



Dear Neighbors,

We are looking forward to the beginning of the 2022 Legislative Session and working intensely on my list of priority bills here in the office. In these weekly updates, we will share some news about new bills I've introduced, bills I've signed on to as a co-sponsor, and legislative news from Albany. As always, scroll down for district news and resources and please feel free to reach out to my office with any questions.



### **Legislative Hearing in Albany on Cryptocurrency Mining**

Next week, on Wednesday, October 27 at 10:30 AM the Assembly Committees on Environmental Conservation, Science and Technology, and Energy are holding a public hearing to examine the impact of "proof of work" cryptocurrency mining on the State's ability to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals, state agency responses, and whether additional statutory or regulatory changes are required.

The hearing will be live-streamed on the Assembly's website here: <https://nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

You can read more about the recent DEC hearing regarding a Proof-of-Work cryptomining operation on Seneca Lake here in Vaughn Golden's Oct. 11 piece for WSKG, "[DEC's Cryptocurrency Mining Decision to Test New York's Climate Law.](#)"

## **New Bills to Track!**

This week, we're highlighting some new bills I have recently sponsored or cosponsored in Environmental Conservation.

[A8275](#) (Sponsor: Kelles; Status: In Committee-EnCon)

**NEW BILL!** **Pollinator Friendly Highway Act  
A8275 (Kelles)**

This bill encourages the creation of pollinator friendly roadways across the state. Through new planting practices, mowing routines, and expansion of adopt-a-highway programs, a systematic redevelopment and rehabilitation of medians along state highways and other roadways will create pollinator friendly areas.

**ANNA  
KELLES**  
Assemblymember for the 125th

[A8199](#) (Sponsor: Kelles; Status: In Committee-EnCon)

**NEW BILL!**

**Phase-Out State Pesticide Use Act  
A8199 (Kelles)**

**This bill will implement a policy that will discontinue the use of pesticides by the state to maintain clean water and adopt a pest control policy that substantially relies on non-chemical pest control policies.**



**ANNA  
KELLES**  
Assemblymember for the 125th 

**[A7668](#) (Sponsor: Englebright; Status: In Committee-EnCon)**

This bill will prohibit recycling symbols on products that are not recyclable. Did you know that products can list the three-arrow recycling symbol even if the product cannot be recycled? This bill will ban these false claims regarding product recyclability and require the Department of Environmental Conservation to provide additional guidance on existing recycling markets. Currently, the widespread use of the recycling symbol on products and packaging that is not truly recyclable in New York leads to additional waste and costs to the recycling industry when these allegedly "recyclable" items must instead be sent to the landfill.

You can read more about similar efforts in California here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/08/climate/recycling-california.html>

**A08363 (Sponsor: Englebright; Status: In Committee-EnCon)**

This bill will prohibit the sale of any cosmetic product or personal care product containing PFAS. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of widely-used man-made chemicals that are commonly found in the blood of people, animals, air, water, and soil around the globe. [Read more about PFAS here](#). Studies have demonstrated that PFAS accumulate in humans over time and they have been linked to cancer, thyroid disease, liver damage, decreased fertility, and hormone disruption.



**Vaccination Update**

Vaccination rates are continuing to increase across New York State! As of Wednesday morning, 86.1% of adult New Yorkers have had at least one vaccine dose. 73% of all New Yorkers have had at least one vaccine dose.

## Vaccination Update: 10/19 11AM

Total doses administered	New Yorkers age 18+ with at least one dose*	All New Yorkers with at least one dose*
<b>26,354,130</b>	<b>86.1%</b>	<b>73.0%</b>
Total doses administered over past 24 hours	New Yorkers age 18+ with completed vaccine series*	All New Yorkers with completed vaccine series**
<b>63,061</b>	<b>77.4%</b>	<b>65.5%</b>



\*per CDC

## Community Resources

### Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help income-eligible New Yorkers pay the cost of heating their home. To apply or learn more, visit: [www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-and-cooling-assistance-heap](http://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-and-cooling-assistance-heap)



# HEAP can help you stay warm this winter!

New Yorkers can now apply for the regular HEAP benefit and the emergency benefit application opens on **Jan. 3, 2022.**



*The **Clean and Tune Benefit** can also provide eligible households with up to **\$400** to clean or repair primary heating equipment.*

## **Broadband Access Survey**

The **New York State Department of Public Service** is requesting help from consumers to better understand broadband access in the state. Please visit the website below to take the **Speed Test**:

**<https://www.empirestatebroadband.com/>**

## **Heat Pump Installation Course Offered by BOCES**

From our friends at TST BOCES and Heat Smart Tompkins:

*Join the clean energy revolution. The heat pump industry is projected to grow exponentially as New York State endeavors to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).*

This course will be a 20-hour basic installation of low ambient mini-split heat pump class. This class will focus on the skills needed for an entry-level position as an installer of residential heat pump systems.

[Learn more here!](#)

# HEAT PUMP INSTALLATION

## ADULT EDUCATION COURSE



### **Election day is coming up!**

Finally, a reminder that Early Voting for the November Elections begins this weekend! To learn more about your polling locations and to see who will appear on your ballot, please visit your local Board of Election:

- [Cortland County Board of Elections](#)
- [Tompkins County Board of Elections](#)

# 2021 Election Day

★ ★ ★ ★ NOVEMBER 2 ★ ★ ★ ★

Polls are open from  
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Visit [elections.ny.gov](https://elections.ny.gov) to learn more

## 2021 EARLY VOTING PERIOD: OCTOBER 23 - OCTOBER 31

Visit [elections.ny.gov](https://elections.ny.gov) to learn more



In good health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna R. Kelles".

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.



Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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