NEW YORK STATE | GreenNY

Greening New York State

Fourteenth Progress Report on State Green Procurement & Agency Sustainability

Fiscal Year 2024–2025

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Message from the Chairs

In 2022, New York State issued Executive Order 22: Leading by Example: Directing State Agencies to Adopt a Sustainability and Decarbonization Program (EO 22).

This executive order puts New York State at the forefront of sustainable government operations, and under Governor Kathy Hochul's leadership, the State's decarbonization and sustainability initiatives have accelerated significantly.

EO 22 designates the GreenNY Council as the central body responsible for carrying out the State's lead-by-example programs and authorizes the Council to issue new operational directives.

EO 22 establishes ambitious environmental performance targets, including achieving 100% renewable electricity for State government by 2030; transitioning the light-duty fleet to 100% zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) by 2035 and medium- and heavy-duty fleets by 2040; securing 11 trillion British thermal units (BTUs) of energy savings at State facilities by the end of 2025; reducing embodied carbon in construction projects; cutting waste and eliminating single-use plastics from State operations; expanding procurement of green products and services while reducing the use of toxic substances; and enhancing biodiversity and habitat protection on State-managed lands.

EO 22 also includes measures to ensure that State operations do not disproportionately burden disadvantaged communities (DACs), and it prioritizes investments and facility upgrades in these communities to advance environmental justice and sustainability.

The fiscal year 2024–2025 (FY 24–25) Greening New York State report highlights the work of State entities named in EO 22 (Affected Entities) in reducing the environmental and health impacts of State government operations. Efforts span a wide range of areas, from decarbonization, waste reduction, and reducing the use of hazardous substances to green purchasing and improved stewardship of natural landscapes.

In FY 24–25, Affected Entities reported major accomplishments, including reducing energy use at State facilities through energy efficiency projects documented in BuildSmart 2025; prioritizing recycling and composting initiatives; streamlining GreenNY purchasing specifications and procuring $188 million in green products and services; and planting over 135,000 trees.

New York State has made substantial progress in implementing EO 22 projects and is advancing toward its targets across all 77 Affected Entities. The State will continue this forward momentum, demonstrating how government can successfully decarbonize and operate sustainably while leading by example.

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List of EO 22 Affected Entities

Adirondack Park Agency
Battery Park City Authority
Board of Elections
Bridge Authority
Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority
Capital District Transportation Authority
Central New York Regional Transportation Authority
Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
City University of New York
Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government
Council on the Arts
Department of Agriculture and Markets
Department of Civil Service
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Financial Services
Department of Health
Department of Labor
Department of Motor Vehicles
Department of Public Service
Department of State
Department of Taxation and Finance
Department of Transportation
Division of Criminal Justice Services
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Division of Human Rights
Division of Military and Naval Affairs
Division of the Budget
Division of Veterans' Services
Dormitory Authority of the State of New York
Empire State Development
Energy Research and Development Authority
Environmental Facilities Corporation
Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority
Erie County Medical Center Corporation
Financial Control Board
Gaming Commission
Higher Education Services Corporation
Homes and Community Renewal
Hudson River Valley Greenway
Hudson River–Black River Regulating District
Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs
Long Island Power Authority
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Nassau County Interim Finance Authority
New York Convention Center Operating Corporation
New York Power Authority
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
Office for People With Developmental Disabilities
Office for the Aging
Office of Addiction Services and Supports
Office of Cannabis Management
Office of Children and Family Services
Office of Employee Relations
Office of General Services
Office of Information Technology Services
Office of Mental Health
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Office of Victim Services
Offices of the Inspector General
Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority
Olympic Regional Development Authority
Port of Oswego Authority
Public Employment Relations Board
Rochester–Genesee Regional Transportation Authority
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
State Insurance Fund
State Liquor Authority
State Police
State University of New York
Thruway Authority
United Nations Development Corporation
Westchester County Health Corporation
Workers' Compensation Board

Executive Summary

In FY 24–25, the GreenNY Council continued to assist New York State agencies and authorities in aligning their planning and operations with the directives of EO 22 by developing project guidance, providing technical support, creating training, and hosting engagement events for Sustainability Coordinators and their teams.

FY 24–25 Highlights

- **Staff Engagement:** All Affected Entities have designated Sustainability Coordinators, and nearly 60% have sustainability teams. In addition to the annual GreenNY Forum, outreach and communications continued in 2025 through regular newsletters, webinars, and updates to the GreenNY SharePoint.
- **Recycling and Composting:** Ninety-four percent of construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated in FY 24–25 was recycled.
- **Reducing Toxic Chemical Use:** Ninety-two percent of Affected Entities with laboratory facilities reduced the storage of toxic chemicals in their laboratories.
- **Clean Energy and Renewables:** As of March 2025, 9.89 trillion BTUs of energy-saving projects were either underway or completed and logged through the BuildSmart program.
- **Refrigerant Management:** Twenty Affected Entities reported refrigerant management plans for all or some of their facilities. Training and enforcement of these plans continued in FY 24–25.
- **Sustainable Transportation:** Affected Entities reported light-duty, non-emergency fleets comprised of approximately 10% ZEVs on average, an increase from 7.4% in FY 23–24. There are now more than 1,600 ZEVs in the New York State non-emergency, light-duty fleet.
- **Sustainable Landscaping:** From creating edible forests and pocket pollinator meadows to restoring a pitch pine forest with prescribed fires, Affected Entities continued to play a critical role in promoting long-term environmental health.
- **Species and Habitat Protection:** A total of 15 State entities implemented biological community projects in FY 24–25, providing habitat for pollinators with native plants and curtailing invasive plant species.
- **Water Conservation:** Reported benefits of water conservation measures in FY 24–25 included reduced potable water consumption, lower utility and operational costs, and improved system efficiency.
- **Green Infrastructure:** Numerous Affected Entities incorporated green infrastructure, stormwater management practices, and low-impact development into long-term planning, design, and construction to restore natural stormwater infiltration.
- **Climate Resilience:** The Sustainable and Resilient Design Network began meeting in 2025 to coordinate and support implementation of the Decarbonization and Climate Resiliency Design Guide, which provides energy efficiency, zero-emission, and climate resilience design criteria for the construction or rehabilitation of State buildings.
- **Green Procurement Improvements:** The GreenNY Council gave final approval to 26 GreenNY specifications during FY 24–25.
- **Buying Green:** Affected Entities spent approximately $188 million on green products and services.
- **Restricting the Use of Bottled Water:** Affected Entities continued to test water quality; install water filters, fountains, and water bottle refill stations; and provide reusable alternatives to staff to eliminate the purchase of bottled water.
- **Embodied Carbon:** Many design and construction agencies with specifications for ready-mix concrete updated their specifications to align with the Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines or the GreenNY Lower Carbon Concrete Specification.

FY 24–25 By the Numbers

77
Affected Entities working together to Lead by Example

16.9
tons of material composted by Affected Entities

9.89 trillion BTUs of energy savings logged through the BuildSmart 2025 program

94%
of C&D waste recycled

100% of Affected Entities have a designated Sustainability Coordinator

137,562 trees planted

$188 million spent on green products and services

Introduction

New York State government is committed to leading by example and lowering the environmental footprint of its operations through EO 22. This executive order sets standards and environmental performance requirements for State government and designates the GreenNY Council as the implementing body.

EO 22 includes goals that cover many areas of sustainability:

- Reduce waste disposal by 10% every five years until reaching a goal of 75% lower than a FY 2018–2019 baseline by diverting materials from landfills, increasing recycling, and enhancing composting and other reuse of organic materials.
- Eliminate single-use plastics in State operations.
- Reduce toxic substances in State operations.
- Source 100% of the electricity used in State operations from renewable energy sources (as defined by the State's Clean Energy Standard) by 2030.
- Achieve 11 trillion BTUs of energy savings by the end of 2025 through the BuildSmart 2025 program.
- Convert 100% of light-duty, non-emergency vehicle fleets to ZEVs by 2035 and 100% of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets to ZEVs by 2040.
- Enhance habitats maintained by Affected Entities and increase efforts to support native pollinators.
- Restrict infrastructure that utilizes fossil fuels in New York State facilities entering design and permitting from 2024 onward.
- Increase resilience of State facilities in the face of changing climate risks.
- Align purchasing with green procurement specifications.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of State construction projects.

Reducing impact on Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

In addition to these goals, EO 22 directs Affected Entities to reduce the impact of their operations on DACs.

These are communities that meet the criteria outlined by the Climate Justice Working Group, which considers environmental burdens, climate change risks, and vulnerabilities related to population characteristics.

By identifying such communities, the State can ensure that its residents benefit from the transition to a clean energy economy.

The GreenNY Council has made great strides in implementing EO 22.

The GreenNY Council continues to leverage resources, create guidance, streamline sustainability reporting, and make it easier for Affected Entities to achieve the State's climate and sustainability goals. All 77 Affected Entities under EO 22 submitted progress reports to the GreenNY Council for FY 24–25, and this document consolidates and summarizes their responses. GreenNY reports from previous years can be found on the GreenNY website, which also includes more detailed information, webinars, fact sheets, and case studies on sustainable operations and purchasing.

Operating Green

Engaging Staff on Sustainability

Achieving New York State's climate and sustainability goals calls for collaboration and coordination across the 77 Affected Entities covered by EO 22. Sustainability Coordinators and their teams lead the daily work that lowers emissions and other environmental impacts from State operations.

Sustainability Coordinators are fundamental to driving sustainability performance within State organizations. While all 77 Affected Entities have a designated Sustainability Coordinator, many have other primary roles. The number of full-time Sustainability Coordinators, however, has been steadily increasing since EO 22 was adopted. In FY 24–25, 20% of Affected Entities reported having a full-time Sustainability Coordinator, compared to approximately 16% in FY 23–24. The GreenNY website provides a list of all Sustainability Coordinators.

Sustainability plans demonstrate an Affected Entity's commitment to achieving EO 22 goals and reducing the carbon footprint of State operations. In FY 24–25, over 50% of Affected Entities reported that they either already have a plan in place or are in the process of creating one.

Nearly 60% of Affected Entities report that they have created a Sustainability Committee to support their EO 22 work, and most of these committees engage regularly with staff through meetings, emails, and training. The GreenNY Council provides numerous resources to support these EO 22 efforts, including monthly GreenNY newsletters, an internal online portal of shared resources, and other resources that can be found on the GreenNY website.

Examples of successfully engaging Sustainability Coordinators, staff, and the broader sustainability community in FY 24–25:

The Office of General Services (OGS) hosted an Employee Ride and Drive Event to demonstrate the use of OGS fleet electric vehicles (EVs) to staff.

The **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** hosted a sustainability retreat in the Adirondacks at Camp Pack Forest for staff who work on sustainability.

City University of New York (CUNY) College of Staten Island developed a Master Composter Certificate Training, an advanced compost education and outreach program designed to build a citywide network of educators, advocates, and composters.

Annual GreenNY Forum

The GreenNY Council held the annual GreenNY Forum at the New York Power Authority (NYPA) White Plains Office on November 13, 2025. Approximately 90 attendees from over 20 Affected Entities attended the event.

The forum provides a platform to foster collaboration between State entities, bringing colleagues together for in-person presentations and dialogue. Participants reviewed progress toward the goals of EO 22, discussed challenges, and explored opportunities to enhance the sustainability of State operations. Many reported leaving the event feeling energized and inspired.

