

Pending Committee Approval

Bronx CB8 Environment & Sanitation Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Start Time: 7:00 PM

[Meeting Recording](#)

1. Welcome & Roll Call

a. Committee:

- i. Present: L. Spalter, R. Spalter, D. Rowen, E. Hausman
- ii. Zoom: Carlin De La Rosa
- iii. Absent: K. Argenti, R. Fanuzzi

b. Public:

- i. Jeremy, Tanya, Teresa, Patricia, Linda, Kathy, Samantha, Jemma, Fiona, Kathy, Ephraim, Melissa, Tatiana, et al. (see recording)

2. Department of Health on Zoom to discuss rat reports (Agenda was amended)

- a. Samantha from the DOH reporting on recent 311 reports in North Riverdale, specifically near around Mosholu Ave and Fieldston Rd. She cites 5400 Fieldston as one location that has previously been cited and takes down addresses and locations from community members on Zoom to follow up on. She mentioned that the lot behind CTown had already been cited and would be inspected again. She also noted that it is Parks Department who maintains tree pits and handles rats that may be nesting in those.
- b. Laura asks if DOH works with DSNY in these cases, but not really, especially since businesses are responsible for hiring their own private trash carters. Suggests this is an issue to bring up at the next DSC meeting.
- c. Tatiana also chimes in that businesses are not handling their trash properly, cites reports of food being dumped or set out for pigeons, which attract rats.
- d. Kathy from 5804 Tyndall and Patricia also chime in about rat complaints.
- e. Everyone is encouraged to continue reporting rat sightings to 311 and also to check locations on the NYC Rat Map:

<https://a816-dohbesp.nyc.gov/IndicatorPublic/rats/>

3. Approval of Committee Minutes – June 17, 2026

- a. Approved unanimously with no corrections.

4. Chairperson's Report

- a. See attached DEP 311 table for September 2026 as well as the September 2026 quarterly Jerome Park Reservoir Rehabilitation Newsletter.
- b. Also see the attached news articles relating to environmental and sanitation issues which were passed around and discussed during the meeting:
 - i. <https://www.bxtimes.com/bill-increasing-enforcement-on-sidewalk-dog-poop-passes/>
 - ii. https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/13/nyregion/dog-poop-city-council-nyc.html?unlocked_article_code=1.HVE.5jeb.g Illpk4P3yb&smid=url-share
 - iii. https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/13/climate/epa-power-plant-climate-rules.html?unlocked_article_code=1.BFE.z1iB.LtmG80PZ9DxT&smid=url-share
 - iv. <https://gothamist.com/news/for-shame-selfish-parkers-blocking-street-sweepers-will-be-stickered-for-all-to-see>
 - v. <https://gothamist.com/arts-entertainment/is-the-citys-tap-water-as-good-as-new-yorkers-claim-we-looked-into-it>
 - vi. <https://gothamist.com/news/nyc-officials-want-to-put-rain-gardens-on-top-of-bus-stops>
 - vii. <https://gothamist.com/news/nys-recycling-data-is-a-dumpster-fire-according-to-state-comptroller-report>

5. Unfinished Business

- a. DSNY: Buildings with <10 units must containerize trash in NYC Bins (effective Sept 7th)
- b. Status of Arlington – Flooding and Lack of Stormwater Drains
 - i. Melissa and Jeremy upset over flooding they claim became worse about 6 years ago.
 - ii. The issue was raised previously in June when CM Dinowitz was in attendance and explained that the street was “unincorporated.”
 - iii. DEP serves the houses on the street, but does not have stormwater drains because there are no sidewalks or curbs along the unincorporated

segment. In order to put in stormwater drains, the street would have to become a city street and then DOT would want to expand it to their required width to accommodate curbs and sidewalks on either side, allowing for the addition of stormwater drains.

