

Bronx CB8 Environment & Sanitation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Start Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Board Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471

Meeting Recording

1. Welcome & Roll Call

a. Committee:

- i. Present (5): L. Spalter, R. Spalter, D. Rowen, E. Hausman, S. Froot
- ii. Zoom (1): K. Argenti
- iii. Absent (2): M. Lewis, R. Fanuzzi

b. Public:

- i. C. Auerbach (CM Dinowitz's Office), W. Fishman, C. Smith

2. Approval of Committee Minutes – February 18, 2026

- a. Approved unanimously.

3. Chairperson's Report

- a. The attached news articles relating to environmental and sanitation issues were passed around and discussed during the meeting:

- i. <https://gothamist.com/news/i-need-more-time-ny-gov-hochul-asks-lawmakers-to-punt-climate-deadlines>
- ii. <https://gothamist.com/news/new-yorks-energy-research-agency-says-the-states-landmark-climate-law-is-infeasible>
- iii. <https://thefootprint.substack.com/p/nyc-is-preparing-its-first-ever-citywide>
- iv. <https://gothamist.com/news/dog-poop-data-reveals-new-york-citys-crappiest-block>
- v. <https://www.thecity.nyc/2026/03/16/dog-poop-sanitation-enforcement/>
- vi. <https://gothamist.com/news/nyc-wrestles-with-delays-in-delivering-official-trash-bins>

- vii. <https://www.riverdalepress.com/stories/federal-freeze-on-harlem-river-study-still-in-place,220500>
- viii. <https://gothamist.com/news/mayor-mamdani-resumes-fines-for-failure-to-compost-in-nyc>

- b. DEP sent the Board an overview of their 311 reports from 2025 as well as from Feb 2026, see attached charts.

4. ACE or Other Independent Litter Collection Agency Discussion

- a. Caleb from Counsel Member Dinowitz's office was at our meeting and explained what their office hires ACE to do around our district.
 - i. Caleb is new to the office and stated he is the point person to pass any 311 requests to for follow-up. He mentioned that Moses Lopez and Emma Berk are the other point people for different regions of our district.
 - ii. ACE provides jobs to those in need in our district and sends them on one-time cleanups as well as regular trash collection routes along White Planes Rd, W. 242nd Street, and Riverdale Ave. from W. 258th to W. 261st as well as monthly sweeps and graffiti removal where necessary and possible.
 - iii. Additional funding would be required to expand on their current responsibilities and CM Dinowitz's office encourages budget feedback sent to their office.

5. Unfinished Business

a. DSNY Summonses Discussion

- i. No one present to discuss with, but if anyone has questions or concerns, please contact the Board office.

ii. FY27 Budget Agency Response Discussion

- 1. The committee sent a letter to the Commissioner of DEP in support of strengthening NYC's Unified Storm Water Rule (USWR)

iii. FY28 Budget Requests Discussion

- 1. The committee has not had an opportunity to review the agency responses to our requests and postpones further discussion until next month.

6. New Business

- a. NYSDEC Air Permit Application – Yonkers Joint Water Treatment Plant Letter Approval
 - i. Committee approves of any upgrades at the Yonkers facility that will mitigate smell that affects areas of our district and sent the attached letter.
 - ii. If anyone has complaints about smells from the facility, they are encouraged to call the 24/7 complaint line at: 914-231-2786 or fill out this online form and pick “Yonkers Joint WRRF” from the menu:
<https://environment.westchestercountyny.gov/facilities/odor-complaint-form>
- b. DEP Proposed Rule Change to Noise Code Penalty Schedule
 - i. See attached proposed rule change, which the committee sees no issues with and hopes passes.
- c. At our April 15th meeting, Karen will be presenting on Greening the Harlem River including discussing Moshulu Parkway and Ft. Independence Park flooding and erosion prevention measures.
- d. Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ)’s April 29th meeting will have presentations by DEP and Parks regarding the Tibbetts Brook Daylighting and Greenway project. See attached flyer for more information.

7. Adjournment at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by Daniel Rowen, Chair, Environment & Sanitation Committee

SRs - Top 30 by CB (Last Fiscal Year)

Borough **BRONX** Community Board Sequence **8**

2025

Descriptor 1	# of SRs
No Water (WNW)	404
Fire Hydrant Emergency (FHE)	297
Hydrant Running Full (WA4)	297
Lead Kit Request (Residential) (L10)	297
Dirty Water (WE)	273
Hydrant Running (WC3)	209
Noise: Construction Before/After Hours (NM1)	163
Hydrant Leaking (WC1)	129
Sewer Backup (Use Comments) (SA)	87
LOW WATER PRESSURE - WLWP	85
Noise, Barking Dog (NR5)	79
Leak (Use Comments) (WA2)	76
Noise: air condition/ventilation equipment (NV1)	72
Noise: Construction Equipment (NC1)	71
Noise: Private Carting Noise (NQ1)	70
Possible Water Main Break (Use Comments) (WA1)	65
Noise: Alarms (NR3)	62
Catch Basin Clogged/Flooding (Use Comments) (SC)	50
Catch Basin Sunken/Damaged/Raised (SC1)	42
Hydrant Defective (WC2)	40
Air: Odor/Fumes, Vehicle Idling (AD3)	34
Noise: lawn care equipment (NCL)	32
Hydrant Knocked Over/Missing (WC)	28
Illegal Use Of A Hydrant (CIN)	25
Noise: Jack Hammering (NC2)	20
Street Flooding (SJ)	20
Manhole Cover Missing (Emergency) (SA3)	17
Culvert Blocked/Needs Cleaning (SE)	16
Air: Smoke, Chimney or vent (AS1)	14
Concrete In Catch Basin (IEA)	14

