressive plan and ensuring that new renewable energy gets built will not be easy. But we appreciate NY's focus and we look forward to continuing to do business in NY.