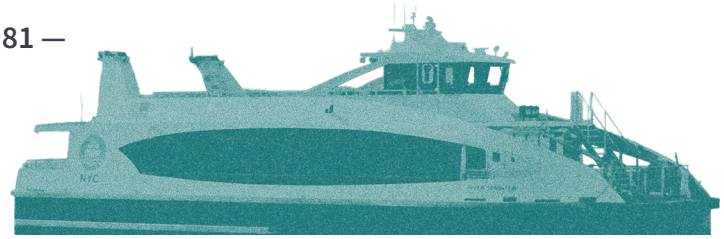


PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT

NEW YORK STATE CLEAN FERRIES ACT

IMPROVE AIR QUALITY • PROTECT WILDLIFE • GROW GREEN JOBS • REACH CLIMATE GOALS

The New York State Clean Ferries Act — A.11303/S.10381 — protects our air and our water, advances New York's climate goals and promotes economic development in the rapidly growing clean transportation sector by establishing specific timelines for publicly funded ferries to transition from diesel fuel to zero emissions.



The bill also calls on New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) to conduct a feasibility study to support the transition of workboats (primarily tugboats) to zero emissions.

New York needs to take action to address the public health crisis created by diesel fuel pollution. As well as reducing toxic emissions from ferries, the New York State (NYS) Clean Ferries Act will help grow well-paying green jobs and position New York as a leader in this burgeoning clean transportation market.

THE PROBLEM

The publicly-funded ferries operating in NYS waterways are fossil fuel-powered, harming public health and impeding the state's climate goals.



- **In NYS, the transportation sector accounts for almost one-third of GHG emissions**, a share that is growing because other sectors have decreased their emissions.
- Air pollution from ferries and other marine transportation has a significant impact on the environment and people's health but is often overlooked. **NYC Ferry alone emits 180,000 kg of nitrogen oxides (NOx) a year,** equivalent to the NOx emissions from 116,000 cars. The National Transit Database reports that NY Waterway used 1,737,934 gallons of diesel fuel for ferry operations in fiscal year 2024.
- **Burning diesel fuel releases asthma- and cancer-causing air pollutants that harm passengers and nearby communities.** Additionally, diesel-engine ferries carry the risk of oil leaks and spills which contaminate the water and harm the aquatic environment.
- **Ferries running on diesel fuel put New York's public transportation at the mercy of volatile global markets.**

THE SOLUTION

Zero-emission ferries reduce air, water and noise pollution, which benefits public health, aquatic environments and the climate. Investment in zero-emission ferries also supports the state's economic development and the state's climate plan that calls for electrification of the transportation sector.



Zero-emission ferries produce well-paying, skilled jobs because they require installation and maintenance of shoreside charging and grid connectivity — as well as servicing — all jobs that stay in NYS.

Zero-emission ferries, like electric ferries, save operators money and provide energy security by running on power that is resilient to overseas conflicts and shocks to international supply chains. One estimate shows that transitioning the NYC Ferry fleet to all-electric can save the operator $248 million over a 15-year period versus continuing to operate the existing fleet of conventional, diesel-powered ferries.

Modernizing the state's ferry fleet by upgrading to zero-emission vessels would bring New York up to par with cities and countries around the world already on the path to electrification of their ferry fleets.

- **North America:** Washington state has committed to converting its entire fleet to hybrid-electric power by 2040 and to achieving a zero-carbon-emission ferry fleet by 2050.
- **Europe:** In 2018, the Norwegian Parliament adopted zero-emission regulations for ferries, cruise ships and tourist boats in its World Heritage fjords, requiring compliance by no later than 2026. As of 2026, Norway has around 180 battery electric ferries in regular service.
- **Asia:** Zero-emission ferries are seeing rapid uptake in Asia. As of 2025, Bangkok had about 30 electric ferries in regular service and several dozen smaller electric commuter ferries and water taxis in operation. The Republic of Korea is actively replacing 140 state-owned diesel-powered ferries with all-electric alternatives by 2030.



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