NYPA's Vice President of Sustainability opened the forum by highlighting the State's leadership in sustainability and acknowledging the contributions of the GreenNY Council. Throughout the morning, Affected Entities shared success stories and heard from various subject matter experts on a range of topics, including EV infrastructure trends, energy code updates, and best practices for change management in sustainability. The afternoon session featured roundtable discussions where participants shared ideas and best practices. NYPA's Chief Risk and Resilience Officer delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing the continued importance of sustainability in New York State.

Waste Reduction, Recycling, Composting, and Special Waste

Affected Entities reported generating 580,260 tons of material in FY 24–25. This represents a 49.4% decrease in waste generation from the previous fiscal year.

The overall recycling rate for Affected Entities was 64%, a decrease from 89% last fiscal year. The shifts in waste generation and recycling rates are attributed primarily to changes in the reporting of recycled clean C&D debris, particularly asphalt recycling data associated with road construction, which is a significant waste stream that has been reported in previous years.

Through EO 22, New York State has committed to decreasing State entity waste disposal by 10% every five years from a baseline of FY 18–19, until reaching a goal of 75%. In FY 24–25, Affected Entities started implementing their EO 22 waste diversion plans and reported early successes in waste diversion initiatives.

94% **of reported C&D waste generated in FY 24–25 was recycled.**

Type and Tons of Material Recycled by Reporting Affected Entities FY 24–25

	Tons	% Total
Clean C&D	291,564	78.6%
Bulk Metals	33,175	8.9%
Office Recyclables	27,361	7.4%
Maintenance and Equipment	7,645	2.1%
Compostables	11,298	3.0%
TOTAL	**371,043**	**100%**

Reducing waste

Affected Entities took action to reduce waste in numerous ways in FY 24–25, including:

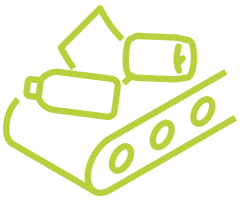
- Encouraging the use of reusable plates, cups, and utensils, supporting the shift to eliminate single-use plastics in operations.
- Providing access to water bottle filling stations to reduce single-use plastic bottles.
- Adopting procurement policies to prevent waste, such as ordering items with less plastic or polystyrene packaging or purchasing in bulk to reduce packaging.
- Leveraging the OGS State Surplus Property Program and developing their own entity- and facility-specific programs to reduce waste and reuse materials wherever possible.
- Increasing the use of electronic rather than paper communications within and between entities.

Successes in Improving Waste Data Quality, Enhancing Tracking Methods, and Conducting Waste Audits

Improving data quality and enhancing collection techniques are crucial first steps to reducing waste and increasing diversion. Some Affected Entities reported seeing significant improvements in waste data quality and data collection efficiency this fiscal year through increased collaboration with vendors to access data and by building waste reporting into procurement processes. For example, the **New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA)** reported that encouraging more detailed descriptions for waste-related services helped improve tracking of material types and supported more reliable reporting.

In addition to improving waste data quality and enhancing collection techniques, Affected Entities reported that waste audits and other monitoring efforts continued to be beneficial in identifying high-impact waste reduction and diversion opportunities that drive the implementation of waste diversion plans.

OGS conducted a comprehensive waste audit at the Empire State Plaza, a massive undertaking for a 12-million-square-foot facility that is open to the public.



CUNY conducted waste audits across its campuses in FY 24–25, and overall, findings pointed to steady recycling performance in some streams and continued opportunities to reduce contamination and expand compostable material diversion in others. Every CUNY campus plans to conduct a waste audit in the coming year.

Successes Specific to Reduction of Single-Use Plastics

Affected Entities continued to look for ways to reduce single-use plastics in FY 24–25. Single-use plastics at Affected Entity facilities are primarily limited to food service-related activities, and many Affected Entities report successes in shifting to reusable options wherever feasible.

- The **State University of New York (SUNY)** campuses made strides in implementing the university system-wide policy to phase out all single-use plastics. **SUNY Brockport** reported reductions in food service packaging purchases and waste generation resulting from these efforts, including portion cups, bowls, and trays/boats. At **SUNY Geneseo**, cafeteria dining services switched to reusable options for students and staff eating in.
- Vendors and dining services at **CUNY Hunter College** and **SUNY Oneonta** offered cash discounts for customers using reusable cups, generating strong engagement and positive feedback on social media.

Examples of other successful waste reduction and reuse initiatives in FY 24–25:

- The **Battery Park City Authority (BPCA)** completed a comprehensive inventory of salvage opportunities as part of the North Battery Park City Resiliency Project. The inventory identified items to be salvaged in full, partially salvaged, or not salvaged. Items that were salvaged included park benches, light poles, stone boulders, fences, stone, and granite paving. Materials such as stone from the original park design were reused in the new park.
- **Erie County Medical Center (ECMC)** implemented Leanpath, a food waste monitoring and reduction system.
- The **Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)** used reusable packaging return programs for pallets, cable spools, and other packaging materials.

Examples of successful recycling and composting initiatives in FY 24–25:

The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center of New York composted 100% of the organic waste from its farm operations on-site and eliminated the need to purchase any outside compost for facility use.

All nine of the **Canal Corporation** section offices' recycling systems were refreshed by setting up new waste station sorting bins with clear signage. With every rollout, employees were engaged by sustainability team members to build awareness and provide education on best practices.

DEC set up composting at the Fish Creek Pond Campground site at Saranac Lake.

Reducing Toxic Chemical Use

Reducing the Use of Hazardous Substances in State Operations

Affected Entities play an important role in protecting staff, the public, and the environment by prioritizing the reduction and elimination of toxic substances. Promoting and purchasing safer alternatives that meet GreenNY procurement specifications, training staff, and reviewing supply lists to identify areas where greener products exist are all important in this success.

Promoting green chemistry practices and participating in regular chemical cleanouts to remove chemicals no longer in use has created a culture of safety and responsibility at many Affected Entities. Continuously evaluating ways to reduce the use of toxic chemicals in operations and keeping updated inventories have created safer, more organized laboratories and storage areas.

Following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2025 regulation on methylene chloride, per the Toxic Substances Control Act, many agencies with laboratories eliminated the use of methylene chloride. Doing so reduced potential employee exposure to a known carcinogen, eliminated the need for regulatory compliance activities, and promoted safer and more sustainable laboratory environments. Additional benefits included cost savings associated with reduced hazardous waste disposal and improved alignment with green chemistry principles.

In FY 24–25, 92% of Affected Entities with laboratory facilities cleaned out their inventories to reduce the storage of toxic chemicals in their laboratories. Training and guidance sessions have been important to encourage the transition to safer alternatives.

Affected Entities took other actions to reduce chemical use in FY 24–25:

80% **reported using cleaning products that meet GreenNY Specifications at all or most facilities**

67% **reported using fragrance-free cleaning products at all or most facilities**

Using fragrance-free products reduces potential adverse health reactions and maintains a healthy working environment

76% **reported using disinfectants and sanitizers that meet GreenNY Specifications**

Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices are holistic and focus on prevention, early detection, and the judicious use of control methods, including biological, cultural, and chemical approaches. IPM often eliminates the need for unnecessary toxic chemical use.

61%

of Affected Entities reported implementing IPM and Integrated Vegetation Management to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals at their facilities.

Noteworthy advances that reduced toxic chemical use in FY 24–25:

CUNY

- **Baruch College** held regular cleanouts of outdated and hazardous chemicals from chemistry, biology, and flammable storage areas, improving safety and freeing up valuable space.
- **Hunter College** coordinated cleanouts of older laboratory chemicals and strengthened guidance provided to academic departments through its Office of Environmental Health and Safety.
- **Kingsborough Community College** focused on green chemistry practices and promoted the use of safer alternatives, with substitutions mandated where appropriate. Training on safe chemical handling for laboratory and facility staff will occur annually.
- **Bronx Community College** advanced toxic chemical reduction through routine staff training delivered both in person and through its learning management system. The Graduate Center continued expanding its IPM program, reducing reliance on conventional pesticides through monitoring and prevention-focused practices.
- **Brooklyn College** undertook a major initiative to eliminate or significantly reduce methylene chloride ahead of new EPA standards by issuing campuswide guidance, holding training sessions, reviewing chemical inventories, and strongly encouraging laboratories to transition to safer alternatives.

SUNY

- **The University at Albany** conducted research on metal pollution reduction in the Adirondacks and ultrafine particles and mortality in New York State, as well as coordinated multisite per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) research.
- **Downstate Health Sciences University** focused on green chemistry practices, reducing environmental impacts while promoting a culture of safety and responsibility.
- **SUNY Oneonta** used an online chemical inventory to track supplies.
- **Alfred State College** reduced staff exposure to toxic chemicals by expanding the use of green-certified cleaning products.
- **SUNY Oswego** successfully piloted using Green Seal-certified stripper and wax and will expand use to all facilities. One building was newly designed with maintenance-free floors to reduce the need for any stripper or wax.

NYPA successfully replaced cyanide-based silver-plating liquids with effective non-cyanide alternatives.

The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro) continued to prioritize environmentally preferable products for cleaning and maintenance, improving the safety of the public and staff.

DEC created a centralized database of products requiring Safety Data Sheets (SDS), which helped with the evaluation of safer alternatives. Updating SDS inventories helped identify rarely used and unclaimed chemicals needing safe disposal. One leased facility in Schenectady posted “No Pesticide” signs in their pollinator garden to prevent building contractors from spraying, which has proven successful.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) specified the use of 5,171 pounds of natural mycorrhizal fungi across 24 projects in FY 24–25 — instead of using chemical fertilizers — to foster root growth for turf and other plantings. This represents a 500% increase in quantity and more than double the number of projects compared to last year.

BPCA installed spotted lanternfly traps on host trees that do not use insecticides. Organic landscape practices are used to reduce their reliance on synthetic fertilizers. BPCA encourages employees and members of the public to report pests (especially invasive species such as spotted lanternfly) on the iNaturalist platform.

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation switched to organic fertilizer and does not use pesticides.

NYSTA improved staff awareness of low-toxicity green product options by reminding purchasers to use GreenNY specifications for cleaning products, disinfectants, and pest management materials. Supply lists were reviewed to identify where EO 22 compliant products exist. Further, chemical dilution control systems are being used.

MTA’s Long Island Railroad avoided excessive purchasing of chemicals by implementing the use of 5-gallon pails of products, instead of 55-gallon drums.

Clean Energy and Renewables

Clean Energy

EO 22 incorporates the BuildSmart 2025 goal in its requirements. **Eleven trillion BTUs represent approximately one-third of all energy consumed by State entities.** This is in addition to energy efficiency improvements made under the original BuildSmart NY Program. Along with decarbonizing the energy supply, reducing demand through energy efficiency and existing building optimization is foundational to the affordable reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

NYPA, through its BuildSmart Program, supports Affected Entities as they plan and implement projects and track progress toward New York State's BuildSmart 2025 energy efficiency goal. The BuildSmart 2025 Program set individual energy savings targets, established interim milestones and deliverables, and created supporting resources to set Affected Entities on a path toward meeting the collective EO 22 energy savings goal.

EO 22 establishes **NYPA's** New York Energy Manager (NYEM) as the system of record for collecting energy data from covered facilities. NYEM data is being used by the GreenNY Council to develop a GHG baseline for Affected Entity operations. Data may also be used to support the development of goals and guidance related to building decarbonization, electrification, and renewables. Energy saving project data were entered into NYEM to track progress toward an Affected Entity's portion of the BuildSmart 2025 goal, as well as the State's cumulative progress toward the 11 trillion BTU goal.

