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Evaluating New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act for equitable and effective climate governance

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Abstract

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) sets some of the most ambitious climate targets in the United States, calling for a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, an 85% reduction by 2050, and a fully zero-emission power sector by 2040. This study examined whether the CLCPA's design and early implementation can deliver on its

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environmental, social, and economic goals. The study employed a qualitative policy analysis using peer-reviewed articles, state agency reports, and advocacy documents published between 2019 and 2025. The paper coded findings thematically across three dimensions–environmental effectiveness, social equity, and economic viability- and compared the CLCPA with California's Executive Order N-79-20 and the European Union's Green Deal to identify transferable strategies. The CLCPA stands out for its binding equity mandate, which directs 35-40% of climate investments to disadvantaged communities. Despite this, the study found delays in program implementation, grid infrastructure bottlenecks, and limited planning for workforce transitions. California's focus on transportation decarbonization and the EU's financing mechanisms offer proven strategies that can strengthen enforcement, streamline permitting, equitable access to benefits. New York can position the CLCPA as a national model for equitable decarbonization by closing implementation gaps, aligning administrative capacity with statutory targets, and rigorously tracking outcomes. The analysis contributed to climate governance scholarship by showing how states can pair ambitious emissions targets with justice-centered implementation to deliver measurable climate and social gains

Keywords: climate policy; Climate Change; environmental justice; renewable energy; equity

Introduction

New York responded directly to the climate crisis in 2019 when it passed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA, Act) (2019) with binding decarbonization targets. The law requires that 70% of the state's electricity come from renewable sources in 2030 and that the power system achieve full decarbonization in 2040 (Dewey, 2020). The Act integrates justice into climate governance through a mandate that 35-40% of investments flow to disadvantaged communities. The CLCPA aligns with the Paris Agreement's (2016) 1.5°C target and reflects broader United Nations climate goals. It demonstrates how state-level action can advance ambitious climate agendas even when federal policy stagnates. At the same time, the law addresses local environmental injustices through the prioritization of communities disproportionately burdened with pollution. Through this dual orientation, the CLCPA provides a critical case study in balancing rapid decarbonization with equity. The Act sits within both national and global contexts and highlights the broader lessons it offers.

As stated, S. Vangala and A. Aweh (2020) and A. Fields (2020), this legislation has catalyzed a comprehensive transformation of New York's energy, land use, and economic systems, necessitating large-scale deployment of renewable energy, such as solar and offshore wind, and the development of new regulatory frameworks to streamline project siting and grid integration. At the same time, the CLCPA's approach to identifying and supporting Disadvantaged Communities – by considering factors like race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status – reflects the influence of the environmental justice movement (Damoah & Boglo, 2025), but also raises complex legal and policy questions (Jones, 2024). As New York pursues its climate ambitions, the CLCPA serves as a critical case study in balancing rapid decarbonization with the imperative of justice, offering valuable lessons for other jurisdictions seeking to align climate action with equity and resilience.

The CLCPA (2019) aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and factories. The act further wants to ensure that the advantages of

climate efforts are shared. A critical element within the law considers specific disadvantaged communities, which continuously bear a significant burden from air pollution alongside ecological degradation. Additionally, the law establishes the Climate Action Council, a group tasked with developing many strategies to meet New York's climate goals while considering economic and technical feasibility. Assessing the impact of these policies on emissions reduction, economic transformation, and environmental justice remains relevant.

Studies have not provided precise projections on how this will affect electricity prices, grid reliability, and job markets (Hanley, 2022; Meara & Rizzo, 2024). On the contrary, states like Texas, which have no strong climate regulations but show fast growth in wind and solar energy from market dynamics, offer a different approach that CLCPA-led shifts have not fully contrasted. When thorough economic effect evaluations are absent, policymakers could find reconcile aggressive emissions goals with economic viability, unrealistic.

As stated, F. Sultana (2021) and S. Foster *et al*. (2024), the CLCPA's implementation highlights the broader trend of U.S. cities and states increasingly integrating justice into climate planning, with growing recognition of historical and structural inequities in climate vulnerability and adaptation. Policy tools developed in pioneering cities include metrics for vulnerability, community engagement processes, and targeted investments; however, ongoing evaluation and adaptation are necessary to ensure that justice goals are met in practice.

