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NYPIRG STATEMENT ON IPCC CLIMATE REPORT

(Albany, N.Y.) The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) today released a major new report finding that the world is likely locked in to at least 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming above pre-industrial temperatures and some climate damage is irreversible. To prevent exceeding 1.5 degrees warming and more severe impacts, the report stated that carbon emissions can no longer be added to the atmosphere by 2050.

The report underscored that global warming is unequivocally due to human activity and fossil fuels cannot be burned to prevent even more dire outcomes with 2, 3, or even 4 degrees of warming.

The following statement is attributable to Liz Moran, Environmental Policy Director for NYPIRG:

“The latest IPCC report makes clear that for the future of humanity, inaction or half-hearted measures on climate will usher in a harrowing future. New York State has already lost lives due to the climate crisis be it from superstorms Irene and Sandy, deadly heatwaves, or premature deaths due to asthma. Within the past two months alone, New York has seen two heat waves, darkened skies and dangerous air quality due to the wildfires devastating the western United States, and unprecedented and dangerous rainfall and flooding. It has been a stark reminder that New York’s adoption of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act is not enough. For New York to step up, the Climate Action Council, and especially the Legislature, must pass and adopt bold policies that end New York’s reliance on fossil fuels. Such policies must include holding climate polluters financially accountable, like the Climate and Community Investment Act, and ending nonessential fossil fuel subsidies. Additionally, the state should produce an annual [climate scorecard](#) to inform the public about where the state stands in respect to its climate goals, which would enable the public to advocate for the bold climate policies needed. The IPCC report demonstrates that for the 2022 legislative session, New York’s lawmakers can’t let climate polluters off the hook.”

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