THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES:
An Agenda to Combat the Climate Crisis, Promote Environmental Justice, and Create Green Jobs

JANUARY 10, 2021
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scott Stringer knows that our future as a city and a planet depends on taking urgent action to slash emissions, prioritize environmental justice, and generate tens of thousands of good, green jobs in communities we have too long neglected. A Stringer Administration will pioneer the bold new policies we need to deliver a Green New Deal to New York City and help avert the coming climate catastrophe.

Scott has spent his career fighting for a more sustainable future; working in the trenches with climate activists, creating detailed blueprints on how to achieve a cleaner, greener city, and harnessing every lever of his office to advance the causes of climate action on the local, national, and international stages. He has:

- Launched New York City on a path to achieve the first fossil-fuel divestment of any pension system in the nation, targeted billions of investments towards the green economy, and challenged the financiers of fossil fuels.
- Stood with communities across New York City to reject the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, such as the Williams Pipeline and North Brooklyn pipeline, and fought for an end to fracking in New York State and beyond.
- Elevated environmental justice concerns by pushing back against polluting peaker plants that spew toxins into the air of our most vulnerable communities, and by offering strategies to refashion our streetscape to scale back urban highways.
Pushed for policies that can create good, green jobs by incentivizing the installation of green roofs, fast tracking solar projects, and greening the City’s capital program.

Fought for federal resiliency funding and proposed strategies to create a more resilient city by protecting wetlands, safeguarding homes and businesses, and building out green and gray infrastructure that will protect against the next storm.

Scott isn’t deterred by the scale of the challenge before us. Instead, he sees an opportunity to create a better, more equitable city where solar panels top our roofs and batteries sit in basements, where smokestacks are replaced by wind turbines, where shorelines are ringed by living breakwaters and wetlands, where vibrant streets support pedestrians and transit, where every neighborhood hosts world-class parks, and where workers from all backgrounds can earn a living wage by building a better City we can all thrive in.

Yet despite universal scientific consensus and the moral imperative to do our part to prevent climate devastation, New York City is faltering on its way towards a sustainable future. Emissions in New York City have risen by over three percent over the past two years. Corporate utilities keep installing new fossil fuel infrastructure and hooking new buildings onto fossil fuels.

"SCOTT STRINGER IS A CLIMATE HERO AND THIS PLAN PROVES WHY. HE WILL SPARE NO EFFORT IN THE FIGHT FOR OUR PLANET, OUR CHILDREN, AND OUR FUTURE. THIS PLAN WILL BE THE MOST PROGRESSIVE MUNICIPAL CLIMATE ACTION IN THE NATION AND IT WILL LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A NEW YORK THAT CAN BOTH THRIVE, AND HELP DRIVE THE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS WE DESPERATELY NEED. IT’S NOT ONLY VISIONARY AND WILL MAKE NEW YORK CITY A GLOBAL CLIMATE LEADER – IT’S ACTIONABLE. I KNOW SCOTT’S COMMITMENT TO THE CLIMATE FIGHT IS UNWAVERING – AS IS HIS COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THAT IS DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT THIS PROPOSAL. WE NEED SCOTT STRINGER’S BOLD CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AT CITY HALL."

BILL MCKIBBEN
Environmentalist and co-founder of 350.org
The City continues to make anemic progress towards its clean energy goals, including adding less than a single megawatt of solar on City property over the past three years.

At the same time, COVID-19 has laid bare the systemic disparities that run through our city – and revealed the human cost of our environmental justice failures. The City’s immoral complacency about how it concentrates the burdens of power plants, waste infrastructure, and roadways has left low-income, Black and Brown communities vulnerable, underserved, and overexposed. These are communities that have borne the brunt of disinvestment for decades – resulting in poor air quality, higher rates of asthma, congestion, overcrowding and lack of green outdoor space. Unless our recovery from COVID-19 foregrounds sustainability and climate resiliency, our City will only exchange one crisis for another as climate change accelerates.

Scott knows that meeting this climate crisis demands boldness and urgency. He believes that New York City’s Green New Deal will provide a model of how to save our planet and transform our society – by lifting up workers, creating a more inclusive economy, and prioritizing public needs over profit motives.
Scott Stringer’s comprehensive plan for a greener New York will create tens of thousands of climate jobs, clean our air, prioritize public need over profit, and create a model of how urban sustainability can save our planet. His core principles can be broken down into six discrete parts:

**Part I: Scott will launch a “Fossil Free NYC” movement to meet our climate commitments faster:** Scott will end the era of fossil fuels in New York City by quickly and fairly transitioning our communities away from polluting fuels toward renewable energy, creating jobs along the way.

**Part II: Scott will create green jobs and a greener economy to accelerate our economic recovery and build a more sustainable future:** Scott’s plan would generate tens of thousands of good-paying, 21st century green jobs that will create economic opportunity in every neighborhood, especially those reeling from our economic downturn and decades of disinvestment.

**Part III: Scott will champion environmental justice to ensure that all New Yorkers benefit from a healthier future:** Scott will relieve the crushing and disproportionate burden of pollution in communities of color by phasing out peaker plants, scaling back urban highways, investing in public housing, and bringing good jobs to communities who have suffered for too long.

**Part IV: Scott will promote greener, energy-efficient buildings to tackle our biggest carbon source:** Buildings are our city’s foremost contributor of carbon emissions. Scott will implement policies that replace polluting oil and gas building systems with clean, green alternatives.

**Part V: Scott will support active streets and green spaces to improve air quality and physical health:** Scott will prioritize the health of our urban environment, making sure that every neighborhood is home to world-class parks, playgrounds, and open spaces.

**Part VI: Scott will enhance resiliency programs to protect New York against extreme heat, sea rise, and storms:** Climate change will lead to more frequent and ferocious storms and New York City’s future is at stake. Scott has proposed new strategies to elevate homes and businesses, protect wetlands, mitigate intense heat, and fortify our shoreline.
LAUNCH A "FOSSIL FREE NYC" MOVEMENT TO END THE ERA OF FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MEET OUR CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

The science is clear. The survival of our planet depends on reaching net-zero emissions as soon as possible. New York City must model how to implement an urban Green New Deal, that can equitably and fairly pivot to a green, 21st century economy.

Unfortunately, instead of making the progress we need towards our climate goals, we’re going backwards. Emissions are rising year over year, new pipelines are being laid into the ground, our mass transit systems are facing a funding crisis, new buildings are still being connected to fossil fuels, the green economy has hemorrhaged jobs during COVID-19, and construction has stopped on crucial green infrastructure projects. We can’t afford to forfeit any more progress—and Scott’s plan will push New York City forward.