The Act's (2019) justice provisions reflect distributive and procedural justice principles. Distributive justice emphasizes fair distribution of costs and benefits, while procedural justice emphasizes participation in decision-making. Through its equity requirements, the CLCPA attempts to operationalize both J. Hwang (2024). warn, however, that defining disadvantaged communities through race and socioeconomic status may trigger constitutional challenges under the Equal Protection Clause, even as advocates defend the law as a necessary corrective to historical inequities.

Other U.S. climate policies illustrate alternative approaches. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative employs market-based carbon pricing but does not include explicit equity requirements. Washington State's Climate Commitment Act (Revised Code of Washington, 2025) includes reinvestments in frontline communities but remains untested compared to New York's framework. Internationally, the EU Green Deal (2019), as stated G. Dubois and P. Laurent (2020) and L. Montanarella and P. Panagos (2021), financial mobilization and coordination across member states, while Executive Order of Executive Department of the State of California N-79-20 (2020) demonstrates a sector-specific approach centered on transport decarbonization. These cases highlight the CLCPA's distinctive integration of enforceable justice provisions.

Balancing climate ambition with justice also involves navigating political, economic, and legal complexities (Damoah & Yeboah, 2025). Policymakers are encouraged to design sector-specific roadmaps, use carbon revenues for social investment, and build broad coalitions to ensure both effectiveness and fairness (Vogt-Schilb & Hallegatte, 2017). According to C. Beauregard *et al*. (2021), while litigation can advance certain aspects of climate justice, such as intergenerational equity, distributive justice often requires more comprehensive policy frameworks and international cooperation. The CLCPA (2019) serves as a leading example of how climate ambition and justice can be integrated, but its success depends on continued vigilance, legal robustness, and genuine community participation to avoid perpetuating or creating new injustices.

This study aimed to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the CLCPA by: (1) analyzing

the effectiveness and legal robustness of its justice-oriented criteria for DACs; (2) assessing the technical, operational, successes and regulatory challenges in achieving the state's decarbonization and renewable energy targets; and (3) identifying overlooked sources of emissions and liabilities, such as those from land development. The objective is to synthesize current research, highlight policy and implementation gaps, and offer actionable recommendations to ensure that New York's climate ambition is balanced with justice, reliability, and long-term sustainability.

Materials and Methods

This study employed a qualitative policy analysis framework to evaluate CLCPA (2019) and its implications for climate governance, economic transformation, and environmental justice. The analysis was guided by three evaluative dimensions – environmental effectiveness, social equity, and economic viability – commonly applied in climate policy research (Agyeman *et al*., 2003; Wheeler, 2008). Table 1 illustrates key evaluative dimensions that emerged from an exhaustive literature review.

Table 1. Three levels of dimension for climate legislation

Evaluative Dimension	Key Indicators	Rational
Environmental effectiveness	» GHG reduction targets (40% by 2030; 85% by 2050); » renewable electricity (70% by 2030; 100% by 2040); » local ecological impacts (air/water quality, habitat effects).	Assesses progress toward carbon neutrality and broader environmental benefits.
Social equity & justice	» investment share to disadvantaged communities (35-40%); » public health outcomes (e.g., reduced asthma); » community participation in decision-making.	Evaluates fairness, inclusivity, and distribution of climate policy benefits.
Economic viability	» job creation in renewable sectors (150,000+ projected); » workforce transition from fossil fuel industries - Cost-effectiveness (energy prices, grid stability, health savings).	Examines balance between economic growth, affordability, and just transition.