Many Affected Entities are using completed energy audits or master plans to take action on recommended energy conservation and reduction measures.

As of March 2025 (end of FY 24–25),

9.89 trillion BTUs

*of energy saving projects underway or completed, representing **89.9% of the 11 trillion BTU goal**.*

88% *of Affected Entities installed automatic light sensors in some or all of their facilities*

***86%** reporting conversion to high-efficiency lighting technologies such as LEDs, compared to just 50% in FY 23–24.*

BuildSmart 2025 is the collective effort of Affected Entities to reduce site energy use by 11 trillion BTUs by the end of 2025—an approximately 34% reduction in energy use from an FY 14–15 baseline.

OGS completed energy-efficient upgrades at the Hudson Valley Transportation Management Center in Westchester County. The project included the replacement of the center's existing heating and cooling systems and the replacement of its interior lighting fixtures with energy-efficient LEDs. The building management system was also upgraded, allowing OGS to utilize two new air-cooled chillers more efficiently.

Highlights from energy efficiency projects initiated, in-progress, or completed in FY 24–25:

The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) upgraded its lighting to high-efficiency LEDs.

- **DOT's** Long Island Region partnered with **NYPA** for an LED street lighting project. This smart street lighting LED upgrades project included a one-for-one fixture replacement of the existing high-intensity discharge (HID) streetlights with an equivalent LED roadway fixture, which equated to an energy reduction of over 7 million kWh.
- **The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)** completed and is pursuing projects including LED lighting conversions; high-efficiency heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) and hot water systems; building weatherization; and the installation of new building management systems at some facilities.
- **MTA's** demand response program is a successful initiative that has curtailed electric load and monetized energy performance for the organization. Since its inception in 2017, the program has reduced peak electricity demand by over 395 megawatts (MW). In FY 24–25 alone, MTA curtailed roughly 87 MW of electricity.
- **The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH)** successfully implemented an energy-efficient air-sealing project at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. The project sealed existing ductwork and resulted in verified annual electrical savings of approximately 77,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh), primarily attributed to the re-sheaving and resizing of motors across 13 air handling units. Duct leakage was also significantly reduced, greatly improving occupant comfort. This project is scalable and repeatable across many OMH locations.
- **SUNY Maritime College** conducted best-practice operations and maintenance activities, including installing insulation for its steam distribution piping and repairing steam and condensate piping leaks, thus reducing energy loss.
- **SUNY Oswego** prepared for the opening of Hewitt Hall in summer 2025. Hewitt Hall features a geothermal heat pump system consisting of 90 6-inch boreholes, each 500 feet deep, and high-efficiency LED lighting with networked lighting controls. The investment will provide clean energy that reduces both costs and environmental impact.

In October 2023, Governor Hochul announced the Decarbonization Leadership Program, a decarbonization and electrification initiative administered by NYPA that includes developing energy and emissions profiles for the State's largest carbon-emitting facilities and creating decarbonization action plans that will guide State agencies in reducing carbon emissions through facility improvements.

Decarbonization action plans for 15 of the highest-emitting State facilities are underway. Future decarbonization projects will create clean energy jobs and include innovative technologies such as thermal energy networks that connect multiple buildings to carbon-free energy sources.

Renewables

The adoption of renewable energy sources is an important part of New York State's commitment to move toward an economy that uses energy efficiently and is powered by clean energy resources. Investments in clean energy are investments in improving environmental and human health, and reflects the Governor's all-of-the-above approach.

As stated in the 2025 New York State Energy Plan:

Accelerating the integration of wind, solar, and other renewable energy resources into New York's energy system increases the resource diversity of the system, offering economic and reliability benefits, as well as important environmental and public health benefits from reducing the use of fossil fuels.

New York State is committed to meeting reliability requirements by pursuing smart, cost-effective energy investments and advancing other State policy goals while protecting affordability. Despite federal uncertainty and market headwinds, Affected Entities have continued to pursue renewable energy opportunities.

Noteworthy renewable energy projects in FY 24–25:

- **The Rochester–Genesee Regional Transit Authority (RGRTA)** completed solar development for new construction projects in Wyoming and Seneca counties.

DEC installed a 17-kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. DEC is also in the process of designing over 1,200 kW of PV projects at various DEC-owned locations.

Renewable energy installation progress of Affected Entities:

58%

were either designing renewable energy projects or actively working on new and existing projects in FY 24–25.

69%

reported that they are prioritizing energy-related projects in the next fiscal year.

Highlighted Savings/ Generation of Affected Entities

Total solar installation in FY 24–25:

greater than 100 kW *(generating nearly 135,000 kWh/year)*

Total planned installation:

greater than 1,500 kW *(potential to generate approximately 200,000 kWh/year)*

CUNY installed a solar canopy and 10 EV chargers in the North Academic Center parking lot at the **City College of New York**.

The **New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA)** completed the design of a solar-covered parking canopy at Farmingdale Armed Forces Reserve Center, which will provide 256 kW of power for the facility. DMNA also conducted microgrid studies for various sites and sought approval from the Office of the New York State Comptroller (OSC) for a multilocation solar and battery storage power purchase agreement, which will provide 6,019 MWh per year of power to DMNA facilities and 1 MW of storage.

Solar Spotlight: OPRHP

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has been shining brightly in renewable energy development.

In FY 24–25, the agency built and began operating three solar projects, totaling 93 kW. These projects will collectively generate nearly 110,000 kWh of electricity annually. OPRHP is also planning to operate two additional completed solar projects, totaling 36 kW, which are expected to generate approximately 43,000 kWh of electricity annually.

OPRHP isn't stopping there. By the end of FY 24–25, the agency had the following projects lined up:

Number of Projects	Status of Projects (as of FY 24–25)	Project Completion Year	Capacity (kW)	Expected Annual Generation (kWh)	Equivalent (Miles Driven in Gas-Powered Vehicle)
2	Construction started	2025	102	120,000	41,159
4	Contracted with developer	2026	792	930,000	311,306
2	Bid packages created	2027	1,400	1,600,000	534,850

Once all these systems are operational, they will collectively produce nearly 2,800,000 kWh annually. The generation from these projects will increase the percentage of OPRHP's current electric usage powered by solar to 17%.

OPRHP's Dennings Point solar PV array.

Refrigerant Management

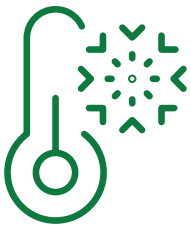
Progress continued in FY 24–25 as Affected Entities took action to track and reduce their refrigerant emissions.

Of the 77 reporting agencies, 39 stated that they utilize unsealed refrigerant-containing equipment, with 35 having chillers for buildings, 28 having heat pumps, 21 having commercial food and beverage coolers, and seven having chillers for other types of facilities besides buildings. Twenty Affected Entities reported having refrigerant management plans for some of their facilities, an increase of one over FY 23–24.

Twenty-two Affected Entities reported refrigerant emissions in FY 24–25. There was a total of 15 different refrigerants recharged into systems. Total reported emissions were 56,078 metric tons, the equivalent of 12,191 vehicles on the road per year. These numbers fluctuate year-over-year based on when Affected Entities have their equipment serviced and recharged.

20

affected entities now have refrigerant management plans in place that cover all or some of their facilities.



Highlighted refrigerant management projects in FY 24–25:

- SUNY Binghamton University provided additional training to staff on refrigerant management.
- BPCA implemented a new entity-wide refrigerant management plan that directed their equipment servicing vendor to improve refrigerant management practices and secure needed information for future annual reporting.

DEC installed a new walk-in food and beverage cooler that uses a natural refrigerant (carbon dioxide [CO2]) at Camp Pack Forest in the Southern Adirondacks. The cooler will also be used as a teaching tool on the importance of reducing emissions from refrigerants.

Sustainable Transportation

In New York State, the transportation sector is among the largest sources of emissions.

To reduce emissions from this sector, EO 22 directs Affected Entities to lead by example by decarbonizing and converting the State's non-emergency fleet—which consists of roughly 35,000 vehicles—to ZEVs.

OGS leads fleet conversion efforts by providing technical assistance, capacity building, and funding that supports the buildout of EV charging. To support the **100% light-duty, non-emergency ZEV fleet by the 2035** goal, OGS developed a light-duty fleet conversion template, which each Affected Entity used to outline an initial conversion plan in 2023. In addition, at the end of 2025, Affected Entities submitted plans for the conversion of approximately 11,500 medium- and heavy-duty fleet vehicles to ZEVs by 2040. Entities will update the light-duty and the medium- and heavy-duty conversion plans on a three-year cadence.

The light-duty fleet decarbonization efforts informed an abundance of work during FY 24–25. Affected Entities reported that their light-duty, non-emergency fleets were comprised of roughly 10% ZEVs, an increase from 7.4% FY 23–24. This represents over 1,600 ZEVs in the State light-duty fleet.

Affected Entities also continued to identify key locations for electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) buildout. At the end of the reporting period, Affected Entities reported owning and operating over 1,300 charging ports. Some of these ports are also available to employees or the public. There are hundreds more charging ports in the queue. To display the latest updates on the fleet's decarbonization progress, OGS updates the State fleet ZEV dashboard quarterly. OGS also launched an interactive EVSE map for ZEV fleet drivers to use when planning their routes.

The light-duty fleet has achieved a composition of about 10% ZEVs. Affected Entities have installed over 1,300 charging ports for their fleets, with hundreds more in the queue.

OGS electric fleet vehicle charging.

CUNY City College of New York installed 20 EV charging ports powered by a 140-kW solar array.

As more chargers came online, Affected Entities purchased more light-duty ZEVs.

During FY 24–25, Affected Entities reported purchasing 483 ZEVs, which represents 20% of all light-duty vehicle purchases reported. For this reporting period, there was a near cost parity between ZEVs and internal combustion engine vehicles, as shown in the chart below. However, the last column indicates internal combustion engine vehicles bought last year were much cheaper on average, which could be due to an overall rise in vehicle prices, the type and size of internal combustion engine vehicles bought this year compared to last, or a combination of other factors. Based on last year's upfront cost differential, OGS issued partial reimbursements of up to $8,000 per battery electric vehicle (BEV) and $2,500 per plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) to executive agencies that purchased ZEVs, totaling more than $1 million.

438 ZEVs

purchased, representing ***20%*** *of all light-duty vehicle purchases reported.*

$1 million+

of reimbursements issued for purchasing ZEVs

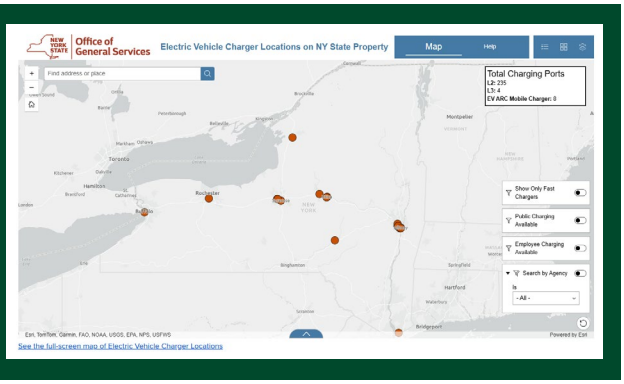
Vehicle Type	# Bought	Average Price	Differential w/ICE	Price Change from Last Year (Same Type)
Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)	1,973	$45,652	-	+$7,913
Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)	410	$41,689	-$3,963	+$1,302
Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV)	73	$45,770	+$119	-$50

Affected Entities began to focus their efforts on converting their medium- and heavy-duty fleets to ZEVs during FY 24–25. Because the timeline for conversion, infrastructure, and procurement for this portion of the fleet will occur a few years after the light-duty fleet, entities are focusing on reducing emissions from their existing medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

To this end, OGS added renewable diesel to its suite of fuel offerings through the centralized contract (Award 23343) in late 2024, becoming the first State entity in the Northeast to offer it on contract. Using renewable diesel allows medium- and heavy-duty fleets to lower their emissions immediately because it is a drop-in fuel that is compatible with existing diesel infrastructure and tanks and can be blended with petroleum diesel.