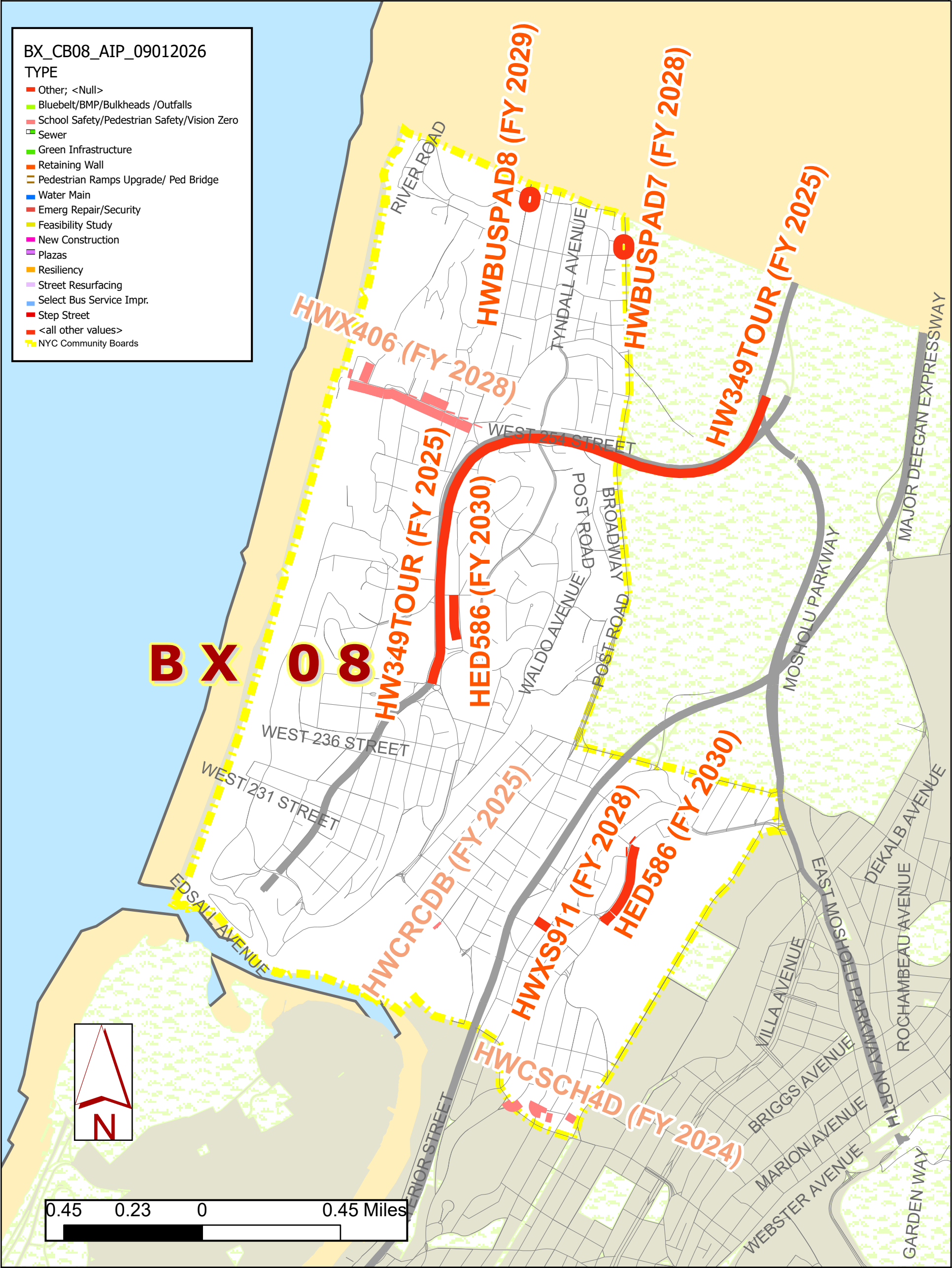
- iv. Residents impacted by the street condition and flooding are encouraged to report all ponding and flooding to 311 whenever it occurs to create a paper trail and also to organize among themselves and their other neighbors to discuss their next course of action – either petitioning the Land Use Committee for the street to become incorporated, or to seek out alternative solutions such as self-funding a repaving effort to fix the pitch and maybe add cobble stone gutters along each side to stop erosion and help the water flow downhill.

