

# New York Cannabis Licensees Gain New Tool to Meet Climate Goals

The New York state Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) has introduced a new tool aimed at helping cannabis licensees align with the state's climate and sustainability goals. This initiative is part of a broader effort to reduce the environmental impact of the cannabis industry while also driving efficiency and profitability for licensed businesses.

## New Tool for Cannabis Sustainability: PowerScore

Licensees authorized to cultivate cannabis in New York now have access to the **PowerScore platform**, a state-specific tool designed to provide insights into resource consumption, including energy, water, and waste. The platform is available at no cost, allowing all participants equal access to the data and tools needed to track their environmental impact and reduce their operating costs.

The PowerScore platform offers cannabis operators detailed metrics on resource usage, helping businesses understand how their operational efficiency affects both their bottom line and their environmental footprint. By monitoring their energy and water use, licensees can identify areas for improvement, reduce waste, and contribute to New York's climate goals.

## Mandatory Reporting for Licensees

As part of the new initiative, cannabis licensees will be required to track and report their energy consumption, water usage, and waste generation annually. The first reports will be due on **August 31, 2025**. This reporting requirement is expected to not only foster transparency but also encourage businesses to adopt more sustainable practices over time.

**“Utilizing PowerScore for resource tracking is a pivotal step in aligning the legal cannabis industry with New York’s climate goals,”** said **Felicia A.B. Reid**, acting executive director of the New York state Office of Cannabis Management. **“This initiative represents a major advancement in building a more sustainable and resilient cannabis industry.”**

## A Move Towards Sustainability and Profitability

New York's cannabis industry, like many others across the U.S., faces challenges related to its environmental impact. Cannabis cultivation can be resource-intensive, with high energy and water demands, making sustainability efforts a critical focus as the industry grows. By implementing the PowerScore platform, the state is encouraging businesses to streamline their processes, limit their environmental footprint, and improve operational efficiency.

Reid emphasized that the initiative is not just about reducing environmental impact but also about saving time and money for licensees. **“By streamlining processes to limit environmental impact and removing**

**historical economic barriers, we are not only saving licensees time and money but also empowering them to focus on innovation and growth,” she said.**

## **A National Blueprint for Sustainable Cannabis**

New York’s PowerScore initiative could serve as a model for other states looking to create more sustainable cannabis industries. The state’s efforts to align cannabis cultivation with broader climate goals highlight a commitment to sustainability and economic growth. Reid underscored the potential for this initiative to set a national standard, saying, **“Together, we are creating a national blueprint for a more sustainable cannabis future and a more profitable, efficient future for New York cannabis licensees.”**

## **The Road Ahead for Cannabis Licensees**

With the first energy and water use reports due in 2025, New York cannabis licensees have time to adapt to these new requirements and integrate the PowerScore platform into their operations. By focusing on resource management and efficiency, licensees can reduce operating costs, potentially lower their carbon footprint, and contribute to the state’s ambitious climate goals.

The introduction of this tool signals New York’s commitment to fostering a more sustainable cannabis market, positioning the state as a leader in environmentally responsible cannabis cultivation. As the industry continues to grow, these early efforts to address sustainability could play a key role in shaping the future of cannabis regulation across the country.

Email: [info@cannabisriskmanager.com](mailto:info@cannabisriskmanager.com) | Phone: +415-226-4060

© Copyright 2025 Cannabis Risk Manager. All Rights Reserved