Top 30 Complaints

08 BRONX February 2026

Descriptor 1	# of SRs
No Water (WNW)	17
Hydrant Running (WC3)	16
Noise: Alarms (NR3)	11
Possible Water Main Break (Use Comments) (WA1)	10
Noise: Construction Before/After Hours (NM1)	9
Hydrant Leaking (WC1)	8
Leak (Use Comments) (WA2)	8
Water Meter Broken/Leaking - Private Residence (CMR)	7
Hydrant Running Full (WA4)	4
Lead Kit Request (Residential) (L10)	4
Manhole Cover Missing (Emergency) (SA3)	4
Noise, Barking Dog (NR5)	4
Water Meter Broken/Leaking - Other (CMO)	4
Air: Smoke, Chimney or vent (AS1)	3
Catch Basin Sunken/Damaged/Raised (SC1)	3
Dirty Water (WE)	3
Excessive Water In Basement (WEFB)	3
Noise: Construction Equipment (NC1)	3
Street Flooding (SJ)	3
Air: Odor/Fumes, Vehicle Idling (AD3)	2
Catch Basin Grating Missing (SA4)	2
High Water Pressure (WHP)	2
Hydrant Knocked Over/Missing (WC)	2
Noise: Private Carting Noise (NQ1)	2
Sewer Backup (Use Comments) (SA)	2
Catch Basin Clogged/Flooding (Use Comments) (SC)	1
Culvert Blocked/Needs Cleaning (SE)	1
Defective/Missing Curb Piece (SC4)	1
Noise: air condition/ventilation equipment (NV1)	1

'I need more time': NY Gov. Hochul asks lawmakers to punt climate deadlines



Courtesy of the governor's office



By Jon Campbell

Published Mar 11, 2026

30 comments

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New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said the state needs more time to meet its mandate of slashing greenhouse gas emissions, making clear for the first time Wednesday that she intends to ask lawmakers to push back an aggressive timeline set in state law seven years ago.

The governor made her most substantive comments to date about her concerns with New York's landmark 2019 climate law, which requires the state to cut emissions 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050 while significantly boosting renewable energy.

Hochul has made clear in recent weeks that she wants changes to the law. But she hadn't gotten into any specifics until Wednesday, when she nodded when asked at a Politico event in Albany whether she's seeking an extension for meeting the goals.

"Do you want to give ourselves some breathing room? Or do you want to impose those costs on New Yorkers?" Hochul said. "Because that's not hypothetical. That's me following the law."

She continued: "I need time. I need more time."

Hochul, a moderate Democrat, has centered her re-election campaign on issues of affordability. She has made the case in recent weeks that meeting the emission-cutting goals would be costly and unrealistic, angering environmentalists who have hailed the measure as a key way to deal with the worsening effects of climate change.

The governor's effort to change the climate law's timeline has her at odds with prominent Democrats at the Capitol who stand by the measure. They said the law is necessary to have any hope of staving off the negative effects of the climate crisis, and that the long-term benefits far outweigh the short-term costs.

That includes Senate Finance Chair Liz Krueger, a Manhattan Democrat who helped organize a sign-on letter to the governor from 29 Senate Democrats who oppose changing the law.

"The scientists, the environmental organizations, the municipal, local governments, nobody wants us to reopen [the climate law]," Krueger said. "So I hope very much that's not part of any [budget] negotiations."

But Hochul has taken the position that the cost of reshaping the state's energy consumption to meet the goals as they're currently written is untenable.

Her administration released a memo earlier this month making the case that meeting the 2030 mark would push utility costs skyward and cause gasoline prices to spike by more than \$2 a gallon.

The governor is using the memo to make her case even as environmentalists fault it for failing to quantify the law's benefits.

That position has put her more in line with legislative Republicans, who continue to fault Hochul for supporting the law in the first place. When it was passed in 2019, Hochul was lieutenant governor.

"New Yorkers simply cannot afford the Democrats' green energy mandates," said Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt, a Republican from the Buffalo area. "They continue to champion policies that they unequivocally know are driving up costs and making life less affordable."

Hochul said she continues to stand by the intent of the climate law and she defended the memo outlining its costs.

The memo is based on the state implementing a "cap and invest" program to meet the climate goals, which would require climate polluters to purchase "allowances" from the state if they exceed a limit on greenhouse gas emissions. But the memo assumes there would be no limit on the cost of those allowances, which critics say helped drive up the overall cost estimate.

Hochul pushed back against the idea that the memo used cherry-picked data.

"I would've loved to have never had a memo that said the cost would go up that high," she said at the Politico event. "You think I want that? I mean, New Yorkers are already scared enough of their bills."

Hochul said she's urging lawmakers to act as part of the state budget, which is due by the end of the month. She pointed to a court order requiring her administration to finalize a regulatory plan to meet the climate goals, which she said makes the issue all the more urgent.

The state is appealing that order, with arguments set for April.

A nonprofit known as Earthjustice, which takes on environmentally focused legal cases, brought the case against Hochul's administration in an attempt to force it to put a plan in place for complying with the climate law.

Rachel Spector, an Earthjustice attorney, took issue with Hochul using the pending court arguments as a deadline, of sorts, for the Legislature to act. She said her clients are open to negotiating a settlement with the state.