6. New Business

- a. Marble Hill Community Cleanup: Saturday, September 26th, 10am-12pm meet @ W. 225th Street/Jacobus Place
- b. Van Cortland Village Community Cleanup: Saturday, October 3rd, 1pm-3pm meet @ Kingsbridge Heights Community Center

7. Adjournment at 8pm

BRONX - COMMUNITY BOARD 08
ACTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



Hon. Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

Mike Flynn, Commissioner

Paul A. Ochoa, Commissioner

Lisa Garcia, Commissioner



Top 30 Complaints

08 BRONX September 2026

Descriptor 1	# of SRs
Fire Hydrant Running	30
Dirty Water	28
Construction	19
Fire Hydrant Leaking	15
Lead Kit	12
Chemical Odor	8
Lawn Care Equipment	7
Fire Hydrant Defective	6
Alarm	5
Backup	4
Catch Basin Clogged	4
Construction Equipment	4
Dog	4
Fire Hydrant Running Full	4
Jackhammer	4
Leak	4
Fire Hydrant	3
Fire Hydrant Fender Request	2
Manhole Cover Missing	2
Odor	2
Vehicle Idling Odor	2
Water Main Break	2
Animal Other Than Dog	1
Catch Basin Search	1
Dust from Construction	1
Fire Hydrant Leaning/Missing	1
Flooding on Street	1
Low Pressure	1
Manhole Overflow	1
Manufacturing Business/Plant	1
Water in Basement	1

City Council passes bill sponsored by Council Member Justin Sanchez to increase enforcement of dog poop on sidewalks



By [Marina Samuel](#)

Posted on September 11, 2026

[... Comments](#)



[Justin Sanchez and City Council Speaker Julie Menin share a smile during the inauguration ceremony at the James Monroe Education Campus.](#)

Photo courtesy of John McCarten/NYC Council Media Unit

The City Council passed a bill Thursday aimed at getting the city to crack down on dog poop that is repeatedly left on the same sidewalks.

The bill, sponsored by Council Member Justin Sanchez, requires the Department of Sanitation to send employees to investigate a city block after receiving at least seven credible 311 complaints about dog waste there within a seven-day period.

Sanitation workers must respond within 14 days and evaluate the block for possible enforcement of existing state laws and can issue a fine of up to \$250, or up to \$400.

“This bill responds to what I see every week when I check the 311 reports in my district and what I see every day when I’m walking to where I need to get to the South Bronx,” said Council member Justin Sanchez.

“Leaving your dog’s waste behind for someone else to step around or clean up is shameful, harmful and disrespectful to your community. We are not going to tolerate it any longer. This bill makes sure that when a block is repeatedly dealing with this problem, the City shows up and enforces the law.”

The bill was the final piece of the Council’s [five-bill](#) Safe and Clean Outdoor Ownership Practices, or SCOOP, Act. The first four measures passed in August.

Together, the package requires at least 1,200 dog-waste bag dispensers to be placed on public litter baskets across the five boroughs, establishes a three-year public education campaign and creates a pilot program to compost dog waste at participating NYC Parks Department dog runs.

The package also requires signs in city parks reminding dog owners to clean up after their pets and warning them of potential penalties.

Sanchez and Council Speaker Julie Menin [crafted](#) the bill as complaints about dog waste [spiked](#) across the city. The city received 2,926 complaints by August, nearly 400 more than the total recorded throughout 2025.

The bill passed during the Council’s first stated meeting of the fall legislative session and took effect immediately.

Is the city's tap water as good as New Yorkers claim? We looked into it.



Mario Tama/Getty Images



By Elizabeth Shwe

Published Jun 25, 2026 at 10:57 a.m. ET

20 comments

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*This column originally appeared in **Looped In NYC**, our weekly newsletter for where to go and what to know. ([Sign up here!](#))*

We New Yorkers love to brag that our city is the best at everything – food, walkability, cultural diversity, and yes, even our ***tap water.***

Former Mayor Eric Adams called it the “champagne of municipal water.” The city's environmental protection website prides itself in having “the best tap water in the world.” And some New Yorkers even credit their water as the secret ingredient behind the city’s famously thin, foldable pizzas and thick, chewy bagels.

I’ll admit that New York City’s tap water is genuinely tasty and very drinkable. But I lived in Baltimore for a couple years and... I remember it being pretty good there, too! So lately I’ve been wondering: Does NYC really have the best tap water *in the world*? Or are the city and its passionate residents just really good at marketing it?