OGS *and* ***NYSDOT*** *bought* ***over 14,000 gallons*** *of renewable diesel.*

OGS launched an interactive map to help fleet drivers find State-owned chargers.



SUNY Stony Brook University's mascot, Wolfie, used the campus's newly installed fleet and public EV charging stations in FY 24–25.

NYSDOT PHEV fleet vehicles are charging up. All light-duty vehicles added to the NYSDOT fleet in FY 24–25 were procured via lease rather than purchase. This allows NYSDOT to refresh the fleet more frequently (three-year cycle vs. seven-year cycle) and take advantage of industry-wide improvements in fuel efficiency.

OGS installed its first fast charging station in FY 24–25, open for executive agency use.

NYSTA cycles vehicles in and out of the chargers the authority owns so that they are fully fueled for use when they are needed—even in the snow.

RGRTA added hydrogen fuel cell transit buses to their revenue service operations.

Sustainable Landscaping

New York State owns 31 million acres of diverse landscapes—including forests, wetlands, urban green spaces, campuses, and parks.

A significant portion of land in New York State is owned or leased by Affected Entities.

50%+

of entities manage outdoor space that requires ongoing management

This presents an opportunity for the State to lead by example and act as a steward of public land. Affected Entities are increasingly integrating biodiversity into their operations and inspiring the public to adopt similar practices through targeted outreach and communication.

One of the core tenets of sustainable landscaping is the use of native plant species. These plants require less water and maintenance, thrive without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, and are more resistant to local pests and diseases.

Native plants support a broad range of pollinators and wildlife, providing critical habitat in urban and rural areas.

In FY 24–25, 26% of Affected Entities reported using sustainable landscape practices, including:

- Creating pollinator-friendly landscapes with native plantings and no-mow methods.
- Restoring, building, and protecting habitats for wildlife.
- Controlling invasive species without heavy chemicals.
- Engaging local communities and students as partners.
- Adopting new technologies and data-driven monitoring to assess progress.

Examples of successful sustainable landscaping projects implemented in FY 24–25:

- **SUNY** campuses continued to build pollinator gardens, which serve as "everyday classrooms." **SUNY Oswego** began planting 250 fruit-bearing and medicinal trees. The Sculpture Program and faculty at **SUNY New Paltz** launched the Eco Art Lab, a living laboratory of sustainability that transformed a monocultural, overlooked patch into a vibrant, biodiverse learning garden. In spring 2025, they sculpted hügelkultur (raised) garden beds and planted a diverse array of native perennial pollinator plants to make art materials, such as natural dyes, paints, and paper. These projects invite curiosity and embodied engagement, nurturing creative practices rooted in sustainability, interconnection, and collective care.
- The **Canal Corporation**, a subsidiary of NYPA, used repeated cycles of tilling and sowing with buckwheat to exhaust a seed bank of invasive species and turn three lots into pocket pollinator meadows. The buckwheat provided habitat value while also serving as a visually appealing intermediate step.
- The **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)** used white vinegar to combat significant poison ivy growth, rather than applying harsh chemicals to eradicate weeds on its property.
- **OPRHP** started restoring the Big Bend Preserve, part of Moreau Lake State Park. Prescribed fire is being used to transition 400 acres of invasive-infested shrubland to pitch pine barrens as a labor-efficient, cost-effective, and safe management tool.

Species and Habitat Protection

Endangered Species and Communities

Endangered species are the most fragile fish and wildlife resources in New York State. Whether due to emerging diseases (e.g., white-nose syndrome in bats), contaminants (e.g., DDT and rat poison impacts on birds of prey), or habitat loss (e.g., land development affecting grassland birds), these native species require a helping hand to keep them as viable members of New York's ecological system.

Biological communities are the backbone of the support system for plant and wildlife diversity. The protection and restoration of important communities is also vital for the management of many endangered and threatened species.

In FY 24–25, Affected Entities were on the lookout for impacts on endangered species, with 16 Affected Entities that own land screening for potential impacts on listed species at project sites they were working on. A total of 15 entities implemented biological community projects in FY 24–25, with most projects focused on providing habitat for pollinators through the planting of native plants, with the added benefit of curtailing invasive plant species. Due to efforts by Affected Entities, multiple projects were able to avoid or reduce harmful impacts on species such as nesting gulls, Bicknell's Thrush, northern long-eared bats, and peregrine falcons. Some entities also took actions to help recover threatened species, including the Karner blue butterfly, northern barrens tiger beetle, endangered weft fern, and several tree species. Progress will continue, as EO 22 contains language directing State agencies and authorities to ensure their operations do not have an adverse impact on endangered species.

15 entities
implemented biological community projects.

Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle (Source: **OPRHP**)

Examples of Affected Entities working to improve the status of our rarest species in FY 24–25:

- **OPRHP** brought in New York Natural Heritage Program staff and identified a new location of the endangered weft fern in cliffs and rock outcrops at Minnewaska State Park Preserve—a first for the park, county, and Shawangunk Ridge. In addition, successful surveys documented the northern barrens tiger beetle, which is only known from the rare dwarf pine ridge community in New York State. The habitats for both species are outlined as conservation targets in the working draft of the Minnewaska State Park Stewardship Plan. At Big Bend Preserve, 860 acres of formerly logged land are being targeted for restoration of approximately 400 acres of pitch pine barrens habitat. The goal is to establish a new recovery site for the endangered Karner blue butterfly. Fire management for barrens habitat was implemented successfully on 70 acres.

New York State's endangered species efforts focus on the most sensitive elements in the ecosystem and work to find and correct fish and wildlife problems before certain species are lost forever. In many cases, that requires the protection or restoration of the ecological communities that rare species depend upon.

OGS protected multiple rare tree species during the construction of Wadsworth Laboratory at the W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus in Albany. Rare trees were identified and fenced off prior to construction to ensure preservation.

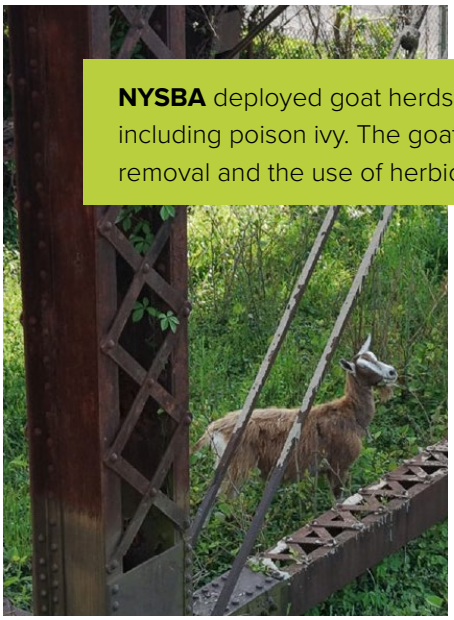
- The **New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA)** and **NYSTA** are finding creative solutions to ensure both public safety and the safety of nesting birds. NYSTA installed nesting boxes on three of its major bridges for peregrine falcons. NYSBA built and installed steel nets under osprey nests on top of Bear Mountain Bridge to prevent debris from falling from the nests onto the bridge below.
- **DEC** conducted bat acoustic surveys and used mist nets to assess population size and potential impacts from infrastructure projects.

Invasive Species

Invasive species are non-native organisms that often have a competitive advantage over native species, causing negative environmental, economic, and health impacts.

This is due to a variety of factors, such as a lack of predators, special adaptations to human disturbance, and rapid reproduction. Invasive species disrupt the ecological balance of the environment by outcompeting native species, which reduces the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems.

New York is particularly vulnerable to invasive species due to its rich biodiversity and the State's role as a center for international trade and travel. Whether these introductions are intentional (e.g., planting invasive plants in a garden) or unintentional (e.g., insect pests hiding in shipping materials), vigilance is key to mitigating impacts. Affected Entities deployed a wide variety of tactics in FY 24–25 to manage and reduce the negative impacts caused by invasive species.



NYSBA deployed goat herds beneath the Walkway Over the Hudson to manage invasive and noxious weeds, including poison ivy. The goats also offer a low-cost, nontoxic alternative to potentially dangerous manual removal and the use of herbicides.

DEC *and partners utilized the New York State invasive species database, iMapInvasives, to survey and document terrestrial and aquatic invasive species across the State.*

~28,000 ***presence records submitted***

3,000+ ***treatment records submitted***

118,717 ***acres searched***

Affected Entities that own or manage outdoor space during FY 24–25:

50%

took action to manage invasive species during FY 24–25.

21%

had ***Early Detection Rapid Response*** *protocols in place to identify invasive species.*

DEC Forest Health and Invasive Species Information Lines *corresponded with the public, providing education and outreach about invasive plants and forest pests.*

1,614 ***people reached***

OPRHP *completed:*

254 projects *managing invasive species in* **117 State parks**

10,000+ *acres surveyed*

5,000 *acres managed*

OPRHP *protected:*

8,830+ hemlock trees *(1,110 acres) in 20 State parks from hemlock woolly adelgid*

3,000+ acres in six State parks *in the Hudson Valley from spongy moth*

Examples of Affected Entities protecting New York State from invasive species in FY 24–25:

Invasive Species Expo

In September 2025, the NY Invasive Species Council, led by **DEC**, the **New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets**, and **OPRHP**, collaborated to host the 2025 Invasive Species Expo at Saratoga Spa State Park. Other agencies involved in organizing the event included **DOT**, **NYSTA**, the **Canal Corporation**, the **New York State Department of State (DOS)**, the **New York State Education Department**, and the **Adirondack Park Agency**.

The expo brought together over 1,000 people, including more than 700 professionals and students working in fields involving invasive species, to share knowledge and solutions to combat invasive species across three days of public outreach and professional sessions.

The expo hosted a Community Conservation Day where State agencies, authorities, and other partners educated members of the public on a variety of topics related to invasive species. Participants took part in interactive demonstrations, workshops, poster sessions, and field trips, providing information and hands-on experience with the latest invasive species management techniques. The expo demonstrated how coordination and information sharing between State agencies and other partners is crucial for building awareness and equipping New Yorkers with practical tools and knowledge to prevent the spread of invasive species.

2025 NEW YORK STATE
INVASIVE SPECIES
EXPO
ABC's OF INVASIVE SPECIES
ADVANCE ACTION | BRIDGE BOUNDARIES | CONNECT COMMUNITY

The collection team.

DEC, **OPRHP**, and **Cornell University's** New York State Hemlock Initiative (NYSHI) announced a major milestone in hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) biological control. HWA is an invasive insect that can attack healthy hemlock trees, often killing them in under a decade. NYSHI, DEC, and OPRHP, along with representatives from Vermont and New Hampshire, collected Laricobius nigrinus, a predator beetle being released to control the invasive HWA in Harriman State Park.

