

## ***Thank You to the Southern Tier Regional Leader***

The LIFE Steering Committee would like to thank our Regional Meeting leader, Gladys Brangman, NYSERDA, for her time and expertise in the development of the agenda for this meeting. Her commitment to the LIFE mission and the support from the organization that she represents on the LIFE Steering Committee is greatly appreciated.

Since the NYS Public Service Commission initiated LIFE in 1998, the LIFE Steering Committee has been an integral part of the growth and development of the program. The Steering Committee is comprised of the following organizations:

The Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.  
Cattaraugus County Community Action, Inc.  
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation  
Community Power Network of NYS, Inc.  
Consolidated Edison of NY, Inc.  
Long Island Power Authority (LIPA)  
National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation  
National Grid  
New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)  
New York State Department of Public Service (NYS DPS)  
New York State Department of State (NYS DOS)  
New York State Housing and Community Renewal (HCR)  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)  
New York State Office for the Aging (NYS OFA)  
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)  
New York State Weatherization Director's Association (NYSWDA)  
New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG)  
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R)  
Orange County United Way  
The Public Utility Law Project (PULP)  
Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E)

*As part of our on-going commitment to both environmental and fiscal responsibility, we will not be printing and distributing presentation handouts. Please support us in these efforts by going to [www.lifenynews.org](http://www.lifenynews.org) after to download copies of available presentations. Attendees will receive an email notification when the presentations become available.*

*\*The LIFE program may photograph, videotape, and/or audiotape attendees and materials at the functions of the meeting. The productions of such may be freely disseminated for the purposes including, but not limited to, future outreach, education and informational efforts.*

Mark your calendar for the 2012 LIFE Statewide Conference!

When: May 2012

Where: Albany Marriott Wolf Road, Albany NY

Details including dates and agenda will be forthcoming.

*LIFE is sponsored by the New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. For more information about LIFE, please visit our website at [www.lifenynews.org](http://www.lifenynews.org).*

**SOUTHERN  
TIER**

**May 13 , 2011**

**Elmira  
New York**

**LOW-INCOME FORUM ON ENERGY  
2011 REGIONAL MEETING SERIES**

**AGENDA**

**ELMIRA RIVERVIEW HOLIDAY INN  
760 EAST WATER STREET  
ELMIRA, NY 14901**



2011 Regional Meetings

## Welcome

On behalf of the LIFE Steering Committee, welcome to today's LIFE Regional Meeting, one of six taking place around the State. This year's theme, This is your LIFE, reflects our goal of providing community leaders and service providers with useful, timely information to assist the growing number of low income consumers struggling to make ends meet in these economically challenging times. Today's program will supply valuable resources on energy efficiency assistance programs, energy affordability, and highlight some regional best practices. We have also set aside time for networking and to learn from each other. By the end of the day, we hope you'll leave feeling more knowledgeable, connected and energized.

**Len Silverstein**  
LIFE Chairman

**8:30 – 9:30 AM**

### Registration, Networking

**9:30 – 9:45 AM**

### Welcome & Introductions

Welcome:  
Len Silverstein, NYS Dept.  
of Public Service & LIFE Chairman

**9:45 – 10:15 AM**

### Session 1: Energy Affordability in the Southern Tier

This presentation will explore the various demographic and economic factors that impact energy affordability within the Southern Tier.

Speaker: Christopher Coll, NYSERDA

**10:15 – 10:30 AM**

### Organized Networking

**10:30 – 11:00 AM**

### Session 2: What is an Energy Audit?

An energy audit is the first step in determining the energy savings potential of a house. This presentation will provide you with a hands-on look at the procedures and diagnostic tools used in an energy audit.

Speaker: Andy Stone, NYS Weatherization  
Directors' Association (NYSWDA)

**11:00 – 11:45 AM**

### Session 3: Going Green without Spending Green

You don't have to purchase new appliances or pay for energy efficiency upgrades in your home to reduce your energy costs. This presentation will provide you with information on low cost or no cost energy savings actions that you and your clients can implement to save energy and money.

Speaker: Carole Fisher, Cornell Cooperative  
Extension of Tompkins County

**12:00 – 12:45 PM**

### Lunch/Networking

**12:45 – 1:00 PM**

### Session 4: An Update on the Weatherization Assistance Program

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment act allocated record level of funding to the Weatherization Assistance Program. This presentation will provide you with an update on the progress that has been made in the program.

Speaker: Elizabeth Ryan, NYS Housing and  
Community Renewal (NYS HCR)

**1:00 – 1:30 PM**

### Session 5: Best Practices- Leadership Development

In an effort to educate the community about the importance of insulating the home, CCE Tompkins County developed a leadership education program that provided energy audits and insulation to leaders in the community. These leaders in turn used their experience to educate others. This best practices session will provide an excellent example of how to get your energy message across to your community.

Speaker: Shawn Lindabury & Dominic Frongillo,  
Cornell Cooperative Extension

**1:30 – 2:30 PM**

### Session 6: Breaking Down the Barriers

This session will provide information on how to break down barriers that many low-income households and program administrators face when seeking to reduce their energy consumption. Industry professionals will provide information on rural outreach strategies, efforts to incorporate renewables into weatherization projects, and opportunities low-interest financing for energy efficiency projects.

Speakers:  
Gladys Brangman, NYSERDA

Dominic Frongillo, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Stacey Murphy, Tompkins Community Action

**2:30 – 2:45 PM**

### Networking Break

**2:45 – 3:15 PM**

### Session 7: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) & WorkPays New York

The Earned Income Tax Credit is the largest anti-poverty program in the country, larger than food stamps and larger than TANF. The IRS estimates that 20-25% of eligible families in New York do not claim the credit. This translates to over 300,000 households in New York alone. This presentation will provide an overview of the EITC, as well as other work supports programs designed to increase the income of working families as they struggle to make ends meet.

Speaker: Paula Guzzey, NYS OTDA

**3:15 – 4:00 PM**

### Session 8: This is Your LIFE

While LIFE serves as a forum for discussing energy issues, your colleagues within your community can often provide the most valuable advice. Whether you are an experienced caseworker or a new advocate, take this opportunity to brainstorm and learn from each other.

**4:00 PM**

### Wrap Up & Closing Remarks

#### Evaluation and Raffle

The evaluation form is the most critical tool in developing the type of event that is most beneficial to you. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation form at the end of the day. When you turn in your evaluation, you will be given a ticket for the raffle drawing, which will occur at the end of the day.