Source: the authors' compilation was based on the reviewed literature

Data for the study were collected from a purposive sample of sources published between 2019 and 2025, a period that captures both the enactment of the CLCPA and subsequent implementation challenges. The dataset included policy reports from government agencies (e.g., New York State Energy Research and Development Authority), non-profit advocacy reports (New York Renews, 2023; Earthjustice, 2025), and comparative policy analyses from California and the European Union. The study used comparative policy analysis as its central methodological lens, contrasting the CLCPA (2019) with California's Executive Order N-79-20 (2020) and the European Union's Green Deal (2019). This comparison highlighted both unique and transferable lessons across contexts. In addition, a thematic coding strategy was applied to categorize findings under three evaluative criteria: (1) environmental outcomes (emission targets, renewable energy adoption, ecological impacts), (2) social justice outcomes (distribution of benefits, community participation, health equity), and (3) economic outcomes (job creation, cost-effectiveness, industrial transition). By triangulating across diverse sources and applying a structured evaluative framework, this methodology ensures a balanced and multidimensional assessment of the CLCPA (2019). It also strengthens the validity of findings by situating New York's policy within broader state and international climate governance contexts, allowing for both within-case and cross-case insights.

Results and Discussion

Climate legislation objectives. This section articulates the study's findings across four interrelated themes: social evaluative criteria, economic evaluative criteria, alternative policies to the CLCPA, and a comparative assessment of policy frameworks, emission targets, and renewable energy adoption. Figure 1 summarizes the CLCPA's implementation framework, linking legislative inputs to key processes and resulting environmental, social, and economic outcomes. This visual overview provides a conceptual roadmap that orients the relationships among policy design, implementation pathways, and the multidimensional impacts that are subsequently analyzed in detail.

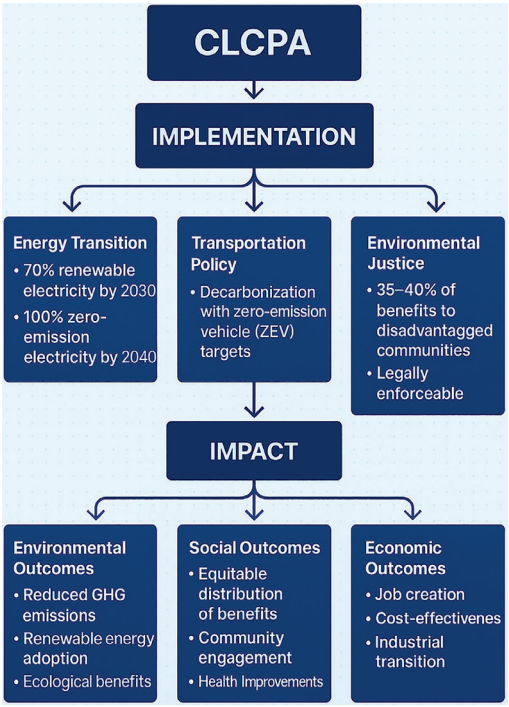

Figure 1. CLCPA implementation pathways and their environmental, social, and economic outcomes

Source: visualization by the authors based on the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (2019)

This framework highlights the interconnected nature of the CLCPA's design. Figure 1 shows that successful implementation requires simultaneous progress in multiple sectors – energy, transportation, and equity-focused investments. The outcome categories underscore the law's dual focus: achieving aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets and ensuring that benefits flow equitably to disadvantaged communities. These pathways collectively shape the environmental, social, and economic dimensions analyzed in the sections that follow.

Social evaluative criteria are essential for understanding whether climate policy delivers on its promise of justice and inclusivity. An environmentally conscious framework such as the CLCPA (2019) must prioritize both equity and ecological justice, the principle that all communities, species, and ecosystems have intrinsic value and deserve protection from environmental harm (Agyeman *et al*., 2003). This requires that the benefits and burdens of climate action be fairly distributed across current and future generations, with particular attention to historically disadvantaged communities (Diezmartínez & Gianotti, 2022; Foster *et al*., 2024).

A persistent weakness in climate policy assessment is the neglect of procedural justice, which ensures that affected communities have meaningful opportunities to participate in shaping decisions (Hügel & Davies, 2020). When procedural justice is absent, marginalized groups are often excluded from decisions that directly impact their health, livelihoods, and local environment, leading to policies that lack legitimacy and long-term effectiveness (Resnik, 2022). Measuring equity in the CLCPA (2019), therefore, involves assessing distributional outcomes – such as pollution reduction, access to clean energy, and economic opportunity – while also evaluating whether decision-making processes actively include disadvantaged populations. Key indicators include

improvements in public health outcomes, reduced asthma rates, and documented participation of affected communities in planning processes.