"Investing in clean energy and helping people switch off those really expensive, delivered fuels ... and helping them switch to clean technology, that's going to help people," Spector said. "And that's what complying with the climate law will also do."

As of Tuesday, Hochul had not given any formal proposals to the Legislature, according to Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, a Bronx Democrat.

"New York cares about climate," Heastie said. "We care about having a world for our children. But at this point, no, the governor has not given us a specific proposal."

New York's energy research agency says the state's landmark climate law is infeasible



Kena Betancur/VIEWpress/Corbis via Getty Images

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By Rosemary Misdary

Published Feb 27, 2026 at 2:04 p.m. ET

10 comments

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The agency tasked with boosting New York's clean energy transition sent Gov. Kathy Hochul a letter on Thursday calling the state's climate law infeasible and overly expensive to implement.

The letter from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, which is controlled by the governor, outlined extra costs New York households could face if the law is implemented as planned. The 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act calls for 70% of the state's power to come from clean energy sources by 2030, and become completely emission-free energy by the end of the next decade.

NYSERDA is the latest group to raise flags about the energy transition goals set by the law. Currently, the state is way off its targets. The grid that powers New York City is about 90% reliant on fossil fuels.

The state's power grid operator, which is independent of the state government, warned last year that New York City could face a massive energy deficiency as soon as this summer. Hochul is also in the midst of a court battle that aims to modify the law after delaying its implementation for more than two years. And the letter comes as the state Department of Public Service has begun a process to suspend the law — the agency is empowered to do so through the 2019 legislation.

The letter warned that if the law is implemented, New York City households could see their natural gas bills increase by \$2,300 annually by 2031. Fossil fuel costs could increase significantly across the board and gasoline prices in the state would exceed \$5 per gallon as a result of the rules, NYSERDA warned.

"Addressing this cost escalation is essential to deliver a policy that supports affordability and economic competitiveness and is necessary to ensure continued progress on decarbonization policy," the letter said.

The state climate law was passed after President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris Agreement, a landmark international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, during his first term. But it was the product of years of advocacy and planning by state lawmakers and New York's influential environmental lobby.

Environmental groups called NYSERDA's analysis one-sided because it did not show how clean power would affect costs for consumers if the state accelerates its energy transition.

Advocates pointed out that renewable energy is a far less expensive power source than fossil fuels. According to a 2025 [analysis](#) by the International Renewable Energy Agency, solar power is around 40% cheaper than the lowest-cost fossil fuel options, and wind power was more than 50% less expensive.

By contrast, the costs of fossil fuel sources are rising substantially.

"This is a nonserious set of unsourced calculations," said Raya Salter, a member of the Climate Action Council, which helped craft the 2019 climate law. "The cost of climate inaction outweighs the cost of climate action."

The law also mandates that the state reduce greenhouse gas emission by 40% by 2030. Emissions have reduced by just 15%, according to a 2025 report by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

If businesses do not reduce their emissions as required, the legislation mandates the state to issue them fines proportional to how much they exceed the new limits for greenhouse gases. The letter to Hochul said that would be a burden on businesses, noting small- and medium-sized businesses could see their utility costs rise as much as 46%. The cost to operate a delivery truck could rise by more than 60%, according to the letter.

While there are provisions for penalizing businesses, there is no method laid out in the law to issue fines to households for carbon pollution. NYSERDA calculations assume that the cost to businesses will be passed on to consumers. If there is no reduction in emissions by 2031, businesses could face roughly \$28 billion in penalties.

"I want people to understand what's at stake here," Hochul said at a press conference Wednesday. "If the New Yorker is a family living upstate with home heating oil with probably one car, it's an additional \$3,500 a year."

The agency's analysis found the clean energy deployment required by the law is not possible, citing the lack of market capacity to provide enough renewable sources, electric vehicles and heat pumps mandated for compliance.

"The modeled price would lead to high burdens to New York households, especially those unable to install lower-emissions technologies," the letter stated.

Salter said the climate law is structured to make businesses pay for the pollution they create and to incentivize them to become more sustainable. The penalties would fund renewable energy projects as well as upgrades for households. The intention of the law is to make the transition easy on residents, Salter said.

"The memo disingenuously details costs of the energy transition while ignoring the massive savings New Yorkers will gain from switching off expensive fossil fuels, avoiding intensified climate disasters, and spending less on the deadly health impacts of climate change," said Alex Patterson, campaign coordinator for the advocacy group Public Power New York. "Meanwhile, NYSERDA ignores not only the many policies Governor Hochul could adopt to make the transition more affordable, but even the many programs that already exist."

NYC Is Preparing Its First Ever Citywide Environmental Justice Plan

Mamdani to South Bronx: "What Would Environmental Justice Look Like?"

THE FOOTPRINT

MAR 09, 2026



South Bronx residents convene for a presentation from the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice.

The Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) is in the process of developing the first ever citywide environmental justice plan, called the [EJNYC Plan](#), which

will put forth “actionable strategies” to address environmental inequities across New York City. Last week, MOCEJ decided to ask South Bronx residents—who face disproportionate environmental burdens including high-levels of air pollution and a lack of green space—for input on the plan.

On Thursday March 5, a local community organization called [South Bronx Unite](#) hosted representatives from MOCEJ for a public discussion. Despite rainy conditions, dozens of people showed up for a chance to speak out about environmental injustice and hear what solutions the city has to offer.