Scott knows that meeting our climate goals requires urgent, bold action that will achieve progress in years—not decades. Scott’s plan will bring our City into compliance with the CLCPA (Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act) and its strict emissions and environmental justice standards. Scott will start by imposing an immediate ban on the development of all new major fossil fuel infrastructure projects that would thwart our progress towards zero emissions. Instead, Scott will encourage the development of clean, renewable energy and battery storage that can reliably and affordably power our homes, businesses, and schools.

1. Ban All New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure and Phase out Existing Polluting Infrastructure

As Mayor, Scott will put a stop to the unchecked expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure that undermines our climate goals. From the Williams Pipeline to the Port Ambrose LNG Station, Scott has stood alongside frontline communities and won major victories against projects that would lock-in decades of emissions.
Scott will continue that fight as Mayor by standing up to the guardians of the fossil fuel status quo to stop projects that bring additional fossil fuel capacity into the city. As soon as he arrives at City Hall, Scott will initiate a first-ever process to assess all large-scale fossil fuel infrastructure in the city, including existing oil and gas pipelines, storage, distribution and power plants, and begin to implement a just transition to retire all of it. Scott will invest in renewable energy, overhaul our city’s buildingstock, and support energy efficiency programs that will put New York City on the road to entirely phasing out natural gas and oil in time to meet the ambitious climate goals outlined in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Scott will stand firm against the delivery of liquified natural gas over the roads, new oil storage facilities, and new pipeline capacity. Throughout his review, Scott will ensure a just transition from fossil fuels that prioritizes workers and our communities.

2. Public Takeover of Utilities

Scott will fight for the creation of a publicly owned energy utility that will deliver reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy to the five boroughs. If New York City is going to meet its climate goals, it will require the cooperation of a public utility that can invest in a green future rather than reinforce the fossil fuel status quo. Rather than allowing Con Edison and National Grid to continue to use ratepayer dollars to fund fossil fuel expansion, Scott will push for the creation of a public utility that can power New York with 100% renewable energy by 2035 or sooner. Currently, New Yorkers are forced to pay higher energy rates and fund fossil fuel infrastructure, which earn Con Edison and National Grid high guaranteed returns but only undermine the City’s progress towards its emissions goals. By redirecting profits that get siphoned off to shareholders, a public utility could put significant sums into programs that bolster renewables, provide bill relief, or encourage energy efficiency. On average, public utilities are cheaper and more reliable than their for-profit counterparts and currently operate in cities like Los Angeles, Seattle, San Antonio, and Austin. A public utility would also allow the State to better manage the necessary transition from fossil fuels by ensuring our utilities are working to serve the broader public good and meet our emissions goals rather than continuing
to build out the fossil fuel infrastructure that inflates their quarterly profit targets. Scott will push in Albany for legislation that will create a New York State public utility, protect workers, and advance our energy transition.

3. **Retire Polluting Peaker Plants**

Peaker plants are notoriously polluting power stations that jeopardize the health of our communities and take us backwards from our climate goals. To combat the air pollution that claims the lives of thousands of New Yorkers each year and has exacerbated the COVID crisis in environmental justice communities, Scott will work to replace peaker plants with renewable and battery-powered solutions that generate both reliable power and good jobs. Scott has opposed the redevelopment of peaker plants in Astoria and Sunset Park and will follow through on his call for a strategy that can retire all peaker plants operating within the City. Scott will support the agreement reached between the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and the PEAK Coalition to transition NYPA’s six plants and will set an ambitious timeline to close over half of all peaker plants by 2028 and the rest by 2035 or sooner. To help bend the curve on the city’s energy use, Scott will work to build out a resilient green electrical grid that will lower peak demand through energy efficiency and demand response programs. Scott will fight for the investments in grid-scale transmission New York City needs to run on renewables.

4. **Jumpstart Solar Installations on Homes and Businesses**

Harnessing the sun’s energy will be essential to meeting our clean energy goals and Scott will seize every opportunity to jumpstart the solar industry. Despite the pressing need to connect more renewable energy to our grid to meet our goal of 100% clean electricity by 2040, solar installations have stagnated in New York City over the past few years. As Mayor, Scott will seek legislation that doubles the City’s solar property tax abatement from 20% to 40%. Scott will also slash through the maze of permits, regulations, inspections, forms, and red tape that inhibits the wide scale adoption of solar. He will shake up the bureaucracy at the Department of Buildings by creating a one-stop application process, streamlining inspections, and eliminating any permit fees for solar applications. And he will expand
community-shared solar projects and use the shared solar model to lower the energy bills of low- and moderate- income residents of affordable housing. Scott will also seek to encourage M/WBE solar and cooperative solar installers to ensure that all New Yorkers can participate in the clean energy transition.

5. Install Solar on City Buildings and Land

As Borough President and Comptroller, Scott has pushed to put solar on schools, libraries, and all other City-owned buildings – but the City has failed to make real headway on its goal of installing 100 megawatts of solar by 2025, having only added an anemic 1.6 megawatts over the last four years. As Mayor, Scott will put the City on track to meet its 2025 goal by putting union labor to work to build out and maintain City-owned solar systems on City buildings. Scott will also explore ways of adding additional solar capacity by building out solar canopies over City-owned parking lots and using City-owned lands within the watershed where feasible and appropriate to support solar installations.

To expand beyond the City’s goal of 100 MWs on City buildings, Scott will also develop new programs that aim to lease space on private buildings, especially affordable housing buildings and non-profits, for the installation of City-owned solar. Drastically expanding solar capacity will generate not only renewable energy but good union jobs paying prevailing wage.

"MY FAMILY LOST ALMOST EVERYTHING TO SANDY. EVER SINCE, I’VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES THAT WILL PROTECT LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR FROM CLIMATE DISASTER. EVER SINCE HE COMMITTED TO DIVESTING NEW YORK CITY’S PENSION FUNDS FROM FOSSIL FUELS I’VE KNOWN THAT SCOTT IS ON THE SIDE OF PEOPLE, NOT POLLUTERS."

