



**Low-Income
Forum on Energy**

2018 Statewide Conference PROGRAM

Albany Capital Center | Albany, NY | May 22-23, 2018 | nyscrda.ny.gov/LIFE

Thank you to our exhibiting organizations and Steering Committee organizations for supporting the Low-Income Forum on Energy.

Gold Level Exhibitors



Silver Level Exhibitors



United States Department of Agriculture

Additional Exhibitors & Steering Committee Organizations



EVERYTHING MATTERS



Public Utility Law Project of New York, Inc.



2018 LIFE Statewide Conference
May 22-23, 2018
Albany, New York

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the LIFE 2018 Statewide Conference, the premier event focused exclusively on low-income energy issues. The LIFE Steering Committee and I are appreciative that you have taken time from your busy schedules to help us continue the unique statewide dialogue that began in 1998 to address the needs of low-income energy consumers in New York State. As the cost of energy continues to pose challenges to residents with low or fixed incomes, it is important to deliver useful, timely information to community leaders and service providers that will assist low-income customers. Your dedication to raising issues and finding solutions that address the needs of your clients, constituents, and community is what strengthens and motivates the LIFE Steering Committee to continue the LIFE dialogue.

During the next two days, we will have the opportunity to hear from national and local experts on low-income energy policy issues, consumer protections, available programs and resources, and best practices. The program also includes new developments in Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), which is designed to provide customers with a clean, resilient, and affordable energy system. While at the conference, please take advantage of the various skill-building workshops, information-sharing presentations, and opportunities to network with colleagues from across the State. During the LIFE achievement awards presentation, we will take time to recognize some of the outstanding advocates working tirelessly to meet the needs of low-income New Yorkers.

By the end of the conference, I hope you will obtain new insights and helpful information, solutions to the challenges that you face, and contacts to help continue the meaningful and essential work of serving your clients in the most effective and efficient manner.

I hope you enjoy the conference, and I'd like to thank you for participating in the LIFE dialogue!

– Monica M. Ferreri, LIFE Chair

Keynote Speaker



Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul

New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul was elected in 2014. Prior to her role as a statewide official, she was elected at both the federal and local level – she was a Member of Congress in New York’s 26th Congressional District, served as Erie County Clerk, and began her career in public office on her local town board.

The Lieutenant Governor chairs Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Councils, which have reinvented economic development by empowering local leaders in business and academia. This strategy has brought more jobs than ever before to New York State. Lieutenant Governor Hochul also chairs the State’s Heroin and Opioid Abuse Task Force.

The Lieutenant Governor spearheads the administration’s key efforts to advance equality, championing campaigns for fair wages, paid family leave, Enough is Enough to combat sexual assault on college campuses, and eliminating the wage gap. In 2016, she was elected chair of New York State’s Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission.

The Lieutenant Governor is dedicated to her role as the Governor’s eyes and ears on the ground. She makes a point of traveling to all 62 counties every year she’s in office, traveling enough miles to circle the globe more than 7 times.

Conference Information

Badges and Ribbons

Badges are required for admittance to all sessions, meals, and receptions. If you lose your badge, please go to the conference registration desk for assistance. Conference staff and members of the LIFE Steering Committee can be identified by the ribbon on their name badge. Please do not hesitate to approach these individuals for information or assistance.

Conference Exhibits and Exhibitor Passport

Exhibiting organizations and agencies are providing information that will help many of us do a better job assisting low-income energy clients and customers. Visit the exhibits during conference breaks to learn more and network with your colleagues.

Play to win the Exhibitor Passport Challenge! Visit with 12 of the exhibiting organizations and agencies and have the representative mark your Exhibitor Passport (provided with the conference materials). Print your name on the completed Exhibitor Passport and bring it to the closing remarks and raffle session on May 23 at 4:00 p.m. to be eligible to win a raffle prize.

Note: Some of the organizations and agencies paid an exhibitor fee or provided support for the conference. Featuring their displays constitutes neither an explicit nor an implicit endorsement by the conference or by the LIFE program of their products or services.

New York State Capitol Tour

The NYS Office of General Services will facilitate a tour of the New York State Capitol Building on May 22 at 6:00 p.m. The tour group will meet at the registration desk at 5:45 p.m. Conference staff will lead the group to the Capitol Building to meet the tour guide. Transportation to and from the Capitol Building will be the responsibility of the tour participant. The building is located 0.3 miles from the Albany Capital Center. Participants are invited to walk together as a group, but taxis and rideshare car services are available in downtown Albany. If you would like to attend the tour and did not pre-register, please check-in at the registration desk to see if space is still available.

Live Twitter Feed

Step 1: Follow us: @LIFEnys

Step 2: Tweet: @LIFEnys and using #LIFEnys

Step 3: Check out the live Twitter Wall in the exhibitor area to see your tweet broadcast to the LIFE audience

Evaluation Forms and Raffle

The evaluation form is a critical tool in developing the type of conference that is most beneficial to the LIFE network. Please take a moment to complete an evaluation for each session. We will collect your completed evaluation form at the closing on Thursday. At that time, your name will be entered into the raffle drawing for a chance to win.

Lactation Room

A lactation room is located on the second floor. To utilize the room, please ask for assistance at the registration desk at the main entrance.

Discover Albany

Discover Albany staff are located in the first-floor lobby to help you find restaurants, entertainment, and information about the capital city. There is also a touch-screen electronic kiosk loaded with helpful information in the lobby.

We're Going Green

As part of our on-going commitment to both environmental and fiscal responsibility, we will not be printing and distributing presentation handouts. Visit nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE to download copies of available presentations after the conference. The Albany Capital Center is a sustainable, community-integrated convention facility that has a digital energy management system for heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting. The space is NYS Energy Code compliant with many green features, including site-source recycling and low-volume water fixtures.

Parking

A three-level pay-upon-entry parking garage is located beneath the Albany Capital Center. The event rate for parking is \$4.00 per day. The entrance and GPS address for the parking garage entrance is 7 Wendell Street, Albany, NY 12207. There are many other parking garages throughout the immediate downtown Albany area.

Continuing the Dialogue

The LIFE Steering Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your attendance and contribution to the LIFE 2018 Statewide Conference. The LIFE dialogue continues to be a success because of your efforts. At the close of the conference, please reflect on the information provided and help generate an even larger LIFE dialogue by sharing this information and your experience over these two days with others. Contact LIFE at any time with suggestions for improvement, ideas for low-income energy issues to include in future LIFE events, or webinar and newsletter topics: LIFE@nyserda.ny.gov

Agenda

Tuesday May 22, 2018							
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.		Registration and Continental Breakfast					
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.		Introductions, Welcome, and Keynote					
P1	9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Plenary Session 1: Advancing Energy Affordability and Access to Clean Energy in New York State					
	10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Networking and Exhibitor Break					
		Track A Energy Policy	Track B Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Track C Program and Initiative Updates	Track D Consumer Protections and Outreach	Track E Related Initiatives and Special Topics	Track F Contractor and Technical Training
Session 1	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Update on the NYS Public Service Commission Affordability Proceeding and Utility Low-Income Payment Assistance Programs	Passive House-Certified Affordable Senior Housing	Health/Energy Nexus on the Ground: Learning from Work Underway	Participating in the Policy Making Process	Proposal Development for Clean Energy Projects Serving LMI Households	Retrofitting Manufactured Housing **
	12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Conference Luncheon					
P2	1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Plenary Session 2: Utility Roundtable: New Utility Roles Under Reforming the Energy Vision					
	2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Networking and Exhibit Break					
	2:15 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Attorney Training on Consumer Rights Related to Obtaining and Maintaining Utility Service***					
Session 2	2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Low Income Access to Solar	Energy Opportunities in Rural New York	Reforming the Energy Vision in Action: REV Demonstration Projects	Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Outreach: Connecting Vulnerable and Low-Income Populations with HEAP	Health and Energy Research in Practice: Thermal Extremes Vulnerability and Management	Zonal Pressure Diagnostics **
	3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Networking and Exhibit Break					
Session 3	3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	An Environmental Justice Perspective on Clean Energy	Fostering Access to Solar in Affordable Housing	Finance Solutions for Energy Improvements in Affordable Multifamily Buildings	Energy Conservation for Low-Income Customers: How You Can Help Your Clients Help Themselves	Initiatives for New Americans in New York	Electric Baseboard Reduction **
	4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Evening Reception					
	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Tour of the New York State Capitol Building					

Agenda

Wednesday, May 23, 2018							
	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast					
	9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Welcome and LIFE Achievement Awards Presentation					
		Track A Energy Policy	Track B Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Track C Program and Initiative Updates	Track D Consumer Protections and Outreach	Track E Related Initiatives and Special Topics	Track F Contractor and Technical Training
Session 4	9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Inequality and Poverty: Using Social Research to Inform Policy	Community Solar: Overcoming Barriers to Access	Opportunities for Affordable Housing Owners	Update on ESCO Proceedings and Activities	Understanding the LMI Market Segment: Data Driven Approaches to Increase Effectiveness of Low-Income Energy Programs at the Local Level	What is an Energy Audit? **
	10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Networking and Exhibitor Break					
Session 5	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Default Rate Design and the Impacts on Low-Income Customers	Integrating Non-Energy Benefits into Energy Efficiency: Solution Building at the Health/Energy Nexus	Innovative Models for Managing Household Electricity Use and Addressing Affordability: Oshawa Peak Performance Pricing	Home Stability Support: A Proposal to Dramatically Reduce Homelessness in New York State	Public/Private Partnerships: Focus on Affordable Housing	Heating 101 **
	12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Conference Luncheon					
P3	12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Plenary Session 3: Energy Affordability: A National Perspective					
Session 6	1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	REV Opportunities for Low-Income and Other Residential Customers	Advancing Energy Affordability – National Grid’s Versatile Approach	Community Energy Engagement: Current Activities and Opportunities	Supplemental Programs: Lifeline and Nutrition	The ALICE Report: Learning about New York’s Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Residents	Tools of the Trade**
Session 7	3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.		Update on NYSERDA Residential Energy Efficiency Programs: EmPower NY and Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®			Best Practices for Outreach: Working with Older Adults	Healthy Homes Evaluator Training**
	4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks/Wrap Up/Raffle					
<p>**Available for Building Performance Institute Continuing Education Credits</p> <p>***Available for Continuing Legal Education Credits</p>							

Session Details: Tuesday, May 22

8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m. | Registration and Continental Breakfast

Location: Registration is in the Mural Lobby. Breakfast is in the Second Floor Dining Area.

9:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m. | Introductions, Welcome, and Keynote

Location: Second Floor General Session Room

Introductions: *Chris Coll, NYSERDA; Monica M. Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service*

Welcome: *Alicia Barton, President and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; John B. Rhodes, Chair of the NYS Public Service Commission and CEO of the Department of Public Service*

Keynote: *New York Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul*

9:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. | PLENARY SESSION 1

Advancing Energy Affordability and Access to Clean Energy in New York State

Location: Second Floor General Session Room

Presenters: *Greg Hale, NYSERDA, Senior Advisor For Energy Efficiency Markets and Finance; Ted Kelly, Assistant Counsel, NYS Department of Public Service; Peter Olmsted, Assistant Secretary for Energy, Office of the New York Governor*

Moderator: *Chris Coll, NYSERDA*

Over the last several years, Governor Cuomo has advanced far-reaching clean energy initiatives to spur New York State's achievement of important climate and energy affordability objectives. Through the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy, New York is actively spurring clean energy innovation and undertaking fundamental regulatory changes to bring new investments into the State and improving consumer choice and affordability. The Clean Energy Fund (CEF), administered by NYSERDA, is the State's primary tool for developing the State's clean energy market, including a portfolio of initiatives intended to increase access to energy efficiency and renewable energy and reduce energy bills for lower-income residents and communities. In his 2018 State of the State address, Governor Cuomo directed the NYS Department of Public Service and NYSERDA to work with stakeholders to develop and propose a statewide energy efficiency target for 2025 and a far-reaching energy initiative to propel the State to achieve that target, including considerations for improving energy efficiency uptake for lower-income households and affordable multifamily buildings. This panel presentation will provide attendees with an overview of the primary initiatives guiding New York State's clean energy transition with specific focus on how New York is advancing energy affordability and access to clean energy solutions for lower-income and disadvantaged New Yorkers.

10:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. | NETWORKING AND EXHIBITOR BREAK

Location: First Floor Networking and Exhibitor Area

11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. | SESSION 1

A. Update on the NYS Public Service Commission Affordability Proceeding and Utility Low-Income Payment Assistance Programs

Location: Meeting Room 1A

Presenter: *Martin Insogna, NYS Department of Public Service*

Moderator: *Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service*

In May 2016, the NYS Public Service Commission issued an order in its low-income proceeding (Case 14-M-0565) that adopted a universal Energy Affordability Policy, which seeks to limit energy costs for low-income New York households to, on average, no more than six percent of household income. A subsequent order in February 2017 established specific discounts for each of four customer income tiers for all major New York State utilities and directed utilities to implement the tiered levels no later than December 31, 2018. In this session, an overview of the proceeding will be provided and you will learn what to expect from these new programs for addressing low-income customer needs.

Session Details: Tuesday, May 22

B. Passive House-Certified Affordable Senior Housing

Location: Meeting Room 1B

Presenter: *Gahl Sorkin Spanier, Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.*

Moderator: *Hugo Jule, ECS Better Home*

Corona Senior Residence is a 68-unit, 8-story affordable senior housing in Queens NY, that is being developed as one of the first affordable multifamily buildings to meet the Passive House Institute design standards for ultra-energy-efficient buildings. Early in the project, HANAC Inc., the project developer, defined how they envision their new senior housing project will serve the community and how this innovative mixed-use building will provide high levels of tenant comfort, social well-being, and energy savings in addition to low rent. The structure and grounds will include an early childhood educational program serving the needs of the broader community and fostering positive interactions of neighbors of all ages. The session will explain how ultra-efficient Passive House construction was instrumental in realizing this vision, and how some of the challenges were addressed along the way.

C. Health/Energy Nexus on the Ground: Learning from Work Underway

Location: Meeting Room 2A

Presenters: *Sandra Lobo, Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition; Elizabeth McDade, Rochester Area Community Foundation; R. Scott Oliver, PathStone Corporation; Katherine Mella, MIT Community Innovators Lab*

Moderator: *Mishel Filisha, NYSERDA*

The intersection of energy and health is at the forefront of research and practice. Residential healthy homes interventions that combine energy efficiency and weatherization measures (e.g., insulation and air sealing) with measures that address persistent respiratory health conditions such as asthma (e.g., ventilation, moisture/mold mitigation, carpet removal), and may include additional preventative health and safety measures can improve occupant health, reduce energy bills, and enhance the comfort and safety of a home. Learn about the groundbreaking healthy homes work underway by the Rochester Safe and Efficient Homes Initiative and the Bronx Healthy Buildings Program that can help guide further progress at the energy/health nexus.

D. Participating in the Policy Making Process

Location: Meeting Room 2B

Presenter: *Richard Berkeley, Public Utility Law Project of New York*

Moderator: *Rosa Maria Castillo-Kesper, Public Utility Law Project of New York*

Learn what you need to know to get involved. This session will provide an overview of the various parameters and expectations, and rhythms and flow associated with participating as an intervenor in both rate and policy proceedings. A current water company rate proceeding and the current proceeding involving utility low-income programs will be used as examples for discussion.

E. Proposal Development for Clean Energy Projects Serving LMI Households

Location: Meeting Room 2C

Presenters: *Megan Allen, Capital Region BOCES; Michelle Andry, NYSERDA; Lori Clark, NYSERDA*

Moderator: *John Scicchitano, NYSERDA*

For local organizations and developers starting a clean energy project to benefit low- to moderate-income (LMI) residents, developing a proposal to secure funding from public, philanthropic, community, and private sources is a critical step. This session will offer best practices and resources for preparing project proposals and examples of what LMI-focused funders and programs are looking for in strong projects.

F. Retrofitting Manufactured Housing**

Location: Capital Room

Presenter: *Matt Redmond, NYS Weatherization Directors Association*

Moderator: *Matt McQuinn, NYSERDA*

This fast-paced lively session is an introduction to the tools and techniques required to perform a comprehensive energy efficiency retrofit for existing single-wide and double-wide manufactured homes. Manufactured homes are quite different from site built homes so techniques and tools have been developed through the years to effectively deliver increased energy efficiency and comfort to occupants. Some of the areas covered in this session include the order of priorities of retrofit work, duct diagnostics and repairs, belly insulation retrofits, sidewall blow or stuff, and roof insulation techniques.

Session Details: Tuesday, May 22

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. | CONFERENCE LUNCHEON

Location: Second Floor Dining Area

1:00 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. | PLENARY SESSION 2

Utility Roundtable: New Utility Roles Under Reforming the Energy Vision

Location: Second Floor General Session Room

Presenters: *John Bruckner, President, Representing National Grid New York; Anthony S. Campagiorni, Esq., Vice President, Regulatory and Governmental Affairs, Representing Central Hudson; Matt Ketschke, Senior Vice President of Customer Energy Solutions, Representing ConEdison and Orange and Rockland Utilities; Carl A. Taylor, President and Chief Executive Officer, Representing New York State Electric and Gas and Rochester Gas and Electric; Daniel Eichhorn, President and Chief Operations Officer, PSEG Long Island (invited)*

Moderator: *John B. Rhodes, Chair of the NYS Public Service Commission and CEO of the Department of Public Service*

The electric industry is undergoing significant changes. These changes are driven by a range of challenges and opportunities created by new and improved technologies, changing customer and societal needs and expectations, and structural changes in the industry. In New York, electric distribution utilities are already beginning to make this transition under the changes being implemented in the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding. Under REV, the utility continues providing safe, reliable, and affordable service, and makes investments in a distributed system platform to actively manage and coordinate a growing suite of products and services with a goal of increasing customer uptake of third-party services, particularly those related to distributed energy resources. This moderated panel of utility executives will reflect on the importance of utility leadership in establishing the new paths to clean energy solutions, including investment in energy-efficient, clean technologies that address low-income customer needs.

2:00 p.m. — 2:15 p.m. | NETWORKING AND EXHIBITOR BREAK

Location: First Floor Networking and Exhibitor Area

2:15 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. | Attorney Training on Consumer Rights Related to Obtaining and Maintaining Utility Service***

Presenter: *Richard Berkeley, Public Utility Law Project of New York*

Location: Empire State Plaza Concourse, Meeting Room 7 (Please follow signs from the registration desk)

The Public Utility Law Project of New York will provide a continuing legal education training that instructs attorneys on the rights conferred by Article 2 of the Public Service Law that pertains to the consumer's right to obtain and maintain utility services; the availability of public assistance and financial programs to assist residential customers experiencing either the threat or actual termination of utility services; statutes, regulations, and case law supporting New York's public policy of maintaining energy service; and the implementation of energy efficiency and conservation as cost-containment measures.

2:15 p.m. — 3:15 p.m. | SESSION 2

A. Low-Income Access to Solar

Location: Meeting Room 1A

Presenter: *Martin Insogna, NYS Department of Public Service*

Moderator: *Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service*

Extending solar access to low-income customers remains challenging. Compared to rooftop solar, community distributed generation (CDG) has unique potential to benefit low-income communities for a variety of reasons; however, it also faces some particular barriers to greater adoption for these customers. Therefore, it is critical to address the identified issues with near-term interventions in this market segment. This session discusses several ongoing projects designed to increase access to solar for low-income customers and presents various proposals for potential market interventions that encourage and support low-income customer participation in CDG.

B. Energy Opportunities in Rural New York

Location: Meeting Room 1B

Presenters: *Michelle Andry, NYSERDA; Scott Smith, NYSERDA*

Moderator: *Colin McKnight, NYS Rural Housing Coalition*

New York State's rural landscape poses unique challenges for adopting clean energy technologies that require a forward-thinking approach for linking energy and housing programs and strategies that serve low- to moderate-income residents. Learn about opportunities that can support affordability while taking advantage of the latest solar and clean heating and cooling technologies to meet the diverse needs of the State's rural residents.

Session Details: Tuesday, May 22

C. Reforming the Energy Vision in Action: REV Demonstration Projects

Location: Meeting Room 2A

Presenters: *Tamara Bryan, Con Edison; Jonathan Nickerson, National Grid; Jennifer Turner, New York State Electric and Gas*

Moderator: *Chelsea Kruger, New York State Department of Public Service*

As part of Governor Cuomo's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy, New York's investor-owned utilities are working with energy innovators to lower costs, test advanced technologies, and design replicable business models through REV demonstration projects. Together utilities and their partners are trying ways to reliably power homes and businesses at lower costs while reducing emissions. These projects aim to lead to successful, viable, scalable, and replicable solutions for any utility. Learn how three utilities are advancing REV demo projects in various stages of planning and implementation.

D. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Outreach: Connecting Vulnerable and Low-Income Populations with HEAP

Location: Meeting Room 2B

Presenters: *Andrew Bryk, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Emily Urban, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Anna Vitolins, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*

Moderator: *Tanya Jones, HeartShare Human Services of New York*

New York State Home Energy Assistance Program benefits are intended to decrease the energy burden on vulnerable households, including those of older New Yorkers and low- to moderate-income New Yorkers. NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) strives to reach as many of these households as possible and continues to connect new families with available services each year. Representatives from OTDA will discuss ways you can reach new eligible households.

