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NEW YORK

AS SEEN IN



# BIG IDEAS

FOR A NEW  
NEW YORK

The coronavirus crisis  
made all of our worst  
problems worse.  
Here's how we fix them.

**IT'S  
FINALLY  
2021**

What to expect  
this session

**THE  
ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENT  
100**

# ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT POWER 100

**The advocates, executives, academics and government officials shaping New York's transition to sustainability.**

**AS CLIMATE CHANGE** poses a growing threat across the globe, New York has been mounting an increasingly aggressive response with measures to slash carbon emissions, invest in renewable power and boost energy efficiency across the board. Last year's state Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which sets ambitious targets for eliminating fossil fuel power and reducing greenhouse gases, is a model for the nation. In New York City, Local Law 97 set strict limits on emissions from buildings, the city's biggest carbon producer. In Wash-

ington, the incoming Biden administration may not go as far as some environmentalists would like, but it has pledged to rejoin the Paris climate accord – and New Yorker Ali Zaidi, the governor's former deputy energy secretary, has been summoned to Washington to help, while state environmental Commissioner Basil Seggos was considered to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. In this time of transition, the energy industry is adapting in different ways. Renewable energy companies that develop offshore wind and solar power are thriving.

Traditional power producers are rebranding as environmentally conscious actors, though some find themselves at the center of contentious debates over the long- and short-term role of natural gas or nuclear power. And even within the environmental movement, younger and more diverse activists are demanding stronger measures while putting a renewed emphasis on race and social justice. City & State's Energy & Environment Power 100 identifies the key players who are driving the debate – and the policies – here in New York.

and in Oswego, waged a high-profile fight to repower an upstate coal plant in Dunkirk but lost that battle in 2018. Now industry veteran Mauricio Gutierrez, who has branded NRG as a eco-friendly company, is launching an effort to repower its Queens peaker plant with natural gas, which hard-line activists oppose.

**47**

**MARIE J. FRENCH**  
Reporter  
Politico New York

Besides wonkish trade publications and financial analysts and the occasional stories from big daily newspapers, the energy industry and its interplay with the environmental movement doesn't get as much coverage as it deserves - though Politico New York's Marie J. French is the exception that proves the rule. For the past four years, French has dominated the state's energy coverage with a steady stream of scoops and insightful analyses.

**48**

**RAYA SALTER & STEPHAN EDEL**  
Lead Policy Organizer;  
Coalition Coordinator  
New York Renews

The New York Renews coalition boasts more than 200 organizations powering its organizing efforts, which played a big role in the push for the state's nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. With New York now exploring how to meet its ambitious renewable energy goals, New York Renews brought on Working Families Party veteran Stephan Edel and attorney Raya Salter, who was also named to the state's Climate Action Council.

**49**

**DAVID WEINRAUB**  
Co-Founder and  
Managing Partner  
Brown & Weinraub

As managing partner of top lobbying firm Brown &

**The ascension of progressives paved the way for transformative changes in energy policy.**

Weinraub, David Weinraub directs its strategy to represent a wide range of clients. One area that he specializes in, however, is energy and environmental policy. He represented Orsted, which is behind one of the state's first offshore wind developments; helped Entergy negotiate the closure of Indian Point; and is working with multiple clients to help New York meet its ambitious clean energy goals.

**50**

**LISA DIX**  
Senior New York  
Campaign Manager  
Sierra Club

As a top Sierra Club operative in New York, Lisa Dix has been on the front lines of a

number of recent victories for environmentalists, from state legislation setting an aggressive timeline to achieve renewable energy targets to phasing out coal power. She also is on the steering committee for the New York Offshore Wind Alliance, which has seen the Cuomo administration spearhead several groundbreaking offshore wind projects.



**51**

**ALEX BEAUCHAMP**  
Northeast Region  
Director  
Food & Water Watch

The ascension of progressive Democrats in New York has paved the way for transformative changes in energy policy, from the state's landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to New York City's stricter building emission limits. But perhaps the biggest breakthrough was the campaign led by activists like Alex Beauchamp that pushed the Cuomo administration to ban hydraulic fracturing. Beauchamp hasn't let up, demanding more funding to combat climate change and opposing new gas pipelines.

TIMOTHY RAAB & NORTHERN PHOTO; KEN SCHLES; TBA; BENJAMIN KANTER



Lobbyist David Weinraub specializes in energy and environmental policy.

**52**

**MILES GOODRICH**  
Fundraising Director  
Sunrise Movement

The Sunrise Movement is a youth-driven campaign tackling climate change by pressuring candidates for public office to reject funding from fossil fuel companies while pushing for a national Green New Deal. While it's notable for its decentralized structure, one particularly active figure in the movement in New York is Miles Goodrich, the group's former political director in New York who is now its national fundraising director.