RACHEL RIVERA
Sandy survivor and climate activist
6. Electrify Everything

Scott believes that the fastest path to a clean energy transition is to replace polluting fuels like oil, gasoline, and natural gas with clean, renewable electricity. As Mayor, Scott will encourage a movement towards the electrification of buildings and vehicles which will drastically cut air pollution and GHG emissions. Working with state and federal partners, Scott will advocate for programs that put real resources behind unlocking grid-scale transmission, incentivize heat pumps, electric water heaters, and promote the adoption of electric vehicles and bicycles. Scott will work to accelerate heat pump adoption by vigilantly monitoring utility compliance with existing State goals and by pushing NYSERDA, the PSC, and the utilities to surpass existing targets, including in low-and-moderate income markets and in areas where gas-to-electric conversions could help obviate the need for additional fossil fuel infrastructure development. Bringing more and more buildings and transportation infrastructure onto the grid will require efforts to shore up our transmission infrastructure, and Scott will push utilities to invest in modernizing distribution infrastructure and bringing more clean energy into the City. Scott will make affordability a key component of electrification and will work to engineer subsidies to avoid cost shifts from landlords to tenants.

7. Build out Batteries

As Mayor, Scott Stringer will embrace innovative energy storage technologies that can help create a more sustainable and resilient electrical grid for New York City. From large utility-scale batteries to smart batteries that can fit in residential basements, energy storage is an essential component of a green energy transition. Scott will seek to institute a battery tax abatement to cover the cost of commercial and residential battery systems that can store excess green energy and deploy it at peak demand. Under Scott’s leadership, the City will initiate a process to simplify rules and regulations surrounding energy storage systems installations and the development of microgrid systems. Scott will also set ambitious goals to utilize City-owned space for energy storage solutions that can help take the strain off the grid and eliminate the need for polluting peaker plants. Establishing a network
of batteries in homes and businesses will unlock the potential of solar and wind as reliable, constant energy sources and guard against the disruption caused by blackouts. Scott will prioritize frontline and environmental justice communities where batteries can help enhance resiliency by providing reliable power supply to buildings that are home to medically-vulnerable populations.

8. **Support Offshore Wind**

Offshore wind promises to be a key driver in the city’s progress towards a greener grid. Scott will support the development of offshore wind and to make New York City into a green manufacturing hub that can facilitate the construction of wind farms across the Atlantic coast. Scott will double down on investments at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal and will offer support to staging areas at Arthur Kill to help make New York City a regional wind powerhouse. He will fight to ensure that New York City is home to the manufacturing infrastructure that can support the creation of an innovative offshore wind base that can help create thousands of good union jobs.
CREATE GREEN JOBS AND A GREENER ECONOMY TO ACCELERATE THE RECOVERY AND BUILD A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

A Green New Deal for New York City can serve as a springboard to an equitable economic recovery that brings good jobs and new opportunities to neighborhoods that have suffered from both the economic dislocation caused by COVID-19 and decades of disinvestment. Every element of Scott’s climate plan focuses on opportunities to create good-paying green jobs that will allow New York City to lead the 21st century green economy.

Scott will prioritize the workforce development and community engagement necessary to ensure all New Yorkers, especially those within environmental justice communities, are able to train for and access green job opportunities. Remaking our City will jumpstart a jobs boom that will take us out of the COVID-19 induced downturn and onto a stronger more equitable future. Scott will support apprenticeships, local hiring, and the development of good union jobs. In sum, Scott’s plan would create tens of thousands of green jobs within his first term in office.

9. Champion the Green New Deal

Scott is a vocal proponent for the Green New Deal. Scott will put his full support behind Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Ed Markey’s Green New Deal resolution. As Mayor he will rally cities across the country to demand that Washington delivers a Green New Deal to decarbonize America and create a sustainable economy that empowers everyone. Scott will never be afraid to take on the status-quo—including members of his own party—who don’t act with the urgency we need to confront climate change. Scott believes the Green New Deal will save our planet and transform our society by lifting up workers, creating a more inclusive economy, and prioritizing public needs over profit motives. Scott will build a coalition to fight for the Green New Deal and a just transition for workers that can convince the country to turn the page on fossil fuels. Scott will take his advocacy for
a Green New Deal to the National Conference of Mayors and fight for the funding New York needs to implement a Green New Deal and create good sustainable jobs. Scott will also push for Representative Ocasio-Cortez’s Climate Equity Act to ensure that climate investments are directed to the communities that are burdened with the consequences of decades of pollution.

10. **Create a Green Jobs Pipeline to Build a Greener City**

Scott’s vision for a greener city will result in the creation of tens of thousands of good-paying, 21st-century, local green jobs. Scott knows that achieving a Green New Deal for New York City means combatting both climate change and economic inequality in tandem. Scott will create a labor and workforce training pipeline that centers the communities that have suffered the most from environmental injustice. Scott has proposed a comprehensive workforce development model that can reach displaced workers by making CUNY community colleges – including green programs – tuition free, invest in Career and Technical Education Programs, and expand apprenticeships. In particular, Scott will continue to work with the CUNY Building Performance lab to place STEM students in opportunities where they can help create a greener City. Scott’s plan will result in both private and public sector green jobs, and he will ensure that DCAS is a partner in building a strong green jobs workforce. Scott will also seek to jump start green startups and a green manufacturing sector by using the Economic Development Corporation to help carve out the physical space to host more green start-ups and lend support these businesses need to manufacture renewables, electric stoves, or other green technologies.

11. **Renewable Rikers**

As Mayor, Scott will put Councilmember Costa Constantinides’ visionary Renewable Rikers Plan into action by beginning the transformation of Rikers Island from a jail into a hub of urban sustainability. Closing the jail complex on Rikers Island and replacing it with a combination of energy storage, renewable energy generation, and wastewater treatment facilities would offer an unprecedented opportunity to alleviate environmental injustices in communities that saw many of their residents
victimized by the criminal justice system. In particular, utilizing the island’s 400 acres as a venue for battery storage could allow for the permanent closure of nearby peaker plants in northern Queens, the South Bronx, and Northern Manhattan. Building a renewable Rikers could drive as much as $340 million in annual economic activity per year while generating sustainable energy and good, green jobs that can lift up communities that have suffered from both incarceration and pollution. A $15 billion dollar investment to overhaul the island would create as many as 1,500 jobs.

12. **Launch the Nation’s Largest Green and Blue Bonds Program**

Under Scott’s mayoralty, New York City will launch the nation’s largest green bonds program designed to green the City's capital program, introduce more accountability to the capital process, and attract new buyers interested in investing in a more sustainable future for the City. As Comptroller, Scott has called for a green bonds program and outlined how such a program could catalyze the green bonds market. Similarly, blue bonds could funnel investments into resilient infrastructure.