Economic evaluative criteria capture whether the CLCPA (2019) can deliver prosperity alongside decarbonization. Job creation in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors remains a crucial benchmark, with projections of over 150,000 new jobs over the next decade, more than half of which are accessible to workers without a four-year college degree (New York Renews, 2023). These jobs represent not only economic growth but also a just transition – a deliberate effort to retrain and reemploy workers displaced from fossil fuel industries (Wang & Shittu, 2023). Nevertheless, significant gaps remain. Research has yet to fully model the long-term economic impacts of the CLCPA, including cost savings from improved public health, grid modernization, and avoided climate damages (Tol, 2018). Wage equity and job stability in the green economy are also underexplored, raising questions about whether new jobs will provide living wages and durable career pathways (Hanna *et al*., 2024). Furthermore, administrative bottlenecks, particularly within the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), have delayed implementation, threatening the state's ability to meet its legally binding targets for 2040 and 2050 (Rhodes *et al*., 2020). These delays risk eroding public trust and undermining the economic benefits of the transition unless addressed through stronger governance and streamlined permitting processes.

As of April 2025, significant delays continue to impede the implementation of CLCPA (2019). The state has not yet fully operationalized its "Cap-and-Invest" program, a central mechanism designed to regulate carbon emissions and reinvest proceeds into renewable energy and climate resilience projects. Advocacy groups, including Earthjustice, have filed lawsuits against the state for failing to meet critical regulatory deadlines, arguing that the CLCPA's mandate to achieve a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 is jeopardized by the slow pace of progress (Earthjustice, 2025).

Despite these challenges, the CLCPA remains distinctive for its robust environmental justice mandate, requiring that 35-40% of climate-related investments benefit disadvantaged communities (New York State, 2019). This provision positions the CLCPA as a model for integrating equity considerations into state-level climate policy. However, a notable gap persists in the literature: few comparative studies systematically evaluate the effectiveness of New York's approach relative to other regulatory and economic contexts. While New York prioritizes equity in principle, existing research insufficiently explores how its implementation barriers, such as funding allocation, project execution, and administrative capacity, align with or diverge from those encountered in other states and jurisdictions (Wheeler, 2008; Doering *et al.*, 2023).

California's Executive Order N-79-20 (2020), represents one of the state's most ambitious climate initiatives, committing California to achieving carbon neutrality no later than 2045. The order establishes sector-specific directives aimed at accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy, including requiring 100% of in-state sales of new passenger vehicles to be zero-emission by 2035, prioritizing investments in renewable energy generation, and incentivizing innovation in green technologies. By integrating equity considerations into its implementation strategy, the order seeks to expand access to clean transportation and energy benefits for disadvantaged communities, reflecting a similar commitment to environmental justice as articulated in New York's CLCPA (Wheeler, 2008; Doering *et al.,* 2023).

Although Executive Order N-79-20 (2020) emerged in the same year as California's broader

COVID-19 response, including stay-at-home directives and economic resilience measures, its climate provisions remain distinct and forward-looking. The order positions California as a global leader in clean energy deployment, sustainable development, and climate governance by aligning economic recovery strategies with decarbonization goals (California Air Resources Board, 2021). Its approach underscores the importance of pairing ambitious climate targets with robust regulatory mechanisms, fiscal planning, and equity-centered implementation, elements critical to avoiding policy backsliding and ensuring a just transition for all residents.

Similarly, the European Union's Green Deal (2019), provides a comprehensive framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, accelerating the transition to renewable energy, and fostering economic growth that respects environmental limits. Its central objective is to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 (European Commission, 2021). The Green Deal represents an integrated policy package that combines environmental protection, sustainable economic development, and social equity measures. It sets ambitious targets for renewable energy deployment, emissions reduction, and sustainable industrial transformation while simultaneously promoting innovation and the creation of green jobs (Wheeler, 2008; Doering *et al.*, 2023). By embedding principles of a just transition, the Green Deal seeks to ensure that no community or sector is left behind as Europe shifts toward a low-carbon economy. Collectively, these strategies underscore the EU's commitment to long-term sustainability and highlight the critical role of government-led initiatives in mitigating climate change and advancing an ecologically resilient future. Taken together, the CLCPA (2019), California's Executive Order N-79-20 (2020), and the EU Green Deal (2019) illustrate how subnational and supranational jurisdictions deploy ambitious, multi-sector strategies to decarbonize their economies, advance climate justice, and stimulate innovation – providing complementary models for accelerating the global transition toward a net-zero future

