

**October 24 - Build Back Better Update. Ringing Church Bells for Climate Justice and November 13, Climate Action**

Negotiations about setting a budget and the adding and dropping of programs from Build Back Better due to funding reductions continue this week. There has still been no commitment from Senators Sinema and Manchin about a budget number to which they would agree. The new **deadline to vote on the infrastructure bill** is October 31st. Additionally, the 31st will conclude the federal surface transportation extension. At this time, a great number of conversations amongst House Democrats are taking place behind closed doors, so the outcome is hard to predict.

There are rumors circulating that the final budget will be as low as \$1.75 trillion. This means that programs originally included in the Build Back Better will be cut or reduced.

While compromise will happen, at this point in the negotiations it is important during this time that people continue to educate themselves and advocate for all the programs they want to see survive this massive reduction. We need to continue to support programs that we feel are important, even if they might not make it into the final package since they could be picked up later in a new reconciliation bill.

Once a framework is agreed to it will be important to set aside differences and do the very best we can to have Congress pass that framework even if certain provisions are cut.

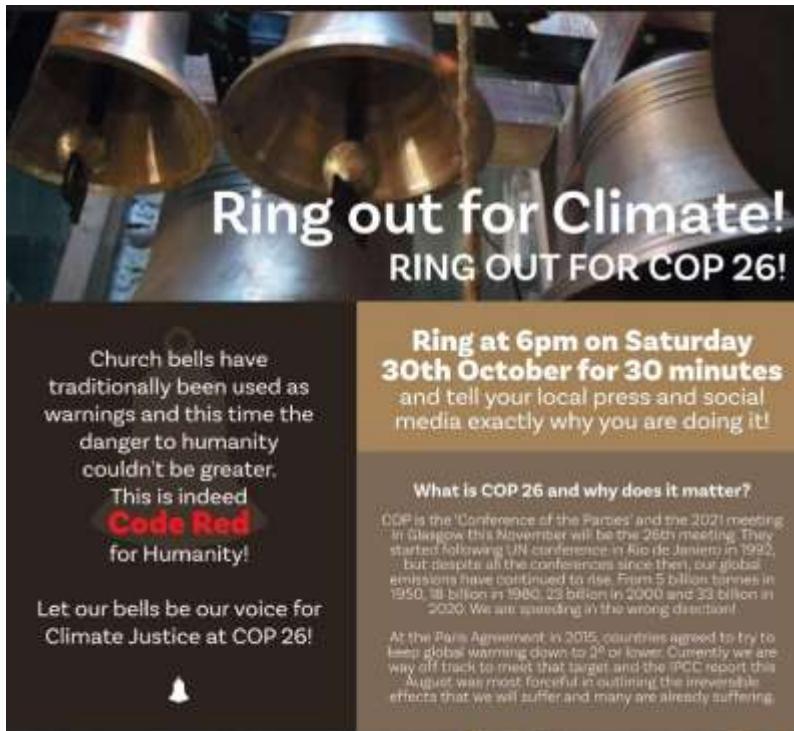
For a full discussion of the state of play in Washington please view the [\*\*October 20, 2021 State Street Forum\*\*](#): Infrastructure on a Human Scale featuring Mary Clark, Federal Issues Coordinator for Citizen Action and The Reverend Phil Tom with The Riverside Church.

Here also is a [\*\*rally in West Virginia\*\*](#) sponsored by the Poor People's Campaign held in West Virginia on Sunday, October 25.