12,000+ *beetles collected*

6,847 *released*

at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, Thacher State Park, and Long Point State Park

More than 5,000 beetles were also collectively released in New Hampshire and Vermont. This represented the first time New York State collaborated with other states to redistribute biocontrols for invasive pests to other northeast states. Establishing specialist predators, like Laricobius nigrinus, will help keep HWA populations in check naturally, allowing hemlocks to survive.

DEC Forester Erica Culbert collecting the predators.

HWA infestation closeup.

Watercraft Stewards and Inspection Program

Invasive species can alter aquatic habitats, reduce native biodiversity, and impact local economies and recreational activities. The Watercraft Inspection Steward Program (WISP), funded by **DEC**, acts as the first line of defense in preventing the overland transport of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

DEC staff and boat stewards across New York State engage directly with boaters to provide education on the importance of preventing AIS from spreading and following Clean, Drain, Dry protocols. In 2025, the WISP program performed more than 222,000 inspections and engaged with 429,376 boaters. Stewards also intercepted 8,716 AIS at boat launches throughout New York State.

222,000
inspections

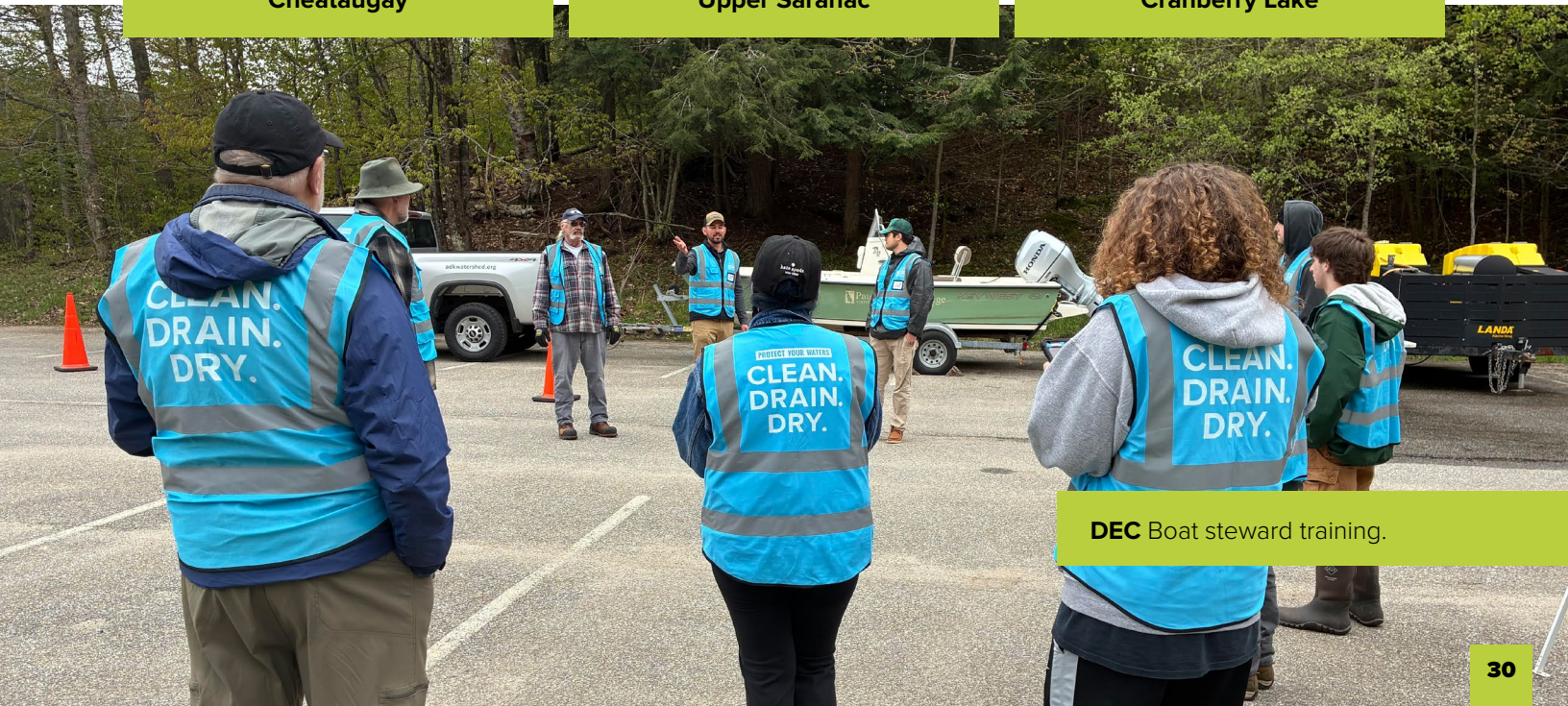
429,376
boaters engaged

8,716
AIS intercepted

Cheataugay

Upper Saranac

Cranberry Lake



DEC Boat steward training.

Water Conservation

In 2024, New York State issued a statewide drought watch and elevated 15 counties to drought warning status due to a shortage of rainfall and declining levels of streamflow and groundwater. Water is a valuable limited resource that must be used efficiently to meet the challenge of supporting the varied and increasing water uses of New Yorkers. Affected Entities continued to advance water conservation efforts in FY 24–25 through a combination of infrastructure upgrades, operational improvements, and long-term planning. While the scale and scope of projects vary by Affected Entity, collective efforts demonstrate steady progress in reducing potable water use, lowering utility costs, and supporting sustainability goals.

Many Affected Entities focused on upgrading plumbing systems and fixtures to improve water efficiency:

- **Centro**, **DASNY**, the **New York State Police (NYSP)**, **SUNY New Paltz**, **SUNY Cobleskill**, and **MTA** installed low-flow, high-efficiency toilets, urinals, faucets, and showerheads.
- **SUNY College of Optometry** and the **New York State Higher Education Services Corporation** offices installed sensor-operated and timed faucets in several facilities to reduce unnecessary water use.
- **MTA** and **SUNY Cobleskill** installed low-flow urinals in public-facing facilities.

Affected Entities also implemented system-level improvements and modernized infrastructure:

- **DOCCS** and **NYSP** addressed water loss from aging infrastructure through leak detection and repair efforts.
- **ECMC** replaced a water-based vacuum system with a water-free alternative, eliminating water consumption while improving energy efficiency.
- The **Olympic Regional Development Authority** continued to use their high-efficiency snowmaking equipment, reducing water intensity in operations.
- **CUNY Brooklyn College** estimated savings of approximately 100,000 gallons annually, illustrating the potential impact of targeted improvements.

Several Affected Entities adopted or piloted innovative water conservation approaches to reduce potable water use and support more sustainable landscape and operational practices:

- **DEC** facilities began using rainwater collection systems, including barrels and large-scale reuse systems for boat washing and irrigation.
- Some **SUNY** campuses (**Stony Brook University** and **Maritime College**) and **OGS**-managed facilities reduced potable water use through improved irrigation practices, including smart controllers, drip irrigation, weather-based adjustments, and drought-tolerant (xeric) landscaping. **SUNY University at Buffalo** installed snowmelt recapture systems that can reduce irrigation demand.
- **Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority** began conducting a gray water reuse feasibility study at Buffalo Niagara International Airport as part of long-term planning.

Water conservation is increasingly being integrated into Affected Entity planning and performance tracking:

OGS reported that in OGS-owned or leased spaces:

76% of facilities have installed high-efficiency water systems

52% measure water usage to inform conservation efforts

24% incorporate water-conscious irrigation practices

19% maintain formal water conservation plans or policies

Across all Affected Entities:

56%

report implementing at least one water conservation practice.

Although not all projects included quantified savings, reported outcomes from water conservation measures include reduced potable water consumption, lower utility and operational costs, improved system efficiency and reliability, and progress toward institutional sustainability goals.

While opportunities remain to expand measurement and quantify savings, the breadth of initiatives demonstrates continued statewide commitment to sustainable water management.

Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management

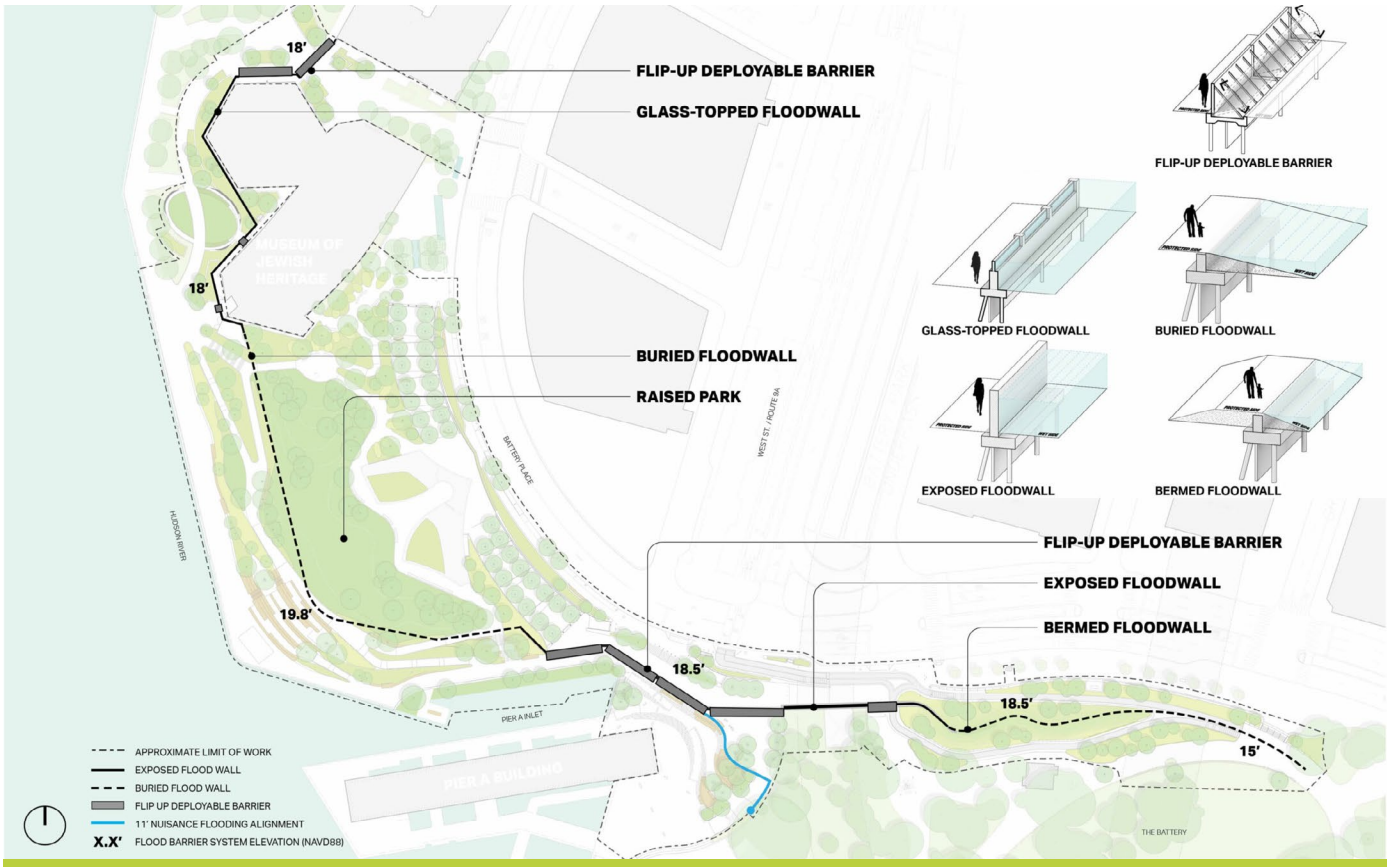
As land continues to be developed and climate change exacerbates extreme precipitation events, stormwater flooding remains a significant hazard for many Affected Entities.