Analysis of policy frameworks, emission targets, and renewable energy adoption. Strong policy frameworks anchor effective climate action because they set clear rules, establish accountability, and decide who benefits from the transition. Yet too many analyses look at these frameworks in isolation, missing the chance to compare how different states and regions tackle the same challenge. CLCPA (2019) is particularly important in this conversation. It not only sets binding targets for emissions reductions but also promises that 35-40% of climate investments will go to disadvantaged communities, an unusually bold commitment to climate justice. Emission targets are where ambition meets reality. The CLCPA commits New York to cutting GHG emissions 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050, with a zero-emissions power sector by 2040 (Rhodes *et al.*, 2020; Wiley, 2023). These are not soft goals; they are legally enforceable. But having a law on paper does not guarantee results. Enforcement remains patchy, and delays in rolling out key programs like "Cap-and-Invest" raise concerns about whether the state can deliver on time (Wheeler, 2008; Doering *et al.*, 2023).

This tension is not unique to New York. The EU Green Deal (2019) sets a target of net-zero emissions by 2050 and mobilizes billions of euros for decarbonization, yet critics argue that financing still falls short of what's needed for a truly just transition (Dubois & Laurent, 2020; European Commission, 2021). California's Executive Order N-79-20 (2020) focuses on the transportation sector, mandating that all new passenger vehicles sold be zero-emission by 2035 and charging agencies with building out the infrastructure to make that possible (California Executive Order N-79-20, 2020; California Air Resources Board, 2021).

These cases show that ambitious targets are powerful tools for signaling direction, but they must be backed by capacity, funding, and political resolve or risk becoming symbolic rather than transformational (Alves *et al.,* 2020).

The CLCPA also puts a stake in the ground on renewable energy: 70% of electricity must come from renewable sources by 2030, and 100% must be zero-emission by 2040. These are ambitious targets that require not only new projects but also faster permitting, modernized grid infrastructure, and sustained investment in storage technology (Vangala & Aweh, 2020; Ali *et al*., 2022). Programs like NY-Sun and large-scale offshore wind projects show that the state is moving, but bottlenecks in permitting and grid upgrades still threaten progress (Alves *et al.,* 2020; Hanley, 2022; Meara & Rizzo, 2024). The upside is significant. These investments are expected to generate more than 150,000 jobs over the next decade, and more than half of those jobs will be open to workers without four-year degrees, offering new opportunities to working-class New Yorkers (New York Renews, 2023). But to make good on the promise of a just transition, the state must pair job creation with robust retraining programs for workers leaving fossil fuel industries and with policies that ensure equitable access to affordable clean energy. Without these safeguards, the transition risks deepening rather than reducing existing inequalities (Sultana, 2021; Foster *et al*., 2024).

Equity is not just a side benefit of the CLCPA – it is written into the law (Table 2). By directing 35-40% of investments toward disadvantaged communities, the policy aims to deliver cleaner air, lower energy bills, and real economic opportunities where they are needed most (Agyeman *et al*., 2003; Diezmartínez & Gianotti, 2022). But we still lack solid data on whether these outcomes are being felt on the ground. Communities are watching closely to see whether promises translate into better health, better jobs, and lower costs. Other jurisdictions face similar struggles. California's EO N-79-20 (2020) sets big goals for vehicle electrification but does not fully address affordability or infrastructure gaps, especially for rural and low-income communities (Neslen, 2024). The EU Green Deal (2019) also faces criticism for uneven implementation across member states and for not doing enough to prepare workers in fossil fuel-dependent regions for the shift to green industries (Wang, 2022).

