



Dear Constituent,

Earth Day is celebrated annually as a time to honor our planet and raise awareness of steps we can take to protect it and lead more sustainable lives. In that spirit, here is some environmental news along with a round-up of resources intended to help anyone looking to take some Earth-friendly actions this weekend, this month, and beyond.

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg



Many of our municipalities and local environmental action committees are hosting Earth Day-related events. I hope to be in attendance at many of these events and to see you there!

Ongoing

- **Town of Cortlandt Community Clean Up Events:** Throughout this month, the Town of Cortlandt Green Team is providing materials and encouraging residents to participate in a community clean up. Visit the Town website (www.townofcortlandt.com) for more details and to sign up.

Saturday, April 20

- **Peekskill Annual Parks Clean Up Day**, 8 AM - 11:30 AM at Riverfront Park. Help clean local parks, get information about city environmental initiatives and enjoy refreshments and camaraderie by the waterfront. [Click here to access the registration form.](#)
- **Westchester County Household Recycling Day (HRD)** at Yorktown's FDR State Park. Westchester County will be hosting one of its HRDs in Yorktown from 9 AM - 3 PM. HRDs offer households the opportunity to recycle items like old medications, chemicals, paints, electronics, textiles, and more. [Click here for more details on what can and can't be recycled during an HRD.](#) If you are not able to make it to the HRD, you can schedule an appointment to get rid of approved recyclables by calling (914) 813-5425 or [clicking here to schedule online.](#)
- **Green Ossining's 13th Annual Earth Day Festival**, 10 AM - 5 PM at Louis Engel Waterfront Park in Ossining. This is typically the largest Earth Day Festival in Westchester - be sure to check it out! My office will be co-hosting a booth at this event with the office of State Senator Pete Harckham. Stop by for constituent services as well as to learn more about pro-environment legislation in the works (or scroll to the end of this message).
- **Pitch In For Parks**, 10 AM - 2 PM at Croton Point Park. Each April, Westchester Parks Foundation and the Westchester County Parks Department host Pitch In For Parks, the largest County-wide volunteer program surrounding Earth Day. Volunteers at Croton Point Park will pick up litter, manage invasive species, and help perform maintenance on its native planting sites. No experience is necessary. Volunteers may attend at any time between 10 AM and 2 PM. Click on their Web site to sign up.
- **The "Battle of Yorktown" Earth Day Cleanup.** Yorktown is hosting a big trash clean-up day in honor of Earth Day. Orange bags, safety vests, and litter grabbers will be available (while supplies last) at the Refuse & Recycling Department located at 2279 Crompond Road (behind the police station). Please call (914) 245-4438 to register so they know where you will be cleaning.
- **Cold Spring Earth Day Festival at Boscobel**, 10 AM - 1 PM. Boscobel is free and open to the public during this event, during which there will be lots of family fun activities along with presentations on a variety of sustainability-related topics and a Repair Cafe. Click on their Web site to learn more and register.
- **Friends of the Peekskill Dog Park & Community Garden Earth Day Event**, 12-4 PM at Tompkins Park (1801 Main St., Peekskill). All are welcome to come help with mulch clean up, weeding, flower planting, trash pickup, and other projects. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Sunday, April 21

- **Briarcliff Manor's Earth Day Celebration**, 10 AM - 2 PM in the Law Park Pavilion.

Saturday, April 27

- **Village of Croton Earth Day Festival**, 10 AM - 4 PM at Senasqua Park.

- **Yorktown Repair Cafe**, 11 AM - 3 PM at Grace Lutheran Church (3830 Gomer St., Yorktown Heights). Instead of replacing broken items and generating more waste, consider bringing those items to a repair cafe event where volunteers can help you fix them. [Click here to learn more about the types of items that can be repaired and register.](#)

Saturday, May 4

- The Annual **Riverkeeper Sweep** will be taking place at various locations along the Hudson River. [Click here to learn more and register for a Westchester County site; click here for Putnam County sites.](#)
- Parks & Trails New York will host their annual **I Love My Park Day** events across the state, with several locations in the 95th Assembly District. To learn more and sign up to volunteer, click on their Web site.



The safe decommissioning of Indian Point remains a top priority. The next meeting of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board will take place at **6 PM on Thursday, April 25**, and will feature a presentation regarding options for the disposal of the spent fuel. [Click here for more details about the meeting, including location, Zoom details and registration instructions.](#) If you would like to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting, you must register to do so by **noon on Wednesday, April 24**.