According to Belinda Chiu, Senior Advisor of Environmental Justice at MOCEJ, the EJNYC Plan has three main goals: “Invest in Communities In Need of Environmental Justice”; “Integrate EJ Into City Systems and Processes”; and “Involve Communities in Need of Environmental Justice Meaningfully and Transparently.”

MOCEJ representatives said the “proposed commitments” for the plan will be published later this year. In the meantime they are conducting “phase one engagement,” which includes targeted outreach like Thursday’s meeting in the South Bronx. After the proposed commitments are published, MOCEJ will begin “phase two engagement,” which will involve a “much larger” outreach process across the city.

MOCEJ previously published the [EJNYC Report](#) in 2024, which is an assessment of environmental justice issues in New York City. The findings of that report are guiding the development of the EJNYC Plan.



MOCEJ representatives give a presentation.

Early on in the meeting, MOCEJ representatives asked attendees: “What would environmental justice look like in this community?”

“Environmental justice in this community would look like all New Yorkers receiving the same recycling service,” said one attendee. “Residents living in NYCHA developments do not receive recycling services.”

“Closing the peaker plants,” said another attendee, referring to the [four high-polluting power plants](#) located in The Bronx.

Better wages, community composting, pocket forests, more garbage cans, and improved waterfront access were also among the answers given by attendees.

Chiu then previewed certain elements of the plan, including proposals to build “resilience hubs” for extreme weather events and shelters for bus stops to reduce the impact of extreme heat.

Chiu and other representatives also discussed proposals related to regulating truck traffic, promoting electrification of both buildings and vehicles, and closing the green space access gap.

Some attendees criticized certain proposals put forth by MOCEJ.

“The push for electric vehicles is great and all, but it doesn’t seem tangible in this neighborhood,” one attendee said. “Most people who buy cars in this neighborhood tend to buy vehicles that are either secondhand or are still using gas.”

She suggested that if the city wants to promote electric vehicles, they should subsidize the cost for low-income drivers.

Another attendee questioned MOCEJ’s pro-development perspective.

“They keep talking about making more housing, I don’t think we need to build more because we have so much real estate,” she said. “Some of these buildings don’t have full occupancy because most people can’t afford to live there. If you can’t lower the rent, maybe make it a space for a hydroponic garden.”

Several attendees also expressed frustration that they feel the city only began to care about environmental issues in the South Bronx because of gentrification.

“Is it only that we get attention and momentum when it’s popping off, like, ‘Oh it’s the next Williamsburg’?” asked one attendee. “Fuck that, we’ve been here our whole lives.”

As MOCEJ continues to work on the proposed commitments for the EJNYC Plan, New Yorkers are invited to provide their own input via the [EJNYC Community Questionnaire](https://thefootprint.substack.com/p/nyc-is-preparing-its-first-ever-citywide).

Dog poop data reveals New York City's crappiest block



Liam Quigley



By Liam Quigley

Published Feb 19, 2026 at 12:32 p.m. ET

31 comments

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A revolting reality has emerged as the snow from January's storm melts away: New York City's dog owners don't scoop their pets' poop from the sidewalks.

Sidewalks throughout the five boroughs resemble a dog run that's been neglected for weeks. For reasons known only to irresponsible dog owners, the below-freezing stretch of cold weather was accompanied by a total breakdown in canine cleanup.

A review of 311 data confirms the obvious: New Yorkers are fed up with the brown minefields.

New Yorkers lodged just under 1,000 complaints about dog waste on city streets and sidewalks this year, an 81% increase from the same period in 2025. On Feb. 11 alone, people filed 77 complaints about dog waste.

The crappiest block in the city — at least according to 311 data — was 49th Street between Third and Fourth avenues in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The block got 28 complaints since snow started falling on Jan. 25.

Resident Norma Rivera said the poop is a problem year-round. But it's not as bad in the warmer months "because people are going to watch," she said.

There were still smears of feces on the sidewalk up and down the block Wednesday, which was also strewn with other refuse.



Don't let the sweater fool you. It's possible no one picked up that doodle's doo doo.

"Maybe we should be like Florida, where they provide trash, receptacles and bags for it," Rivera said. "I mean snow or no snow, it's still dog poop."

In second place was Fort Washington Avenue between West 187th and 190th streets in Upper Manhattan, with 25 dog crap complaints. Next up was Riverside Drive near West 106th Street, with 14 complaints.

Sanitation officials conceded that catching scofflaw dog owners in the act is difficult — and even floated deploying mobile cameras to track down offenders and fine them \$250.

"Dog owners know they have a legal responsibility to pick up dog waste, regardless of the weather or conditions on the ground," sanitation spokesperson Joshua Goodman said. "It is irresponsible and just gross to leave this behind anywhere, whether it's a sidewalk, a patch of grass or a snow pile."

But Goodman said the law requires a sanitation enforcer to witness the turd hitting the pavement.

"The chances of someone not picking up after their dog while an enforcement officer is watching is very, very slim. So slim, that we issued just two summonses for failure to remove canine waste in 2025," Goodman said.

"It is clear that people only leave piles behind when they know no one is watching."

City Councilmember Chi Ossé could do little more than share his outrage on social media.

"Do you want the government to go to your house and wipe your a--?" Ossé said. He encouraged New Yorkers to report negligent dog owners to 311. "The state should apprehend you or your dog," he said.



The Sunset Park block with the most 311 complaints about dog poop also featured a lot of litter.