E. Health and Energy Research in Practice: Thermal Extremes Vulnerability and Management

Location: Meeting Room 2C

Presenters: *Zoé Hamstead, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University at Buffalo; Josh Wilson, Department of Environment and Planning, Erie County; Eric Walker, Independent Energy Advocate*

Moderator: *Mishel Filisha, NYSERDA*

Extreme heat and cold events have significant impacts on human health and well-being. Temperature extremes and multiple social and economic variables such as energy affordability, energy efficiency, housing conditions, and access to health services create differences in communities' coping capacities. These factors also impact the effectiveness of public agencies, organizations, and individuals to respond to temperature-related events. This session will highlight partnership projects in Buffalo, NY that are addressing urban thermal extremes and resiliency capacities at the local level. Learn about how community members are participating in a citizen science project that utilizes a thermal sensing network and temperature experience survey to advance a vision for holistically addressing urban resilience to extreme temperatures.

F. Zonal Pressure Diagnostics**

Location: Capital Room

Presenter: *Al McMahon, NYS Weatherization Directors Association*

Moderator: *Rebecca Gagnon, NYSERDA*

This introduction to Zonal Pressure Diagnostics will demonstrate how crews can use simple strategies to prioritize air-sealing efforts and quantify leakage through various zones, especially attics and attached rooms or garages. With a working knowledge of pressure diagnostics, crews can provide better air-sealing results and added comfort for clients. Pressure balancing furnace ductwork will also be covered.

3:15 p.m. — 3:30 p.m. | NETWORKING AND EXHIBITOR BREAK

Location: First Floor Networking and Exhibitor Area

Session Details: Tuesday, May 22

3:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m. | SESSION 3

A. An Environmental Justice Perspective on Clean Energy

Location: Meeting Room 1A

Presenters: *Kartik Amarnath, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; Sage Green, PUSH Buffalo; Shiva Prakash, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest*

Moderator: *Michelle Andry, NYSERDA*

The advancement of environmental justice and the clean energy transition are inextricably linked. The spread of distributed energy resources and recent regulatory developments on community distributed generation are providing new opportunities for communities to have a voice in their energy future, as well as take ownership of their energy resources. However, many disadvantaged and environmental justice communities are unable to take full advantage of the potential that the clean energy transition holds due to a lack of resources for planning and implementation and limitations of the current energy policy. This session will provide attendees with an overview of exciting community-led clean energy planning and projects happening around the State, and will highlight key policy considerations necessary for communities to realize the potential of the clean energy transition.

B. Fostering Access to Solar in Affordable Housing

Location: Meeting Room 1B

Presenters: *Ronald Reisman, Sustainable CUNY; Christopher White, New York City Housing Authority; Anika Wistar-Jones, Solar One*

Moderator: *Chris Rogers, NYSERDA*

The session will focus on efforts in New York City to make solar accessible to communities that have historically faced significant barriers to accessing solar, through third-party financing, aggregated procurement, and creative utilization of Community Shared Solar. Speakers from NYCHA, Sustainable CUNY, and Solar One will present case studies of public housing, nonprofit affordable portfolios, and owner-occupied affordable cooperatives. This session will explore how these projects can reduce energy costs for low- to moderate-income households and create employment opportunities for local residents, encourage capital investment in underserved neighborhoods, and support the growth of start-up and minority and/or women-owned business enterprise solar installers.

C. Finance Solutions for Energy Improvements in Affordable Multifamily Buildings

Location: Meeting Room 2A

Presenters: *Curtis Probst, co-Chief Executive Officer, New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation; Mark Thielking, Energize NY*

Moderator: *Rebecca Gagnon, NYSERDA*

Clean energy upgrades in affordable multifamily buildings can result in reduced operating costs, enhanced building resiliency, and improved quality of life for tenants. However, capital constraints and access to financing options can limit the ability for property owners to undertake these improvements. This session will provide an overview of two opportunities for affordable building owners to finance clean energy projects and preserve affordable housing at the same time. Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing is an innovative and accessible financing mechanism offered by Counties and Cities that multifamily property owners can use to upgrade buildings to reduce energy waste, to replace aged equipment and install renewable energy. The Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC), a local development corporation, currently administers Energize NY PACE for commercial buildings on behalf of more than 40 municipalities across the State. In addition, the New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation works with property owners across the State to provide innovative finance options for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and demand response projects in all building types, with a focus on increasing accessibility to finance options for affordable multifamily buildings.

Session Details: Tuesday, May 22

D. Energy Conservation for Low-Income Customers: How You Can Help Your Clients Help Themselves

Location: Meeting Room 2B

Presenters: *Howard Falkow, MetroNYInsulation; Wendy Sanfilippo, Sanfilippo Solutions Inc.*

Moderator: *David Friello, NYSERDA*

Communicating with clients is an essential part of program and service delivery. Assisting clients with learning about energy efficiency measures and energy conservation tips can reduce energy burden and help households become more energy secure. This session will combine the experience of two EmPower New York contractors, MetroNYInsulation and Sanfilippo Solutions, Inc., from opposite sides of New York State to share how they serve their customers in both rural and suburban communities. Presenters will review what works for them, from the application process through completion of the work, including in-home education to help clients benefit fully from all aspects of the program. This fun and interactive session will teach you how to help your clients save money and stay in their homes safely and comfortably.

E. Initiatives for New Americans in New York

Location: Meeting Room 2C

Presenters: *Jenny Coronel, NYS Office of New Americans; Juhanna Rogers, CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity*

Moderator: *Hugo Jule, ECS Better Home*

New York State is proactive in its efforts to support new Americans in the transition to full participation in New York's civic and economic opportunities. The NYS Office for New Americans is committed to strengthening New York's welcoming environment for new Americans and facilitating success. Their network of neighborhood-based opportunity centers connects new Americans in New York to resources that help ensure they have the opportunities necessary to realize their full potential. CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity brings together business and community leadership in Central New York to translate economic growth into economic opportunity, increased wealth, and improved quality of life within low-income communities by convening partnerships and facilitating initiatives that support economic inclusion. Learn about the work these two organizations do and the impact it has on the New York immigrant community and beyond.

F. Electric Baseboard Reduction**

Location: Capital Room

Presenter: *John Carrigan, NYS Weatherization Directors Association*

Moderator: *Matt McQuinn, NYSERDA*

This introduction to electric baseload reduction will demonstrate how to distinguish the differences between baseload and seasonal energy consumption within a household and identify baseload reduction methods, as well as the opportunity of potential savings associated to the methods recognized.

4:30 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. | Evening Reception

Location: First Floor Networking and Exhibitor Area

6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. | Tour of the New York State Capitol Building

The NYS Office of General Services will facilitate a tour of the New York State Capitol Building on May 22. The tour group will meet at the conference registration desk at 5:45 p.m. Conference staff lead the group to the Capitol Building to meet the tour guide. Check in with the registration staff if you did not pre-register for the tour and would like to attend.

Session Details: Wednesday, May 23

8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m. | Continental Breakfast

Location: Second Floor Dining Area

9:00 a.m. — 9:45 a.m. | Welcome and LIFE Achievement Awards Presentation

Location: Second Floor General Session Room

Awards Presenter: *LuAnn Scherer, NYS Department of Public Service*

LIFE serves as a forum for discussion and information exchange relevant to low-income energy issues, but it is the efforts of extraordinary people that make a difference in the lives of low-income energy consumers. As part of the LIFE 2018 Statewide Conference, we will honor those individuals who have been working toward addressing energy affordability for low-income New Yorkers. These committed and exemplary colleagues play an essential role as frontline providers helping low-income consumers address their energy challenges.

9:45 a.m. — 10:45 a.m. | SESSION 4

A. Inequality and Poverty: Using Social Research to Inform Policy

Location: Meeting Room 1A

Presenters: *Renee Koubiadis, Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey; Mary Thompson Grassi, NYSERDA*

Moderator: *Michelle Andry, NYSERDA*

Communities of color, especially Black and Hispanic communities, experience much higher rates of income shortfalls than the population categorized as White non-Hispanic. These trends hold true in New Jersey as they do across the country. A recent report released by the Anti-Poverty Network of NJ late last year, *The Uncomfortable Truth: Racism, Injustice, and Poverty in New Jersey*, explores the relationships among race, inequality, and poverty. During this workshop, advocates and experts who drafted the report will review the findings and solutions recommended, as well as discuss next steps on moving towards an end to structural racism in New Jersey.

B. Community Solar: Overcoming Barriers to Access

Location: Meeting Room 1B

Presenters: *Sean Garren, Vote Solar; Max Joel, NYSERDA; Kelly Roache, Solstice*

Moderator: *Max Joel, NYSERDA*

Community solar is a collective array of solar panels installed in an offsite location. Anyone can access the clean energy produced by these solar panels while continuing to get electricity from their utility, with no need to install or maintain panels on their home or property, provided there is a community solar project in the area. This session will review recent policy developments that support increased access to community solar projects. Attendees will learn about NYSERDA's upcoming Solar for All program and gain insight into financing options that help increase solar access to low-income communities.

C. Opportunities for Affordable Housing Owners

Location: Meeting Room 2A

Presenters: *Brian Cabezas, NYSERDA; Christopher Mahase, NYSERDA*

Moderator: *Karin Lang, TRC Energy Solutions*

High-performance retrofits and the use of new technologies to monitor and improve building performance are becoming more accessible for multifamily buildings. Learn about three exciting NYSERDA initiatives for multifamily affording housing in New York State. RetrofitNY is spearheading the creation of standardized, scalable solutions and processes that will improve the aesthetics and comfort of residential buildings by bringing a large number of affordable housing units to or near net-zero energy performance by 2025. The Multifamily Performance Program is helping building owners increase their building's energy performance by incorporating measures that makes sense for them. Real Time Energy Management (RTEM) is a cutting-edge technology that sends a building's live and historical performance data to an advanced cloud-based or on-site system, analyzes that data, then recommends actions to lower operating costs.

Session Details: Wednesday, May 23

D. Update on ESCO Proceedings and Activities

Location: Meeting Room 2B

Presenters: *Bruce Alch, NYS Department of Public Service; Tom Dwyer, NYS Department of Public Service*

Moderator: *Sharlene Marciano, NYS Department of Public Service*

In February 2016, the NYS Public Service Commission acted to address unfair business practices found in the retail energy market to ensure residential and small non-residential (mass market) customers are receiving value from energy service companies (ESCOs). In December 2016, the commission adopted the order on the prohibition on service to low-income customers by ESCOs, which went into effect in December 2017. Additionally, Evidentiary Hearings took place in December 2017 as part of the commission's ongoing investigation of the broader ESCO market for mass market customers. This session will cover key aspects of this proceeding, provide current updates on related activities, and discuss the commission's continued review of services that may benefit energy consumers.