Rocco J. Lacertosa  
Chief Executive Officer  
New York State Energy Coalition

**53**

**TONIO BURGOS**  
Founder and CEO  
TBA

Tonio Burgos has long been a top lobbyist in New York City and in Albany, but he has also become a big-time player in New Jersey and Washington, D.C., while retaining his roots in the Empire State. And while his firm represents a wide range of companies, it has significant experience and expertise in the energy sector,

**Anbaric is pitching an "ocean grid" to link up with other offshore power facilities.**

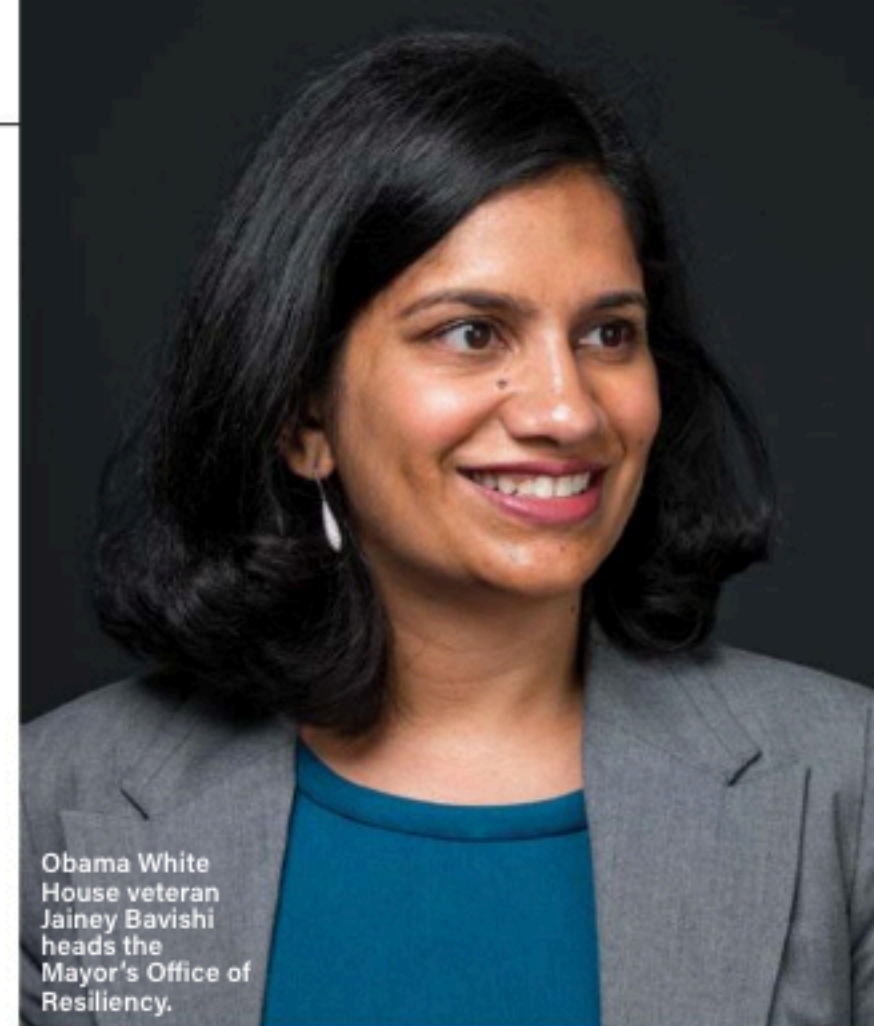
particularly in representing a number of wind energy industry clients.

**54**

**ROCCO LACERTOSA**  
CEO  
New York State Energy Coalition

In recent years New York has taken steps to increase the use of biodiesel, a renewable alternative to petroleum, to help tackle dirty building emissions. That has helped Rocco Lacertosa make the heating oil industry cleaner and greener. The industry veteran recently oversaw the merger of the New York Oil Heating Association and the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island into the New York State Energy Coalition, which he now leads.

Obama White House veteran Jainey Bavishi heads the Mayor's Office of Resiliency.



**55**

**JANICE FULLER**  
President, Mid-Atlantic  
Anbaric

With two offshore wind developments moving forward in New York and Gov. Andrew Cuomo pushing for more, the electric transmission and storage company Anbaric is positioning itself to get involved in the state's renewable energy expansion. Anbaric recently promoted Janice Fuller to oversee the company's entire mid-Atlantic portfolio, making her the point person in New Jersey and New York, where the company is pitching an "ocean grid," which would link up with other offshore power facilities.

**56**

**CRAIG HART**  
Executive Director  
Pace Energy and Climate Center

Over the past three decades, the Pace Energy and Climate Center has become an invaluable resource in

**57**

**BILL MCCARTHY & PATRICK MCHUGH**  
Partners  
Bolton-St. Johns

Given the seismic changes to New York's energy policy, there's plenty of demand for lobbyists with industry expertise. At Bolton-St. Johns, which represents such heavy hitters as the offshore wind developer Equinor, veteran lobbyist Bill McCarthy is an expert at navigating the state Public Service Commission's approval process. A more recent addition to the team with energy expertise is Patrick McHugh, the founder of The Elk Street Group, who was brought on last year.

**58**

**JAINEY BAVISHI**  
Director  
New York City Mayor's Office of Resiliency

Since she was appointed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to lead the Mayor's Office of Resiliency in 2017, Jainey Bavishi hasn't been waiting around for the Trump administration to help bolster the city's infrastructure in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. But with the Biden administration taking office soon, she's hoping Washington - which she knows well as a White House veteran - will resume its efforts to protect New York Harbor.