So for this week’s Looped In, we brought in water sommelier Amalia Ulman (yes, those exist!) to test NYC’s water against tap water from Baltimore, Cincinnati, Washington, D.C. and of course our neighbors in Jersey City.

Ulman ranked each city on a scale of 1-10. One city’s water made her physically recoil, earning it a 1/10. And while Baltimore still tasted smooth to me, Ulman described a “chalky aftertaste.” [Watch our video of the taste tests to see how each city stacked up.](#)

But spoiler alert: New York City was the only one to get a coveted 10/10.

It makes sense that NYC’s tap water tastes so good because it comes from extremely clean water reservoirs in the Catskill Mountains and the Hudson Valley, which are forested areas protected from pollution, according to water expert Gregory O’Mullan, who chairs Queens College’s school of earth and environmental sciences.

NYC’s drinking water supply system is the largest unfiltered water supply in the country, according to New York state’s Department of Environmental Conservation. That means the water is naturally

purified as it moves down through layers of soil and rock, requiring minimal chemical treatment like chlorine and ultraviolet radiation before reaching your faucet.

In contrast, places like Long Island get their tap water from groundwater aquifers, which are more susceptible to industrial pollution, O'Mullan said.

"It is far, far easier and cheaper to keep water clean than it is to treat water that has been exposed to a variety of pollutants," O'Mullan said.

NYC's tap water happens to be both safe *and* good-tasting, but O'Mullan was quick to point out those two things don't always correlate with each other. That means the cities that got low taste testing scores still might have perfectly safe tap water.

"It's important to untangle those two things," O'Mullan said. "That being said, it's important to have good-tasting water as well because we don't want to have to use bottled water."

NYC's water source is relatively pristine, but old pipes in some buildings can leach lead into the water, O'Mullan said. You can get a free lead test kit by calling 311.

And if you want to be extra careful with your tap water, here are some tips O'Mullan shared:

- Run your faucet for 30 seconds to a minute when you first wake up since water sitting in the pipes overnight can pick up contaminants.
- Cook with cold water. Hot water can interact with pipes more and pick up lead a little bit faster.
- Clean out your water faucet aerator monthly. Corrosion particles can collect there and increase lead exposure.

As for whether NYC's famously clean tap water makes our pizzas and bagels taste better, the answer is more nuanced. According to Rachel Wyman, who teaches advanced baking at the Culinary Institute of America, the city's low mineral content increases yeast activity, which does make bread taste better.

But water is only part of the reason. It's really the city's unique airborne yeast strains that give New York bread its distinctive flavor, she said. You can see this wild yeast sometimes as dusty white coating on your grapes and blueberries, Wyman said.

"Even if you take New York City tap water and your flour and your bakers and everything else to San Francisco, you're not gonna be able to recreate the same nuances that the microbiome of New York City has in its dough," she said.

Listen to this week's Looped In segment on "All Things Considered."

For shame! 'Selfish' parkers blocking street sweepers will be stickered for all to see



Chris Melzer/Getty Images



By Liam Quigley

Published Jul 1, 2026 at 11:06 a.m. ET

17 comments

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The Department of Sanitation is bringing back tough-to-remove 'shame' stickers that inspectors will slap on the windows of cars not cleared from the path of New York City's street sweepers.

The City Council gave the go-ahead to start using the stickers again after stripping the department of the ability in 2011 amid complaints that the stickers were too hard to remove. Failure to move for the city's fleet of sweepers already carries a \$65 fine. Sanitation Commissioner Gregory Anderson said the stickers will help keep streets cleaner.

"Intro 92 undoes a grave mistake made by a prior City Council and gives us an additional tool to help us effectively clean the city's streets," he wrote in a statement.

"Selfish car owners who prioritize their convenience over clean neighborhoods will soon be peeling stickers off their cars, while also paying for a summons," Anderson continued.

The department has sought greater power to fine drivers who don't move for street sweepers in recent years, including a so-far unsuccessful bid in Albany to put cameras on street sweepers that would automatically fine any driver caught blocking the path of the trucks.

The City Council also passed a law Tuesday requiring businesses that generate food and yard waste to participate in composting programs.