Green infrastructure, which uses natural lands, soils, and plants to manage stormwater, offers a solution that also benefits biodiversity and air quality. These strategies can include:

- Bioretention basins, bioswales, and rain gardens
- Green roofs
- Tree planting
- Wetland construction, restoration, and land preservation
- Rainwater harvesting

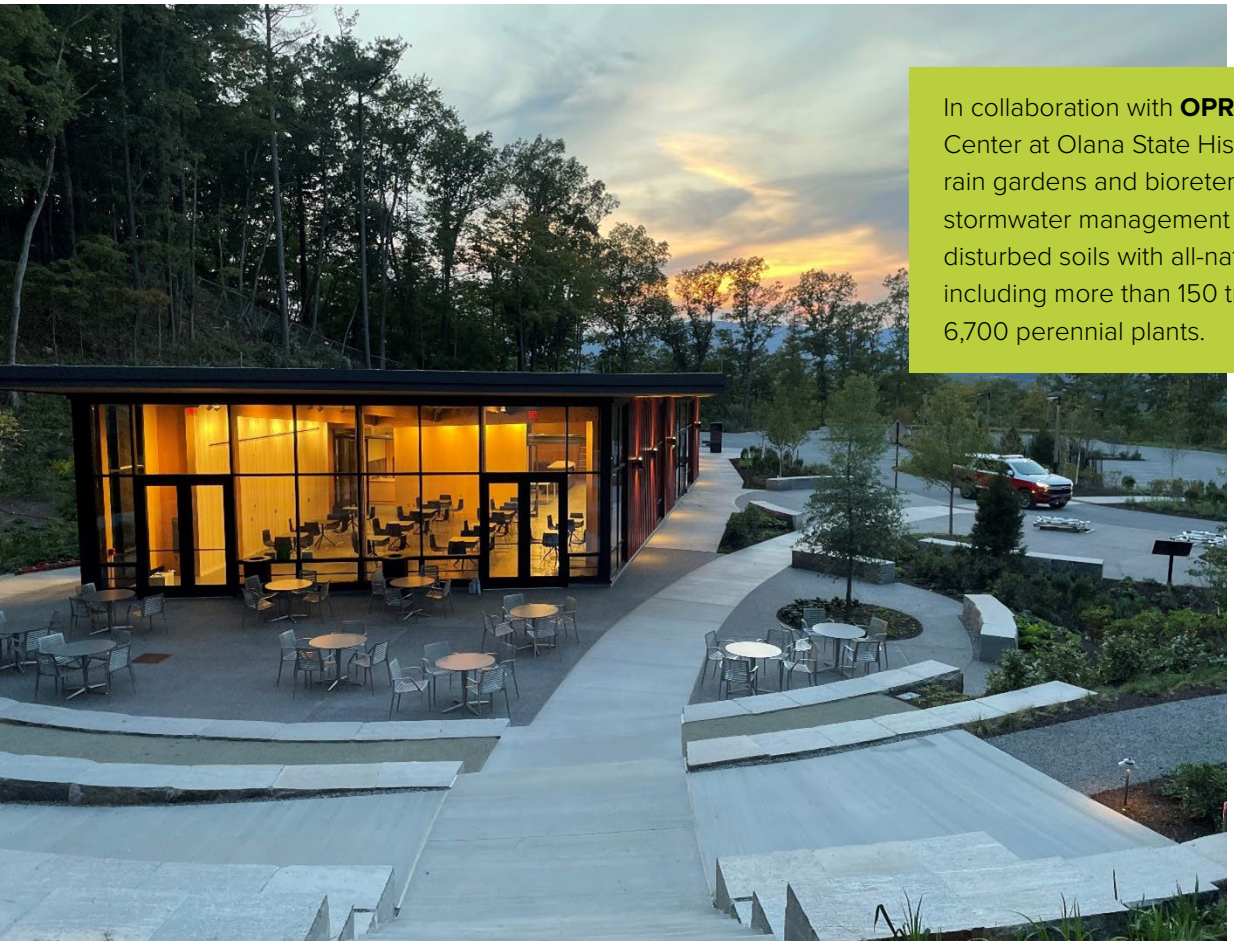
Ongoing initiatives focus on integrating stormwater management into new construction projects, ensuring comprehensive stormwater runoff reduction, and improving erosion control. Numerous Affected Entities are incorporating green infrastructure, stormwater management practices, and low-impact development into long-term planning, design, and construction planning processes to restore natural stormwater infiltration.

Success Stories



BPCA continued work on the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project, which includes an integrated flood barrier and upgrades to the stormwater drainage system as part of the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency Project. This project also includes modifications and upgrades to the stormwater drainage system on the interior side of the flood barrier system to ensure that flood risks on that side are not exacerbated by the coastal surge protection.

Success Stories (continued)



In collaboration with **OPRHP**, the Frederic Church Center at Olana State Historic Site incorporated rain gardens and bioretention basins for stormwater management and the stabilization of disturbed soils with all-native landscape plantings, including more than 150 trees, 1,300 shrubs, and 6,700 perennial plants.

150
trees

1,300
shrubs

6,700
perennial plants

- **Centro** began plans to replace two existing oil-water separators with more efficient systems designed to improve stormwater treatment and water quality at maintenance facilities. These upgrades will reduce pollutant discharge and enhance environmental protection.
- **NYSTA** used the **NYSDOT** Highway Design Manual and the New York State Stormwater Design Manual, both of which incorporate natural detention and green infrastructure concepts. These standards guide design decisions for roadway and drainage projects.
- **CUNY** expanded Finca La Florecita, an urban farm located at **LaGuardia Community College**, which is the first institution in New York City to offer an associate's degree in sustainable urban agriculture. Featuring 21 raised beds, a Gothic high tunnel, a three-bin composting system, and a rainwater harvesting system, Finca La Florecita blends innovation with practical education to offer educational and career pathways in agriculture, soil science, food justice, and urban ecosystem enhancement. The farm also provides fresh produce for the college's food pantry.

Weathering the Stormwater: SUNY Campuses

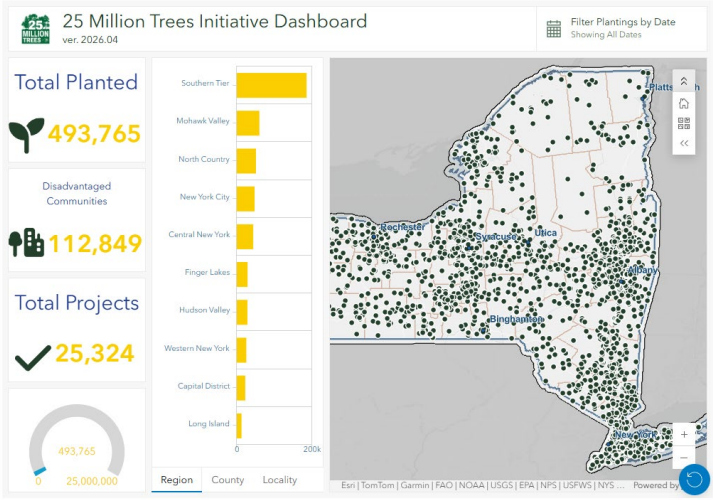
Multiple campuses completed stormwater mitigation projects in FY 24–25:

- **SUNY University at Albany** integrated stormwater management in various construction projects.
- **SUNY Binghamton University** installed water quality and quantity practices in a belowground chamber system.
- The Long Island State Veterans Home at **SUNY Stony Brook University** broke ground on an innovative three-season recreational space for residents and their families in 2025. Permeable landscaping incorporates sustainability into the restoration of an adaptive courtyard.
- **SUNY New Paltz** added vegetated swales and porous rubber pavement during two renovation projects.
- **SUNY Oswego** reduced impervious surfaces and incorporated native plantings in the Hewitt Hall construction project.
- **SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)** converted lawn to meadow to improve stormwater management near Bray Hall.
- **SUNY Plattsburgh** parking lots were restored and updated with infiltration areas to protect the nearby Saranac River inlet. Stormwater controls included installation of silt fences and strategically placed drains.

SUNY Morrisville installed slow-draining filter media and rain gardens for stormwater treatment.

25 Million Trees Initiative Progress

DEC *rallied support for an ambitious tree planting campaign aimed at planting 25 million trees by 2033.*



DEC's tree tracker dashboard displaying total trees planted during FY 24–25.

DEC invited the public to participate in activities celebrating Arbor Day to honor trees and highlight their crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, enhancing air quality, and providing habitat for wildlife. The online tree tracker helps keep records of the trees planted, allowing participants to contribute to and monitor the progress of the initiative.

DEC emphasized that everyone can make a difference by planting trees in their communities.

In FY 24–25, Affected Entities reported planting and distributing seedlings for 137,562 trees.

222,253 trees

planted by both State and public entities

DEC planted its first Miyawaki forest (or mini forest) at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar, NY, creating a dense, biodiverse woodland with the potential to grow 10 times faster than traditional tree plantings. This event brought the community and staff together and featured over 80 volunteers planting 550 tree stems of 46 distinct native species in one day. The mini forest sequesters carbon, enhances biodiversity and urban resilience, and educates the public. Research will quantify the forest's resiliency benefits, and lessons learned will be shared with local community groups.

Low-Impact Development and Climate Risk

New York State's climate is changing, with higher temperatures, rising sea levels, and more frequent extreme events among the predicted impacts. Affected Entities are leading by example in capital construction to adapt to climate change while reducing GHG emissions to mitigate its worst effects.

EO 22 commits Affected Entities to transitioning away from fossil fuel use, implementing climate resilience strategies, and encouraging low-impact development.

In FY 24–25, Affected Entities made significant progress on these commitments:

- Twenty Affected Entities reported that they have either fully integrated or have specific plans to implement the use of the Decarbonization and Climate Resiliency Design Guide. This guide provides design criteria for energy efficiency, zero emissions, and climate resilience to be used in new or majorly renovated State building projects.
- Fourteen Affected Entities reported creating climate action plans, several of which included forward-looking climate resilience planning scenarios for use in determining potential climate risks across their portfolio. These plans aim to identify and reduce impacts posed by hazards including sea level rise, extreme storms, stormwater flooding, extreme heat, high winds, and wildfires.

*The **Canal Corporation**, a subsidiary of NYPA, is reviewing design standards and project prioritization practices to systematically embed climate resilience into their operations.*

Success Stories

- **Centro** implemented climate resiliency initiatives focused on maintaining operational continuity during extreme weather and power disruptions. Resiliency measures include maintaining backup generators, developing flood response action plans to relocate buses and operations, and preparing for severe winter weather using dedicated equipment. These efforts help reduce service disruptions and protect critical infrastructure during climate-related events.
- **OPRHP** has planned for the resilience of the pitch pine forests of Napeague and Hither Hills State Parks. Emerging climate threats, including less predictable and more extreme weather events, sea level rise, and invasive southern pine beetles, have created major environmental and safety concerns. Forest management and other conservation actions were taken to restore the unique native biodiversity of the area, buffer the effects of sea level rise in a highly susceptible area, and protect against emerging invasive species. Further, in August 2025, Governor Hochul announced $2.2 million in funding for the pitch pine forest management within Napeague and Hither Hills State Parks, building upon the $2 million already spent since 2022, which supported the removal of 16,000 hazardous trees, installation of 2.2 miles of fuel breaks, and management of numerous acres of understory.