E. Understanding the LMI Market Segment: Data Driven Approaches to Increase Effectiveness of Low-Income Energy Programs at the Local Level

Location: Meeting Room 2C

Presenter: *David Carroll, APPRISE*

Moderator: *Chris Coll, NYSEERDA*

While standard offer energy efficiency programs like EmPower New York and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) can be effective at reaching income-eligible customers, the ultimate impact for these programs can be improved by implementing approaches to enhance targeting and outreach, as well as coordination of funds at the local level. This presentation will provide attendees with an overview of the New York State Low- to Moderate-Income Market Characterization Study conducted by APPRISE and will include a discussion on strategies to improve the targeting of programs at the local level by using insights on the market segment and previous program performance.

F. What is an Energy Audit?*

Location: Capital Room

Presenter: *Andy Stone, NYS Weatherization Directors Association*

Moderator: *Debora Moran, NYSEERDA*

A comprehensive energy audit is the first step in determining the energy savings potential of a home. The scope of work developed by the auditor is based on a variety of factors and data collected from the field. This presentation will provide a hands-on look at the process and procedures an auditor goes through while performing a typical residential inspection. Different housing types have their own specific needs and these, along with diagnostic tools regularly used in the field, will be explored.

10:45 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. Networking and Exhibitor Break

Location: First Floor Networking and Exhibitor Area

11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. | SESSION 5

A. Default Rate Design and the Impacts on Low-Income Customers

Location: Meeting Room 1A

Presenters: *William Atzl, Jr., Con Edison; Pamela Echenique, National Grid; Danielle Panko, NYS Department of State, Utility Intervention Unit*

Moderator: *Marco Padula, NYS Department of Public Service*

The purpose of the NYS Public Service Commission's Value of Distributed Energy Resources (VDER) proceeding is to develop accurate pricing for distributed energy resources that reflect the actual value they create. Improvements in rate design are essential to this process and to the modern electric system. Appropriate rate designs and valuation mechanisms, as well as accurate price signals, will enable customers to receive fair compensation for offering renewable generation or reductions in consumption, in proportion to their value to the system. This session will present information on rate design changes being considered in the commission's VDER proceeding, including allocations of costs between service classes and among various billing categories, use of time-based and demand-based rates, and fixed customer charges. In addition, how these changes can provide low-income customers with tools to modify their usage and improve affordability will be discussed.

Session Details: Wednesday, May 23

B. Integrating Non-Energy Benefits into Energy Efficiency: Solution Building at the Health/Energy Nexus

Location: Meeting Room 1B

Presenter: *Ronald Denson Jr., American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy*

Moderator: *Mishel Filisha, NYSERDA*

The intersection of energy and health is at the forefront of research and practice. This interactive session includes a presentation on the benefits of programs that aim to simultaneously improve human health and save energy. While the mechanisms for determining energy savings are well established, the process for tracking and reporting non-energy benefits—including the protection and improvement of health for program participants—is still evolving. Attendees will participate in a solution-building exercise designed to crowdsource strategies aimed at prioritizing opportunities at the intersection of energy and health.

C. Innovative Models for Managing Household Electricity Use and Addressing Affordability: Oshawa Peak Performance Pricing

Location: Meeting Room 2A

Presenter: *Ravi Parakkat, Sapient Consulting*

Moderator: *Beth Ryan, NYS Homes and Community Renewal*

Oshawa Power, based in Ontario, in partnership with Sapient, is launching a new innovative pricing pilot that will allow residents to take charge of their electricity costs. Peak Performance Pricing provides the opportunity to better manage household electricity costs, while also helping Ontario's power system run more efficiently. It deploys an innovative approach that leverages smart meter energy consumption data coupled with other data sources to drive electricity bill savings for participants. Participants in the pilot will have access to energy savings tools delivered through convenient channels such as an advanced web portal, email, text messages, specially-trained customer service representatives, and an interactive state-of-the-art smartphone app called Peak Power.

D. Home Stability Support: A Proposal to Dramatically Reduce Homelessness in New York State

Location: Meeting Room 2B

Presenter: *Don Friedman, Empire Justice Center*

Moderator: *Lori Clark, NYSERDA*

This session will address New York's critical shortage of affordable housing, the persistent crisis of homelessness, and the impact of housing instability on family and individual well-being. The drastic disconnect between the cost of housing, energy affordability, and the maximum allowances provided for rent by the State's public assistance programs will be discussed. In addition, we will describe Home Stability Support, a legislative initiative to enable low-income families to pay the rent in modest but decent housing, and achieve a much greater degree of housing security.

E. Public/Private Partnerships: Focus on Affordable Housing

Location: Meeting Room 2C

Presenters: *Alison Donovan, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation;*
John Eberle, CEO, Community Foundation for the Capital Region

Moderator: *John Scicchitano, NYSERDA*

For 46% of American renters, housing is unaffordable: they pay more than 30% of their total income on housing. Energy is an important component of total housing costs, often surpassing 30% of housing costs. Given the contribution that low-energy costs can make to housing affordability, clean energy actors can cultivate strong relationships with affordable housing actors, including government agencies, nonprofits, and philanthropy. This session considers the intersection of clean energy and other affordable housing efforts, promoting a broader collaboration between sectors. Zero Energy Modular (ZEM) homes will be discussed as one pathway to affordability and energy efficiency. This housing solution provides low-income homeowners the comfort of an all-electric, ultra-efficient, and healthy home that provides the predictability of low/no energy bills due to roof mounted solar panels and the potential for energy storage. During this session, successful partnerships among clean energy actors will be explored in addition to financial mechanisms that make opportunities such as ZEM affordable.

Session Details: Wednesday, May 23

F. Heating 101**

Location: Capital Room

Presenter: *Andy Stone, NYS Weatherization Directors Association*

Moderator: *Sharon Griffith, NYSEDA*

Heating systems in residential housing are complex machines and their proper function could mean the difference between life and death for our low-income constituents. In this session, attendees will learn about typical types of heating plants and we will unravel the mystery of that big noisy box in the basement. This session will be valuable to HEAP certifiers and other non-technical personnel who are interested in learning the basics of how heating systems work, what a cracked heat exchanger is, what constitutes a proper install, and how to work with subcontractors in negotiating the right work to be performed.

12:00 p.m. — 12:45 p.m. Conference Luncheon

Location: Second Floor Dining Area

12:45 p.m. — 1:45 p.m. Plenary 3: Energy Affordability: A National Perspective

Location: Second Floor General Session Room

Presenter: *Tyson Slocum, Director, Public Citizen Energy Program*

Moderator: *Chris Coll, NYSEDA*

As energy markets in New York and around the country undertake a clean energy transition, State and federal policy will largely influence the degree to which broader adoption of energy efficiency and renewable generation can be realized. Equally important, these policies are also necessary to ensure that equity and energy affordability are addressed in an evolving market. This discussion will provide attendees with an overview of the energy policy outlook at the federal level relevant to advancing energy affordability and access to clean energy, such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program. In addition, the plenary will explore ways to improve governance, transparency and access for public interest advocates at Regional Trade Organizations like New York Independent System Operator, and proposals to strengthen consumer protections at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

1:50 p.m. — 2:50 p.m. | SESSION 6

A. REV Opportunities for Low-Income and Other Residential Customers

Location: Meeting Room 1A

Presenter: *Rudy Stegemoeller, NYS Department of Public Service*

Moderator: *Chelsea Kruger, NYS Department of Public Service*

Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) is Governor Cuomo's strategy to build a cleaner, more resilient, and affordable energy system by stimulating investment in clean technologies like solar, wind, and energy efficiency in order to generate 50% of the State's electricity needs by 2030. REV has already driven significant growth in the State's solar market, as well as enabling thousands of low-income households to adopt energy efficiency measures that will permanently cut their energy bills. A major challenge faced in the expansion of REV is customer engagement. What tools and products can be provided to customers to allow more of them to make choices that improve their energy efficiency and reduce their energy costs? This session will present information on REV projects that present opportunities for cost savings and efficiency gains for residential energy customers, with a focus on the challenges of engaging low-income customers and the potential benefits derived from their participation.

B. Advancing Energy Affordability – National Grid's Versatile Approach

Location: Meeting Room 1B

Presenters: *Kevin Grandjean, National Grid; Carolyn King, National Grid; Rachel McCrea, National Grid; Brittney Pietro, National Grid; JoAnn Zales, National Grid*

Moderator: *Amy Barry, National Grid*

National Grid brings energy affordability and access to clean energy to income-eligible customers across its territories. Learn about their multifaceted approach in New York. This session will cover National Grid's customer outreach efforts, Energy Affordability and Gas Conversion programs, Home Energy Affordability Team (HEAT), and multifamily programs.

Session Details: Wednesday, May 23

C. Community Energy Engagement: Current Activities and Opportunities

Location: Meeting Room 2A

Presenters: *Asante (Lou) DeJesus, PUSH Buffalo; Courtney Klee, Pathstone; Rachel Stein, Center for New York City Neighborhoods*

Moderator: *Jennifer Manierre, NYSERDA*

NYSERDA provides locally-based engagement (energy awareness and education) services via the Community Energy Engagement Program to drive energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment to residents, small businesses, and multifamily building owners. Organizations covering each of the 10 Economic Development Regions have deployed Community Energy Advisers to conduct engagement activities to residents, small businesses, and multifamily building owners, with an emphasis on low- to moderate-income households and communities. These Community Energy Advisers focus on improving energy affordability and increasing deployment of distributed energy resources for community members by increasing the amount of funding and financing leveraged for the completion of clean energy projects.

D. Supplemental Programs: Lifeline and Nutrition

Location: Meeting Room 2B

Presenters: *David Cramer, Office of Telecommunications, NYS Department of Public Service; Rebecca Jones, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*

Moderator: *Lauren Ford, NYS Community Action Association*

While energy assistance programs such as the Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program can help a household with energy costs, taking a holistic approach to cutting expenses is a useful strategy. There are additional programs that can help reduce overall household expenses while providing important information. Hear about opportunities provided by the Lifeline Discounted Telephone Service and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in addition to learning about myBenefits.com, an internet portal that assists with connecting people to resources.

E. The ALICE Report: Learning about New York's Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Residents

Location: Meeting Room 2C

Presenters: *Brenda Episcopo, United Way of New York State; Rushka Tcholakova, United Way of the Greater Capital Region*

Moderator: *Debora Moran, NYSERDA*

The ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Project is a cross-state collaboration among United Ways, with research support provided by Rutgers University. The Project brings focus onto families and individuals who work but whose salaries do not provide sufficient resources to meet basic needs—those who are above the federal poverty level, but below a sustainable wage. Traditional measures of poverty do not capture the magnitude of people who are struggling financially. This new metric offers a better way to count and understand ALICE, and to ultimately inform policy decisions to affect positive change for this growing portion of our population.

