



New York State Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Breakdown

The final state budget made headlines when it came to environmental policy, from the disheartening changes to New York State's trailblazing climate law to the more encouraging agreement on the state environmental review process ([learn more](#)).

This tool focuses on other under-the-radar changes in the fiscal year 2027 budget — including hard-fought wins and disappointing cuts that threaten the state's only dedicated capital investment program for the environment.

Environmental Protection Fund

The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) is a funding mechanism that has powered critical projects across the state for more than three decades — including projects to safeguard clean drinking water, protect family farms, and combat climate change.

For the second year in a row, the EPF received a record \$425 million allocation. We thank the Governor and the Legislature for working together to maintain this historic funding level.

We are deeply concerned, however, with the targeted cuts to the Open Space/Land Conservation and State Land Stewardship line items, which directly fund the protection of critical habitats and the maintenance of public lands. Carveouts, decreases, and structural changes to EPF programs fundamentally hinder its ability to deliver the sweeping ecological and economic benefits that New Yorkers have come to rely on.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 EPF FUNDING

Line Item	Enacted Funding	Funding Change FY26- FY27	Why It Matters
Climate Resilient Farming Program	\$20.5 million	+\$1 million	This increase will greatly benefit New York State farmers as they work to implement practices that reduce on-farm emissions, sequester carbon, protect and improve water quality, increase food system resiliency and farm viability, and provide essential ecosystem services.
Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)	\$19 million	+\$1 million	Local SWCDs make it possible for farmers to take on climate-resilient farming practices and help to ensure the viability of their businesses. This funding will further build capacity to assist and educate farmers and land managers on the front lines of a changing climate.
Farmland Protection	\$26 million	+\$2 million	The New York State Comptroller reported last summer that farmland continues to be lost at an alarming rate across the state. This increase will put more money in the hands of municipalities, SWCDs, and land trusts to keep land in farming.
Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP)	\$8 million	+\$0.5 million	This restores \$6.5 million for HREP while maintaining \$1.5 million for the Mohawk River, providing critical funding for the health of these river regions. Both programs strengthen flood resilience and water quality within their watersheds, in part by providing technical and financial support to municipalities that would otherwise be unable to pursue such projects.
Open Space/Land Conservation	\$32.5 million	-\$9.5 million	This funds a variety of vital programs, including the Land Trust Alliance's Conservation Partnership grants, urban forestry grants, and reimbursement to land trusts for site cleanup costs prior to transfer to the State. While \$12.5 million from the Sustainable Future Fund is authorized for transfer back to this program, the significant decrease to the line item itself leaves the future uncertain. We encourage state leaders to reestablish baseline funding for this critical land protection program.
State Land Stewardship	\$40 million	-\$10.075 million	This provides valuable support for maintaining state parklands through a variety of grant initiatives, including Park and Trail Partnership Grants. Similar to the Open Space/Land Conservation item, \$12.5 million from the Sustainable Future Fund has been authorized (but not mandated) to supplement the reduced line item. Without a permanent funding solution, legislators and coalition partners will need to actively advocate for this money annually — taking up time that could be spent on other pressing environmental priorities.



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Beyond the Environmental Protection Fund

OTHER FISCAL YEAR 2027 ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS

Program	Enacted Funding	Funding Change FY26- FY27	Why It Matters
State Parks Capital Funding	\$200 million	no change	Many New York State parks need significant infrastructure upgrades and are struggling with deferred maintenance. This will help ensure the parks are accessible, safe, and welcoming to all who visit.
Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) New York Works Capital Projects	\$90 million	no change	New York State DEC maintains a park portfolio that covers more than 5 million acres. This funding continues support for DEC's work to create accessible outdoor spaces, including recreational areas and campgrounds.
Clean Water Infrastructure	\$525 million	+\$25 million	New York currently needs around \$90 billion to repair and upgrade aging water infrastructure, with approximately \$35 billion of that cost needed for modernizing drinking water systems. This increase is a step towards closing the funding gap for this critical infrastructure.
NY-Sun Funding	\$200 million	+\$200 million	This is the first new allocation for NY-Sun since its original \$5 billion capitalization plan in 2016. It will fund roughly 1 gigawatt of new solar capacity, supporting residential, community, and commercial solar installations. The allocation comes from the Sustainable Future Fund, which is financed through a legislative framework that includes ratepayer and utility assessments.
Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) Act	no budget impact	no budget impact	The budget directs the New York State Public Service Commission to modernize the utility interconnection process by implementing statewide "flexible interconnection," which will lower costs and accelerate timelines to connect renewable energy and storage projects to the electrical grid. A recent study estimated that flexible interconnection could increase the hosting capacity for solar in upstate New York by up to 97%, unlocking over 3 gigawatts of additional renewable energy generation capacity.
Payments in Lieu of Taxes and Amendments to Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 532(e)	\$289,000 to the City of Kingston and \$33,000 to the Town of Ulster	no change <i>but no permanent fix</i>	The City of Kingston and Town of Ulster once again received one-time payments in lieu of taxes for the lost tax revenue associated with Sojourner Truth State Park, but this is only a temporary fix. We are disappointed an amendment to RPTL § 532(e) was not included to establish permanent payments to Ulster County municipalities that host state parks owned and managed by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. This would have also made the Town of Lloyd — which has not received any payments since Franny Reese State Park's founding — eligible for payments.

