

Environmental

Advocates

NY

EANY SUPPORTS

Fossil Fuel Phase-out



Memo #35

[S.2994-A \(Harckham\)](#)

[A.4801 \(Paulin\)](#)

Explanation:

This bill reduces harmful air pollution and cuts greenhouse gas emissions by phasing-out and ultimately prohibiting the use of heavy fuel oil number four in buildings and facilities across New York State. New York City successfully eliminated the use of number six heating oil and is in the process of helping building owners transition off number four heating oil. Westchester County has already eliminated the use of both fuels, and a statewide prohibition on number six fuel oil went into effect in 2023.

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) sets a clear mandate to phase-out the use of fossil fuels. Burning heavy fuel oils is bad for the environment and public health. Boilers utilizing number six and number four heating oil emit high levels of life-threatening pollutants, like particulate matter, that can trigger asthma attacks, contribute to heart disease, lung cancer, and premature death. Children and older adults are especially susceptible to the effects of air pollution.

This legislation improves air quality and reduces risks to public health. As the state transitions away from heavy fuel oils we urge that all replacement heating systems be powered by clean, renewable energy.

Summary:

This bill adds a new section to Article 19 of the Environmental Conservation Law to prohibit the use of heavy fuel oils in buildings. The legislation requires the phase-out of number four fuel oil by 2026. The bill allows municipalities to set more stringent requirements.