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January 2022 Report

Governor Hochul Signs Lead Poisoning Prevention Legislation

Governor Kathy Hochul signed the unanimously approved legislation S. 2122-A/A. 160-B (Rivera/Gottfried), that will get more lead out of public school drinking water. This will strengthen the current lead poisoning prevention law by reducing lead levels in school drinking water from 15 parts per billion (ppb) to 5 ppb, increase testing to every three years, and many other improvements.
<https://nylcv.org/press-item/advocates-rejoice-as-governor-hochul-signs-lead-poisoning-prevention-legislation/>

Nearly \$3M in Grants Secured for Long Island Sound Preservation

Several local organizations dedicated to protecting Long Island's waterways have received a chunk of the \$2.94 million for initiatives that aim to improve water quality in the Long Island Sound. The funds are part of a larger slate of grants by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation called the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. About \$1 million will go to Save the Sound for its ongoing project to establish natural shorelines along Memorial Field in Udall's Cove at Little Neck Park in Queens. Other projects, undertaken by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE), will help remove marine debris from the Sound, as well as from Hempstead Harbor and Oyster Bay.

Educational projects are underway, as well. Citizens Campaign for the Environment has partnered with eight Long Island schools (Northport, Commack High School, Riverhead High School, Oyster Bay, Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, Brentwood High School, Rocky Point High School, and Smithtown High School West) for The Long Island Sound High School Summit, in which students conduct comprehensive research projects about the Sound. The program will educate, engage and empower students to get involved in protection and restoration of the Sound.

<https://www.longislandpress.com/2021/12/07/nearly-3m-in-grants-secured-for-long-island-sound-preservation/>

<https://www.facebook.com/citizensenviro/posts/275741934587967>

NYS ban on polystyrene foam containers and loose-fill begins Jan. 1

New York State residents and businesses will no longer be able to use Expanded Polystyrene Foam (EPS) packaging under a new state law. The ban will prohibit any person engaged in the business of selling or distributing disposable food service containers that contain EPS foam. EPS foam is a major contributor to environmental litter, causing negative impacts to wildlife, waterways, and natural resources. It breaks apart easily and does not readily biodegrade, rendering it persistent in the environment to become microplastic pollution. DEC and partners continue outreach efforts to advise affected entities about the ban, particularly sellers and distributors of disposable foodservice containers, such as retail food stores, restaurants, hospitals, and schools.

<https://www.news10.com/news/nys-ban-on-polystyrene-foam-containers-and-loose-fill-begins-jan-1/>



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Governor Hochul Signs Coal Tar Sealant Ban into Law

Coal tar sealants are commonly used in parking lots to “beautify” asphalt every few years. It contains high amounts of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), a known carcinogen. Within just a month the coal tar sealant is worn away and scraped off by car tires, and pieces are washed into storm drains and pollute rivers, lakes, and streams.

<https://www.citizenscampaign.org/whats-new-at-cce/highlights-and-happenings-november-2021>

NY’s First Offshore Wind Farm Gets Federal Approval

In November, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a Record of Decision on South Fork Wind Farm, the 130MW project off the coast of Montauk that will power the South Fork of Long Island and offsets the need for a new fossil fuel plant, providing clean energy for tens of thousands of Long Island homes.

<https://www.citizenscampaign.org/whats-new-at-cce/highlights-and-happenings-november-2021>

Governor Hochul wants thorough review of additional waste facility proposed for Brookhaven

Governor Kathy Hochul has joined NAACP advocates in their efforts to delay the creation of another waste facility in the town of Brookhaven. The Governor called on the federal Surface Transportation Board to ensure Yaphank and North Bellport residents have a say in discussions of a proposed \$182 million waste transfer station that would be built near the Brookhaven Town landfill. The facility would process up to 2,000 tons a day of debris from construction and demolition projects and ship the waste by rail to landfills out of state. Brookhaven NAACP has advocated for residents of minority communities near the site to have a say in whether the plant gets built.

<https://www.wshu.org/long-island-news/2021-12-02/hochul-comes-out-in-opposition-to-creating-an-additional-waste-facility-in-brookhaven>

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/suffolk/waste-transfer-station-letter-hochul-public-input-1.50444207>