



your valley

Victory for Environment, Public Safety—Indian Point to Close!

Gov. Andrew Cuomo in January announced that his administration had reached an agreement to close the Indian Point nuclear plant in Westchester by 2021, a tribute to his leadership and the persistence of Scenic Hudson and our partners in achieving this outcome.

Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper and others have fought for decades to force Indian Point to shut down or replace antiquated cooling technology that has contributed to significant declines in the Hudson River's fish populations. The agreement cuts 14 years off the date for ceasing operations requested by the plant's owner, Entergy—meaning river habitats will begin healing faster.

Closing the facility also means the 20 million people residing within 50 miles of the outdated plant no longer need to live in fear of a potential disaster.

Environmental fund will benefit local communities

As part of the agreement, Entergy will establish a \$15-million fund for environmental projects offering surrounding communities public benefits—including dam removal, wetlands protection and invasive species control. All will help to restore the riverfront's ecology and provide a catalyst for new economic opportunities based on connecting people to a healthy Hudson.

Demonstrating the vital contributions of Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper, the agreement gives both groups the right to challenge and take enforcement action against any future violations Entergy may commit at Indian Point. In addition, we will be able to challenge any extension of closure deadlines.

Along with applauding Gov. Cuomo, Scenic Hudson salutes Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and Riverkeeper for their roles in reaching this moment, and we appreciate the commitment of the governor and Entergy to help plant workers find new jobs.

Make a Difference Locally

As new leadership in Washington raises concerns about environmental policies, Scenic Hudson will be innovative and tireless in working with concerned citizens to advance our shared mission. Your passion and energies will be vital, and Scenic Hudson will be there to help you stand up for the health, beauty and sustainability of the Hudson River Valley.

On the state government front—for all who care about clean water, public safety and the Hudson Valley's world-class natural resources, Gov. Andrew Cuomo's January State of the State address had much to cheer. Announcing the historic closure of Indian Point, the governor built on his environmental leadership by proposing an unprecedented \$2-billion investment in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and renewal of a \$300-million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

Clean water essential for healthy, prosperous communities

Failing wastewater systems in the valley are a top source of pollution, preventing us from swimming, fishing and enjoying clean water. Simultaneously, drinking water sources are at risk. Gov. Cuomo's proposal will help solve these problems and support economic opportunity. Importantly, he commits significant funding to conserve lands that buffer reservoirs and aquifers and to the state's Superfund, critical for expediting hazardous waste cleanups.

EPF supports vibrant tourism, agricultural economies

The governor's \$300-million EPF matches last year's appropriation, the highest in history. It will spur land protection, conserve family farms, enhance enjoyment of the river and revitalize waterfronts—all essential to boost jobs in tourism and agriculture. EPF funds directly support our region's farmers—who supply fresh food to local and New York City neighborhoods—as well as our work helping communities adapt to climate change impacts.

Gov. Cuomo has proposed the 750-mile Empire State Trail. Part of this will connect the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail and Erie Canalway Trail—creating a recreational route from Manhattan to Buffalo. A major 2017 goal is completing the Greenway trail from New York City to the Capital Region. Through your support, Scenic Hudson has played a major role filling in “missing links” of this trail.

Scenic Hudson will champion passage of the governor's budget. You can help—please contact your state legislators and ask them to support a healthy, prosperous Hudson Valley. For contact information:

www.scenichudson.org/legislativemaps.



As always, I applaud and thank you for all you do.

Ned Sullivan, President

ADVOCACY UPDATE

PCBs: Pressing for a more complete cleanup—In an essential step for restoring public health and jobs, the Cuomo administration appears committed to completing a comprehensive Hudson River PCB cleanup—critical since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has failed to compel polluter General Electric to remove toxins that still contaminate the Hudson and its fish. We continue pressing for the governor's endorsement of a timetable and strategy for performing additional sampling and dredging of the river and Champlain Canal.

Anchorage: Video brings to life devastating impacts—New anchorages proposed for the Hudson River—“parking lots” for 43 massive barges bearing crude oil and other hazardous materials—could pose serious risks to local water supplies, irreplaceable aquatic habitats and scenic vistas vital to the valley's tourism economy, and efforts to revitalize downtown waterfronts. Our video featuring simulated 3-D flyovers of the anchorages is a great way to learn about these threats. View it at youtu.be/KnaAp3yjBZE and be sure to share it with others.