F. Tools of the Trade**

Location: Capital Room

Presenter: *Matt Redmond, NYS Weatherization Directors Association*

Moderator: *Gregg Collar, NYS Department of State, Utility Intervention Unit*

During this session, attendees will have a chance to tour a fully equipped, modern weatherization crew trailer and be exposed to the tools, equipment and materials that weatherization crews commonly use in the course of residential energy efficiency retrofits. Attendees will have an opportunity to address any questions or concerns regarding standard weatherization techniques, tools, and equipment. The tour will include a demonstration of installation of dense pack cellulose sidewall insulation and the use of two-part foam to air-seal common residential air leakage bypasses. This will be an informative, interesting, and fun session held outdoors in the Albany Capital Center's front driveway. Please meet in the Capital Room first, and then you will be escorted outside.

Session Details: Wednesday, May 23

3:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. | SESSION 7

B. Update on NYSERDA Residential Energy Efficiency Programs: EmPower NY and Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

Location: Meeting Room 1B

Presenter: *David Friello, NYSERDA*

Moderator: *Chris Coll, NYSERDA*

An essential component of the energy affordability equation is energy efficiency. However, many lower-income households are unable to undertake energy efficiency improvements in their home because they lack the financial resources or access to capital to invest in these upgrades. As part of the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), NYSERDA prioritized increasing access to clean energy solutions for low- to moderate-income households and communities, including energy efficiency. This session will provide attendees with an overview of and an update on the energy efficiency initiatives available to eligible households through the CEF, including EmPower New York and Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®.

E. Best Practices for Outreach: Working with Older Adults

Location: Meeting Room 2C

Presenter: *Stephanie Ball, Washington County Office for the Aging and Disability Resource Center*
Steve Sconfienza, NYS Office for the Aging

Moderator: *Jacqueline Sykas, NYSEG*

New York supports and empowers older adults in being independent for as long as possible. In partnership with a network of public and private organizations the NYS Office for the Aging's (NYSOFA) home and community-based programs provide older persons access to a well-planned, coordinated package of in-home and other supportive services designed to support and supplement informal care. The NYOFA's overall goal is to improve access to, and availability of, appropriate and cost-effective non-medical support services for older individuals to maximize their ability to age in their community and avoid higher levels of care and publicly financed care. Local offices play an essential role in NYOFA's service delivery of offerings. Learn how Washington County NY Connects assists lower-income older adults and individuals with disabling conditions with information and access to public benefits programs along with services and supports to safely maintain life within the community.

F. Healthy Homes Evaluator Training**

Location: Capital Room

Presenter: *Matthew Dean, Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.*

Moderator: *Mishel Filisha, NYSERDA*

Considerable recent attention has been paid to the concept of the Healthy Homes Evaluator certification. Many different programs funded by government, utilities, and charities exist to provide low-income households services to improve the health, safety, and energy efficiency of their homes. In this session we will discuss the basic principles of healthy homes, provide an overview of what the evidence says about the relationship between health and housing, and change the perspective of building analysts to assess the same home through a healthy home lens.

4:00 p.m. | Closing Remarks/Wrap Up/Raffle

Location: Second Floor General Session Room

***Available for Building Performance Institute Continuing Education Credits*

****Available for Continuing Legal Education Credits*

2018 Presenter Biographies

Bruce Alch

*New York State Department of Public Service,
Office of Consumer Services*

Bruce Alch serves as Chief of the Retail Access and Economic Development. In that role, he supervises staff who represent residential and business consumer interests in commission proceedings with a focus on economic development and Energy Service Company (ESCO) issues. More specifically, his office monitors ESCO compliance with consumer protections and pursues enforcement actions where warranted. He is currently working with Mr. Tom Dwyer on initiatives to reform the retail energy markets in New York.

Megan Allen

Capital Region BOCES, Program Manager – Grants Service

Megan Allen co-founded the Grants Service Program in 2010. The service employs 12 grant writers and won more than \$65 million in awards for its clients. Megan personally won millions of dollars from foundation, corporate and government funders for a variety of educational and charitable organizations.

Kartik Amarnath

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (EJA), Energy Planner

Kartik Amarnath provides outreach, advocacy, and research support for NYC-EJA's ongoing energy campaigns and coordinates REVitalize, a statewide partnership focused on community-led clean energy planning. He previously worked with the HOPE Foundation, Centers for Disease Control, Democracy Now!, C40, and the Tishman Environment and Design Center.

Michelle Andry

NYSERDA, Project Manager

Michelle Andry worked with the NY-Sun and the Low-to Moderate-Income teams at NYSERDA to design and manage programs increasing access to solar participation and benefits for low- to moderate-income New Yorkers. Prior to joining NYSERDA, she worked for four years with the New York City Department of Education developing career and technical education programs in sustainable building operations and maintenance, urban agriculture, and horticulture for a public high school.

William Atzl

Con Edison, Director - Rate Engineering Department

William Atzl is responsible for electric, gas, and steam rate design activities and tariff administration for Con Edison and its utility affiliates, Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. and Rockland Electric Company.

Stephanie Ball

Washington County Office for the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Training and Resource Development Coordinator

Stephanie Ball has worked for Washington County Office for the Aging and Disability Resource Center for 17 years. She is the training and resource coordinator and the NY Connects Call Center supervisor.

Alicia Barton

NYSERDA, President and CEO

Alicia Barton was appointed president and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) on June 26, 2017. She has held public and private sector leadership roles advancing clean energy projects and companies for more than a decade. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Barton served as co-chair of the Energy and Cleantech Practice at Foley Hoag, LLP, a global law firm based in Boston, where her practice focused on representation of clean energy companies in emerging market areas such as offshore wind and energy storage. Prior to her work in the private sector, Ms. Barton served as chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), a publicly supported agency that funds and accelerates the development of the clean energy sector. Ms. Barton currently serves on boards of several organizations, including Greentown Labs, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, Efficiency Forward, and the Advisory Board for the New England Women in Energy and Environment (NEWIEE).

Richard Berkley

Public Utility Law Project of New York, Executive Director

Richard Berkley, Esq. was previously the chief of staff and counsel to Senator Kevin Parker of the New York State Senate, and before that he was director of the Senate Committee on Energy and Telecommunications. He was counsel to Assemblyman Richard Brodsky; chair of the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions; and served as information technology attorney and assistant counsel for the State Office of Children and Family Services. He is a member of the bar of the State of New York and the State of New Jersey.

John Bruckner

National Grid New York, President

John Bruckner oversees National Grid's regulated businesses across Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens, Long Island, and Upstate New York, providing 1.6 million customers with electricity and 2.3 million with natural gas. Since joining National Grid in 1985, he held a number of positions with increasing responsibility, including President of LI Transmission and Distribution, SVP of Electric Operations, and EVP of Network Operations, Safety, and Capital Delivery.

2018 Presenter Biographies

Tamara Bryan

Con Edison, Project Manager, New Energy Solutions for LMI Customers

Tamara Bryan is leading Con Edison's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) Demonstration Projects dedicated to ideating, developing, and testing new utility business models and energy solutions for low- to moderate-income customers. Before coming to Con Edison, Tamara held a variety of positions managing strategic initiatives for Baruch College, the New York eHealth Collaborative, and the Center for Environmental Health.

Andrew Bryk

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, HEAP Bureau Chief

Andrew Bryk is responsible for the development, implementation and submission the New York State Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) State Plan. His team is responsible for program monitoring, and development of HEAP policy and program procedures. He works directly with the local Department of Social Services providing administrative advice, consultation, and compliance.

Brian Cabezas

NYSERDA, Senior Project Manager – Multifamily

Brian Cabezas oversees the Multifamily Performance Program that includes the Energy Use Snapshot for utility bill analysis, a high-performance component incentive for deep building retrofits and the Multifamily Building Solutions Network of Providers.

Anthony Campagiorni

Central Hudson Gas and Electric, Vice President - Regulatory and Governmental Affairs

In his capacity at Central Hudson, Anthony Campagiorni is responsible for all regulatory filings and matters before the NYS Public Service Commission. Anthony also leads the Energy Transformation and Solutions division that manage several initiatives including the company's energy efficiency and demand response programs and demonstration projects emanating out of the New York State's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative. Anthony oversees the company's lobbying efforts in Albany as well as sales and marketing and economic development programs.

John Carrigan

New York State Weatherization Directors Association, Assistant Director of Training

John Carrigan has 25 years of experience in residential construction and the home performance industry. John's experience includes management and coordination of low-income programs including Weatherization and NYSERDA's EmPower New York, along with housing rehabilitation grants

such as HOME, RESTORE, ACCESS, and CDBG grants that provide assistance to seniors and low-income families. John's certifications include BPI Building Analyst Professional, Envelope Professional, Heating Professional, Manufactured Housing Professional, HEP QC Inspector, NREL Multifamily QC Inspector, and HEP Energy Auditor. John is also certified in EPA RRP Lead Renovator and the OSHA 30-hour Construction Safety.

David Carroll

APPRISE, Managing Director

David Carroll has more than 30 years of experience working on low-income energy research and evaluation projects. He is the project director for the national LIHEAP Performance Management and Technical Support project. He was the project director for the National Weatherization Assistance Program evaluation.

Lori Clark

NYSERDA, Project Manager

Lori Clark's responsibilities include management of the REVitalize Initiative. Through REVitalize, NYSERDA seeks to bridge the gap in access to clean energy solutions for low- to moderate-income (LMI) communities and environmental justice areas by supporting the planning of community-scale clean energy projects. She also is overseeing the research being conducted to explore options to effectively coordinate NYSERDA's income-qualified programs with local (city or county level) energy and housing funding sources to improve energy and other social outcomes for LMI New Yorkers.

Christopher Coll

NYSERDA, Program Manager – Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI)

Christopher Coll leads the LMI team, which is responsible for developing strategies, proposing policy, and coordinating across all sector areas within NYSERDA and various New York State organizations to streamline and improve the effectiveness of energy service delivery to LMI households.

Jenny Coronel

New York State Office for New Americans, Excelsior Fellow – Assistant Language Access Coordinator

As a Fellow, Jenny Coronel pioneered the Office of New American's (ONA) monthly webinar series on immigration services and latest information on the issue, linking New York State agencies and not-for-profits. At ONA she also coordinates the office's immigration-related constituent correspondence.

2018 Presenter Biographies

David Cramer

*New York State Department of Public Service,
Office of Telecommunications*

David Cramer supervises staff who oversee the performance of the telecommunications and cable television companies under commission jurisdiction, including review of rate case filings, certification applications, tariff filings, and ETC certifications to ensure just and reasonable pricing for all consumers. Dave is responsible for oversight of the Targeted Accessibility Fund which supports Lifeline, E911, and services for the hearing impaired, as well as administers the State Universal Service Fund.