NYC officials want to put rain gardens on top of bus stops



Liam Quigley / Gothamist



By Liam Quigley

Published Sep 16, 2026 at 7:00 a.m. ET

9 comments

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A bus shelter on Pitkin Avenue in Brooklyn's Brownsville neighborhood has a brand-new look, and city officials say it could be the start of an environmentally friendly redesign that could spruce up transit stops across the five boroughs.

The roof of the B12 and B14 stop outside Bargain Hunters discount store now features a "green roof" with native grasses and other vegetation.

The adornment adds color and life to the otherwise drab bus shelter, and officials say the plants can absorb 16 gallons of rainwater to reduce flooding during heavy rainstorms. Officials say the elevated garden could also cool down the shelter for riders waiting for buses on hot days.

Officials said they'll use the prototype to collect data and evaluate the feasibility of green roofs as part of a greater effort that transportation officials say could improve life for bus riders.

Sabrina Desir, a Brownsville mother of four, was excited about the addition as she boarded the B14 bus.

"I think flowers and having green stuff in general is actually amazing because we don't really see that on bus stops," she said.

The pilot, which has been planned and designed based on two years of community feedback,, won't cost taxpayers any money. It's being funded by a nonprofit called the Resilient Cities Catalyst, which hired contractors to maintain the plants, according to Jennifer Sta. Ines, who runs special projects at the city transportation department.

The city's bus shelters are built and maintained by the company JCDecaux. The company doesn't charge taxpayers to set up the structures, but takes in revenue from advertisements it sells on the exteriors.

Elizabeth Adams, Mayor Zohran Mamdani's senior adviser charged with making buses "fast and free," said green bus stops could help riders escape the heat while they wait to be picked up.

"At one bus stop it might be 90 degrees outside. In another neighborhood, it's 15 degrees higher because of a lack of trees, lack of greenery, and a lot of concrete," she said.

The city has also installed reflective film on the roofs of three other bus stops in the neighborhood, which city officials said could cool the underlying pavement by 25 degrees.

The green roof pilot on Pitkin Avenue will be in place through at least November, and officials will also monitor nearby reflective roofs through May 2027.

NY's recycling data is a dumpster fire, according to state comptroller report



Getty Images

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By Rosemary Misdary

Published Aug 11, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. ET

7 comments

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New York State's recycling data is garbage, according to a new report by the state comptroller.

The Department of Environmental Conservation requires the roughly 400 statewide refuse facilities to file annual reports about the waste they bring in, including how much of it is diverted to recycling. But an audit by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli of the department's records from 2021 to 2023 show nearly a third of the reports were missing.

The audit found the department lacks data on how much recycling is happening in New York, as well as erroneous and missing information and inconsistencies in the agency's reporting and oversight methods. Overall, the audit found the state can't reliably measure how much waste is recycled.

"Reliable recycling data is essential to understanding how much waste is being diverted from landfills and incinerators through recycling," DiNapoli said in the report. "If recycling data is incomplete or inaccurate, the state can't effectively evaluate whether recycling efforts are working or track their impact in reducing waste and its environmental impact."

The audit included a response from the Department of Environmental Conservation. It accepted the audit's analysis, and said it will take appropriate action to improve data collection, reliability and inspection. But the agency also said that the report inflated its claims of reporting deficiencies.

The agency uses the annual reports to calculate the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The conservation department estimates that solid waste is about 12% of statewide climate pollution. But the audit's findings suggest the greenhouse gas emissions in New York are likely much higher, advocates said.

"The state is flying blind because it doesn't have good data to rely on in terms of how well the recycling efforts are working," said Blair Horner, senior policy adviser at the advocacy nonprofit New York Public Interest Research Group. "What better evidence is there of a lack of energy to enforce a program than the fact that the most basic elements of it are either ignored or poorly implemented? And you can't hold yourself or the public can't hold the administration accountable unless they have good data."

The recycling records collected by the state are plagued with unverified data, the auditors found. The conservation department did not verify much of the information it received and the facilities submitting the data could not provide paperwork to substantiate how much was recycled, according to the audit. Many facility reports did not include how much solid waste was discarded rather than recycled.

Overall, facilities were only able to provide adequate records for about 21% of the recyclables received and about 6% of what was bound for landfill and other final disposal methods.

