

New York

It's important that you reiterate some of the same information that was in the meeting request in your in-person introduction.

I am not a lobbyist, just a New Yorker. who has provided a living for my family and the families of our x employee members at xxx since 19xx. Over those years of helping homeowners, I have a good understanding of how important hearth products are to New Yorkers and how they can be a part of the solution regarding greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is a hot topic today, and it seems that almost everyone has a problem with how it's being addressed. I am hopeful you can provide me with some time to discuss this issue with you today.

First, I would like to say I am fully committed to the fact that we need to reduce our GHG emissions. We know this will not be easy, but it is necessary, and we need to use all the tools we have available to us to make the transition as safe and affordable for all New Yorker as possible.

What I would like to do today is to provide you with some facts regarding how both gas and biomass hearth & fireplace products can help reduce GHG emissions while also providing protection for New Yorkers when the power is out.

Talking points: Facts that support Hearth Products as part of the solution.

CAC scoping plan to reduce GHG emissions in NYS (details of plan below).

- The accelerated timeline to eliminate gas connections to new homes starting in 2026.
- A plan that discourages the use of Biomass going forward.
- The lack of reliability for New Yorkers in a scoping plan that does not include fuel choice.
- The true cost to New Yorkers of a plan that is designed on 100% electrification.

The accelerated timeline set forth in the plan to eliminate natural gas, propane, biomass is my primary concern. The current timeline, if implemented as proposed, would impose economic hardships and safety concerns for many New Yorkers.

1. Make Fuel Choice available to all New Yorkers. Based on a recent Siena College poll a *majority New Yorkers do not want to lose their option for natural gas, propane or wood and wood pellets, but they do see the need to reduce GHG emissions. Fuel choice was their desired option.*

Reason: Fuel choice allows New York homeowners to choose the type of energy they use. Depending on electricity alone is risky and expensive. Suburban and Urban homeowners know the need and want reliable options to heat their homes because they have experienced what happens when there is an interruption to their electricity. Most New Yorkers are not aware of the consequences proposed in the scoping plan or the existing initiatives relating to the proposals to move to full electrification. When New Yorkers were made a these proposals they voiced their desire for fuel choice, this pro fuel choice opinion was much more pronounced in the suburban and rural areas in the survey than the urban areas.

2. Allow Gas and wood fireplaces to be an option in new home construction in New York. Fireplaces are highly desired in homes in New York.

Reason: Based on research prepared by Homebuilder Magazine, the fireplace is the # 1 most desired option for a new home, whether they are building a new home or purchasing an existing one. There are more than 7.1 million homes in New York, and over 4.2 million have fireplaces or heating stoves. More than 2.1 million have gas fireplaces alone. There are another .5 million freestanding wood and gas stoves in New York homes. While this may not be as important to the urban cities, it surely is to New Yorks that live in the suburban and rural areas of upstate New York.

3. Allow Fuel Choice and spacing heating with wood, pellets and gas hearth appliances to be an option for New Yorkers. Space heating uses 40% less energy as compared to central heating with the same fuel.

Reason: Most New Yorker who own a hearth appliance such as a fireplace, fireplace insert, or freestanding stove do not use them for primary heating but rather to provide comfort to a smaller section of the home and emergency heat when the power goes out.

When compared to whole house heating, zone heating with space heaters can result in up to 40% less energy consumption. Zone heating has been embraced in the European market for years and works. Even the CAC embraces zone heating as shown with their promotion of air source mini split heat pumps rather than whole home central heating systems. These heat pumps are considered space or zone heating units, not designed for whole house heating or cooling.

4. Resiliency: Provide New Yorkers with a viable option for back-up emergency heat when electricity is not available.

Reason: Hearth Products can do this. hearth products, both biomass and gas are used in Out of the total 7 million homes in New York, over 4.2 million homes have a hearth appliance in their home, and they can provide a reliable back up heat source with or without electrical power. This resiliency is true for both biomass and gas appliances.

Electric Heat pumps cannot provide protection.

5. Efficiency: Allow New Yorkers to use modern efficient gas appliances that do not use a standing pilot and will operate during a power outage.

Reason: Today's modern gas space heaters such as gas fireplaces, gas inserts and gas free standing stoves utilize intermittent electronic ignition and are not dependent on a standing pilot to operate and provide heat. For years climate activists have asked to eliminate standing pilots. Well, in response, the industry has replaced the standing pilot with electronic ignition. Today modern gas hearth products not only have replaced the standing pilot with electronic ignition, but the electronic system used in modern gas hearth products is DC voltage and that means it has a built in 6 volt battery pack that will allow gas hearth products to operate even if the grid cannot supply New Yorkers electricity. It is highly agreed upon that space heating when compared to central heat, can save up to 40% on energy use, and less energy means less GHG emissions.

6. Carbon Neutral: Do not deny New Yorks the access the to burn a Carbon Neutral wood biomass energy source.

Reason: Based on information in The Biofuel Research Journal a study funded by NYSERDA in 2023 found the following. *“Optimized advanced technology wood-burning boilers and stoves can provide a CO2-neutral energy source and significantly contribute to a future where fossil fuels have a reduced role.”*

Because biomass is carbon neutral, it should never be denied or included as a fuel subject to a carbon tax.

7. Air quality improvements: Incentivize New Yorker to replace old existing biomass appliances to new advanced combustion technology appliances.

Reason: Older biomass appliances that were sold prior to the new EPA 2020 requirements do produce excessive amounts of PM2.5 emissions that are detrimental to the health of New Yorkers. A woodstove change-out program is needed. New EPA 2020 certified appliances reduce emissions by up to 98%

The Biofuel Research Journal study, funded by NYSERDA in 2023, also found the following.

“The results from this research show that design of advanced combustion systems that burn off combustion materials while using catalysts to capture specific toxic materials and optimize burning parameters to produce less reactive emissions will be of critical importance to minimize health and environmental effects.”

8. GHG emission reduction: Encourage Space heating with Gas or Biomass to reduce GHG emissions by 40%.

Reason: Both Propane and Natural Gas, as well as Biomass hearth products are primarily used as space heaters. Reducing the amount of space being heated can reduce energy usage up to a 40% when compared to Central Heating. A 40% reduction in fuel usage correlates directly to a 40% reduction in GHG emissions.

9. Provide funding for a wood stove change out program.

Reason: The industry has developed the technology in our products currently shipping and being installed today to be part of the solution to reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality and protect the health of New Yorkers, but we need the help of our elected officials to finish the job.

If sales of new advanced technology biomass equipment are restricted, this will mean that homeowners in New York will not be able to replace the old 50 gram / hour appliances currently in use today with new clean burning units. That means they will continue to keep burning the old dirty burning units they have. To make matters worse, when the cost of energy goes up due the move to electrification, homeowners will be looking the resurrect old units sitting in the barn to save money and that means more pollution.