Table 2. Comparative overview of climate policy frameworks

Feature	CLCPA (New York)	California Executive Order N-79-20	European Union Green Deal
Energy Transition	70% renewable electricity by 2030; 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040	Supports transition but less specific on electricity sector	Deep decarbonization, strong push for renewable energy
Transportation Policy	Decarbonization required; ZEV targets (e.g., 100% light-duty ZEV sales by 2035)	Mandates 100% ZEV sales for new cars by 2035	Promotes ZEVs, sustainable transport, EV infrastructure
Environmental Justice Focus	Yes – mandates 35-40% of benefits go to disadvantaged communities	Indirect focus	Yes – just transition mechanism for social equity
Enforcement Mechanism	Legally enforceable, includes Climate Action Council	Executive order (not legislation) – relies on implementation through state agencies	Mix of regulations, incentives, and legal obligations
Governance & Planning	Climate Action Council develops scoping plans	Implemented via California Air Resources Board and others	European Commission leads, with national plans from member states

Notes: ZEV – Zero-Emission Vehicle
Source: compiled by the authors

This analysis applies a community development and policy evaluation perspective to critically examine the distinctive features of each policy, yielding insights into their unique characteristics. This comparative synthesis elucidates key points of convergence and divergence among the CLCPA (2019), California's Executive Order N-79-20 (2020), and the European Union's Green Deal (2019), systematically examining energy transition, transportation decarbonization, environmental justice, enforcement mechanisms, and governance structures. Collectively, these dimensions offer critical insights into the design, implementation, and potential transferability of climate policy across diverse jurisdictions. Comparisons in Table 3 reveal a crucial insight: ambitious laws like the CLCPA are necessary but not sufficient. Targets must be paired with strong enforcement, adequate funding, and real accountability to communities. California shows how transportation policy can accelerate emissions cuts, and the EU demonstrates the power of coordinated financing and regional planning. New York now has an opportunity and an obligation to combine these lessons: to accelerate implementation, strengthen its monitoring systems, and ensure that equity commitments lead to measurable improvements in people's lives. Without that follow-through, the CLCPA risks becoming another climate promise that looks good on paper but fails to deliver the transformation it envisions.

Table 3. Comparisons between

Use Case	Best Pick
Equity + Enforcement + State-Level Model	CLCPA (2019)
Comprehensive, International Scope + Big Finance	EU Green Deal (2019)
Transport-Specific + U.S. Influence	California EO N-79-20 (2020)

Source: developed by the authors

The CLCPA's legally binding targets – 40% GHG reduction by 2030, 85% by 2050, and 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040 – set a clear direction for decarbonization (Rhodes *et al*., 2020; Wiley, 2023). Questions remain, however, about whether enforcement mechanisms and current permitting processes are strong enough to keep the state on track, particularly considering regulatory delays (Alves *et al.,* 2020). New York has made substantial progress in expanding solar capacity and launching offshore wind projects, but grid constraints and siting delays continue to slow deployment (Ali *et al*., 2022). Research highlights the importance of modernizing transmission systems and streamlining approvals if the state is to meet its 2030 renewable electricity target (Vangala & Aweh, 2020; Hanley, 2022; Meara & Rizzo, 2024).

The CLCPA's (2019) equity mandate presents an opportunity to pair decarbonization with health and economic co-benefits for communities that have been historically excluded from climate investments. But these benefits must be documented and evaluated; without robust monitoring, it will remain unclear whether disparities are being reduced or reinforced (Sultana, 2021). Taken together, these findings suggest that the CLCPA has the potential to serve as a national model for linking climate ambition with justice, but only if the state addresses implementation gaps, strengthens enforcement, and centers community participation. California's transportation mandates and the EU's financing strategies offer actionable insights that New York can adapt to improve delivery and maintain public trust (Dubois & Laurent, 2020; Neslen, 2024).

Policy recommendations. First, policymakers must expand support for workers transitioning from fossil fuel-dependent industries to green employment (Consolidated Laws of New York, Section §75-0103(8), 2014; Consolidated Laws of New York, Section §75-0111, 2020). They should design and deliver comprehensive retraining programs, provide direct financial assistance during the transition period, and open pathways to employment in the renewable energy sector. According to Section §75-0103(8) (2014) to direct the Department of Labor (DOL) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to design and deliver sector-aligned retraining programs tied to the Climate Action Council Scoping Plan; require an annual statewide clean-energy skills-gap analysis and reporting on placement and wage outcomes; authorize transitional income supports such as tuition, fees, childcare, and time-limited wage insurance for displaced workers enrolled in approved programs, with priority for communities identified under Consolidated Laws of New York, Section §75-0111 "Climate Justice Working Group" (2020). Policymakers, educators, and community organizations should form strategic partnerships that align training programs with the specific demands of the clean energy labor market. According to Section 66-p "Establishment of a Renewable Energy Program" (2025) that projects receiving renewable energy credits (RECs) include apprenticeship utilization targets and formal partnerships with community colleges or union JATCs as a condition of award. Proactive workforce preparation mitigates job displacement and builds a more inclusive, sustainable economy.