Liam Quigley

The dreadful conduct by dog owners follows a surge in dog adoptions during the pandemic. That was followed by a dramatic spike in surrenders by dog owners who realized they couldn't handle caring for

their pooches. So many pets were given up after the pandemic that the city's animal shelter system had to pause accepting certain animals due to record overcrowding.

Alan Beck, who previously ran the Bureau of Animal Affairs for the city health department, said that New York City has always struggled with a dog poop problem.

"It seems to be more of a New York City issue than any other. And I've lived in many cities around the country," he said. Beck speculated that the sidewalks choked by snow might increase the density of dog turds and highlight just how much feces there really is.

He added that dog waste is a disease vector for both humans and their pets.

"Dogs themselves can spread diseases among themselves through fecal contact," Beck said.

Other cities and housing complexes have addressed problems with dog poop pickup by forcing owners to register their pups' DNA. Piles left behind are then tested, and the owners face fines.

Goodman ruled out the possibility of DNA testing dog poop in the city.

Micheal Brandow wrote a book about New York's poop-scoop law, which was the first ordinance in any major urban city requiring dog owners to clean up after their pets.

Brandow maintained that even the current fecal frenzy is not as bad as before the law passed.

"It surely was a disaster. It was everywhere," he said. "We do have more dogs probably now than ever. It's very important not to overestimate what the problem is."

He pointed the finger at a classic New York City culprit: People who just got here.

"I really think a lot of newcomers who move here, maybe from pristine suburbs, with nice manicured front lawns think the city's going to be a clean place. And it's not," he said.

"They see one turd and they get all upset."

He said there's little the law can do to fix the problem.

"You can't enforce it. It really is an honor system," he said.

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION

Nearly Impossible to Enforce City Pooper Scooper Law, Sanitation Official Says

The Department of Sanitation conducted several stakeouts in high-poop neighborhoods, but caught just two owners in the act of leaving a pile behind.

BY KATIE HONAN
MARCH 16, 2026, 5:08 P.M.

REPUBLIC



A pet owner walks their dog in Brooklyn, March 16, 2026. Credit: Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

Dog poop is everywhere, city sanitation officials acknowledge. But when it comes to ticketing offending pooch owners, enforcement officers may be barking up the wrong tree.

Javier Lojan, the acting commissioner of the Department of Sanitation, said during a budget hearing Monday that the department hears the complaints from New Yorkers about poop piles that emerged as the snow melted after the record blizzard.

But it's nearly impossible to enforce the law that requires all dog owners pick up after their dogs on streets and sidewalks.

"Our enforcement officer would have to catch the owner in the act of leaving a pile behind," he said.

Since 2024, DSNY has done at least two stakeouts in neighborhoods with a high percentage of dog poop complaints called into 311 — but barely gave out any summonses.

In 2024, enforcement officers spent three days in Mott Haven in The Bronx, only handing out one summons.

Last year, officers did weeklong patrols in Washington Heights, Harlem, Morningside Heights in Manhattan and Flatbush in Brooklyn — but didn't give out any summonses during the blitz.

“The chances of someone not picking up after their dog while an enforcement officer is watching is very, very slim,” Lojan said. “So slim, that we issued just two summonses for failure to remove canine waste in 2025.”

The agency has done several ads and educational outreach to owners to remind them of their obligation to pick up waste.

“But really, every dog owner knows what they are supposed to do,” he said. “In consideration of their neighbors, they should do the right thing and pick up after their dogs.”

DSNY issued 8,999 summonses for dirty sidewalks to property owners this year, which included dog waste.

After recent storms, including January's snow that was followed by record-low temperatures, officials blasted dog owners for not scooping up their dog's poop.

“PICK UP YOUR F—ING DOG SHIT” Brooklyn Councilmember Chi Ossé posted on his [Instagram page](#).

His colleague Shanana Hanif, who also represents parts of Brooklyn, posted an [impassioned video](#) instructing owners on how to clean up dog feces and put it in the garbage.

The city's “Pooper Scooper” law was enacted in 1978, thanks in part to the advocacy of Fran Lee, a New Yorker who had become [obsessed](#) with the public health issue of dog waste.

Fines for not picking up after a pet — if a person is actually caught — are [up to \\$250](#).

The once-in-a-decade snowfall didn't help the city's finances either.

The city uses a formula set by the City Charter to determine how much it allocates for snow removal, using an average of the actual amount spent on snow removal for the last five years, Lojan said.

Although it's been around \$80 and \$100 million for the last few years, they had to request \$100 million more during the January budget re-adjustment.

The City Council is in the midst of lengthy budget hearings following the release of Mayor Zohran Mamdani's preliminary budget last month.

New York City faces a budget deficit that the mayor says is now [down to \\$5.4 billion](#) — although Comptroller Mark Levine said the hole [could be higher](#).

NYC wrestles with delays in delivering official trash bins



Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office



By Liam Quigley

Published Mar 10, 2026

32 comments

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Thousands of New Yorkers are still waiting to receive official city-issued bins to put out their trash, and risk facing fines as soon as June if the sanitation department continues to face a supply chain backlog

that's slowed the delivery.

The "NYC Bins" cost about \$50 and are mandatory for residential buildings with nine or fewer units. They're key to the sanitation department's "trash revolution" that began under former Mayor Eric Adams with the goal of getting the city's garbage into containers.

Starting in June, the city plans to begin issuing fines from \$50 to \$200 to homeowners who don't use an official bin for their trash.