13. **Green the Capital Program**

Reviving New York City’s economy from the ongoing COVID-19 crisis will require public stimulus and investment to create economic opportunity and build a better city. Scott knows austerity politics will only compound the harms done by the virus and he will continue to fight for investment in the big, transformative building projects that our city needs to get back on its feet. As Mayor, Scott will jumpstart the capital program and make crucial investments that will allow us to invest in our public spaces, overhaul NYCHA, install highly-efficient boilers, undertake deep retrofits of schools and other City buildings, bolster shoreline defenses, improve transit infrastructure, and create affordable housing. Every billion dollars in construction spending directly creates nearly 5,000 good-paying jobs and generates hundreds of other supporting jobs. Under Scott’s leadership, the City will take a holistic approach to capital planning, maintenance, and land use that prioritizes long-term, sustainable planning.
14. **Fight for a More Sustainable Economy**

As Comptroller, Scott has worked to center climate in the boardroom and challenge the corporations most responsible for the warming of our planet. From leading on the nation’s largest pension fund divestment on fossil fuels to ejecting former-Exxon CEO from a leadership position in J.P. Morgan’s boardroom, Scott continues to pressure financiers, insurance companies, and asset managers to embrace the inevitable transition to a carbon-free economy. As Mayor, he will continue to work with pension fund trustees to demand corporate action on climate, including forming actionable plans to achieve net zero emissions. If companies fail to make meaningful progress on climate, Scott will work with trustees to press for the ousting of directors who don’t act with the urgency that the climate crisis requires.

15. **Lift Up Green Companies and the Green Workforce to Meet Demand for Retrofits**

Meeting our climate goals, specifically Local Law 97’s retrofit mandates, will catalyze exponential growth in the green construction and retrofit sectors. To ensure that small businesses in New York City can capitalize on the new demand for green labor, Scott will work with the Economic Development Corporation and private entities to develop programs that help green construction and retrofit companies scale up their workforce. Scott will work with labor unions, who will be the backbone of a clean energy transition, to make sure that our workers are equipped with the skills and opportunities to engage in green construction. Scott’s plan will center pathways to apprenticeships and opportunities for local hires to create the good jobs that can sustain families. Scott will work with companies to develop innovative, urban-specific technology such as compact heat-pumps that can help New York. Scott will put particular focus on ensuring that minority and women-owned businesses in this sector are given the resources they need to develop their businesses.

16. **Create More Opportunities to Learn about our Shared Environment**

Environmental educational programing can help children and adults alike better understand our world, deepen their connection to our shared environment, and incorporate sustainability into their lives. Working with nonprofits, volunteers, and
community groups, Scott will seek to extend every opportunity to engage with New Yorkers. From pairing young naturalists with Parks Department mentors to better connecting green nonprofits to schools, Scott wants every child to revel in our urban environment and see the world with wonder. Wherever possible Scott will direct the inclusion of educational programming, informational displays, or interactive learning activities to be directly incorporated into the design of sustainable and resilient projects.

**Part III**

**CHAMPION ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TO ENSURE THAT ALL NEW YORKERS BENEFIT FROM A HEALTHIER FUTURE**

Long-term exposure to noxious air pollution has left New York City's communities of color uniquely vulnerable to COVID-19 and susceptible to drastically higher death rates. However, even before the arrival of COVID-19, Black and Brown communities were already suffering dire health effects associated with long-term exposure to pollution.

Scott’s plan will turn the page on decades of environmental racism by relieving communities of color from shouldering a disproportionate share of pollution from power plants, waste disposal, and highways. As well as reducing emissions, Scott will be laser focused on improving air quality – both indoors and outdoors -- and will bring the Green New Deal to public housing buildings which are physical manifestations of how environmental injustice impacts our communities.

**17. Launch a Citywide Campaign to Better Monitor and Improve Air Quality**

As New Yorkers suffering with COVID-19 struggle for every breath, Scott knows how a legacy of air pollution has contributed to the death toll in our communities. More so than anywhere else in the country, the effects of poor air quality in the Bronx and Brooklyn have driven up COVID mortality rates. Thousands of New Yorkers died
each year from causes attributable to poor air quality. As Mayor, Scott will pull every lever to improve air quality – from cutting down on automobile use to shuttering polluting power plants. Scott will put new resources behind the City’s monitoring of air quality, including increasing the number of air monitors in order to pinpoint areas of concern and enforce pollution standards. Scott will push Washington and the EPA for much stronger national air quality regulations that can help prevent the more than 3,800 deaths in New York State that potentially owe to out of state air pollution. A Stringer administration will also carefully review how to reduce truck traffic in areas with high rates of asthma, including creating infrastructure and incentives to facilitate last mile delivery by bike.

18. Scale Back Urban Highways

Urban highways divide our communities, put pedestrians in danger, and drive up rates of asthma and respiratory illness. Vehicle emissions are responsible for over 300 premature deaths each year. With the goal of scaling back highway infrastructure and creating more green spaces for New Yorkers to enjoy, Scott will initiate a comprehensive review of our highway network and will propose specific plans to reduce lanes, deck over existing highway trenches, and promote pedestrian and transit friendly solutions that can take us toward a greener city. Scott has already offered a plan to convert a dilapidated two mile stretch of the Brooklyn–Queens Expressway into a linear park that families and pedestrians can enjoy. Scott will take that approach to other highways nearing...
the end of their useful lives – including highways that bisect environmental justice communities like the Cross-Bronx Expressway, the Major Deegan, The Grand Central Parkway and others – to seize every opportunity of repurposing road space into green space.

19. **Green New Deal for Public Housing**

Scott will work with New York’s congressional delegation to fight for the Green New Deal for Public Housing, which would transform conditions at NYCHA, cut emissions, and create over 32,000 good-paying jobs per year in New York City alone. As Scott works to improve living conditions at NYCHA, he will seek opportunities to phase NYCHA buildings off of the fossil fuel heating and cooking systems that have so often failed residents and onto reliable and sustainable electric stoves and heating systems. Scott will also ensure that temporary boiler systems are switched off for good in favor of reliable, green replacements. To make these improvements, Scott will make sure contractors are hiring from within NYCHA and providing economic opportunity to NYCHA residents.

20. **Green our Ports**

New York City’s six urban ports are areas of enormous potential for the City and for many environmental justice communities that surround them. Scott will seek to revitalize and remake our ports into hubs of sustainability that can host new manufacturing centers for wind turbines and create green jobs. Scott will invest new resources into port electrification and ship plug-ins, especially at the Brooklyn and Manhattan cruise terminals where cruise ship emissions spew noxious exhaust fumes into neighborhoods already burdened with poor air quality. Scott will set ambitious goals to reduce emissions stemming from ports while also encouraging their goals.