Second, state agencies must strengthen the CLCPA's (2019) enforcement mechanisms to guarantee compliance with emissions reduction targets (Consolidated Laws of New York, Section §75-0109(2), 2020; Consolidated Laws of New York, Section §75-0107, 2020). They should impose stricter penalties for noncompliance, expand monitoring and reporting requirements, and increase transparency to ensure public accountability. Amend Section 75-0109 (2020) to require New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to incorporate greenhouse gas limit compliance conditions into all applicable Article 19 air permits; specify that violations are enforceable under Environmental Conservation Law (2014) Article 71, Title 21, including Section §71-2103 (2014) civil penalties and injunctive relief. Add Section 75-0105 "Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report" (2020), creating a mandatory facility-level GHG registry with quarterly electronic reporting, third-party verification above a specified tonnage threshold, and public posting of emissions and compliance status in open, machine-readable formats. Amend §75-0119 "Implementation Reporting" (2020) to require a public compliance dashboard updated quarterly, in addition to the statute's periodic implementation reports.] Policymakers should also offer targeted incentives – such as tax credits and grants to accelerate private-sector adoption of low-carbon technologies and practices. Amend Tax Law (Consolidated Laws of New York, Section §606(g-1), 2025) to extend eligibility beyond solar equipment to qualified industrial decarbonization equipment and community/shared systems, with award levels conditioned on verified CO_2e reductions reported through the Section 75-0105 (2020) registry; align NYSERDA procurements under Section §66-p (2025) with measurable workforce and equity outcomes.

Together, these actions transform the CLCPA's (2019) ambitious targets into enforceable outcomes and position New York as a national model for integrating climate mitigation with social equity and economic resilience (as outlined in Section §75-0107 (2020) and 6 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (n.d.) Part 496, which establish statewide GHG limits and direct

the Department of Environmental Conservation to maintain those limits while publishing the 1990 baseline and annual inventories that anchor compliance).

Future scholarship must rigorously evaluate the extent to which the CLCPA integrates with national and international climate governance frameworks. Although the statute aligns with key objectives of the Paris Agreement (2016), (art. 4 "nationally determined contributions", art. 13 "enhanced transparency framework"), systematic investigation is needed to clarify how state-level policies interact with federal and global mechanisms to deliver measurable emissions reductions (Alves *et al*., 2020). Propose a comparative MRV mapping that aligns §75-0105 (2020) and §75-0119 (2020) reporting elements with Paris Article 13 modalities, procedures, and guidelines, and specifies how New York's facility-level data could roll up to national inventory and biennial transparency report requirements. Such inquiry is essential to determine whether overlapping climate policies function synergistically or generate policy friction, thereby informing strategies to ensure that state-driven initiatives like the CLCPA advance collective climate goals effectively. Without this integrative research, climate governance risks remaining fragmented, leading to inefficiencies and inequities in policy implementation. Longitudinal studies should also examine the CLCPA's capacity to build a just and resilient economy over time. Addressing these questions would position the CLCPA as a model framework for states and nations seeking to harmonize climate mitigation with equity-centered development.

Conclusions

This study examined how New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act translates ambitious statutory mandates into measurable and equitable outcomes. The central objective assessed whether state implementation tools, including enforcement mechanisms, measurement and reporting systems, incentive design, workforce transition supports, and administrative processes, are sufficient to deliver rapid decarbonization while directing tangible benefits to disadvantaged communities. Findings indicated that the CLCPA's architecture aligns with its aims, yet success depends on three intertwined capacities: enforceability, transparent measurement, and delivery speed.

