



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
Emily Gallagher
DISTRICT 50



On Earth Day and all year round, I'm fighting for a livable future.

North Brooklyn sits at the crossroads of the climate crisis. The world's first modern oil refinery was built on the banks of the Newtown Creek; more than a century and half later, we still live with the consequences of one of the largest oil spills in U.S. history—along with multiple other Superfund sites left by toxic industries. As sea levels rise, the Army Corps of Engineers proposed building a 15-foot concrete seawall enclosing our waterfront community—just as we've finally reconnected public access to the shoreline. Tenants, workers, and families struggle under crushing utility bills, driven both by the fluctuating costs of the fossil gas that still powers our grid and a privatized energy system that forces us to subsidize their profits.

But it is also a moment of opportunity and even hope. The federal government is finally starting to invest in green energy at the scale that's required. Five years after New York committed to reaching net zero emissions with the Climate Leadership & Community Protect Act, the state is starting to act on its mandate, most notably with the ban on fossil fuel hookups in new building construction that I led, and by empowering the public sector to build renewable energy projects. And here in North Brooklyn, we defeated National Grid's plan to construct new fossil gas vaporizers, the final piece of its reckless North Brooklyn Pipeline.

In this moment of promise and peril, everyday must be Earth Day. I'm so proud to represent a community with a long history of fighting for environmental justice, ecological restoration, and public open space. And we're just getting started.



Fighting for climate justice in Albany...

I led the fight to win the first statewide ban on fossil gas in new building construction anywhere in the country. Burning gas to heat our buildings is the largest source of emissions in New York State—but there are safe, reliable, and efficient solutions like air source heat pumps and geothermal networks.

But we'll never scale up these healthier alternatives until we stop subsidizing the expansion of the fossil gas system. That's why I've been championing the **NY HEAT Act (A.4592-B)**, which would halt these costly subsidies and allow utilities to invest in modern, efficient clean heating and cooling systems, while limiting utility bills to 6% of household income for working class New Yorkers.



New York City has some of the cleanest drinking water in the nation, thanks in no small part to investments in the Clean Water Infrastructure Act. But the Governor recently proposed slashing its funding by half. Along with my colleagues in the Assembly, I've pushed back on these cuts and worked to increase funding for drinking water projects that reduce pollution.

And speaking of critical infrastructure, I'm working to pass my **Rain Ready NY Act (A.9435)**, allowing cities to better manage stormwater and incentivize green solutions that mitigate the impacts of increasingly heavy rains. Our communities keep getting inundated by rain; it's time our outdated infrastructure keeps up.

...and in our North Brooklyn neighborhoods.

North Brooklyn has long been starved for its fair share of green open space. That's why I've partnered with Councilmember Lincoln Restler and Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park to push for the cleanup and construction of the 27-acre waterfront open space our community was promised almost 20 years ago. There's good news: construction of a new parcel of the park surrounding the Bushwick Inlet on the border of Williamsburg and Greenpoint is now underway! But there's still a long road ahead.



I'm also proud to have funded a new environmental organizer based at the Greenpoint Public Library to make sure our neighbors have critical information about the Meeker Avenue Plume Superfund in eastern Greenpoint, especially how to get their homes tested for vapor intrusion. Learn more at the Meeker Community Advisory Group by visiting linktr.ee/meekeraveplumecag

And speaking of Superfund sites, I've been working closely with elected officials and agencies at all levels of government to push for the comprehensive and expedited cleanup of Newtown Creek, the old NuHart Plastics factory, and multiple other projects throughout North Brooklyn. Our communities were abused for decades by major corporate polluters and they need to be held accountable.

Finally, my office has worked with local volunteers who want to keep our neighborhood clean, including a recent McCarren Park "Spa Day" to spruce up our beloved open space before its busiest season. Reach out to my office if you want to get involved!

EARTH DAY

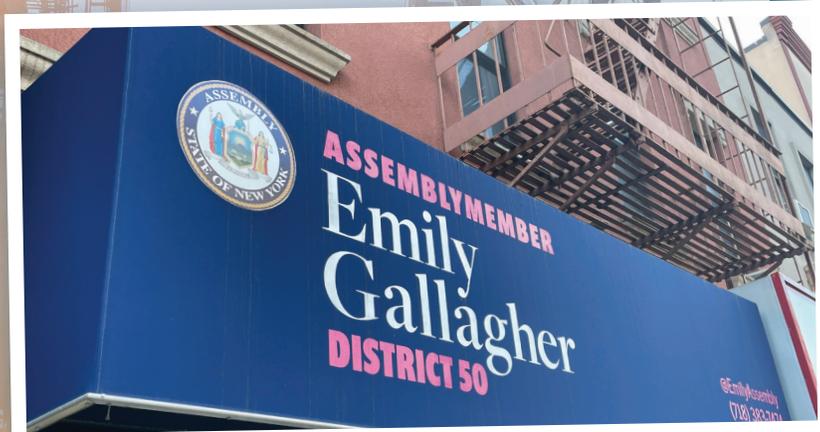


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