Matthew Dean

*Association for Energy Affordability Inc.,
Residential Energy Appraiser and Senior BPI Trainer*

Matt Dean, CPHT HES, is the Senior Appraisal Institute Valuation of Sustainable Buildings Inspector and BPI trainer/proctor for AEA. Matthew taught more than 1,000 students and has more than 4,000 hours experience training classes. His specialization is in home energy training, auditing, modeling, program implementation and chief spokesperson for the Home Performance with Energy STAR® program.

Asante DeJesus

PUSH Buffalo, Program Assistant

Asante (Lou) DeJesus has been working with PUSH Green for the last four years and been involved with managing programming from Green and Healthy Homes to Assisted Home Performance, EmPower New York, and the Warm and Dry program. Her background is in marketing and outreach, which she also does for PUSH Green, and she is certified in Building Performance and Community Health Work.

Ronald Denson Jr.

*American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy,
Public Health Analyst*

Ronald Denson Jr. conducts analysis and research on the health and environmental benefits of energy efficiency investments in the United States. His work addresses issues of health and equity in communities across the nation.

Alison Donovan

Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, Senior Consultant

Alison Donovan specializes in cutting edge new construction program design and implementation. She is leading the NYSERDA Zero Energy Modular Market Assessment, exploring pathways to bring this affordable housing solution to New York.

Francis (Tom) Dwyer

New York State Department of Public Service, Assistant Counsel

Tom Dwyer works on numerous policy matters before the commission, including the initiatives to reform the retail energy markets in New York. Tom has worked for the NYS Department of Public Service since 2014.

John Eberle

Community Foundation for the Capital Region, President and CEO

John Eberle is the lead convener and fiscal sponsor for Green and Healthy Homes Initiative: Greater Capital Region. He previously served as first vice president and officer for the Central New York Community Foundation, and secretary for the CNY Philanthropy Center, LLC affiliate in Syracuse.

Pamela Echenique

National Grid, Director - New York Pricing

Pamela Echenique and her teams are responsible for the analysis and support of numerous regulatory filings and electric and gas rate cases. She works closely with the NYS Public Service Commission staff, serving as subject matter expert in electric and gas rate design and pricing. Pamela has previously worked in the Planning and Financial Analysis, Electric Supply and Delivery Finance, and Regulatory Proceedings departments since joining the National Grid 34 years ago with the majority of her career in the Rates and Regulatory area taking on increased responsibilities over the years.

Brenda Episcopo

United Way of New York State, President and CEO

Brenda Episcopo has 20 years of experience in the non-profit field and is recognized as an accomplished Chief Executive Officer. Brenda has been the CEO of United Way of New York State since 2017.

Howard Falkow

MetroNYInsulation and Weatherization, Owner

Howard Falkow is co-owner of MetroNYInsulation and Weatherization based in Suffern, NY in Rockland County. MetroNY specializes in retrofit insulation and participates in the NYSERDA Green jobs and EMPOWER programs. Howard has been a home improvement contractor for more than 13 years and has extensive experience with residential projects. Howard is BPI Certified as an analyst and envelope specialist as well as NAHB CAPS and CLIPP.

2018 Presenter Biographies

Monica Ferreri

New York State Department of Public Service, Utility Analyst

Monica Ferreri is a utility consumer program specialist with the New York State Department of Public Service, Office of Consumer Services (OCS), and Chair of the LIFE Steering Committee. At OCS, she advocates on behalf of residential customers in utility rate proceedings, provides oversight of utility customer service quality, and evaluates and assists in the design of utility low-income programs.

Don Friedman

Empire Justice Center, Managing Attorney

Empire Justice seeks to protect and enhance the legal rights of low-income New Yorkers through policy advocacy, impact litigation, and direct individual service. Before coming to Empire Justice, Don worked in legal services offices in New York City and as a policy analyst at the Community Food Resource Center and the Community Service Society, also in New York City. Don's primary focus, public benefits policy advocacy, strives, through legislative and administrative change, to ensure that benefits are adequate and accessible to those in need.

David Friello

NYSERDA, Project Manager

David Friello is a project manager with NYSERDA's Single Family Residential team working on the New York Residential Existing Homes programs. Since joining NYSERDA in 2005, he has assisted in the implementation of several low-income initiatives, including EmPower New York and Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®.

Sean Garren

Vote Solar, Northeast Senior Director

Sean Garren led coalition efforts to expand solar access in New York and Connecticut and continue solar leadership in Massachusetts. In addition to leading public campaigns, he participated in regulatory dockets, authored policy reports, and acted as a trusted expert for media, legislative committees, and other agencies.

Kevin Grandjean

National Grid, Senior Account Manager

Kevin Grandjean worked for National Grid for six years promoting and coordinating natural gas expansion to areas not currently being served in Upstate New York, as well as administering incentive programs for conversion to natural gas from alternative heating sources. He is also the program liaison to weatherization agencies that assist income-challenged residents in the expenses associated with converting to natural gas.

Mary Thompson Grassi

NYSERDA, Independent Consultant

Mary Thompson Grassi is currently working as an energy efficiency consultant with NYSERDA's low- to moderate-income team. She has a broad range of experience on low-income and energy efficiency issues, including project design and management, contract management and regulatory matters. She served on the boards of directors of the National Low Income Energy Consortium, the National Fuel Funds Network, and the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition.

Sage Green

PUSH Buffalo, Community Energy Planning Specialist

Along with her team of community leaders and staff, Sage Green plans and implements community energy planning processes, performs project management on renewable energy projects for affordable housing in Buffalo, N.Y., and contributes to policy advocacy and organizing campaigning for equitable energy development in New York State and nation-wide. Sage is a former energy auditor for the NYS low-income and market rate energy efficiency and weatherization programs before coming to PUSH Buffalo.

Greg Hale

NYSERDA, Senior Advisor For Energy Efficiency Markets and Finance

Greg Hale joined NYSERDA in February 2018, and is leading an effort to create a policy roadmap to achieve net zero energy buildings and communities throughout the State. This work includes strategic co-leadership for RetrofitNY, an initiative aimed at developing scalable high-performance retrofit solutions that achieve or approach net zero energy for New York's multifamily housing stock. Greg also provides oversight of State policy efforts related to energy efficiency financing, including an ongoing role as strategic advisor to NY Green Bank. Prior to joining NYSERDA, Greg served in Governor Cuomo's administration as senior advisor to the chairman of energy and finance, where he focused on the development and execution of the Governor's signature energy policy— Reforming the Energy Vision (REV). Prior to joining the Governor's Office, Mr. Hale was the director of efficiency finance at Natural Resources Defense Council's Center for Market Innovation. Mr. Hale is a founding board member of the New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation, where he currently chairs the HR and Governance committee, and he served on the steering committee of the PACENow Coalition.

2018 Presenter Biographies

Zoé Hamstead

University at Buffalo, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Assistant Professor

Zoé Hamstead, Ph.D., directs the Community Resilience Lab, an interdisciplinary research team working with local governments, organizations, and citizen scientists to develop socially equitable, livable, and healthy communities in the context of urbanization and climate change.

Martin Insogna

New York State Department of Public Service, Chief of Consumer Advocacy

Martin Insogna supervises staff who represent residential and small business consumer interests in commission proceedings, as well as field staff responsible for meter testing and approvals. His office monitors utility compliance with consumer protections, analyzes utility customer service performance, and promotes access to affordable service for low-income and special needs customers.

Max Joel

NYSERDA, Program Manager

Max Joel is the Program Manager for Community Solar NY, a part of the NY-Sun Initiative at NYSERDA. He works to make solar power more accessible and affordable through community solar and programs focused on low- to moderate-income customers. NY-Sun is a statewide solar initiative to expand the deployment of solar capacity throughout the State to build a self-sustaining solar market. Previously, Max was the Director of Community Solar Initiatives at Solar One, a nonprofit organization in New York City, and the Capital Projects Coordinator at the Queens Botanical Garden.

Rebecca Jones

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Temporary Assistance Specialist 1

Rebecca Jones currently works for NYS OTDA Center for Employment and Economic Supports in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) State Processing Center.

Ted Kelly

New York State Department of Public Service, Assistant Counsel - Office of General Counsel

Ted Kelly is lead counsel and serves a legal and policy role on matters including the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative, the Community Choice Aggregation and Community Distributed Generation programs, the oversight of Distributed Energy Resources, the Value of Distributed Energy Resources proceeding, and oversight of NYSERDA programs including the Clean Energy Fund and the NY Green Bank.

Matt Ketschke

Con Edison, Senior Vice President of Customer Energy Solutions

Matt Ketschke is responsible for the planning and integration efforts related to grid edge customer sided resources and non-traditional utility solutions. He leads Con Edison's team collaborating with regulators and stakeholders on New York's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) effort. REV is ambitious State policy initiative helping to shape the evolution of the electric delivery business model of the future. Matt has been with Con Edison for more than 20 years and held various positions of increasing responsibility in operations, construction, and engineering.

Carolyn King

National Grid, Senior Analyst

Carolyn King has been with National Grid for nine years, providing support for a variety of services and programs for residential and commercial and industrial customers in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Courtney Klee

Pathstone, Energy Program Administrator

Starting May 2015, Courtney Klee served as a NYSERDA outreach coordinator for the Finger Lakes Region where she helped implement new outreach strategies. In October 2017 she became a NYSERDA Clean Energy Advisor tasked with promoting NYSERDA multifamily and residential programs. Courtney has a strong background with NYSERDA and acquired her BPI Building Science Principles Certificate in December 2016.

Renee Koubiadis

Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey, Executive Director

Renee Koubiadis has been an advocate and community organizer helping disempowered populations use their voices towards social change throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania for more than 15 years. She previously served as the statewide Advocacy Coordinator of the National Association of Social Workers' NJ Chapter and the Assistant State Campaign Director for the Citizen's Campaign. In her various roles over the last 15 years, Renee has educated thousands of people on issues of poverty, leadership, and civic engagement.

2018 Presenter Biographies

Sandra Lobo

*Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition,
Executive Director*

Sandra Lobo's areas of focus are developing leadership of color, creating long-term organizational sustainability, and building community shared wealth and ownership and collective governance over local assets through an anti-racist lens. Before this role, Sandra was trained in anti-oppression organizing and leadership development incorporating a restorative justice framework and served as director of the Dorothy Day Center for Service and Justice at Fordham University for 17 years.

Christopher Mahase

NYSERDA, Senior Project Manager

Chris Mahase oversees the implementation of the RetrofitNY initiative as part of his responsibilities on the multifamily team. Chris brings extensive experience to the team from his years with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, where he most recently served as director of sustainability.

Rachel McCrea

National Grid, Multifamily Program Manager

Rachel McCrea is the Multifamily program manager for National Grid's upstate New York service territory. Both gas and electric energy efficiency measures are eligible. The program recently expanded to include a low- to moderate-income offering.