21. **Eliminate Childhood Lead Exposure**

Exposure to lead robs children of their health and wellbeing. Scott has fought to protect children from the harms associated with lead poisoning and as Mayor will mobilize every resource to safeguard children. Scott’s investigation into the City’s approach on lead paint found over 9,000 buildings that had gone uninspected by the
City despite being linked to cases of lead exposure. Scott’s investigation prompted the City to undertake thousands of additional inspections. As Mayor, Scott will ensure that the City is taking every step to proactively root out lead and protect the wellbeing of our children.

22. **Create and Enforce Regulations on Indoor Air Quality**

In addition to efforts to improve general air quality, Scott will direct City resources to dealing with the deplorable condition of indoor air quality. According to research, indoor air pollutants – particularly in homes with unventilated gas appliances – are often significantly higher than outdoor levels. Scott will push City agencies to do more to improve indoor air quality by tasking the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) with testing indoor air quality during routine inspections of buildings in areas with high rates of asthma or other respiratory disease. Scott will coordinate with scientists and experts to develop ambitious standards for indoor air quality and will ensure buildings have the support they need to address sources of pollution – from unventilated stoves to volatile organic compound-emitting fabrics.

23. **Do More to Green Our Roofs**

Green roofs are a crucial tool in building a more sustainable city. Green roofs reduce runoff, insulate buildings, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and provide spaces for New Yorkers to interact with urban wildlife. As Comptroller, Scott helped lead the passage of a revitalized Green Roof Tax Abatement that incentivizes the construction of green roofs by tripling the tax abatement in areas of the City that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As Mayor, Scott will champion that program and promote green roofs in order to generate new green

"SCOTT’S CLIMATE AGENDA IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF AMBITIOUS BUT ACHIEVABLE PLAN THAT WILL REALIZE NEW YORK’S IMPORTANT CARBON REDUCTION TARGETS AND MAKE OUR CITY RESILIENT."

**ROHIT T. AGGARWALA**
Senior Urban Tech Fellow, Cornell Tech
infrastructure jobs and deliver tangible environmental and public health benefits to communities at the frontlines of climate change. Scott will make sure the program is efficiently administered and push Albany for a greater cap to encourage more building owners to take part.

Part IV

**PROMOTE GREENER, ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS TO TACKLE OUR BIGGEST CARBON SOURCE**

Buildings account for about 73 percent of all emissions in New York City and are at the center of Scott’s climate agenda. Decarbonizing the City’s building stock offers an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gases and create new jobs and better indoor environments for New Yorkers to live and work in.

The Climate Mobilization Act has mapped out a pathway to reducing building emissions by 80% – and as mayor, Scott will ensure that the law is a success. He will put all of the pieces in place – from workforce development and affordable financing, to expertise in energy audits – to make Local Law 97 a model for the nation. Scott knows that to accomplish these goals, New York will need to invest in the transmission and generation infrastructure that will allow buildings to affordably exchange polluting heating systems for clean electric alternatives.

**24. Champion Local Law 97 and Local Law 116 to Slash Emissions**

The Climate Mobilization Act is the nation’s largest and most ambitious municipal climate program, which will mandate stringent emissions limits, slash pollution, create jobs, lower energy costs, and improve air quality. For the legislation to succeed in its goal of requiring 40% emissions cuts from the City’s largest buildings by 2030, the City will need to marshal every resource to scale up a green workforce, connect building owners with resources and information, and create a policy framework for the law’s implementation. As Mayor, Scott will work to ensure that buildings meet their emissions reduction requirements and that the implementation
of the law is a success. Scott will guard against any attempts by the real estate industry to water down the law or to evade its stringent goals, and will work with labor, building owners, and advocates to ensure that the law is implemented and achieves its goals. Scott will also direct resources towards the outreach and financing strategies necessary to ensure that all building owners, particularly those in low-income, environmental justice communities, can afford to do their part in lower emissions. He will direct City resources to facilitate educational efforts aimed at co-op and condo-board members to help walk through compliance with the law. Scott will also give the City’s Retrofit Accelerator the resources it needs to disseminate best-practices with buildings working towards better efficiency. Improving the energy efficiency of small homes will also be essential to meeting our climate goals and Scott will press forward on policies and financing mechanisms that make a difference.

25. **Ban Natural Gas and Oil Use in New Construction or Major Renovations**

As Mayor, Scott will advance legislation by the end of his first year in office that will ban the use of natural gas or oil in new buildings or buildings undergoing gut renovations – accounting for about 50,000 buildings in New York City every year. A study by the Rocky Mountain Institute finds that requiring electric systems in new single family homes creates thousands of dollars of savings over a 15 year timespan compared to a mix of fueled options and also will result in more than 80% lower carbon emissions. Under Scott’s leadership, New York City will join the 50 cities and counties across the country that are working towards all-electric construction codes.

"**COMPTROLLER STRINGER’S PLAN SETS THE GOLD STANDARD FOR A METROPOLITAN GREEN NEW DEAL IN CITIES ACROSS AMERICA. WE CHALLENGE THE REST OF THE FIELD OF MAYORAL CANDIDATES TO MATCH THIS PLAN IN SCOPE IN ELIMINATING CARBON POLLUTION IN NEW YORK CITY ON AN AMBITIOUS TIMELINE THAT ENSURES A JUST TRANSITION FOR ALL.**

**MATTHEW MILES GOODRICH**
Volunteer with Sunrise NYC
26. **Move up the Elimination of No. 4 Heating Oil to 2025 and Create a Timeline to Phase Buildings Off of Natural Gas**

Beyond new construction, Scott will establish an aggressive timeline to phase buildings off of natural gas and oil by legislating sunset dates for the installation of new oil or natural gas powered boilers, dryers, or stoves. To help clear our air and eliminate the pollution that is doing the most harm to City residents, Scott will move up the phase out of No. 4 heating oil from 2030 to 2025. To help accelerate the transition from gas, Scott will bring energy experts, building owners, climate activists, tenants, and labor to the table to develop realistic timelines that quickly phase out building systems and appliances that are not compatible with our climate goals. Scott will also designate priority areas in environmental justice communities where the City can work to further speed the transition from gas and oil to renewable and electric alternatives.