"DEC regulations do not require facilities to provide supporting documentation along with their annual reports but do require facilities to attest to the accuracy of the information provided on the accompanying forms," the department wrote in its response.

The department did not perform inspections on more than one-third of facilities statewide during the three-year period analyzed by the audit. The comptroller's office said that inspections are necessary for confirming information submitted by facilities and pinpointing any compliance issues.

"You can't solve a problem unless you try to do it, and to create a system where the public can hold the government accountable for whether or not it's meeting the goals that it says it wants to meet," Horner said. "Both of those are missing, at least so far right now."

The annual reports are also used to assess the progress of the state's solid waste reduction goals. According to the Department of Environmental Conservation, nearly 80% of what is thrown-out as trash still has value, as recycling or composting. The state's goal is to reduce waste by 85% by 2050. The statewide recycling rates range from 15 to 21% despite the fact that nearly all households have access to recycling services.

"You want to maximize the level of recycling and ensure the people who are doing this work are doing what they're actually supposed to be doing," said Tina Kim, deputy comptroller of the division of state government accountability. "You can't successfully manage a program without basically having complete and accurate data."

New York Will Compost and Target Dog Waste in the City

The City Council passed a package of bills on Thursday to prevent dog poop from accumulating on sidewalks and in parks.

Listen · 3:35 min



By Wesley Parnell

Aug. 13, 2026

The New York City Council passed a package of bills Thursday aimed at combating the scourge of dog poop that lines city blocks and litters New York City parks, often creating smelly challenges for pedestrians.

The package of four bills, known as the Safe and Clean Outdoor Ownership Practices, or SCOOP, Act came in response to rising complaints about dog droppings around the city. Legislators also cited a particularly messy winter where heavy snowstorms froze dog droppings and tainted what was once bright white snow with brown craters.

“We all know New York City has a dog poo problem — we have seen it, smelled it and unfortunately many of us have stepped in it, but this is about more than an unpleasant sidewalk experience,” said Councilwoman Shahana Hanif, who introduced one of the bills. “Dog waste is a public health and environmental issue.”

The set of bills create a program to outfit at least 1,200 public garbage cans around the city with attachments for dog waste bags, an initiative introduced by the City Council speaker, Julie Menin. Another bill will post signage around New York City parks to notify residents of the potential \$250 fine for not picking up after one’s dog.

The bill introduced by Ms. Hanif, who represents a district including Park Slope and Carroll Gardens, would create a multi-language education campaign to inform the public about [dog waste removal](#) and the health risks associated with pet droppings. While some animal feces are commonly repurposed as fertilizer or manure, federal health officials classify dog droppings as waste that can carry pathogens like E-Coli and Roundworm.

All of the bills but one passed by a unanimous vote. One bill, that would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to partner with volunteers to create a dog-waste composting program, was opposed by four members of the council. One member, Councilwoman Gale Brewer, abstained and said during the vote that she was unsure if the program would create an undue burden for park workers “interfacing with the dog feces.”

“We share the City Council’s goals for creating a cleaner, greener New York City, and are always pleased to work with the Council collaboratively on legislation,” said Gregg McQueen, director of media relations for the parks department.

At least two of the bills have a reporting component. Ms. Hanif’s public education bill hopes to track results by compiling a report that will measure whether there has been a decrease in the amount of 311 calls about dog poop. And the composting bill, which sets up volunteer groups for collecting and composting dog poop in and around dog runs, requires the parks department to report how much waste was collected and how the compost was used.

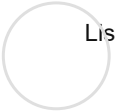
While composting dog waste is more labor intensive than composting fruits and vegetables, the droppings [can be rendered](#) into a soil-friendly form, particularly effective in nonedible flower beds.

“This opportunity to divert dog poop from landfills is a really important opportunity,” said Councilman Harvey Epstein, who introduced the legislation. “It’s a lot of wins of making sure we reduce our landfill: We empower people in dog runs to effectuate a plan, and we provide better soil for our New York.”

E.P.A. Erases Limits on Climate Pollution From Power Plants

Generation of electricity is the second largest source of carbon dioxide and other planet-warming gases in the United States.