**This Monday morning, October 25 at 8 AM, NYC Rebels are holding an emergency mass civil disobedience action calling on Biden to Save Our City** and hold the line against Manchin on the most significant climate legislation in our lifetimes. [\*\*Sign up now to get involved!\*\*](#) Right now may be humanity's last, best chance to take bold climate action for a livable future... But as you read this, Biden is gutting what was to be the biggest investment the U.S. has ever made to fight the climate emergency... all to appease coal baron Joe Manchin. If the \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better Act sinks, it's incredibly unlikely we'll get another shot to pass federal climate legislation for several years, at which point it will be too late. Defeat is not an option. Despair is not an option. This week, we have nothing to lose. **With so much at stake and COP 26 around the corner, we are teaming up with Sunrise NYC for an emergency mass civil disobedience call to action for all New Yorkers. Please join us as we bring NYC to a standstill THIS MONDAY, OCTOBER 25th at 8 AM to say: BIDEN: SAVE OUR CITY. IT'S NOW OR NEVER. NO CLIMATE, NO DEAL.** There will also be art builds and trainings this weekend to prepare. [\*\*Sign up now for details!\*\*](#)

We are grateful to the [\*\*Center on Budget and Policy Priorities\*\*](#) for their analysis. In addition, the Poor People's Campaign sponsored a [\*\*national town hall\*\*](#) in support Build Back Better featuring politicians, pastors, economists, and activists from all over the country. *With Congress debating a significant expansion of S8 vouchers, @theNYHC studied the impact of making the program universal. The results would transform NY and the US. Call Your member of Congress and Senator Schumer and Gillibrand* and tell them that we need to pass the Build

Back Better Act and they must not cut programs from the proposed Act and they should stay as close to the 3.5 Trillion figure if at all possible. If they must cut, do not eliminate programs but extend them over a five instead of a ten-year time period. We also commend to you a call to action from Social Action Committee of The Riverside Church to call on Congress to pass Build Back Better along with this powerful sermon, Seen & Not Heard: Raising a Nation by Listening to Children, delivered by The Reverend Dr. Starsky Wilson, Executive Director of The Children's Defense Fund at the Children's Sabbath at The Riverside Church. Use this [call to action](#) to contact your lawmakers and view the Children's Sabbath Service including the sermon for October 17 by [clicking here](#). In addition, please stress that it is critical that all the funding for housing is preserved. Housing, in the words of President Biden, is a right and not a privilege. The housing funding will have an outsized impact on lifting so many rent burdened people out of poverty. Here is a report, [New York Housing Conference Report : Universal Rental Assistance Economic and Fiscal Impact Study](#) just published by the New York Housing Conference which makes a powerful case for vast expansion of the housing vouchers which right now are only available to 1 in 4 eligible Americans. Here is the [New York Housing Conference Analysis of Affordable Housing Investment in Federal Infrastructure Bills](#).



**Ring the Bells for Climate Justice at 6 PM on October 30 In support of the Climate Gathering in Great Britain, churches across the United States are ringing their bells for 30 minutes at 6 PM on October 30, 2021.** Several churches across New York state are planning to participate. Church bells have traditionally been used as warnings and this time the danger to humanity couldn't be greater. Let our bells be our voice for climate justice!



## Climate Action Can't Wait - Save the Date!

We all want to live in a world where everyone has access to clean air, clean water, and safe homes, and where our communities are safe from the effects of extreme weather caused by pollution.

But climate change is impacting every aspect of our lives in the Capital Region. In 2021 alone, we've dealt with poor air quality from wildfires on the other side of the country; harmful chemicals in the drinking water in our homes and schools; flooding from disasters like Hurricane Ida that is pushing residents out of their homes; and other worsening impacts of climate change.

With the end of the year approaching, Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature will begin drafting their plans for the 2022 state budget. That means it's time to send them a message: **New York State's leaders must prioritize climate justice now.**

**[Join us to march from West Capitol Park to the Governor's Mansion on Saturday, November 13, at 12pm to demand real action on climate change.](#)**

We're calling on Governor Hochul and the Legislature to deliver climate justice, including the funding necessary to provide a just transition to a renewable energy economy. Alongside our NY Renews partners and other allies, we'll march to demand that New York equitably and swiftly implement the state's climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), and fully fund that law by passing the Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA).

**When we fight for climate justice, we are fighting for justice in all forms - and for our collective future.**

**[Join us on Saturday, November 13, at 12pm in Albany.](#)** More details coming soon!