

§ 135-2 Legislative findings and intent.

A. In 2019, the State of New York enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), thereby creating one of the most ambitious and comprehensive climate and energy laws in the country. The CLCPA calls for nothing less than the decarbonization of the New York State economy and calls on each and every municipality in the state to collaboratively work to significantly increase the green energy business infrastructure in their municipalities to the greatest extent possible. New York has set aggressive goals through the CLCPA, and has established a target of reaching a point where no less than 70% of the state's electricity consumption will be derived from renewable power generation by the year 2030, a target of zero-emission electricity by 2040, and a target of reducing statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 85% from 1990 levels by 2050.

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D. The Albany County Legislature further finds that New York State has begun planning and developing for the commissioning of new Advanced Nuclear Technologies in order to meet the energy needs of the State and remain in compliance with the CLCPA. The plans developed by the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) to be constructed and overseen by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) represent a unique opportunity for new development and construction jobs for developing parts and components for these new Advanced Nuclear Power Plants. Investment to attract these ancillary businesses represent an opportunity for economic growth and development within Albany County.

E. [D.] The intention of the Albany County Legislature is to establish a Sustainable Technology and Green Energy Plan, which will invigorate and diversify the green business industry in the County of Albany for years to come and contribute to significant economic development, job retention and development.

GREEN BUSINESS

Any entity that is a for-profit business that produces goods or provides services that benefit the environment, conserve natural resources or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Green businesses include, but are not limited to, corporations that manufacture, produce, build, engineer, service, supply and/or distribute any product which produces clean energy sources or reduces emissions in other sectors of the economy, such as building or transportation, in order to meet local, state and federal sustainability goals and contribute demonstrably to the green business footprint in the County. For purposes of this definition the term “clean energy sources” shall include any part or component of an advanced nuclear energy technology, as defined by NYSERDA or NYPA, developed for use in construction of such facilities for projects to be located outside of Albany County. Examples of businesses eligible for consideration under this definition include those associated with renewable energy, energy storage, electric vehicles, geothermal technologies, advanced nuclear technologies deployed outside of Albany County, and zero-emission thermal energy networks.