27. **Unlock Lower Energy Bills For 1-4 Family Homes**

Scott will develop cost-conscious policies to move mid- and small-size buildings towards necessary efficiency upgrades, while ensuring low-and middle income homeowners or buyers do not face higher costs. Scott supports the development of thoughtful, equitable requirements that will transition small buildings off of fossil fuels by ensuring cost-effective upgrades to insulation, windows, or heating systems can take place when a home is sold or being renovated and do not place undue cost burdens. To facilitate financing, Scott will extend the benefits of PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy), an innovative way to pay for green retrofits, to the more than 800,000 1-4 family homes across the five boroughs. These buildings are responsible for a fifth of all emissions from buildings. Retrofits targeted at this market offer a real opportunity to help New York City homeowners reduce energy bills and improve their quality of life. PACE loans are currently only permitted for large multifamily or commercial buildings, but could help smaller homeowners access capital for retrofits at no upfront cost, with low interest rates, and collection via the home's property tax bill which can transfer to a new owner if the home is sold. PACE loans can help pay for themselves by enabling whole building retrofits...
that lower energy bills through insulation and energy efficient building systems. Scott will work to allow all homeowners to draw on the benefits of PACE and will work to subsidize loans and even eliminate interest rates for low income homeowners who want to replace polluting heating systems. Combined with State and utility sponsored green incentive programs, Scott will ensure that small homeowners have a cost-conscious way to upgrade their homes and cut emissions.

28. **Implement Fast Track Green Permitting**

With only nine years left to meet 2030 goals and achieve dramatic cuts in emissions, New York City doesn’t have any time to waste. Homeowners and building operators who want to put solar on roofs or retrofit their buildings should not be left waiting for a permit to wind its way through a bureaucratic labyrinth of approvals. Instead, Scott will institute a fast track permitting process that will give green projects like solar installations, LEED building projects, and building retrofits priority at the Department of Buildings and other City agencies. Scott will ensure that DOB, FDNY, and DEP are cooperative partners in building a greener City. Taking inspiration from other cities, including Seattle’s ‘Priority Green Expedited” program, Scott’s fast track green permitting process will vastly accelerate the pace and scale of green construction in our City.

29. **Make Schools Into Hubs of Sustainability**

All students deserve to attend sustainable schools that safeguard their wellbeing, improve their communities, and model what a greener future looks like. Under
Scott’s leadership, the School Construction Authority will be given the resources it needs to accelerate the deep retrofit of school buildings that can slash resource use and enhance learning environments. Schools can use the opportunity of retrofits to engage with children about the environment and use resources like green roofs, solar panels, and other innovative technologies as learning opportunities. Air quality has a direct effect on learning and school readiness, and under Scott’s direction polluting heating and ventilation systems will be replaced with state-of-the-art sustainable options that protect the lungs of our children. Where possible Scott will also seek to put schools at the center of community energy infrastructure by connecting them to microgrids and hosting large battery systems. School roofs also have an opportunity to offer learning opportunities around urban agriculture, which can benefit the curriculum and the lunch menu.

30. Develop a Pipeline of District-Scale Clean Energy Projects

Meeting our climate goals will require a full-scale transition from natural gas and oil heating and cooling systems. Rather than allowing continued investment into natural gas networks that will only have to be retired to meet our energy goals, Scott will put City resources behind the creation of a more sustainable energy infrastructure. Scott will convene community stakeholders, building owners, utilities, regulators, and energy experts to identify opportunities for district heating demonstration projects that can transition individual neighborhoods or blocks off of fossil fuels and onto shared, sustainable heating and cooling systems. Such projects could rely on the use of a centralized geothermal facility or other thermal technologies. Scott’s leadership will help create scalable and cost-effective models that can facilitate a citywide conversion to sustainably sourced heating and cooling.
Part V

SUPPORT ACTIVE STREETS AND GREEN SPACES TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

Vehicle traffic is responsible for 28 percent of New York City’s GHG emissions and over 300 premature deaths from respiratory illness each year. To achieve a more sustainable future, better air quality and improved public health, reducing vehicle emissions within the five boroughs is essential. To do so, Scott will deliver on a multi-pronged strategy that will challenge the auto-centric status quo and utilize road and curb space for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

Parks, community gardens, and open spaces are a physical manifestation of the green future that New York deserves. Scott loves New York’s many parks and natural spaces and will do all in his power to protect those spaces for all New Yorkers and future generations to enjoy. From investing in the maintenance that preserves our parks to helping contend with storm runoff and rainwater, Scott’s plan will enhance the health of our urban ecosystem.

31. Open Streets, Open Space

During the pandemic, Open Streets offered a lifeline to New Yorkers hungry for new open spaces to enjoy. Scott recognizes that our streets can and must be put to better use than for just the use of private vehicles. Scott will make of the segments in the Open Streets program permanent and refashion those spaces into greener, more vibrant spaces. Scott’s plan will introduce more space for bikes, pedestrians, plants, playgrounds, plazas, trees, and better transit infrastructure.

32. Invest in Parks

Our City’s parks and natural spaces serve as vital sanctuaries for New Yorkers to enjoy. COVID-19 has reinforced how crucial parks, playgrounds, community gardens, and open spaces are for recreation, socialization, and the opportunity to commune with nature. As a lifelong New Yorker and the parent of two children, Scott knows what parks mean to our City and will work to preserve and create a world-class
network of parks that serve every community. As Mayor, Scott will reverse brutal budget cuts to the parks system and will instead baseline more funding to support park maintenance, permanent jobs for park workers, and the acquisition of new park space. Scott will follow through on his call to build out 100 new playgrounds within the next five years, particularly in low income, neglected communities.

33. **Prioritize Public Transit**

Scott has spent his career fighting for better public transit service. He won’t stop as Mayor. Scott will use that power to prioritize buses and make sure they’re fast, frequent, and reliable for the millions of New Yorkers who use them each and every day. Scott has already issued a comprehensive plan for improving our bus system, which has already resulted in improvements to service. As mayor, Scott will use every lever in the arsenal of City government to improve service and will be a staunch advocate at the MTA for better service. He will ensure that the streets, traffic lights, curbs, and sidewalks that the City operates will be optimized to give bus riders the fast, reliable, frequent, and accessible service they deserve. Moving forward, all high-ridership bus lines will have fully protected bus lanes and targeted choke points throughout the city will offer priority to buses. Scott will also increase access to the subway for all New Yorkers, especially lower-income residents by integrating commuter rail into our five-borough transit system. Scott will advocate to integrate the forty-one LIRR and Metro-North Stations in the City, currently locked behind an exorbitant paywall and little used by locals in Queens and the Bronx, into our transit system by reducing trips to the price of a subway swipe within the City.

34. **Promote Bicycling**

Biking is a vital component of a sustainable transit system and Scott’s plan will ramp up investment in bicycling and make it accessible to all New Yorkers. That includes making Citi Bike available throughout the five boroughs and free for low-income high school kids as part of his ambitious Bike-to-School plan; initiating a massive expansion of well-designed, well-protected, well-connected bike lanes and actually investing in the maintenance of those lanes so that they’re not pockmarked
with potholes, filled with trash, or covered with snow and slush; and dramatically expanding bike parking throughout the City. Bike lanes must all extend into environmental justice communities. Scott will also push forward with his proposal to subsidize the use of e-bikes as an eco-friendly transportation option.

