



Organize a letter writing/phone banking party

You've made your calls and written your letters, but how do you make an even bigger impact? Do it with friends. Many of your friends want to help—they care about the issues you care about and want to make a difference too. But they may not know how or feel like they're knowledgeable enough. Here's where you come in—you can give them the tools and info they need to get started, and make it a fun night out too.

Step-by-step

- 1. Pick a date and a location.** When you're thinking about the when and where, think about a time that many folks are likely to make—after work on a weekday is a pretty good bet. Then pick a place—the more likely your friends are to want to go there anyway, the better likelihood they'll show. If your home is the typical meet-up place, go with that. Or if you want to get creative find a bar or restaurant, church meeting room, playground picnic tables, or any fun, free, and accessible place to meet. And think about your event—if you're running a phone bank, the sports bar isn't the best option. But it might be great for letter writing (and you might get a few random folks involved too!).
- 2. Publicize!** Once you have your date and time, get the word out. Facebook, GroupMe texts, Twitter, email are all great ways to publicize an event. Creating a Facebook event as one place to have all the info (date/time/location/info about the event) and then driving your other outreach there can be an effective means of organizing.
- 3. Get your sample letters/sample phone scripts together.** This doesn't have to be elaborate—a few paragraphs for a letter and a few sentences for a phone call work well and are effective. Here are a few basic guidelines for either format:
 - a. Identify yourself as a constituent and elaborate on your history/connections in the district.
 - b. Tell them you care deeply about climate justice, and elaborate on why (e.g., because my community was affected by Superstorm Sandy, because you want to NY create thousands of renewable energy jobs, because you're concerned about your children's future, because dirty energy is harmful to health).

- c. Ask them this single question: **“Will _____ commit to voting for and prioritizing the Climate and Community Protection Act?”**
- d. Emphasize respectfully that you expect an answer, and that you look forward to hearing from them.

3. Get your materials together. If you're phone banking, grab your phone, make a bunch of copies of your scripts and get ready to go. You can look through the contact spreadsheet for your reps number or you can also simply call the Assembly or Senate's main line to be connected to a rep's office.

Assembly: 518-455-4100

Senate: 518-455-2800

For letter writing, all of NY's elected officials' addresses [can be found here](#). Grab your paper, pens, envelopes, stamps (you can supply these or ask your friends to bring some too) and sample letters.

4. Publicize some more. When your friends are saying, 'YESSS! I know!,' you've *almost* publicized enough.

5. Have the party! You've done all the prep, gotten the word out, and a few of your friends (or bunches) are at the party. Kick it off with a brief intro about why you're here, what you want to accomplish (i.e., writing letters to New York's legislative leaders, write letters to the governor, call legislators and the governor, etc.), and just a bit about NY Renews and the Climate and Community Protection act. If you want an up-to-the-minute update on where things stand in the legislature, reach out to a NY Renews campaign coordinator (dan.sherrell@nyrenews.org) the day of your party—he'll get you the info you need. Then start calling and writing. Remind your friends to keep it persona—talk about why climate justice matters to them and how they have been/may be impacted by climate change. And have fun!