GridRewards: Con Edison households, take note: you can earn money for reducing energy usage by participating in GridRewards. You can download the app to your [iPhone](#) or [Android](#) phone or [sign up online](#) to get energy-saving tips and notifications about special GridRewards events during which you can earn higher rewards. You can also earn cash for referring friends to the program. Average households can earn over \$100 per year over and above the money they save by reducing their energy usage. To learn more, including how to enroll, visit their Web site. Sign up by **Tuesday, April 30** to maximize your earnings.

SmartCharge: If you have an electric car and live in the Con Edison service area, you can earn cash rewards for charging during off-peak times by enrolling in the SmartCharge program. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Food scraps make our regional waste incinerator less efficient, wasting energy and money. In landfills, food waste is a major source of methane emissions. Backyard composting is one way of turning waste into a resource for our gardens, but it can be time- and space-consuming, and there are limitations on what you can compost at home. Fortunately, every municipality in

Assembly District 95 has options for food scrap recycling, through which all food waste (including dairy, bones, and other materials not suitable for home composting) can be turned into compost. Click the following links to learn more about food scrap recycling in your town or city.

[Briarcliff/Ossining](#) | [Cortlandt](#) | [Peekskill](#) | [Philipstown](#) | [Yorktown](#)



Tax credits are available to help you save money while making environmentally sustainable upgrades to your home and vehicle. The Inflation Reduction Act offers various tax credits and rebates for the purchase of energy-efficient goods and services that help consumers do their part to combat climate change without spending a fortune.

- Now through the end of 2034, the Inflation Reduction Act's tax credits can cover up to 30% of qualifying purchases of renewable energy technology, with no cap on the total purchase price. This includes the cost of labor, permits and inspection. For more information, including availability and income eligibility, visit <https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2022-40.pdf>.
- The Inflation Reduction Act also contains tax credits that can help you save money on both new and used energy-efficient electric vehicles purchased after Jan. 1, 2023. For more information, including income eligibility, visit <https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2022-42.pdf>.

The EmPower New York Program

is here to make your home energy-efficient – for free!



Find out today if you're eligible for no-cost assessments and clean-energy upgrades to your home!

NYSERDA's EmPower New York program provides no-cost energy efficiency solutions to income-eligible New Yorkers. Homeowners and renters will be connected with a participating contractor to assess if a home would benefit from free energy upgrades such as:

- Home energy assessment to identify areas of possible energy improvements
- Tips on how to save energy
- Installation of high-efficiency lighting
- Attic and wall insulation
- Installation of clean heating and cooling heat pumps
- Replacement of old, inefficient refrigerators and freezers
- Water-saving showerheads
- A monthly electric bill credit of between \$5-\$15 from community solar.

To check your eligibility and apply, click [here](#).



There are hundreds of bills relating to the environment currently pending in the Legislature. Some highlights include the following:

- I am the prime sponsor of a bill, [A.7269](#), that would streamline the construction of solar canopies in the parking lots of parks. If passed, this legislation would put more solar energy into the grid and could enable municipalities to generate revenue by generating power. [Click here to learn more about the bill](#) and sign a petition to show your support for it, if you are so inclined.
- I am also the prime sponsor of legislation that would require inclusion of complete streets principles for certain Department of Transportation projects ([A.8423](#)). I also have a bill that would require publication of an annual report on the environmental radiation surveillance program ([A.6292](#)).
- Both houses of the Legislature recently passed legislation banning CO2 fracking ([A.8866](#)), which I co-sponsored. Fracking has been disastrous for the communities where it has been permitted, and we must continue to protect New York from its harms.
- I also co-sponsor the **New York Home Energy Affordable Transition**, or NY HEAT, Act. If passed, this bill would establish protections for low-to-moderate income customers to facilitate their transition to pollution-free appliances and ensure that no one pays more than 6% of their income on their energy bills. It would also eliminate ratepayer subsidies for gas system expansion, so the public isn't paying for infrastructure that will become obsolete.

Other environmental legislation I co-sponsor includes:

- The **Climate Change Superfund Act** ([A.3351A](#)), which would hold corporate polluters accountable for harm to our environment and require them to help pay for climate change resiliency and mitigation efforts.
- The **Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act** would require companies selling, or distributing covered packaging materials and products to reduce consumer packaging, improve recycling and recycling infrastructure, financially support municipal recycling programs, reduce toxins in packaging, and require producers of products to take responsibility for end-of-life solutions to product packaging.

- A number of bills that aim to eliminate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in various products, to protect our health.
- [A.2467](#), which would establish additional state and municipal composting programs and require government offices and agencies to start composting programs for their own buildings.
- [A.9164](#), which would authorize and direct the DEC commissioner to conduct a study on food waste initiatives and provide recommendations.

If you have questions or suggestions about these bills or any others, please feel free to reach out to my office at levenbergd@nyassembly.gov or (914) 941-1111.