*Design and construction professionals within State entities regularly convene via the Sustainable and Resilient Design Network, a forum facilitated by **OGS**, **NYPA**, and **NYSERDA** to support Affected Entities in designing sustainable and resilient capital projects. This group shares knowledge and best practices and shapes guidance and tools for capital construction.*

Buying Green

Embodied Carbon in Construction Materials

EO 22 directs Affected Entities to decrease emissions from construction and reduce the embodied carbon in their construction materials.

Embodied carbon in construction materials can be reduced through several strategies, from reducing material use in design through reuse or recycling, to selection of lower embodied carbon materials. In 2023, the GreenNY Council issued the Embodied Carbon Guidance, which requires agencies to submit information about their construction projects that would provide insight into the embodied carbon in construction materials used annually. Moreover, per the New York State Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines and the GreenNY Specification for Lower Carbon Concrete, all concrete reported must provide a supplier-provided Environmental Product Declaration (EPD). EPDs are currently the main way that emissions information about materials is transparently reported. EPDs are a relatively new development, and suppliers are being pushed to provide EPDs by policies set by the public and private sector.

Affected Entities submitted the first round of mandatory embodied carbon reporting in August 2025 for FY 24–25. Based on 112 applicable projects[1] that were substantially completed during FY 24–25, Affected Entities reported a total of 52 EPDs from one of four material categories: concrete, asphalt, steel, and glass. Not all projects reported EPDs – indicating that the market for EPDs is still developing. Some projects did not use materials from one of these categories, and in some cases, mixes or materials may not have had a current or eligible EPD.

*According to the World Green Building Council, embodied carbon-related GHG emissions account for **11%** of global energy-related carbon emissions.*

That percentage is likely to grow as new buildings and infrastructure are built to replace, renovate, and expand the current built environment.

Material Category	Total Quantity of Material Procured on Projects Completed in FY 24–25	Number of EPDs Reported on Projects Completed in FY 24–25
Asphalt	507,356 tons	8
Concrete	14,609 cubic yards	14
Steel	4,332 tons	25
Glass	23 tons	1

FY 24–25 Embodied Carbon Reporting Summary by Material Category

Concrete

In addition to the EO 22 Embodied Carbon Guidance, Affected Entities follow the Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines or the GreenNY Lower Carbon Concrete Specification, which require mandatory reporting of EPDs for concrete mixes. The Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines set global warming potential (GWP) limits for ready-mix concrete used in State building and infrastructure projects completed by agencies, whereas the Lower Carbon Concrete Specification does the same for authorities. More information about these policies can be found on the OGS website, including the exemptions and waiver processes.

[1] *Applicability criteria for projects can be found in the EO 22 link*

The concrete EPD data submitted during FY 24–25 reporting are organized by the compressive strength of the mixes per the Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines and the Lower Carbon Concrete Specification.

Concrete Mix Compressive Strength Pounds per Square Inch (PSI)	Number of EPDs Reported	Average Reported GWP (kg CO2 e/yd3)	Applicable NYS Buy Clean Concrete Guidance GWP Limit (kg CO2e/yd3)
3,500	1	256	360
4,000	3	234	360
4,500	6	288	434
5,000	4	250	434

Comparison of Average GWP from FY 24–25 Reported Projects to Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines

For projects completed in FY 24–25, 15,000 cubic yards of concrete were procured. Fifty-four individual concrete mixes were reported across all projects, and agencies reported 14 concrete mix EPDs—representing 26% of individual concrete mix products reported. No concrete mixes above the compressive strength of 5,000 PSI were reported.

In all cases, the mixes reported had GWPs below the Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines and Lower Carbon Concrete Specification limits; in fact, the reported GWP in each category was between 27% and 52% less than the corresponding Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines limits, and on average 36% less.

Other Materials

Asphalt

Over half a million tons of asphalt were procured for large State projects that were completed in FY 24–25. Fifty asphalt products were procured, and 8 products had a corresponding EPD reported—this represents 16% of all asphalt products reported.

Affected Entities are already working on opportunities to reduce emissions from asphalt materials in the future, including transitioning to warm or cold mix asphalt. NYSDOT has transitioned from hot to warm mix asphalt for all of its projects.

Steel

Over 4,300 tons of steel were procured for State projects that were completed in FY 24–25. Out of 127 steel products that were procured, 25 had EPDs reported—representing 20% of steel products.

Steel manufacturers in the U.S. have already largely made the transition to electric furnaces from coal-fueled blast furnaces, and a large proportion of U.S. steel is from recycled sources, which has reduced GHG and other pollutant emissions across the industry. There is still room for improvement, as steel manufacturers explore using renewable energy sources to power their electric furnaces.

Glass

Only one glass EPD was submitted during FY 24–25, representing less than half a ton of flat glass. EPDs are typically written for individual materials like flat glass and are less common for assemblies that glass is used in, such as windows and doors. Manufacturers are beginning to make EPDs for window and door assemblies available, so more information about the embodied carbon of glass products will be made available in the future.

Building Capacity: Performance-Based Concrete Specifications

In FY 24–25, Affected Entities were encouraged to transition from prescriptive concrete mix specifications to performance specifications. Performance-based concrete mixes are designed to have specific performance characteristics (e.g., compressive strength, tensile strength, durability, and sustainability), rather than being made according to a specific recipe of cement, aggregates, water, and admixtures, as prescriptive concrete mixes are. Shifting to performance-based concrete mixes allows for the use of more sustainable concrete mixtures that comply with Buy Clean Concrete Guidelines and the Lower Carbon Concrete Specification without compromising the performance of the final product.

From October 2024 to March 2025, the Embodied Carbon Working Group convened a Concrete Technical Subcommittee to facilitate the transition to performance-based concrete mix language in Affected Entity material specifications. All construction authority agencies participated in the subcommittee, and all have transitioned their specifications.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

New York State is a national leader in environmentally preferable purchasing, with Affected Entities reporting over $188 million in green expenditures in FY 24–25.

Green purchasing supports New York State's sustainability goals to minimize the negative environmental and health impacts of State operations. During FY 24–25, Affected Entities demonstrated innovative strategies to maintain environmental stewardship without significant cost increases.

The highest green spending was reported by the 10 Affected Entities listed in the table below, totaling approximately $120 million. Their purchases accounted for 64% of total green expenditure.

Top 10 Green Purchasers FY 24–25

Purchaser	Estimated Spend
Office of General Services	$26,733,279
State University of New York	$21,054,009
Metropolitan Transportation Authority	$13,597,935
City University of New York	$11,805,115
Department of Transportation	$11,465,895
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority	$11,203,799
New York Power Authority	$10,284,538
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision	$5,375,134
Thruway Authority	$4,763,173
Department of Environmental Conservation	$4,532,368

During FY 24–25, the number of light-duty ZEVs purchased increased as Affected Entities expanded their EV fleets. Part of the expansion was in medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, with Affected Entities reporting $14.6 million in medium- and heavy-duty ZEV spending. Almost 20% of all fleet vehicles purchased were ZEVs, primarily in the light- and heavy-duty vehicle purchases.

Data on treated road salt were collected for a second year, with Affected Entities reporting over $15 million purchased. The biggest salt purchasers, **NYSDOT** and **NYSTA**, worked with **OGS** and **SUNY ESF's Center for Sustainable Materials Management** to draft and update the treated road salt GreenNY specification.

Several categories, including electronics (mobile phones and servers), rechargeable batteries, and sustainable landscaping, more than doubled in green spending as Affected Entities continued to prioritize buying GreenNY-compliant items.

ZEVs, furniture, computers, janitorial products, and treated road salt represented the highest spending by product type, totaling

72% of overall green spending.

Green products continue to be competitively priced and perform as well as or better than conventional products.

Green products with higher price points, such as computers, lighting, and ZEVs, realize cost savings when life cycle costs and energy savings are considered. A list of competitively priced green products offered on State contract or from Preferred Sources can be accessed on the GreenNY website.

Affected Entities optimized green purchasing by updating purchasing policies, training staff on how to search the GreenNY specifications and OGS centralized contracts, improving labeling and tracking of green purchases, and utilizing OGS centralized contracts and Preferred Source offerings:

- **CUNY** addressed procurement challenges by establishing centralized green purchasing within some campus procurement offices, which helped streamline decisions, increase green spending, and strengthen consistency across departments.
- **DASNY** expanded their purchase tracking to include green purchasing research and decisions in addition to costs.
- **SUNY University at Buffalo's** sustainability team shared success stories with procurement offices to encourage new practices, highlighting where buyers adhered to green guidelines without increasing costs.
- When dealing with supply chain issues, Affected Entities have been successful at adapting to market availability in their adoption of green purchasing standards:
- **MTA** maintained strong business relationships with suppliers to overcome challenges related to the availability of 100% recycled copy paper.
- **BCPA** will pilot reusable mopheads and test new cleaners before changing its janitorial products to ensure the products are effective and available for purchase.

Summary of Green Spending by Product, FY 24–25

Product	Estimated Spend
ZEVs (Purchases, Leases, and Rentals)	$37,882,223.33
Furniture	$30,550,134.91
Computers & Displays	$27,080,428.16
Cleaning Products & Maintenance	$24,651,551.75
Treated Road Salt	$15,631,373.25
Lighting Fixtures, Ballasts, & Lamps	$10,791,606.21
Other Construction & Facility Maintenance	$5,421,749.25
Pest Management for Outdoor Spaces	$5,296,709.27
Janitorial Paper Products	$4,008,465.08
Imaging Equipment	$3,270,295.79
EV Charging Stations	$3,255,710.17
Sustainable Landscaping	$2,786,714.11
Hydraulic Oil & Lubricating Oils	$2,771,089.05
Floor Coverings	$2,263,840.22
EPEAT Servers	$2,058,448.60
Solid Waste Recycling & Management Services	$1,923,989.07
Appliances	$1,338,598.93
Apparel & Textile Material	$1,287,705.16
Copy Paper & Paper Supplies	$1,200,909.49
Heating & Cooling Equipment	$1,090,951.39
Rechargeable Batteries	$786,029.07
Pre-Packaged Snowmelt & Deicing Products	$724,868.70
Pest Management for Indoor Spaces	$679,588.37
PV Systems	$629,103.00
Outdoor Furniture & Playground Structures	$495,531.74
EPEAT Mobile Phones	$349,389.19
Other Office Supplies	$289,853.44
Other Transportation	$125,638.92
Other Grounds/Landscaping	$11,414.88
Solar Thermal Systems	$2,800.00

Affected Entities have deployed innovative solutions to identify and increase green purchases in their tracking tools, in addition to new language in guidance and template documents:

- **SUNY** created sub-object tracking codes in the Statewide Financial System.
- The **New York State Office of Children and Family Services** added a GreenNY code on their internal purchase requisitions.
- **DOH** and the **New York State Insurance Fund** worked with their landlords to integrate GreenNY specifications into lease language.
- **OMH** created a plan to incorporate EO 22-specific language into solicitation documents when appropriate to place responsibility on contractors to incorporate green products into their offerings.

Challenges remain, such as improving the tracking of procurement card purchases, but Affected Entities are proactively developing solutions for future procurement.