35. **Encourage Electric Vehicles, Especially School Buses**

While public transit, biking, and walking should form the backbone of a sustainable climate plan, electric vehicles -- including school buses, police cars, garbage trucks, and other vehicles -- will play an important part of our progress towards net zero emissions. Scott supports the State-wide phase out of combustion-engine powered vehicles by 2035 and the transition to zero-emission vehicles. Scott will immediately issue an order that seeks to convert the dirtiest 25% of the City’s fleet to clean, electric alternatives by 2025. When in City Hall, he will place a particular focus on using procurement rules to electrify school buses in order to spare children from the pollution sourced from combustion-powered buses. Scott will work with bus operators and with entities like NYSDERA to make sure that independent operators upgrade their bus fleets to electric alternatives. Scott will also work to remake our streetscape to support the charging infrastructure required to host electric fleets. Scott will also lobby in Albany for a redistribution of the State’s gas tax to support transit improvements over roadways.

36. **Enhance Urban Forests**

New York City is home to more than 5 million trees and Scott believes that our City can and should host a larger and more lush urban forest. Scott will set an ambitious goal for the planting of new trees to provide shade, capture over a billion gallons of stormwater, remove tons of pollutants from our air, and capture hundreds of thousands of tons of carbon. Scott will target the planting of trees in environmental justice communities by opening up new tree pits and planting trees in existing pits. Scott will increase government service opportunities for urban foresters, invest in the maintenance and protection of existing trees, and facilitate opportunities for New Yorkers to more easily volunteer their time and expertise in the maintenance of trees, gardens, and green spaces.
37. Expand Green Infrastructure and Invest in Stormwater Capture

Green infrastructure such as green roofs, bioswales, and rain gardens offer an opportunity to both beautify our neighborhoods and to capture rainfall that could flood neighborhoods or pollute waterways. Scott will double down on green infrastructure solutions that can mitigate the more than 20 billion gallons of sewage and stormwater our City discharges into our riverways and harbor each year. As Comptroller Scott has scrutinized how neglect and forgone maintenance has allowed bioswales and rain gardens to wither and has offered specific management recommendations to ensure the program thrives. Scott will explore ways to drastically increase the coverage of permeable areas across the City, including better utilizing permeable pavement, requiring more retention of stormwater in new developments, and more City support for green roofs. The Renewable Rikers plan will also allow for a new wastewater treatment facility that can help the City achieve its goals. Effective, small scale investments in green infrastructure will in the aggregate help avoid enormously costly wastewater treatment plant upgrades, all while protecting the health of our waterways and beautifying our streets.

38. Advocate in Albany for Conservation, Clean Water, and Environmental Justice

As a former state legislator, Scott knows the role Albany plays in advancing green priorities. Scott will be a vocal advocate for State action that can help address environmental injustice and direct crucial funding towards sustainable projects. Working with New York City legislators, Scott will fight for the timely implementation of the CLCPA, particularly its environmental justice mandates. He will push for the Restore Mother Nature Bond act and bring funds home to help restore wetlands and

"AS OUR NEXT MAYOR, SCOTT STRINGER WILL CREATE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NEW GREEN JOBS FOR NEW YORKERS BY PROMOTING CLEAN AIR AND WATER, AND BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL OF US. I AM PROUD TO STAND WITH MY FRIEND, SCOTT, WHO WILL LEAD THE CHARGE TOWARD A GREENER CITY."

KAREN ARGENTI
Long-time Bronx community activist and environmental advocate
natural areas in New York City. Scott supports the elimination of tax benefits and expenditures that benefit fossil fuels and will make the case for continued State investment in the MTA.

Part VI

A MORE RESILIENT CITY

Our climate is changing and our seas are rising. Already, our City is experiencing impacts from rising tides that will put more homes, more businesses, and more public infrastructure at risk. Higher temperatures and protracted heat waves pose real risk to the health of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. Scott recognizes the existential threat climate change poses to the City and that, as we have seen with Covid-19 and Hurricane Sandy, these risks are borne unequally, affecting low income communities, communities of color, and immigrant communities first and worst. As he positions New York to achieve net-zero emissions, he will work with communities and experts to build the resilience of the city and its residents to face the climate crisis we know is already here, so that we may thrive for generations to come. Scott will push forward with the systemic, inclusive, just and bold action needed to protect our way of life. His plan will reduce risk, especially for those most vulnerable, prioritize naturally resilient shorelines, and help avoid the catastrophic fiscal risks of inaction.

39. Develop and Implement a Five Borough Resiliency Plan and Capital Planning Framework

As Mayor, Scott will work to build the resilience of every community to be able to weather the catastrophic disasters and daily stresses climate change will throw at our City. From the physical impacts of rising tides and rising temperature to the personal and collective cost of recovery from more frequent and ferocious storms, every community has different needs and vulnerabilities that must be served. From Day One, a Stringer Administration will get to work on a comprehensive five
borough resiliency plan and capital planning framework that assesses climate risks in every community, underlies an integrated capital planning process, and proposes strategies and policies to address these risks. The Stringer plan will draw on the latest science and climate modeling and a holistic understanding of how human networks in our neighborhoods undergird real resiliency. Rather than blindly concentrating resources to protect wealth and high value property, Scott will build out a plan that directs dollars to areas with the most social and ecological risk. Utilizing this framework of risk and social vulnerability will allow capital dollars to flow towards neighborhoods that are in desperate need of investment to protect against climate change and improve quality of life by building better, more resilient schools, libraries, hospitals, and parks.

40. Lobby Washington for Every Available Resiliency Dollar

Beyond the enormously costly damage Superstorm Sandy inflicted on the five boroughs, the storm also shuttered stock markets and paralyzed the nation’s economic capital. Federal investment in resiliency measures will not only protect the lives and wellbeing of New Yorkers but also protect our economy. Scott will seize every opportunity to bring federal resiliency dollars to New York and will continue to fight for federal investment in resiliency measures, including the funding and completion of the Army Corps of Engineers’ New York/New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study that could help bring federal resiliency funding to the region. Every federal dollar invested in resiliency results in six dollars in future savings and Scott will fight in Washington to ensure New York City’s needs are prioritized.

"THE ACTIONS OF OUR NEXT MAYOR WILL DETERMINE IF WE ACTUALLY MEET OUR EMISSIONS GOALS OR JUST SETTLE FOR A DEEPLY INEQUITABLE STATUS QUO. SCOTT’S BOLD, AMBITIOUS PLAN SETS THE BAR FOR THE ACTION WE NEED TO CLEAN OUR AIR AND COMBAT INEQUALITY."

