

# Climate policy needs tangible impact

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JUSTIN WILCOX

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**A**mong all the debates in Albany, there's little disagreement over the reality of climate change. This is a serious issue that impacts all New Yorkers. Unfortunately, Albany's climate plan is seriously flawed. Lawmakers believe that the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and other initiatives will prevent extreme weather and protect communities. That's just not realistic.

The CLCPA's projected impact on global greenhouse gas emissions is minuscule — about one-half of one percent. This sobering reality highlights the futility of pursuing policies that lack meaningful outcomes. Instead of clinging to unattainable targets, New York should prioritize real solutions that will have measurable results.

One promising approach is to build modular nuclear reactors which offer reliable, low-emission energy while also maintaining our ability to attract energy-intensive industries. Additionally, efficiency upgrades to natural gas plants can enhance affordability and reliability without sacrificing environmental goals. Lastly, transitional technologies, like hybrid vehicles, offer a pragmatic market-driven approach to reducing emissions while maintaining consumer comfort with the technology and price points.

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Critics may argue that reconsidering ambitious climate targets undermines environmental progress. However, sacrificing economic stability for unattainable goals is neither responsible nor sustainable, especially when it puts large-scale development projects, like Micron and Global Foundaries, at risk. By embracing realistic solutions, New York can achieve tangible environmental benefits without compromising economic growth.

New York's climate policy must evolve beyond hyperbole and mere aspirations. By redirecting resources towards actions with measurable impacts, policymakers can facilitate a healthier environment while safeguarding our grid and our economic prosperity.

It's time to prioritize practicality over rhetoric and ensure a sustainable future for all New Yorkers.

Justin Wilcox is executive director for Upstate United.

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