

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
PHONE 311 (or 212-NEW-YORK outside NYC)
FAX (212) 788-2460



New York Climate Rescue
Local Action ~ Global Results
www.climaterescue.org

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

A recent study by the U.S. EPA now shows that New York City has the worst air quality in the nation. As a constituent, I am concerned about this development for the following reasons:

- **Air quality has steadily worsened under your administration** meaning that New Yorkers are now exposed to the highest level of air-borne cancer toxins in the country. Non-smoking New Yorkers now have the same risks for lung cancer that smokers in cleaner parts of the country have.
- New York also has the highest asthma rates in the nation which has led to 613 deaths from 2001-03 (latest data available). This means that for the over 180 thousand kids with asthma in the city life just got harder.
- The same sources of hazardous air pollution are also sources of greenhouse gas emissions which cause global warming - a major long term threat to the city.
- Global warming has already caused average temperatures to rise in the New York region leading to more dangerous heat waves, less dependable rainfall patterns and worsening air quality on hot summer days. In addition, warmer temperatures have led to the introduction of tropical diseases like West Nile virus. And this is just the beginning...
- Unchecked, global warming will expose New York more violent weather events such as hurricanes and result in the loss of coastal areas and low-lying infrastructure due to sea-level rise.
- These threats have already resulted in such financial impacts as Allstate Insurance (25% of NYC's homeowners insurance market) refusing to insure Brooklyn homeowners as a result of hurricane threats. Studies by NOAA and MIT show that increased hurricane intensity is a direct result of global warming, as tragically demonstrated in New Orleans.

So New Yorkers are now exposed, not just to increased health risks and associated costs, but are also exposed to new financial risks, such as uninsured property loss in a storm, simply because polluters are allowed to foul our air and destabilize our climate with greenhouse gas emissions. **Clearly, not enough is being done to address these problems and I am writing to ask what significant new measures you will take to address them?**

In the meantime here are some suggestions. **I ask that you please support the following bills that are currently before the Environmental Protection Committee of the City Council:**

- Intro. 20: Establishes a plan for the city government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption.
- Intro. 18: Establishes a survey regarding clean on-site power generation for city facilities.
- Intro. 23: Creates of a program for building commissioning that promotes energy efficiency and conservation training.

Please let me know what your position is on these bills and what other solutions you have planned to address the city's air quality and global warming crises.

Sincerely - Your Constituent,