Katherine Mella

MIT Community Innovators Lab, Program Associate

At the MIT Community Innovators Lab, Katherine Mella supports the Bronx Cooperative Development Initiative (BCDI). She leads BCDI's community health agenda alongside grassroots partners, leveraging opportunities tied to local and national healthcare system transformation and using the social determinants of health as a key framework.

Elizabeth McDade

Rochester Safe and Efficient Homes Initiative, Program Coordinator

Elizabeth McDade is program coordinator for the Rochester Safe and Efficient Homes Initiative and program manager for the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning. Certified in EPA RRP, Healthy Homes Assessment: Principles and Practice, Healthy Homes Rating System, Essentials for Health Housing Practitioners, Implementing Healthy Homes Programs, and Combating Indoor Environmental Hazards.

Al McMahon

*NYS Weatherization Directors Association,
Trainer and Program Liaison*

Al McMahon worked as a commercial home performance energy auditor, and his certifications include NYSEERDA's Small Commercial Energy Auditing program, BPI's HEP Energy Auditor, and HEP Quality Control Inspector, Health Homes Evaluator, Infiltration and Duct Leakage as well as BPI's Building Analyst Professional, Manufactured Housing Professional, Heating Professional and Envelope Professional. He is an approved BPI proctor in both written and field testing of those certifications. Additionally he is a certified EPA lead renovator instructor, EPA lead supervisor, EPA lead renovator, Small Homes Auditor and Level I Thermographer.

Jonathan Nickerson

National Grid, Project Manager – New Energy Solutions

Jon Nickerson currently manages the Fruit Belt Neighborhood Solar Partnership project; a REV demonstration project involving utility-owned solar installed in a low- to moderate-income neighborhood and an analysis on the resulting grid effects. The New Energy Solutions group is an agile team focused on developing and launching innovative solutions and technologies that unlock value for National Grid's customers and communities and accelerate progress towards a sustainable future.

R. Scott Oliver

PathStone Corporation, Deputy for Energy Programs

Scott Oliver oversees programs that help low- to moderate-income families make their homes safer, more comfortable, and more energy efficient through rehabilitation and energy services including the PathStone Clean Energy Advisor outreach for NYSEERDA in the Finger Lakes Region, the Canandaigua Home Energy Improvement Program, and intake for the City of Rochester Lead Hazard and home rehabilitation programs. A certified building analyst and healthy home specialist with more than 20 years' experience in the construction industry, Scott serves on the sustainability committee for the Finger Lakes Regional Development Council, the Energy Efficiency Steering committee for the Rochester Climate Action Plan and works with the Rochester Safe and Efficient Homes Initiative.

2018 Presenter Biographies

Peter Olmsted

Office of the New York Governor, Assistant Secretary for Energy

Peter Olmsted dedicated himself to working in the public and nonprofit sectors for the past 15 years to address some of the country's most pressing environmental and energy issues. Peter is responsible for overseeing and managing the State's energy portfolio, including New York's groundbreaking Reforming the Energy Vision (REV). Peter previously served as manager of strategic engagement at the New York State Department of Public Service, where he contributed to the development and implementation of REV along with establishing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders as part of this far-reaching initiative.

Danielle Panko

Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection, Utility Intervention Unit

Danielle Panko's primary responsibilities in this role include advocating on behalf of the UIU in Public Service Commission proceedings, researching utility policy and regulatory issues, and representing the DOS during utility-related meetings and rate-case negotiations. In addition, she drafted contracts and worked with consultants on various utility projects generally related to cost of service, revenue allocation, and rate design.

Ravi Parakkat

Sapient Consulting, North America Utilities Practice Lead

Ravi Parakkat leads the North America Utility practice at Publicis.Sapient a digital business transformation company. He believes the utility industry (regulated and deregulated) will transform over the coming years driven by customer expectations, regulatory environment, and energy economics. He is passionate about helping the industry innovate and navigate these transformative changes in their ecosystem. In his current role, Ravi sits on advisory panels and steering committees to guide teams and energy and utilities clients on key initiatives.

Brittney Pietro

National Grid, Strategic Business Analyst

Brittney Pietro's work at National Grid focuses on planning, design, and strategy for residential energy efficiency programs for New York. She has been heavily involved with designing initiatives and programs for low- to moderate-income customers and served as secretary on the Clean Energy Advisory Council Low- to Moderate-Income Working Group and on a review committee for NYSERDA's Affordable Solar Predevelopment proposals.

Shiva Prakash

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Staff Attorney and Equal Justice Works Fellow

Sponsored by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld, Shiva Prakash's work centers on addressing the legal barriers to community-owned renewable energy and other climate justice and energy democracy oriented campaigns in New York City and the State. During law school, Shiva completed legal internships at the Natural Resources Defense Council, New York State Office of the Attorney General, Conservation Law Foundation, and a judicial internship with the Honorable Judge Thompson on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Curtis Probst

New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation (NYCEEC), co-Chief Executive Officer

Curtis Probst became co-CEO after having been a board member involved in strategy and credit committees at the organization since 2015. Curtis's prior experience includes more than three years as a managing director at Rocky Mountain Institute, a global energy think tank, leading their sustainable finance practice. Curtis previously worked for more than 24 years in investment banking, most recently as a managing director at Goldman Sachs where he worked for more than 15 years, and before that, at Salomon Brothers, for more than eight years. For the last three years, he has been a lecturer at Columbia University on the topic of clean energy finance, and a director of, or advisor to, other organizations with an energy or environmental focus.

Matt Redmond

New York State Weatherization Directors Association, Director of Training

Matt Redmond has 35 years of experience as a construction manager and offers a fresh hands-on approach to technical training. His background in project management and residential building with an emphasis on small finely crafted energy efficient homes led him to be the project manager on the first net zero energy retrofit in the U.S., a USDOE test bed project, for Asdal Builders of New Jersey. Matt is an EPA certified lead abatement supervisor, an EPA lead renovator instructor, and is AARST NRPP certified in Radon residential measurement and mitigation.

Ron Reisman

Sustainable CUNY, Solar Ombudsman

Ron Reisman manages Sustainable CUNY's efforts in supporting the New York City Housing Authority's program to install solar at its public housing developments, and also works on the Solarize NYC program. Prior to joining Sustainable CUNY in 2016, Ron was the Renewable Energy Program Manager for New Jersey's Clean Energy Program.

2018 Presenter Biographies

John Rhodes

*NYS Public Service Commission, Chair;
NYS Department of Public Service, Chief Executive Officer*

John B. Rhodes was designated Chair of the Public Service Commission and CEO of the Department of Public Service on June 21, 2017. His term runs through February 1, 2021. Prior to starting with the Commission, Mr. Rhodes served as president and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Mr. Rhodes brings more than 30 years of experience in business with a focus on the financial and energy industries having lived and worked internationally. Mr. Rhodes is a member of the NARUC Committee on Electricity. He also serves on the boards of the New York Institute for Special Education and the American Federation for Aging Research.

Kelly Roache

Solstice, Director of Inclusion

Kelly Roche oversees the development and implementation of alternative qualification and financing mechanisms to increase low-income and environmental justice communities' access to clean, affordable shared solar. She also serves on the steering committee and chairs the Policy and Intersectionality Working Group and of the NY Energy Democracy Alliance, a statewide coalition advancing a just and participatory transformation to a renewable, equitable, accountable, and local energy system.

Juhanna Rogers

Center State CEO, Director of Performance for the Economic Inclusion Division

Juhanna Rogers is a doctoral candidate at Indiana University focusing on the intersections of race and gender on American systems. Through strategic planning and program assessment, Juhanna is challenging the division and the ground-breaking work that it offers the historically marginalized communities within the city of Syracuse and across Central New York.

Wendy Sanfilippo

Sanfilippo Solutions Inc., Owner

Wendy Sanfilippo is an independent contractor working in the EmPower New York and Home Performance programs. She has 10 years of experience working with EmPower New York, first in outreach through the Cornell Cooperative Extension CEPREE program and for the last two years as a contractor.

LuAnn Scherer

*New York State Department of Public Service,
Director of the Office of Consumer Services*

LuAnn Scherer has held various positions at the Department of Public Service for the past 30 years. She is currently the director of the office of Consumer Services. In this role, LuAnn oversees a staff responsible for consumer service issues in the energy, communications, and water industries including consumer assistance, low-income, Lifeline, service quality, outreach and education, retail access, economic development, metering, and submetering.

Steve Sconfienza

NYS Office for the Aging, Chief Research Scientist

Steve Sconfienza works in the Division of Local Program Operations. His current work is devoted to demographic research and policy analysis, especially the aging of the Baby Boom generation, and he provides assistance to local agencies on technical and research-related issues.

Tyson Slocum

Public Citizen, Energy Program Director

Tyson Slocum is director of Public Citizen's Energy Program, covering the regulation of petroleum, natural gas, and power markets. Tyson promotes an equitable energy transition that provides distributed renewable energy generation and sustainable transportation solutions for working families. Tyson serves on the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Energy and Environmental Markets Advisory Committee and frequently intervenes before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission representing the interests of household consumers. Tyson presents his research in congressional testimony and appears regularly in the media, including guest appearances on The Colbert Report. Tyson is a member of the faculty at the University of Maryland Honors College, where he teaches energy and climate policy. Prior to joining Public Citizen in 2000, Tyson served as an analyst with the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Scott Smith

NYSERDA, Program Manager

Scott Smith is a member of NYSERDA's Clean Heating and Cooling team. With his colleague, Andre Davis, Scott launched NYSERDA's ground-source heat pump rebate program. Scott is currently designing the Clean Heating and Cooling Communities initiative to accelerate the adoption of clean heating and cooling technology through local, grass-roots campaigns.

2018 Presenter Biographies

Gahl Sorkin Spanier

Association for Energy Affordability, Inc., Business and Market Analyst

Gahl Sorkin Spanier is the project manager for the HANAC Corona Passive House Project. He works with the design team and owner to assure the project achieves its Passive House certification and other sustainability goals. He works on maximizing sustainability and energy efficiency in affordable new construction and in Integrated Physical Need Assessment (IPNA) projects. Gahl is a Certified Passive House consultant and tradesperson a LEED AP and holds degrees in architecture and business.

Rudy Stegemoeller

New York State Department of Public Service, Special Assistant for Energy Policy

Rudy Stegemoeller is active in developing all facets of the Commission's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative. Rudy began his career with the law firm of LeBouef, Lamb, Leiby, and MacCrae and has since worked as a counsel to the New York State Assembly, an administrative law judge for the New York PSC, a senior advisor with the Regulatory Assistance Project, and principal of a private legal and consulting practice that focused on clean energy and consumer issues.

