



Clean Water, Jobs, and Wilderness.

New York's Adirondack Park is a national treasure. Bold action is needed now to preserve it for current and future generations. The Forever Adirondacks Clean Water, Jobs and Wilderness Coalition seeks a significant federal and state investment in an **Adirondack Green New Deal**. There are three major elements of this:

I. Clean Water:

Adirondack forests filter our water and air, so we have clean water to drink, and clean air to breathe:

1. **Approve Clean Water Infrastructure Funding** (including drinking water, wastewater treatment and natural systems): Authorize programs and funding to address failing community waste water treatment and **septic systems** with inspection and upgrade programs, with grants to assist communities and homeowners (\$200M needed) to protect clean water, wetlands and natural flood protections.
2. **Improve Adirondack Clean Water Protection Planning**: Address threats including aquatic and terrestrial invasive species or forest pests/pathogens, excess road salt and pollution from untreated or inadequately treated human waste, and uncontrolled runoff. Provide for and assist communities with coordinated watershed planning, incentives and clean water and source water planning and protection at scale.
3. **Protect Forests**: Forests filter clean drinking water, sequester carbon and combat climate change, provide wildlife habitat and recreation, and with sustainable management, provide wood products.
4. **Protect Clean Air**: Provide sufficient funding to modernize the nation's air quality monitoring network and incorporate climate change data-collection into research grants. Set safer standards for air pollutants that harm public health, forests and waters. Protect low-income residents – both urban and rural – from upwind commercial traffic and industrial pollution.
5. **Fund Science and Adirondack Research and Monitoring Efforts**: Create a funding mechanism and structure to ensure that scientific research, studies and regular long-term monitoring are conducted by a network of partners as part of a comprehensive and coordinated Park-specific research agenda. Inform management of the Park and responsible development, and create and retain a network of research, researchers, and field technician jobs throughout the Adirondacks.

II. Jobs: (Green Collar Jobs)

The Adirondack Park needs investment(s) to upgrade green infrastructure, put people to work and foster more vibrant communities:

6. **Launch an Adirondack Green New Deal and Green Jobs Program**: Invest in renewable energy, natural resilience solutions, clean water, state land-stewardship jobs and green infrastructure to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts -- on natural and human communities. Marshal talent and public and private capital to create well-paying jobs.
7. **Improve Broadband, Communications and Community Infrastructure to support jobs**: Provide reliable cell service and emergency communications infrastructure in towns and along public roads. Support an expanded workforce. Diversify the economy beyond its current reliance on

tourism. Support health care, education, housing, childcare, public spaces, an equitable food system, and local businesses.

6. **Fund Good Paying Forest Ranger, Trail Crew and other State Land Stewardship Jobs:** Update civil service job titles and requirements. With public-private partnerships hire more forest rangers, assistants, researchers, field technicians, planners, stewards, caretakers, trail crew, educators (400+ new f/t staff) to complement and augment existing staff. Fund trails with a new \$5M/year for 20 years for sustainable trails. Rebuild numbers of state-employed professionals and offer corrections-to-conservation retraining to those impacted by North Country prison closures and consolidations. Expand Excelsior Conservation Corps. Facilitate “High Peaks to Harbor” traineeships connecting Adirondack colleges and NYC-based universities.
7. **Establish New Full-time Education Jobs:** Support jobs not centered on the recreational or tourism economy to build more equitable, sustainable, safe, diverse and welcoming communities. Include technology and non-exportable interpretation jobs across the Park. Also include visitor centers and an Adirondack Public Information Alliance to deliver unified messaging, to clearly and compellingly articulate the global significance of the Park. Staff an expanded Adirondack park corps of interpreters with local and state partnerships.
8. **Approve a \$4B Clean Water, Climate & Jobs 2022 environmental bond act:** This will generate 65,000+ well-paid jobs for New Yorkers while protecting clean water and the environment. The Bond Act will support **working landscapes**, family farms, climate-resilience and forestry jobs.

III. Wilderness:

The Adirondack Park is home to irreplaceable wildlife and natural places that should be managed and enjoyed responsibly:

11. **Implement Next Generation Wilderness Protections; Address overuse with public-private partnerships:** Approve comprehensive, coordinated, outreach and education, new and rebuilt trails, improved visitor-use and destination management. Add new protections including more rangers and limits on use at some locations on some dates. Improve and expand more equitable public access, invest in community infrastructure and recreational connections between communities. Fund and use the "Visitor Use Management Framework."
12. **Protect 50,000 acres (Whitney & Follensby) with Public/Private/Local Conservation Partnerships:** Protect via public/private partnership the Whitney Estate, Follensby Pond and other key tracts, including new public recreational opportunities.
13. **Preserve Wilderness and Combat Climate Change:** Provide opportunities for snowmobiles, bikes and other motorized recreation including non-wilderness-dependent recreation. Preserve “Forever Wild” clause, Article XIV of NY’s Constitution. Help address climate change via private forestry by providing incentives to those who allow areas of previously-logged forest to mature so they can remove vast amounts carbon from the air, while recovering their ecological potential and carbon storage capacity.
14. **Establish and Fund an Adirondack Park Trust:** Create and provide dedicated funding for an Adirondack Park Trust to invest in clean water, jobs, wilderness and communities, to supplement and complement state funding and other private efforts.
15. **Reimagine, Reform and Fund the Adirondack Park Agency:** Update laws and regulations to focus on protecting the park’s clean water, natural resources and wild character. Re-establish Local Government Days and the planning assistance circuit-riders to help town planning and zoning officials. Incentivize and support local and regional planning, and hamlet-centric development. Improve protections against overdevelopment of shorelines and the backcountry. Approve "Conservation Design" legislation. Improve opportunities for public input.