



Deborah Lombardi-Aiello
Advocacy Team - Environment Chair
environment@suffolkpta.org

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EPA Affirms its Right to Limit Mercury from Power Plants

On January 31, 2022, President Biden's EPA Administrator Michael Regan proposed that the EPA reinstate the legal foundation of the standards that limit mercury and other toxic, carcinogenic pollution from coal-fired power plants. This will shore up standards that have helped slash mercury pollution by more than 80%, and shift the power sector towards cleaner energy. Mercury is harmful to the developing brain. It can interfere with normal brain development, lowering IQ and causing learning and behavioral problems. Children are especially vulnerable to the health effects of mercury, and pregnant women can pass mercury through their placenta into the brains of their developing babies.

<https://www.momscleanairforce.org/issues/air-pollution/mercury/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/01/31/mercury-power-plants-epa-climate/>

Governor Hochul Announces Start of Construction of New York's First Offshore Wind Project

Construction has begun on New York's first Offshore Wind Project. The South Fork Wind Project is expected to become operational in late 2023 and power 70,000 homes in nearby East Hampton. South Fork Wind will eliminate up to six million tons of carbon emissions over the next twenty-five years.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-start-construction-new-yorks-first-offshore-wind-project>

<https://www.theverge.com/2022/2/14/22933095/new-york-offshore-wind-farm-south-fork-long-island-construction>

The Birds and Bees Protection Act—A Commonsense, Science-Based Solution for New York

The New York Birds and Bees Protection Act (A7429/S699B) from Assemblyman Steve Englebright and State Senator Brad Hoylman would rein in harmful neonic pesticides. Neonicotinoids (AKA "neonics") are neurotoxic pesticides linked to mass losses of bees, birds, and fish; vast water contamination; and, increasingly, risks to human health. The Birds and Bees Protection Act bans two needless and harmful uses—which account for 80-90% of all neonic use in New York, without prohibiting any other neonic uses in agriculture or treatments against invasive species. It also builds on DEC's recent action to prohibit "over-the-counter" consumer neonic products in order to protect the health of bees and people. <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/daniel-raichel/can-ny-protect-bees-birds-people-toxic-pesticides>