Rachel Stein

Center for NYC Neighborhoods, Deputy Director, Sustainability and Resiliency

Rachel Stein manages the Community Energy Engagement Program (CEEP) for the New York City region on behalf of NYSERDA, along with other energy efficiency initiatives for homeowners. In addition, she manages the Home and Building Resiliency Audits and other flood resiliency initiatives offered through FloodHelpNY.org.

Andy Stone

New York State Weatherization Directors Association (NYSWDA), Executive Director

Andy Stone has more than 30 years of experience in residential energy efficiency and has held a variety of positions within the Weatherization Assistance Program. His duties included oversight of not only weatherization but also housing rehabilitation grants, rental programs, and preservation company activities. Prior to being named NYSWDA's Executive Director, Andy was an active member of the NYSWDA board of directors for more than 15 years and held the positions of vice president and board development chair.

Carl A. Taylor

NYSEG and RG&E, President and CEO

Carl Taylor was appointed president and CEO of NYSEG and RG&E on June 30, 2017 and has functional responsibility for AVANGRID's gas operations. Previously, Mr. Taylor served as vice president of Customer Service of AVANGRID. Mr. Taylor started with NYSEG in 1987 as an electrical engineer in the generation planning area and progressed through positions of increasing seniority in the organization including president of NYSEG Solutions, Inc., a subsidiary of NYSEG.

Rushka Tcholakova

United Way of the Greater Capital Region, Senior Vice President of Community Impact

Rushka Tcholakova supports the Capital Region in creating collective impact with a focus on evaluation and stakeholder engagement. For more than a decade, she has coached organizations in creating systems of financial access and inclusion and meaningful financial stability for their clients.

Mark Theilking

Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC), Executive Director

Mark F. Thielking is one of the founders and the executive director of the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC), a New York State not-for-profit, local development corporation controlled by member municipalities and organized to expand energy improvements to buildings by offering Energize NY PACE capital and other services to their constituents. As an innovative leader in leveraging the power of the capital markets and community action to achieve local, regional clean energy and economic development goals, Mark has presented at numerous clean energy conferences and events sponsored by NYSERDA, LIFE, North East Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Urban Land Institute (ULI), PACE University Land Use Center, Citibank, PACE Nation, and others.

2018 Presenter Biographies

Jen Turner

New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation (RG&E)

Jennifer Turner joined the Customer Service team of NYSEG and RG&E in 1994. Within Customer Service, Jen worked on many projects including implementation of the Low-Income Arrears Forgiveness Program which matches customer's contributions towards arrears. In 2009, she joined the Energy Efficiency team where she worked on program management, scorecard reporting and regulatory compliance filings. In 2015, Jen became the program manager for RG&E's online Energy Marketplace, Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) demonstration project and in 2017, the NYSEG Smart Solutions online marketplace for the Energy Smart Community within Tompkins County. As of January 2018, Jen assumed responsibility for all Conservation & Load Management programs within NYSEG and RG&E.

Emily Urban

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Temporary Assistance Specialist II

Emily Urban is responsible for the development and training of HEAP policies and procedures, as well as expenditure tracking, and State and federal reporting.

Anna Vitolins

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Temporary Assistance Specialist I

Anna Vitolins works directly with the local Social Services districts and offers advice and consultation in administering HEAP.

Eric Walker

Independent Energy Advocate

Eric Walker is an independent renewable energy and sustainable development adviser working on several projects to promote equitable energy access within Western New York. Prior to his consulting work, he was Erie County's first Director of Energy Development and Management. There, he worked to drive conservation and efficiency among County owned facilities while facilitating an interdepartmental team to develop strategic initiatives that strengthen Erie County's sustainability leadership.

Christopher White

New York City Housing Authority, Program Associate

Christopher White has worked on program design and implementation for the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Solar Program, which seeks to develop 25 MW of solar power on NYCHA's property by 2025.

Josh Wilson

Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, Pollution Prevention Coordinator

Josh Wilson manages a small group focused on climate and sustainability planning for internal operations, watershed planning, coordination of the WNY Sustainability Business Roundtable, climate vulnerability assessment and planning, and recently support for the "Erie County Commits to Paris" commitments to mitigate community climate impacts.

Anika Wistar-Jones

Solar One, Affordable Solar Program Manager

Anika Wistar-Jones is the Affordable Solar Program Manager with Solar One's Here Comes Solar program, a nonprofit initiative that has provided support and technical assistance to more than 200 solar projects in New York City since 2014 and developed groundbreaking strategies to make solar possible for nonprofits and affordable housing providers.

JoAnn Zales

National Grid, Consumer Advocate

JoAnn Zales has been a consumer advocate for 31 years, working with a dedicated team to provide programs and services to energy vulnerable customers in the National Grid Service Area.

Steering Committee Thank You

Since LIFE began in 1999, the LIFE Steering Committee has been an integral part of its growth and development. The steering committee includes volunteers from State agencies, utility companies, statewide advocacy groups and community-based organizations.

On behalf of the New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, we thank and commend the LIFE Steering Committee.

Monica M. Ferreri, LIFE Chair, NYS Department of Public Service

Amy Barry, National Grid

Richard Berkeley, Public Utility Law Project of New York

Susann Brown, Orange and Rockland Utilities

Andrew Bryk, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Nancy Campo, PSEG Long Island

Tom Carey, NYS Homes and Community Renewal

Rosa Maria Castillo-Kesper, Public Utility Law Project of New York

Chris Coll, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority

Gregg Collar, NYS Department of State, Utility Intervention Unit

Karla Digirolamo, NYS Community Action Association

Linda Eddy, PSEG Long Island

Jill Emilianowicz, National Fuel Gas

Pat Fayó, Regional Economic Development Community Action Program

Mishel Filisha, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority

Lauren Ford, NYS Community Action Association

David Hepinstall, Association for Energy Affordability

Sherry Higgins, National Grid

Tanya Jones, HeartShare Human Services

Carolyn King, National Grid

Kaela Mainsah, NY Power Authority

Bethina Monaco, Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation

Sue Montgomery Cory, Community Power Network of NYS

Anne O'Connell, National Grid

Linda Petrosino, NYS Office for the Aging

Beth Ryan, NYS Homes and Community Renewal

Alicia Saure, NYS Office for the Aging

Eric Seguin, Solix, Inc.

Randi Smith, NYS Weatherization Directors Association

Di Sores, ConEdison

Andy Stone, NYS Weatherization Directors Association

Valerie Strauss, Association for Energy Affordability

Jackie Sykes, NYSEG/RG&E

Tina Zerbian, Cattaraugus Community Action Association

LIFE Achievement Awards

While LIFE serves as a forum to discuss issues and exchange information relevant to low-income energy consumers, the individuals at the State, county, and local levels perform an instrumental role in this effort by bringing this information to the communities and individuals. As part of the LIFE Statewide Conferences, the LIFE Steering Committee honors those individuals who have made extraordinary efforts toward addressing the issue of energy affordability for New Yorkers. These committed and exemplary colleagues play an essential role through education and outreach efforts aimed at helping households address their energy challenges. The following members of the LIFE network have received the LIFE Achievement Award:

Rasheada Caldwell, PEACE, Inc., 2018

Kelvin Keraga, NYSERDA, 2018

Gerald Norlander, Esq., Public Utility Law Project of New York, 2018

Allan Bressett, PEACE, Inc., 2016

Patricia Fayo, United Way of the Dutchess Orange Region, 2016

Susan West, PSEG Long Island, 2016

Patty Bashaw, Essex County Office for the Aging, 2014

Joe Guarinello, HeartShare Human Services of New York, 2014

Virginia Walsh, Honeywell Utility Solutions, 2014

Kate Granger, National Grid, 2012

Dianna Schooley, Tompkins County Office for the Aging, 2012

Andy Stone, NYS Weatherization Directors Association, 2012

Miguel Santos, National Grid, 2010

Sharon Sutherland, Chenango County Department of Social Service, 2010

Carol Sweeny, Honeywell International, 2010

Anne McLane, Monroe County Department of Social Service, 2008

Leonard Maisel, Amalgamated Bank, 2008

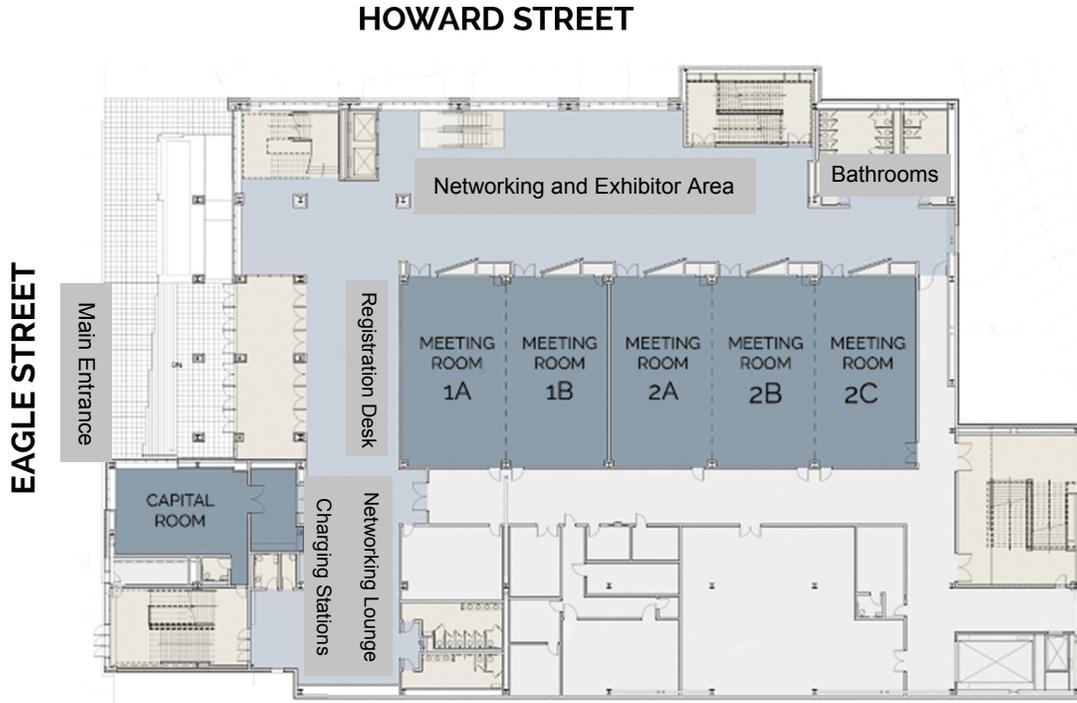
Ellin Boyd, Honeywell/LIPA/REAP, 2008

Gladys Brangman, Tompkins County Office for the Aging, 2006

Gary Ferraro, Montgomery County Office for the Aging, 2006

Marie Grace, Onondaga County Department of Social Service, 2006

LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2

