



## Environment

### Ethical Points

- Ⓒ Damage to the environment will eventually affect most people, but the impact falls most heavily on the poor and others already oppressed.
- Ⓒ Caring for creation calls for attention to two principles
  - Ⓒ sufficiency -- being able to meet the basic needs of all
  - Ⓒ sustainability – “providing an acceptable quality of life for the present without compromising that of future generations” (ELCA Caring for Creations: Vision, Hope, and Justice)

### Background

- Ⓒ While climate change and global warming have been discussed and debated the situation has become more of a threat.
- Ⓒ Global warming is the number 1 threat to New York’s environment and economy
- Ⓒ Damage to the environment will affect most people. It will have its first and greatest impacts on the poor.
- Ⓒ Thus New York can begin to deal with climate change and fight global warming by
  - Ⓒ encouraging clean energy
  - Ⓒ expanding energy conservation
  - Ⓒ increasing energy independence
  - Ⓒ encouraging recycling



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**What Will Help**

**Net Metering**

Expanded net metering would remove the limitation on size of eligible systems and

- C make additional power available during periods of peak demand
- C reduce stress on transmission lines
- C lessen pollution generated by traditional power plants and diesel generators
- C give businesses, farmers and residential property owners opportunity to invest in and profit from clean energy generation.

**System Benefits Charge (SBC)**

Adding a SBC to natural gas will enable NY State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) expansion into air conditioning and heating programs.

**Climate Change Office**

Financial, organization and staff resources are needed to respond to Climate Change. Establishing a Climate Change Office within NYSDEC would help NY implement controls

**Bigger, Better Bottle Bill**

Amending Environmental Conservation Law 27-1003(1) to include non-carbonated drinks other than milk and liquor to the definition of "beverage" in the state returnable container act to, and direct the unclaimed deposit money to the Environmental Protection Fund.

(3/07)

**Member Denominations**

American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Empire Baptist Missionary Convention, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.

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