Sanitation officials said about 1 million of the bins have been delivered, while between 4,000 and 5,000 people are still awaiting theirs to arrive. Officials insisted they fixed the problem and that everyone who ordered a bin should receive it by the end of the month.

Still, the delays led some city councilmembers to call for the sanitation department to hold off on issuing any fines until the bin backlog is fixed.

Councilmember Frank Morano of Staten Island said around 150 of his constituents have phoned his office asking what to do about their missing bins.

"The clock is ticking and we have a situation where, come June, people who don't have these garbage pails are going to be fined," he said.

The concerns about bin delivery delays comes as Home Depot took over distribution of the bins, which can now additionally be ordered through websites like Uber Eats and Instacart.

"We worked with Home Depot to ensure that the bin would be the same low price no matter how it is purchased," sanitation department spokesperson Joshua Goodman said. "For anyone who still needs to get one, they have about three months to do their part to fight rats and keep our streets clean."

Morano said he's asked city Comptroller Mark Levine to investigate the contract award process for the bin delivery. Levine's office did not immediately say if they were investigating the contract.

The bins were first introduced by Adams during an event outside Gracie Mansion in 2024, when he smiled proudly as he wheeled one from Gracie Mansion and plopped a trash bag inside. The viral

moment was met with amusement globally, with some asking if Adams had “discovered” trash bins that are common in many other places across the planet.

Feds maintain grip on environmental study funding

Posted February 20, 2026



The Harlem River is a nine-mile tidal strait that separates Manhattan from the Bronx.

GARY JEAN-JUSTE

by Olivia Young

Five hundred thousand dollars in federal funding toward a long-awaited environmental study of the Harlem River is still in limbo after the Trump administration froze it last October, a move that targeted several Democratic states.

For some Bronx-based advocates, the Harlem River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study was a small step toward a decades-long vision to improve the quality of a river contaminated by raw sewage and bacteria, and ultimately to expand waterfront access for residents in some of the city's lowest-income neighborhoods.

Chauncy Young, member of the Harlem River Coalition, said it is unclear if the funds will be released.

"The administration is playing politics with money," Young said. "These decisions impact people's lives."

One million dollars was secured last June after the city's department of environmental protection agreed to match the funds appropriated by Congress. This meant the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, lead on the study, could move forward with an investigation that looks for ways to restore natural habitats and prevent flooding.

But, the project never started.

During the 43-day government shutdown last year, Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Russel Vought announced the corps would pause \$11 billion for “lower-priority projects” in New York, San Francisco, Boston and Baltimore, and consider cancelling them.

Democrats had “drained the Army Corps of Engineers’ ability to maintain billions of dollars in projects,” according to Vought’s post on X.

Inside the frozen \$11 billion is about \$47.2 million for the Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Project, a major initiative that aims to restore and protect degraded wetlands in New York and New Jersey. Congress approved funding for eight sites — one being the Harlem River study — prompting elected officials to question if the pause was legally justified.

In a Jan. 15 letter, Rep. Ritchie Torres and Rep. Adriano Espaillat urged Vought to address the status of the funding, adding the money was withheld because of a “political decision.” They posed two questions: Will the funding be withheld indefinitely, and did the administration tell the corps to cancel the approved projects.

The congressmen requested Vought answer by Feb. 17. They both told The Press if the deadline wasn’t met, they would keep fighting. Torres said President Trump controls the funds, all they can do is “exert pressure.”

By press time, there had been no response from Vought. The project remains on hold, with no public comment from the administration on if the money will be released.

Once a system of winding shorelines and natural waterways, such as the Spuyten Duyvil Creek, the Harlem River was reshaped by more than 200 years of industrial and city expansion. Forests were lost, streams buried — including Tibbetts Brook, set to be daylighted by 2030 — and the river’s water quality deteriorated.

Despite the stall, Karen Argenti, member of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, is optimistic. She said she is looking forward to working with city and federal partners to improve the lives of Bronxites along the river.

“I don’t think it’s a setback,” Argenti said. “We just have to wait a little bit longer.”

Neither the office of budget and management nor the corps were able to be reached for comment.

Mayor Mamdani resumes fines for failure to compost in NYC



Deb Cohn-Orbach/UCG/Universal Images Group via Getty Images



By Liam Quigley

Published Feb 23, 2026 at 6:01 a.m. ET

84 comments

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Failure to compost comes with a fine in Mayor Zohran Mamdani's New York City.

On his first day in office, Mamdani's administration quietly began fining New Yorkers for not separating their organic waste for compost collection.

The fines, which start at \$25, were paused by then-Mayor Eric Adams last year, only weeks after they went into effect. Sanitation department data shows that participation in the city's composting program actually declined after Adams halted the fines for small buildings. Overall, New Yorkers are still not composting in large numbers, with more than 90% of organic waste still going to landfills.

Sanitation department spokesperson Joshua Goodman said that inspectors had issued 425 summonses for failure to compost since Mamdani took office, with very few doled out during the snowstorm. The resumption of fines was first reported by Inside Climate News.

"New Yorkers want to compost. If your building doesn't, call 311 so we can come advise them on how to comply," Goodman said.

Sanitation officials can inspect garbage waste for organic waste that should have been separated. Fines can go as high as \$200 for repeat offenders. Landlords of both small and large buildings can be fined for failure to participate.

The rollout of the city's compost collection program was completed in 2024. The brown bins represented a signature policy achievement of the Adams administration, which launched a "war on rats" to clean up the streets and sidewalks.