Desalination plant: A win for Rockland ratepayers—After strong opposition from Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper and other partners in the Rockland Water Coalition, the state Public Service Commission (PSC) took the unusual step of rejecting a settlement its own staff negotiated for Suez Water New York, Inc.'s abandoned plans for a desalination plant. The suggested deal would have saddled Rockland County ratepayers with a \$90-million charge and allowed Suez to implement a poorly designed water-conservation strategy. While the decision could have been stronger, the PSC cut Suez's earnings and requires the company to increase incentives for water conservation, reduce leaks and install more efficient fixtures in the homes of low-income customers.



Success with Three More Family Farms to Boost Fresh Food Supply

We recently collaborated with three farm families and fellow land trusts to protect nearly 500 agricultural acres that supply fresh food to local and New York City markets or grow crops essential to the operations of nearby food-producing farms.

Farmer Morse Pitts, owner of Windfall Farms in Hamptonburgh (Orange County), has been a three-decade mainstay at New York City's Union Square Greenmarket, selling vegetables, eggs and edible flowers. He partnered with us and the Orange County Land Trust to protect his 143-acre farm, a portion of which he plans to make available to new farmers interested in starting small, "incubator"-style farms.

At Laughing Earth Farm (above) in Brunswick (Rensselaer County), the Metzger family raises poultry, pork, vegetables and cut flowers sold at the Troy Waterfront Farmers Market as well as at the farm through a CSA operation. We collaborated with the Metzgers and the Agricultural Stewardship Association to conserve the 175-acre farm, enabling this new generation of farmers to acquire the land.

And a farmer in Copake (Columbia County) will continue growing corn and soybeans on a 162.5-acre farm he protected with us and the Columbia Land Conservancy. The land also contributes to rural views enjoyed from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and Taconic State Park. In addition, the acquisition conserves 2,300 feet of the Roeliff Jansen Kill, a major Hudson River tributary.

The state's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Program provided funding for the first two easements. As part of the easement on Laughing Earth Farm, Equity Trust also funded a restriction ensuring all future sales of the land will be to farmers at a price they can afford. With these victories, we and our farmer-partners have now conserved more than 15,000 acres of productive land on 105 farms.



More Great Features Coming to Two Popular Parks

Spring construction will bring exciting new reasons to spend more time in two well-liked Scenic Hudson parks.

Work at **Long Dock Park** in Beacon (Dutchess County) will connect visitors to four acres of riverfront land long off-limits to the public. New features will include plug-ins for food trucks; a shaded plaza for informal dining; shade pavilions, lawns and a native-plant meadow; and a boardwalk and river overlook deck. This project will complete a \$16-million public-private investment to turn this 19-acre formerly polluted site into an inviting riverfront attraction that supports Beacon's economic revitalization.

Downriver at **West Point Foundry Preserve** in Cold Spring (Putnam County), visitors will be able to ascend a new staircase from the marsh path to a spectacular overlook of the river and Constitution Island (above) from the former summer retreat of foundry co-owner William Kemble. We're also upgrading the central gathering area in front of the historic 1865 office building—replacing a large concrete slab with a public lawn.

Local contractors will undertake both projects—creating jobs and supporting the valley economy. While the parks will remain open during construction, work may limit access to certain areas. The new amenities should be available for enjoyment by the year's end.



Robert Rodriguez, Jr.

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SAVING THE LAND THAT MATTERS MOST

Spring into Action

Join us for fun, free and informative events in our parks. More info:

www.scenichudson.org/events.

Earth Day Cleanup

Scenic Hudson's Long Dock Park, Beacon (Dutchess County)

Saturday, April 22 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Show your love for Mother Earth by helping to clean the shoreline and remove invasive plants at one of our most popular parks. New this year: seining and art programs for the kids.

Free Guided History Tour

West Point Foundry Preserve, Cold Spring (Putnam County)

Saturday, May 6 • 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Explore the ironworks that sparked America's Industrial Revolution and helped win the Civil War.

Spring Sprint 5K Trail Run

Shaupeneak Ridge, Esopus (Ulster)

Sunday, May 7 • registration

9-10 a.m.; race begins 10:30 a.m.

Lace up your sneakers for a challenging and technical—but very scenic—race on the rugged trails around Louisa Pond.



NEW LEAF PAPER® EcoAudit™

Scenic Hudson, Inc. saved the following resources by using 800 pounds of New Leaf Ingenuity, made of 100% post-consumer recycled fiber, designated Ancient Forest Friendly™ and manufactured with electricity that is offset with Green-e® certified renewable energy certificates. Calculation based on research by Environmental Defense Fund and other members of the Paper Task Force.

	10 TREES
	4,487 GAL WATER
	4 MILLION ENERGY BTUS
	300 LBS SOLID WASTE
	827 LBS GREENHOUSE GAS