The analysis maps the CLCPA's legal framework and equity guardrails, including the requirement that 35 to 40 percent of climate investments accrue to disadvantaged communities. The examination of enforcement pathways identified the need to embed greenhouse gas compliance conditions in air permits, calibrate penalties to excess tons, and publish a penalty policy that strengthens deterrence. Assessment of measurement and transparency highlighted the value of a facility level registry with quarterly reporting, third party verification above defined thresholds, and a public dashboard that links dollars to outcomes, including emissions, health indicators, and household energy burden. Analysis of just transition provisions showed that workforce pipelines from fossil jobs to clean energy careers are central to timely project delivery, cost control, and equitable distribution of opportunity. Comparative lessons from California's sector mandates and the European Union's finance and governance model demonstrated how targeted standards, stable funding, and multilevel coordination can accelerate results without compromising equity or environmental review.

Taken together, these strands support a practical conception of credibility for subnational climate law: targets become believable when legal obligations are enforceable, data systems convert spending into verified outcomes, and institutions move projects from approval to operation on

predictable timelines. This approach shifts the discussion from aspiration to implementation, clarifies how the law can improve air quality, affordability, participation, and employment where needs are greatest, and treats equity requirements as testable claims rather than budget lines. It also reframes permitting and transmission as policy delivery risks that the state can measure and manage, and underscores that incentives achieve the most when conditioned on verified emissions reductions and documented community benefits, thereby strengthening public trust through observable results.

The study has limitations. Cross jurisdiction comparisons aid interpretation but do not generalize directly because legal and fiscal architectures differ, and several CLCPA programs remain mid implementation. Future research should prioritize longitudinal, distribution sensitive evaluation of community benefits, causal analyses of permitting and interconnection timelines, cohort tracking of just transition outcomes, and integrated dashboards that tie investments to emissions, health, and affordability to guide adaptive course corrections.

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Оцінка Закону Нью-Йорка про лідерство у сфері клімату та захист громади з точки зору справедливого та ефективного управління кліматом

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Анотація

Закон штату Нью-Йорк про лідерство у сфері клімату та захист громад встановлює одні з найамбітніших кліматичних цілей у Сполучених Штатах, закликаючи до скорочення

викидів парникових газів на 40 % до 2030 року, на 85 % до 2050 року та до повного переходу енергетичного сектору на нульові викиди до 2040 року. У цьому дослідженні було проаналізовано, чи можуть структура та початкова реалізація Закону штату Нью-Йорк забезпечити досягнення його екологічних, соціальних та економічних цілей. У дослідженні було застосовано якісний аналіз політики з використанням рецензованих статей, звітів державних органів та адвокаційних документів, опублікованих у період з 2019 по 2025 рік. У статті результати дослідження були систематизовані за трьома напрямками – екологічна ефективність, соціальна справедливість та економічна життєздатність. Закон Нь ю-Йорку було порівняно з виконавчим наказом Каліфорнії N-79-20 та «Зеленою угодою» Європейського Союзу з метою визначення стратегій, які можна перейняти. Закон штату Нью-Йорк вирізняється своїм обов'язковим мандатом щодо справедливості, який спрямовує 35-40% інвестицій у клімат на незахищені громади. Незважаючи на це, дослідження виявило затримки у впровадженні програми, вузькі місця в інфраструктурі енергомережі та обмежене планування переходу робочої сили. Фокус Каліфорнії на декарбонізації транспорту та механізми фінансування ЄС пропонують перевірені стратегії, які можуть посилити виконання, спростити видачу дозволів та забезпечити справедливий доступ до пільг. Нью-Йорк може позиціонувати своє законодавство як національну модель справедливої декарбонізації, усунувши прогалини в імплементації, привівши адміністративний потенціал у відповідність до законодавчих цілей та ретельно відстежуючи результати. Аналіз зробив внесок у наукові дослідження з питань управління кліматом, продемонструвавши, як штати можуть поєднати амбітні цілі щодо викидів із справедливою імплементацією, щоб досягти вимірюваних кліматичних і соціальних вигод

Ключові слова: воєнний стан; правове регулювання; екологічні права; Європейський суд з прав людини; Міжнародний суд ООН