Listen · 7:56 min



By Maxine Joselow and Lisa Friedman

Reporting from Washington

Published Sept. 13, 2026 Updated Sept. 14, 2026, 7:57 p.m. ET

The United States will no longer limit the planet-warming pollution that power plants pump into the air while burning coal and gas, the Trump administration announced Monday.

The shift by the Environmental Protection Agency completed the administration's erasure of the most consequential climate policies of Presidents Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Barack Obama. If the move survives expected legal challenges, it could also prevent future administrations from regulating greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

The power sector is the second largest source of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the United States. This pollution accumulates in the atmosphere, where it traps the sun's heat, raising temperatures and supercharging extreme weather events around the globe. Scientists say the United States and other industrialized nations must sharply cut emissions to avoid the most devastating impacts of climate change.

Lee Zeldin, the E.P.A. administrator, announced the change during a meeting of energy ministers from the Group of 20 nations in Houston. In a statement, he accused the Obama and Biden administrations of waging a “war on coal” that forced many coal plants to close prematurely.

The E.P.A. minimized the impact of greenhouse gases from American power plants, saying they “have no material impact on global climate change. In fact, if all carbon dioxides were eliminated tomorrow, there would be no meaningful climate impact.”

Environmentalists and energy experts strongly disputed these assertions. They noted that if the U.S. power sector were its own country, it would be the fifth-largest climate polluter in the world after China, the entire United States, India and Russia.

“This is another nail in the coffin for this administration’s commitment to protecting people and tackling the climate crisis,” said Manish Bapna, the president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group. The E.P.A., he said, “is ending its legal and moral responsibility to end climate pollution.”

President Trump has derided climate change as a “hoax,” and in his second term, the E.P.A. has systematically dismantled policies aimed at slowing global warming that have been criticized as costly by oil, gas and coal companies. The administration has tried to make it easier and cheaper to produce and use fossil fuels, especially to generate electricity that can meet growing demand from artificial intelligence data centers.

Earlier this year, the E.P.A. [eliminated greenhouse gas standards for car tailpipes](#) and [eased restrictions on planet-warming chemicals](#) used in air-conditioners and refrigerators. Most consequentially, the agency [repealed the scientific determination](#) that gave it the legal authority to create climate regulations in the first place.

Under the plan announced Monday, power plants would still be subject to some limits on mercury, arsenic and other contaminants, though the E.P.A. [has already loosened restrictions](#) on how much mercury they can emit.

The agency on Monday took a two-pronged approach to abolishing the greenhouse gas limits for power plants. First, it rescinded a Biden-era rule that required coal plants to eliminate nearly all of their planet-warming pollution by 2039 or shut down. Then it argued that greenhouse gases from power plants do not endanger human health or the environment, and therefore it lacks the legal authority to regulate these emissions under the Clean Air Act.

If courts uphold this novel argument, it could prevent future administrations from restoring the restrictions.

“They are swinging for the fences to try to prevent any administration from regulating one of the largest sources of emission for the United States,” said Carrie Jenks, the executive director of the Environmental & Energy Law Program at Harvard Law School.

The Biden administration’s climate rules for power plants, [finalized in 2024](#), applied to coal-burning plants that were in operation and gas-burning plants that could be built in the future. To comply, coal plants could have installed technology to trap carbon emissions before they are released into the air and store them deep underground. Gas plants could have operated on cleaner fuels like hydrogen, which produces no planet-warming emissions when burned.

The Biden administration estimated that the regulation would also prevent other pollutants, such as soot, from escaping into the air, resulting in \$120 billion in public health benefits by 2047. It projected that in 2035 alone, the rule would prevent up to 1,200 premature deaths, 870 hospital and emergency room visits, 360,000 asthma attacks, 48,000 school absence days and 57,000 lost workdays.

Under the Trump administration, the E.P.A. has [stopped estimating the public health benefits](#) of reducing pollution in the cost-benefit analyses necessary for clean-air regulations. Instead, the agency has estimated only the costs to businesses of complying with the rules.

The E.P.A. projected that the plan announced Monday would save businesses and households more than \$310 billion. But the Biden administration had estimated that its rules would cost businesses \$19 billion to comply; representatives for the E.P.A. did not immediately respond to a question about the discrepancy.

The coal industry had predicted that it would be prohibitively expensive to meet the Biden-era emissions limits, and that many coal plants would have closed instead of investing in new pollution controls.