PETE SIKORA
Climate activist and campaigner
41. Bring Crucial Resiliency Projects to Fruition

Eight years on from Sandy, too many neighborhoods are still impacted by the aftermath of the storm or others since and too many communities remain vulnerable and exposed to the next rainfall, high tide, or heatwave. Scott will work to build out the resilient infrastructure the City needs to survive ongoing climate shocks. He will start by finally bringing post-Sandy infrastructure projects to a close. Scott has documented how a combination of federal red tape and delays in City construction have left billions of Sandy aid unspent and crucial infrastructure unbuilt. As Mayor, Scott would make preparing for the next storm an urgent priority and would get shovels in the ground on crucial projects that can protect our schools, hospitals, and homes and ensure that reforming our capital planning, budgeting, and implementation process is a top priority. Fast-tracking these projects will generate good jobs and will protect against the City potentially leaving any federal funding on the table.

42. Create Resilient Shorelines Through a Long-Term Floodplain Restoration Program

By offering to buy out willing homeowners who are at risk of repeated flooding, the City can help homeowners escape danger while simultaneously repurposing their property to create naturally resilient shorefront protections. Scott will expand on post-Sandy buyout programs and establish the City’s first floodplain restoration program, bringing together federal and local funding sources to acquire land from willing sellers for community and natural resource protection. Such a program would include a holistic approach—

"SCOTT WAS WITH US AFTER SANDY AND HAS BEEN FIGHTING FOR CRUCIAL RESILIENCY PROJECTS EVER SINCE. HIS PLAN WILL HELP PROTECT NEW YORKERS AND THEIR HOMES, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, AND BUSINESSES FROM THE WRATH OF SEA LEVEL RISE. I TRUST SCOTT TO DO THE REAL WORK OF MAKING NEW YORK CITY AND MY COMMUNITY A SAFER, HEALTHIER PLACE."

PAMELA PETTYJOHN
President, Coney Island Beautification Project
counseling and relocation services for sellers, and a mechanism for restoring land for ecosystem function and public recreation. Such a program could offer a lifeline to residents who feel unsafe in their homes, are faced with unaffordable flood insurance payments, contend repeated flood, or face being unable to sell their home. The program would also avert significant costs associated with post-disaster government programs to reconstruct damaged homes which in certain cases within the Build it Back program cost more than $1 million per home. Scott would ensure that buyouts are a tool embedded in a larger risk-informed strategy, used only in the most vulnerable areas and developed in concert with zoning and policy practices that prevent future development in neighborhoods where buyouts occur. Reverting spaces purchased through buyouts to wetlands or other kinds of naturally resilient space can have an enormous impact in blunting the force of future storms and opening up more public green space for communities to enjoy.

43. Create New Revenue for Resiliency

Scott knows that building a city that can withstand the locked-in effects of climate change and more frequent and ferocious storms will require new investment and new revenue streams. Beyond lobbying for necessary federal and state support, Scott will push for the passage of a small surcharge on very high-value insurance policies linked with expensive homes in order to generate needed revenue for resiliency. In the long run, such a surcharge could eventually save policyholders money as resiliency improvements funded by the surcharge can guard against rises in premiums linked to potential disasters. Such a surcharge would be narrowly targeted at insurance policies held by wealthy individuals on high-value assets.

44. Increase Access to Low Cost Resiliency Loans

Alongside sustainability retrofits, New York City must invest in resources to encourage resilience retrofits of homes and businesses in the floodplain. Scott has proposed expanding New York City’s PACE program to allow for building owners to access low-cost loans to improve resiliency including elevations. Loans could be financed by anticipated reduction in flood insurance premiums. Scott will also explore ways of offering zero-cost resiliency retrofit vouchers to single-and-multifamily residents in order to stave off higher costs associated with rebuilding after a disaster hits.
45. Mitigate Intense Heat

Scott knows resiliency extends beyond the shoreline. Intense heat and prolonged heat waves associated with climate change will threaten the health of older, disabled, and vulnerable New Yorkers, especially those within communities of color. Scott knows that addressing our climate crisis requires addressing urban heat and he will attack the issue by investing in the equitable distribution of cooling centers, promoting green roofs and green infrastructure, and working to preemptively address many of the health conditions exacerbated by urban heat. During the early days of the COVID-19 crisis, Scott was the first to call for a City program to deliver air conditioners to New Yorkers left without a way of staying cool – including in serval low-income communities where more than 25% of homes lack air conditioning. As Mayor, Scott will work to actually get air conditioners out to those that need them.

46. Protect and Restore Wetlands

Wetlands, marshland, and other naturally resilient areas are an essential component of the City’s defenses against storm surge, sea level rise, and coastal flooding. Areas guarded by wetlands and marshes suffer on average 20% less property damage from storms but despite their clear utility, an estimated 85 percent of the NY-NJ natural harbor estuary has been lost to development over the past century. Scott will stand up for wetlands, using every City resource to protect, restore, and maintain existing wetlands, especially in areas with high risk of flooding. Scott has fought to preserve areas like the Graniteville wetlands on Staten Island and as Mayor will use City resources to purchase and protect at-risk wetland areas. New York City must treasure spaces like Jamaica Bay, which offer not only protection from storms but enormous ecological value to our City. Scott will work to protect those areas from erosion, run off, and exposure to pollutants. Scott’s proposed home buyout program will also allow the City to reintroduce wetlands, marshes, and living shorelines to areas where overdevelopment has compromised naturally resilient shorefronts.
47. Preparing for the Next Storm

We cannot expect infrastructure alone to protect our City. Scott knows that investment in disaster planning and preparation is necessary to ensure that no one is left behind in the wake of another storm. Scott will make it a priority to undertake a comprehensive review of the City’s ability to effectively respond to a disaster, including examining how agencies interact to protect our most vulnerable. As Comptroller Scott has undertaken a series of audits, investigations, and reports examining the City’s response to Superstorm Sandy including haphazard procurement of emergency supplies, NYCHA’s lack of preparation to protect tenants with disabilities, and the administration of the beleaguered Build it Back program. Knowing what worked and what didn’t, Scott will prepare a disaster recovery plan which can more nimbly and ably respond to a disaster and efficiently deliver help and aid to the New Yorkers who need it the most.

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This plan represents the first part of “The Details to Deliver,” Scott Stringer’s comprehensive policy agenda to rebuild New York City stronger than ever. Over the course of the campaign, Scott will release a range of plans, including on topics closely related to climate, such as transportation and waste.