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Advocacy Team – Environment

## October 2021 Report

### **Hochul allots \$59M to create ‘Clean Green Schools’ across New York**

<https://www.silive.com/news/2021/09/hochul-allots-59m-to-create-clean-green-schools-across-new-york.html>

Beginning in early 2022, \$59 million will be allocated toward improving indoor air quality and reducing carbon emissions in more than 500 schools across New York state. Governor Kathy Hochul’s Clean Green Schools initiative will cultivate clean energy and energy efficiency solutions to create healthier learning environments in public and private Pre-K-12 schools in underserved communities statewide. The initiative will provide schools with tools, such as benchmarking, energy management, indoor air quality assessments, commissioning support, student engagement in clean energy, and professional development opportunities around clean energy and sustainability.

### **DEC proposes rules for single-use foam ban**

[http://www.oswegocountynewsnow.com/news/dec-proposes-rules-for-styrofoam-ban/article\\_c356f25e-165e-11ec-ad77-63bbf6ebbc5e0.html](http://www.oswegocountynewsnow.com/news/dec-proposes-rules-for-styrofoam-ban/article_c356f25e-165e-11ec-ad77-63bbf6ebbc5e0.html)

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation announced proposed regulations which are set to ban polystyrene containers and loose fill packaging, also known as “packing peanuts.” DEC said the polystyrene ban would go into effect Jan. 1. Under the proposed regulations, examples of food service providers required to comply with the ban include Elementary and secondary schools and universities.

### **Vote Yes for Environmental Rights Amendment**

<https://www.ourairourwaterny.org/faq/>

This fall, New Yorkers have the opportunity to vote and add the right to clean air, water and a healthful environment to our State Constitution. The measure will appear as a question on the 2021 general election ballot. It declares every New Yorker has the right to clean air and clean water and a healthful environment. It puts these rights in front of every decision the government makes. Before a legislative body passes a law, a government agency issues a permit, or provides a grant, it will have to consider if doing so would violate a person’s right to clean air or water.

### **Experts: Long Island could see ‘very strong increase’ of flooding in two decades**

<https://suffolktimes.timesreview.com/2021/07/experts-long-island-could-see-very-strong-increase-of-flooding-in-two-decades/>

A new study has predicted more frequent high tide flooding on U.S. coastlines in the mid-2030s, exacerbated by climate change-induced sea-level rise and tidal patterns influenced by the moon’s 18.6-year cycle. Flooding from significant rainfall on top of all that could make things even more devastating, as seen from the damaging and deadly flash floods that occurred in September from Hurricane Ida.



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Both Nassau and Suffolk counties have been added to a Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster declaration in the aftermath of Ida. The move means federal funds will help clean up damage on Long Island. There are disaster recovery centers open on Long Island to assist individuals who are recovering from storm Ida. Centers are currently open daily from 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM, including Saturday and Sunday. <https://www.longislandpress.com/2021/09/15/post-ida-disaster-recovery-centers-open-in-new-hyde-park-mount-sinai/>

Individuals can also apply for FEMA assistance directly through the FEMA website: <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual> or by calling: 800-621-3362.

**Groundwater pollution at closed Riverhead landfill is 10x state limit, investigation finds**

<https://riverheadlocal.com/2021/09/21/groundwater-pollution-at-closed-riverhead-landfill-is-10x-state-limit-investigation-finds/>

Chemical contaminants known to have a wide range of health risks have been detected at the Riverhead landfill site on Youngs Avenue at levels up to more than 10 times the state drinking water standard, prompting an investigation by environmental and health officials into potential contamination of nearby private wells. Sampling at existing monitoring wells at the Riverhead landfill, which closed in 1993, showed maximum concentrations of 110 parts per trillion (ppt) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and 49 ppt for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation said. Under new drinking water standards adopted by the state last year, the maximum level for both contaminants is 10 ppt.

A report released earlier this year from Citizens Campaign for the Environment lists 21 water districts across Long Island as having received two-year deferrals on meeting new state limits for certain chemicals in their water systems.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b72eb5b8ab7222baffc8dbb/t/605a1b2f12c4521db00bfe89/1616517936188/4+pager+MCL+deferrals+final.pdf>

**County legislators pass honey bee protection bill**

<https://riverheadlocal.com/2021/07/29/county-legislators-pass-honey-bee-protection-bill/>

Commercial exterminators in Suffolk will be prohibited from destroying honey bee colonies or swarms without first consulting a beekeeper for assistance in trying to relocate the bees, under a bill passed by the county legislature.