Michelle Bloodworth, the president of America's Power, a coal industry trade group, said in a statement that the Biden-era rule "would have led to widespread retirements of coal power plants desperately needed to keep pace with America's exploding demand for electricity."

Coal is the dirtiest of the fossil fuels; when burned, it produces more air pollution and more greenhouse gases than any other source of energy. The economics of coal are also unfavorable; experts say new coal plants are more expensive to build and operate than gas plants and renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.

Coal usage in the United States has been declining for decades. While coal [generated more than half](#) of the nation's electricity in 1990, that share fell to [roughly 17 percent](#) in 2025.

U.S. electricity generation by source

Source: Rhodium Group.Brad Plumer/The New York Times

Many of the country's coal plants are more than 40 years old and are scheduled to shutter in the coming years. Since 2010, 330 coal plants have retired and 60 others have announced plans to close by 2031, according to the Sierra Club, an environmental group.

But many utilities are [racing to build new gas plants](#) to power energy-guzzling A.I. data centers. More than two dozen gas plants were built in the United States last year, [according to Cleanview](#), an energy data company.

Democratic-led states and environmental groups have said they intend to challenge the E.P.A.'s plan in court. The fight could eventually reach the Supreme Court, which in 2016 blocked the Clean Power Plan, Mr. Obama's signature effort to curb carbon emissions from coal plants.

In 2022, the Supreme Court [ruled that the E.P.A. could limit](#) these emissions but could not force a nationwide transition away from the use of coal. Instead, it allowed the agency to pursue only narrower policies that dictated the operations of individual power plants.

Bronx, NY

September 2026 Quarterly Update

Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation

3055 Goulden Avenue
Bronx, NY 10468

Project: JRAQ-REH

The Jerome Park Reservoir is a raw water reservoir supplying raw water to the Croton Filtration Plant. The primary purpose of the JRAQ-REH construction contract is to rehabilitate and upgrade components of the Jerome Park Reservoir and to maintain the reservoir in a state of good repair.



Formwork for South Road Grade Beam

Project Scope

Construction of a Diversion Structure and filling the Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) with Controlled Low Strength Material (CLSM), repair of leaks in the East Reservoir Wall, demolition of the existing fence along the East Reservoir Wall and construction of a new fence and guide rail, repair of the Lehman College Parking Lot retaining wall, repair of an existing rubble wall along the South Reservoir Access Road, repair and reinforcement of the North Basin Ramp, shotcrete repair of the North Basin inlet archway and wing walls, resetting of the East Reservoir Wall capstones, re-pointing of the East Reservoir Wall dimension stones, construction of a shotcrete armor wall along lower half of East Reservoir Wall (North and South Basins), and removal / replacement of the reservoir asphalt access roadways.

Contract Work Schedule

May 2021 to December 2027

Work Performed During the Period

- Completed cleaning of the South Basin floor / stockpiling and testing of sediment.
- Continued removal of capstone and dimension stone from South Basin East Wall.
- Continued installation of formwork for the South Road Grade Beam.
- Commenced construction of NCBA cover.

Upcoming Work Activities (Next 3 Months)

- Complete disposal of the sediment from the South Basin.
- Continue removal of capstone and dimension stone from South Basin East Wall.
- Continue installation of formwork and rebar for the South Road Grade Beam.
- Commence installation of dowels for shotcrete armor wall (lower portion of South Basin East Wall).
- Commence repointing of East and West wall in the South Basin.

Work Hours

- Regular work hours: 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
- Extended hours, low noise activity: 6:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, and 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM on Saturdays (only as necessary).

Community Impacts

During construction hours, you can expect the following:

- Intermittent elevated levels of noise.
- Delivery trucks to use construction entrances on Sedgwick Avenue (north end of reservoir) and West 197th Street (south end of reservoir). Flag person will be utilized for maintenance and protection of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- No water in South Basin during the construction period.
 - South Basin anticipated to be out of service (empty) until December 2027.

Community Construction Liaison (CCL)

The DEP has assigned Robert Vargo, PE, CCM of Arcadis as the Community Construction Liaison (CCL) for this project. Please contact Robert Vargo for any project related inquiries/concerns.

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