Adams' decision to pause composting fines for buildings with 30 or fewer units in spring 2025 came as he sought re-election. His administration said the fines would go back into effect in 2026.



The composting program was a signature achievement of then-Mayor Adams' administration.

Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

Compliance with the composting rules is low across the board, though some boroughs do worse than others. Last month, sanitation workers retrieved 2,484 tons of compost from residents in Queens. Brooklyn residents composted 2,108 tons and Manhattan residents set out 1,176 tons. People in the Bronx set out just 730 tons — only slightly more than Staten Island, which contributed 648 tons.

Last month, 94% of organic waste across the five boroughs went to the landfill — only 6% was composted, city data showed. In the weeks after composting fines briefly went into effect last spring, 10% of organics were composted. Sanitation officials highlighted that composting declined last month in part due to officials dedicating manpower to the snowstorm, causing a major lag in collections.

Eric Goldstein, New York City environment director at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said that lagging composting rates are evidence of the need for sustained outreach about the program and its enforcement policies.

"Stopping and starting these programs that require public engagement is never a successful strategy because you're sending mixed messages," he said.

Goldstein said that Mamdani has an opportunity to save the city money if he sticks with the composting program.

"We're spending almost \$500 million a year exporting our trash to landfills and incinerators," he said.

"So if we can take even 50% of that third and turn it into a useful finished compost. We will be saving money for city taxpayers on top of the environmental benefits."



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

5676 Riverdale Avenue ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Bronx, New York 10471-2194
P: (718) 884-3959 F: (718) 796-2763 E: bx08@cb.nyc.gov
<https://cbbbronx.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/>



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Hudson River Greenway

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Special Committee on

Racial Equity

Margaret Della

Special Committee on

Veterans' Services

Sergio Villaverde

March 19, 2026

Michael V. Grosso

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

21 Putt Corners Road

New Paltz, NY 12561

Via email: mike.grosso@dec.ny.gov

Re: Yonkers Joint Water Resource Recovery Facility

DEC ID# 3-5518-00342/00038

Dear Mr. Grosso:

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Environment & Sanitation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 regarding the permit application for the Yonkers Joint Water Resource Recovery Facility located on 1 Fernbrook St./Ludlow Dock South, Yonkers, NY 10705. Bronx Community Board 8 borders the city of Yonkers, and preserving our residents' quality of life is very important.

For years we have received complaints of sewerage odors from Riverdale residents living in proximity to the Hudson River and the sewerage treatment plant. Accordingly, we are in full support of planned technical upgrades to the facility designed to mitigate odors and improve the facility's function. We are pleased that the Notice of Complete Application notes a requirement that the facility owner establish a complaint response plan, including extra staff, to address complaints relating to air emissions from the facility moving forward. Please keep us apprised of the complaint phone line which will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Also, as you review the conditions at the sewerage treatment plant, please bear in mind that a Hudson River Greenway along the river has been a long-held goal of Bronx Community Board 8. It would extend from the Henry Hudson Bridge in the Bronx to the Ludlow Metro-North station in Yonkers. Whether this greenway will be located between the sewage treatment plant and the Hudson River or on Fernbrook Street on the eastern side of the building has yet to be decided by Yonkers and Westchester officials. Please ensure that in your review process both options remain available.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Julie Reyes
Chairperson
Bronx Community Board 8



Daniel Rowen
Chair, Environment & Sanitation Committee
Bronx Community Board 8

cc: Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President
Ciara Gannon, Director of Community Boards, Bronx BP
Eleftheria Ardizzone, Bronx Borough Commissioner, NYC DEP
Ritchie Torres, United States Congress Member (NY-15)
Gustavo Rivera, New York State Senator (SD 33)
Jeffrey Dinowitz, New York State Assembly Member (AD 81)
Eric Dinowitz, New York City Council Member (CD 11)

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rules

What are we proposing? The Department of Environmental Protection is proposing to promulgate a rule to amend the Noise Code Penalty Schedule, codified in Chapter 47 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York (RCNY), to conform to changes made to Chapter 28 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York, related to noise monitoring at certain construction sites.

When and where is the hearing? DEP will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule online. The public hearing will take place at 11 am on April 3, 2026. To participate in the public hearing, please follow these instructions:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/27209768761472?p=k6jOvDwja75JWis8d9>

Meeting ID: 272 097 687 614 72

Passcode: Bh724bG2

[Need help?](#) | [System reference](#)

Dial in by phone

[+1 347-921-5612,820187493#](tel:+13479215612820187493)

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 820 187 493#

How do I comment on the proposed rules? Anyone can comment on the proposed rules by:

- **Website.** You can submit comments to the DEP through the NYC rules web site at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us>.
- **Email.** You can email written comments to nycrules@dep.nyc.gov.
- **Mail.** You can mail written comments to the DEP Bureau of Legal Affairs, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, 19th Floor, Flushing, NY 11373.
- **Fax.** You can fax written comments to the DEP Bureau of Legal Affairs, at 718-595-6543.
- **By speaking at the hearing.** Anyone who wants to comment on the proposed rules at the public hearing must sign up to speak. You can sign up before the hearing by calling 718-595-6531. You can speak for up to three minutes. Please note that the hearing is for accepting oral testimony only and is not held in a "Question and Answer" format.

Is there a deadline to submit written comments? Yes, you must submit written comments by April 3, 2026.

