

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 3, 2026

CONTACTS:

Vanessa.Cheeks@ocm.ny.gov

TaylorRandi.Lee@ocm.ny.gov



**Office of Cannabis
Management**

**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF CANNABIS
MANAGEMENT WINS SECOND CONSECUTIVE
SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL
ACHIEVEMENT & LEADERSHIP (SEAL) AWARD**

Award Recognizes OCM's PowerScore Initiative

*The Distinction Highlights Agency's Leadership in Sustainable
Cannabis Production and Environmental Transparency*

*Celebrates OCM's Impact Through Education, Outreach, and
Industry Support Efforts*

ALBANY, NY — [The New York State Office of Cannabis Management \(OCM\)](#) has been awarded the [2026 SEAL Environmental Initiatives Award](#) for its PowerScore sustainability program, marking the second consecutive year the agency has received this national honor.

PowerScore allows licensed cannabis cultivators to submit anonymized data on energy, water, and waste usage, supporting both industry-wide resource efficiency and the State's climate goals. The SEAL Award recognizes OCM's extensive education and outreach efforts that helped licensees successfully complete their first year of PowerScore reporting.

Between the program launch in August 2024 and the first reporting deadline in August 2025, OCM conducted a robust year-long education campaign, releasing webinars, tutorials, FAQs, and digital resources that collectively reached thousands of viewers. These materials ensured cultivators had clear, accessible guidance while preparing their first PowerScore submissions.

“PowerScore reflects our commitment to supporting a cannabis industry that is efficient, responsible, and aligned with New York’s climate priorities,” said **Susan Filburn, Acting Executive Director of the New York State Office of Cannabis Management**. “We’re honored to receive this award for the second year in a row, and even more proud of the cultivators who are using PowerScore to reduce costs, strengthen operations, and lead the nation in sustainable cannabis production.”

“This award demonstrates the strength of collaboration between OCM and New York’s cultivators,” said **Maggie Cowee, Program Analyst 2 of the New York State Office of Cannabis Managements Office of Innovation team**. “PowerScore gives operators real insight into their energy and water usage, and waste and emissions generation and allows the State to better understand where education, funding, or technical support is most needed. This recognition reflects how seriously New York takes environmental stewardship in cannabis.”

Early PowerScore data shows strong adoption of sustainable practices statewide: nearly 75% of first-year respondents compost all green waste, close to 80% use higher-efficiency LED lighting, and 31% report using some form of water reclamation. These trends reflect cultivators’ increasing commitment to reducing resource use and strengthening environmental performance.

Building on these findings, OCM will host two educational webinars in 2026 one in March with Cornell University and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) focused on composting and waste management, and another in April with Resource Innovation Institute on water reclamation and reuse. Additional sessions will offer guidance on interpreting PowerScore results and improving year-over-year efficiency. PowerScore remains a cornerstone of OCM’s environmental strategy, supporting cultivator success and advancing the State’s climate goals. For more information, visit <https://cannabis.ny.gov/sustainability>

[The Office of Cannabis Management](#) is responsible for overseeing the State’s medical, adult-use, and cannabinoid hemp programs. Guided by its core pillars — public health and safety, social and economic equity, community reinvestment, environmental sustainability, and consumer education — OCM works to build a regulated cannabis market rooted in transparency, accountability, and opportunity. Through licensing,

enforcement, education, and industry support, the Office is committed to advancing a fair, sustainable, and responsible cannabis industry that benefits all New Yorkers.

###

Follow us @nys_cannabis on Instagram, Facebook, and X.