*In 2025, New York State's green purchasing program received national recognition when **OGS** won its ninth consecutive Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Purchase Award for excellence in sustainable electronics procurement.*

The environmental impact reductions from buying EPEAT-certified devices saved the State over 3.3 million kilograms of CO_2 equivalent, reduced energy use by over 15 million kWh, and decreased water consumption by over 35 million liters.

Additionally, **OGS** was recognized for its exemplary environmental, social, and economic performance by the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council for its EPEAT-certified electronic purchasing program on the centralized contract's aggregate buy.

Purchasers save an average of 52% from the centralized contract pricing and realize additional cost savings through reduced energy consumption.

Recycled office paper products meeting the GreenNY specification requirements for post-consumer recycled content were consistently purchased from OGS centralized contracts for recycled copy paper and office supplies. Recycled paper consumption represented 70% of overall paper consumption from OGS centralized contracts in 2024, an increase from 35% in 2023.

Affected Entities' purchases of sustainable computers, tablets, and monitors resulted in over $59 million in cost savings from the centralized contract by utilizing the State's aggregate purchasing power.

Electronics like computers are essential in providing services to the State's 19.8 million residents, and users of OGS centralized contracts purchase an average of 200,000 computers and displays annually.

Since New York State began prioritizing **EPEAT-certified computers and displays** in 2008, authorized **users have saved $1.19 billion** in up-front costs and **$74 million to $111 million over the lifetime of those products** as a result of reduced energy consumption (as estimated by EPA's Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator and the EPEAT Benefits Calculator).

GreenNY Specifications and Centralized Contracting

There are over 100 active GreenNY specifications that cover commodities, services, and technologies commonly purchased by Affected Entities.

The GreenNY Council gave final approval to 26 GreenNY specifications during FY 24–25, including updated and new specifications from the construction and facility maintenance, electronics, food service and travel, janitorial, and office supplies categories. The comprehensive review and update of GreenNY specifications is possible due to the continued partnership between the GreenNY Council, **DEC**, **SUNY ESF's Center for Sustainable Materials Management**, and external consultants. Once the project is complete, all specifications will be updated to a uniform template that is user-friendly, streamlined, and leverages the latest verified third-party certifications.

In tandem with GreenNY specification updates, **OGS** worked with consultants to analyze the State's Preferred Source offerings to identify ways to strengthen green product options available from Preferred Sources. Many Affected Entities are mandated to purchase first from Preferred Sources per State Finance Law, but are also directed to consider compliance with EO 22 as part of their form, function, and utility requirements. The project was intended to help bridge the gap between these priorities and will make finding GreenNY specification-compliant products from Preferred Sources easier.

During FY 24–25, GreenNY specifications that covered commodities approved for sale on the List of Preferred Source Offerings, including janitorial products and office supplies, were prioritized for updates in an effort to support this project.

Statewide centralized contracts support green purchasing by including GreenNY-compliant products in many of the highest-spend categories:

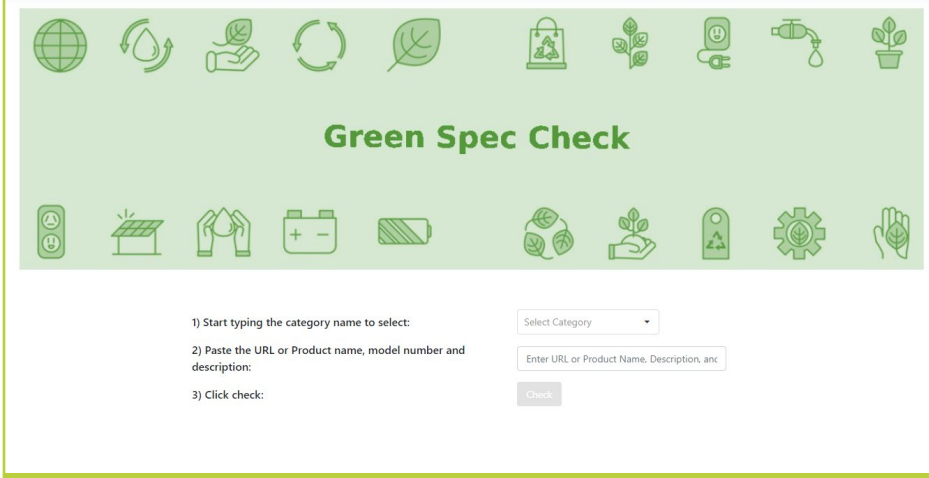
- Electronics
- Construction and facility maintenance
- Janitorial
- Office supplies
- Transportation and fleet

As Affected Entities continue to improve their purchasing policies, tracking methods, and green spending, the GreenNY Council is committed to supporting these efforts with training and guidance to ensure Affected Entities are leveraging their buying power to support the State's climate and sustainability goals. The GreenNY Operations and Engagement Working Group has developed a procurement training module that is available as a recorded series to all Sustainability Coordinators.

Additionally, **OGS**, **DEC**, and **NYSERDA** collaborated to present a class about green purchasing at the November 2024 GOVBUY Conference. The GreenNY Purchasing Requirements and Tools webpage has been expanded to include the Preferred Source User Guides and Affected Entity-created tools, such as the SUNY Green Furniture Guide.

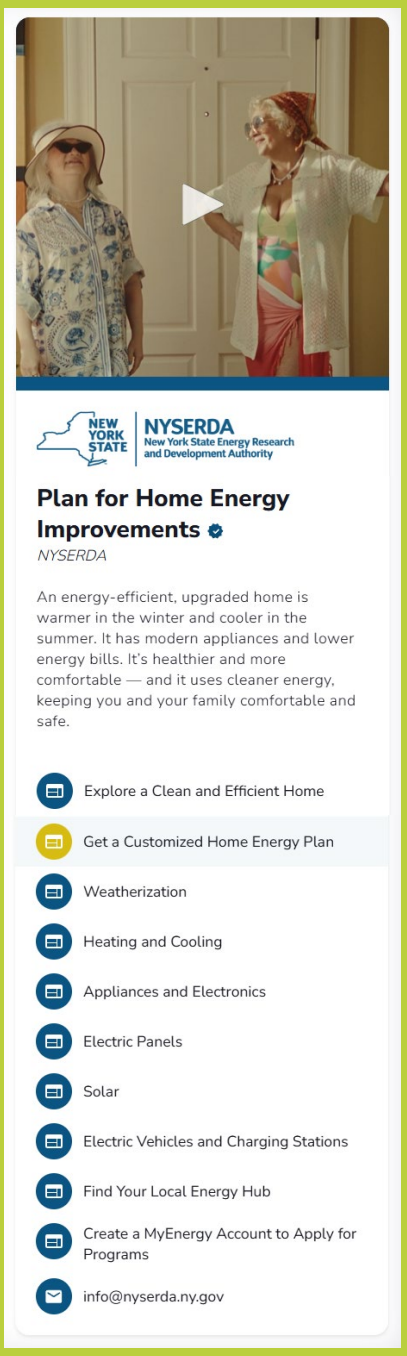
Successful green purchasing initiatives in FY 24–25:

- **NYSERDA** rolled out digital business cards as an option to staff in August 2024, and over 200 employees began using them in 2025. The business cards can be shared via QR code, email, or text and stored in the app's contact management system. The cost of the digital version is equivalent to printing 500 cards per employee, resulting in cost savings and reduced waste.
- **SUNY Buffalo State** is advancing **SUNY's** sustainability goals through the adoption of plant-based, microplastic-free soap pods that dissolve in water and are compatible with standard commercial dispensers. The pods arrive in lightweight, backyard compostable packaging and allow for precise portioning, reducing waste and resulting in cost savings compared to conventional soap systems. To build awareness and encourage participation, Buffalo State deployed reusable mirror clings in restrooms to highlight the environmental benefits of the change.
- In 2025, **NYPA** developed the Green Spec Check to make it easier for employees to comply with GreenNY procurement specifications. Using artificial intelligence, the tool can identify compliant products in seconds.



NYPA's "Green Spec Check" is making it easier for employees to comply with GreenNY procurement specifications.

SUNY Buffalo State's reusable mirror clings in restrooms highlight the environmental benefits of plant-based, microplastic-free soap pods.



Not only are **NYSERDA** staff using digital cards for individual use, these cards can also be utilized on a campaign level to promote offerings to New Yorkers across the State, further eliminating the use of paper.

Restricting the Use of Bottled Water

New York State's restrictions on the purchase of bottled water, first implemented in 2009, continue to be a successful sustainability initiative.

Routine purchases by Affected Entities have largely been eliminated, with remaining purchases limited to approved exemptions such as remote worksites, emergency response, or specific operational needs. This effort has reduced costs and significantly decreased single-use plastic waste across State operations.

Statewide Progress and Implementation

Affected Entities have broadly transitioned away from bottled water by installing hydration infrastructure and promoting reusable alternatives. Many Affected Entities now provide water bottle filling stations, filtration systems, and reusable containers for staff. As a result, access to potable water has improved while reliance on disposable bottles has declined.

Affected Entities have also integrated bottled water restrictions into internal policies, employee training, and communications. Messaging emphasizes sustainability, cost savings, and compliance with EO 22.

Several Affected Entities have prioritized staff education, outreach, and cultural change:

- **NYSERDA** incorporated bottled water guidance into staff training, event planning resources, and new employee onboarding. Event contracts prioritize venues with water dispensing infrastructure.
- **DEC** issued a Green and Sustainable Meetings Policy encouraging reusable bottles, refill stations, and low-waste practices.
- **Empire State Development** and other Affected Entities include reminders in meeting invitations encouraging attendees to bring reusable bottles.

These efforts have helped normalize reusable water bottle practices and reduce demand for bottled water at meetings and events.

Affected Entities continue to expand access to potable water through infrastructure upgrades and operational changes:

- **OGS** reported that 95% of facilities now provide bottle filling stations and have updated construction specifications to include them by default.
- **CUNY** campuses, including **Hunter College** and the **City College of New York**, increased hydration station installations and improved signage and mapping to promote their use.
- **OPRHP** installed additional refill stations and is working to phase out plastic beverage containers in operations and concessions by 2027.
- **DMNA** and other Affected Entities installed filtered fountains.
- The **Canal Corporation** used portable water coolers in place of bottled water for fieldwork when feasible.
- The **New York State Financial Control Board** has not purchased bottled water of any kind since 2010.

While most facilities have transitioned away from bottled water, some operational challenges remain. Certain locations—particularly remote or older facilities—still lack access to potable water, necessitating continued exemptions and future infrastructure investment.

Restricting bottled water purchases delivers measurable benefits:

- Cost savings from reduced procurement of bottled water
- Waste reduction, particularly single-use plastics
- Improved sustainability practices across State operations
- Increased employee awareness and engagement

Some Affected Entities report near-total elimination of bottled water purchases, demonstrating the long-term effectiveness of the policy.

New York State's bottled water restrictions remain a strong example of successful sustainability policy implementation, supported by infrastructure investment, employee engagement, and consistent enforcement.

Conclusion

During FY 24–25, New York State's 77 Affected Entities made significant progress toward EO 22 goals by reducing GHG emissions, minimizing waste, cutting down the use of toxic substances, opting for sustainable products, and enhancing the lands and habitats they manage. The GreenNY Council fostered these efforts by providing technical guidance, training, and engagement initiatives.

Each year, Affected Entities continue to lead by example and improve the sustainability of State operations, paving the way for a greener future.

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