



CCE BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR SFY 2023-24

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND (\$400 MILLION): Since 1993, the EPF has invested in projects to protect and restore our land, air, and water resources in every region of the state. The EPF supports 350,000 jobs across the state, and EPF-supported industries generate approximately \$40 billion in economic activity every year. Within a \$400 million EPF, CCE supports increases to key line items:

- **OCEAN AND GREAT LAKES PROGRAM (\$25 MILLION):** This is the state’s primary source of funding for scientific research, management planning, and restoration projects to improve the health of our Great Lakes and Ocean resources. Funding is needed to advance the New York Ocean Action Plan and Great Lakes Action Agenda, and to leverage funding from NY’s environmental bond act and federal funds being allocated from the bipartisan infrastructure law.
- **SOUTH SHORE ESTUARY RESERVE PROGRAM (\$5 MILLION):** The SSER program updated its Comprehensive Management Plan in 2021 and additional funding is needed to accomplish new priorities and goals aimed at protecting and restoring this critical natural resource.

CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (\$1 BILLION): To date, this successful program has invested \$5 billion to upgrade clean water infrastructure—creating 17 local jobs for every \$1 million invested. However, we have a long way to go to meet New York’s \$80 billion clean water infrastructure needs. To meet the massive clean water infrastructure needs across the state, create jobs, and to leverage additional federal dollars coming from the bipartisan infrastructure law, we urge the legislature to work with the Governor to increase funding for the CWIA to \$1 billion in the final SFY 2023-24 budget.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE ACT: A waste reduction and recycling policy (often referred to as extended producer responsibility or EPR) would require producers—not taxpayers—to bear the cost of proper recycling packaging and printed paper (currently estimated to cost local governments across NYS over \$180 million annually) and help address the state’s solid waste crisis. We are grateful that the Governor included the Waste Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act in the state of the state budget book, and we look forward to working with legislature to adopt a policy in the final budget that reduces packaging waste, reduces toxics in packaging, improves and modernizes recycling, protects our environment and public health, and provides significant cost savings to local governments and taxpayers.