What if I need assistance to participate in the hearing? You must tell DEP's Bureau of Legal Affairs if you need a reasonable accommodation because of a disability at the hearing. You must tell us if you need a sign language interpreter. You can tell us by mail at the address given above. You may also

tell us by telephone at 718-595-6531, or by email at nycrules@dep.nyc.gov. Advance notice is requested to allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation. Please tell us by March 27, 2026.

Can I review the comments made on the proposed rules? You can review the comments made online on the proposed rules by going to the website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/>. A few days after the hearing, a transcript of the hearing and copies of the written comments will be available to the public at the Department's Bureau of Legal Affairs at the physical address given above or upon request by email nycrules@dep.nyc.gov.

What authorizes the DEP to make this rule? Section 1043 of the City Charter and sections 24-204, 24-219, and 24-221 of the Administrative Code authorize DEP to make this proposed rule. This proposed rule was included in DEP's regulatory agenda for this fiscal year.

Where can I find DEP's rules? DEP's rules are in Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York.

What rules govern the rulemaking process? DEP must meet the requirements of Section 1043(c) of the City Charter when creating or changing rules. This notice is made according to the requirements of Section 1043(b) of the City Charter.

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Statement of Basis and Purpose of Proposed Rules

On December 22, 2025, DEP published a final rule in the City Record adding new provisions to Chapter 28 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York, which will require noise monitoring devices be employed at specified construction sites. The rule will become effective on April 21, 2026.

Among these new provisions are section 28-101(o), which specifies when and where noise monitoring devices must be used, and section 28-101(p), which sets forth the requirements for the installation and maintenance of the required devices.

In light of these changes, DEP is proposing to amend the Noise Code Penalty Schedule (15 RCNY Chapter 47) to add penalties for violation of sections 28-101(o) and 28-101(p) of Chapter 28 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York, so that such sections can be enforced once they become effective.

The proposed penalties for violations of section 28-101(o) of the Rules of the City of New York reflect the existing penalties for violations of section 24-228 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, which prohibits unreasonable noise from construction devices. The proposed penalties for violations of section 28-101(p) reflect the existing penalties for less serious charges under Chapter 28 of the Rules of the City of New York.

These penalties escalate from \$560 for a first offense to \$1,680 for a third offense for failure to use a noise monitoring device, and from \$220 for a first offense to \$660 for a third offense for failure to install or maintain a noise monitoring device as specified.

Pursuant to section 1043(d)(4)(ii), this rule is exempt from review under Charter section 1043(d).

New material is underlined.

Section 1. The table set forth in section 47-02 of Chapter 47 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended by adding two new entries, immediately following the entry for section 28-101(m), to read as follows:

Section of Law	Violation Description	Compliance	Offense	Penalty	Default Penalty	Stipulation or Admission
15 RCNY § 28-101(o)	Failed to utilize noise monitoring devices at specified construction sites	Use noise monitoring device as specified forthwith	1st	560	875	Y
			2nd	1,120	1,750	N
			3rd	1,680	2,625	N
15 RCNY § 28-101(p)	Failed to install or maintain noise monitoring device as specified	Install or maintain device as specified forthwith	1st	220	875	Y
			2nd	440	1,750	N
			3rd	660	2,625	N



Bronx Council for Environmental Quality
LOWERING THE TEMPERATURE WITH NATURE
TO STOP EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Monday, April 29, 2026

draft program schedule

Manhattan University Students will present Posters for Capstone Projects on the Urban Environment under the supervision of our Dart Westphal (*Dart Westphal, BCEQ, CURES Director*).

3:30 PM PRE MEETING SETUP *Tabling, Networking*

3:50 PM WELCOME, *BCEQ President Robert Fanuzzi*

- 4:00 pm **Pelham Bay Park Access Study** Briefing, *Laura Melendez, NYC Parks, Project Development Coordinator for Planning, Planning & Development*
- 4:45 pm **Tibbetts Brook Daylighting & Greenway TAG**, *Amy Motzy, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, and Marit Larson, Deputy Commissioner NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources Group*

~~~@~~~

**5:15 PM ITALIAN BUFFET DINNER during the**

**5:30 PM 54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

*Dr. Robert Fanuzzi, BCEQ President Robert Fanuzzi, Election of Board of Directors Class of 2028*

**6:00 TO 7:30 PM 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WATER CONFERENCE:**

*Karen Argenti, BCEQ Water Committee Chair, Lowering the Temperature with Nature to Mitigate Extreme Weather Events: Describing How & Where of Carbon Capture*

**PRESENTATION**

- **Philadelphia - Decentralizing resilience.... Working at the block scale to reduce heat and flood risks** – *Dr. Franco Montalto, Drexel University*
- **Paris, France** – *Emma Thebault, Technical Director of Resilience at STV and Lea Pelleteret, Resilience Planner at STV*
- **Micro Forests** – *Lee Altman, Principal at Scape*
- **NYC's Largest Green Infrastructure** – More than just Tibbetts Brook Daylighting – *Angela Licata, Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).*

**6:45 PM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Above Presenters and BCEQ Directors / Advisors** - Robert Fanuzzi, Liam Kavanagh, Paul Mankiewicz, Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Dart Westphal, Chauncy Young, and Karen Argenti (Moderator)

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Sponsors: Con Edison, Manhattan University and its Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability (CURES). We thank Con Edison for their support of our education and outreach plan.

This is a free event, but space is limited. 04102026

www.bceq.org