



Low-Income Forum on Energy

Low-Income Forum on Energy 2015 Regional Meeting Series

AGENDA

May 19
Hudson Valley
Best Western Plus
Kingston Hotel and
Conference Center
503 Washington Ave.
Kingston NY 12401



Low-Income Forum on Energy

Welcome

On behalf of the LIFE Steering Committee, welcome to today's LIFE Regional Meeting, one of seven taking place around New York State this year. As the cost of energy continues to pose challenges to New Yorkers with low or fixed incomes, it is important to make available to community leaders and service providers useful, timely information to assist low-income consumers. Today's program will supply you with updates on key programs along with valuable information on available resources and will highlight certain regional best practices. The program also includes new developments in the efforts toward Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), which is designed to provide customers with greater efficiency, reliability, and resiliency. Please also take advantage of the tremendous opportunity for networking at today's event. Often, it takes the right contacts to help serve your clients in the most effective and efficient manner. I hope that you enjoy today's meeting, and I'd like to thank you for participating in the LIFE dialogue!

– Len Silverstein, LIFE Chairman

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Networking

9:00 am – 9:15 am

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Chris Coll, NYSERDA
Len Silverstein, NYS Department of Public Service

9:15 am – 10:45 am

Session 1: An Overview of REV and Updates on Other PSC Proceedings Affecting Low-Income Customers

An Update on the Clean Energy Fund

The NYS Public Service Commission's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative will lead to regulatory changes that promote more efficient use of energy and a deeper penetration of renewable resources such as wind and solar. Related to REV, the Proceeding on Community Net Metering (15-E-0082) can help low-income customers participate in community solar projects. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) (14-M-0224) allows local governments to procure energy supply services for their residents. As part of a CCA program, local governments can develop distributed energy resources or otherwise engage in energy planning. An update will be provided on the Low-Income Proceeding (14-M-0565), which is designed to examine programs to address energy affordability issues for low-income utility customers. In addition, the PSC has ordered new safeguards (12-M-0476) to protect customers of energy service companies (ESCOs).

As a key component of New York State's Reforming the Energy Vision, the Clean Energy Fund (CEF) proposal represents a 10-year, \$5 billion funding commitment to support clean energy market development and innovation. The CEF will deliver market enabling strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through efficiency and renewables, increase private investment and accelerate growth in the State's clean energy economy, reduce customer energy bills, and ultimately provide more value to customers. This session will provide attendees with an update on the status of the Clean Energy Fund proposal and an overview of the strategies specific to low-to-moderate income consumers and communities.

Speakers:

Len Silverstein, NYS Department of Public Service
Chris Coll, NYSERDA

10:45 am – 11:00 am

Networking Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Session 2: Consumer Protections: Identity Theft and Scams

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Victimized someone is easier than ever, with widespread availability of personal information and access to it. With only a few pieces of valid personal identifiable information, thieves may be able to apply for and receive credit and/or utility services in your name, as well as file fraudulent tax returns. Thieves can also use a variety of scams, frauds, and hoaxes to gain access to your personal information or simply to steal your finances. This presentation is designed to increase your awareness of identity theft and provide strategies to help you prevent victimization. It also provides basic tips to help you recognize and avoid scams while presenting the tools and resources to utilize if you fall victim to a scam.

Speaker:

Melanie Grossman, NYS Department of State

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch and Networking

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

Session 3: Utility Updates

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to their low-income customers—from budget billing to efficiency programs. This utility updates session provides the most recent information on utility low-income energy efficiency and payment assistance programs currently being administered in New York State.

Speakers:

Tina Fritts, NYSEG
Beth Monaco, Central Hudson
Tineesha McMullen, Orange and Rockland

1:45 pm – 2:15 pm

Session 4: Heating System Installation for Low-Income Households: Lessons Learned through EmPower New York

The severe weather in the last two years has stressed the heating systems in use across our State. Breakdowns in the middle of the winter can be life-threatening situations. In the last two years, EmPower New York has developed procedures for assisting households in need of heating replacement and repair in the middle of winter. This session will explore ways to optimize referrals, weigh considerations of budget and efficiency, and coordinate heating repair with energy efficiency services.

Speaker:

David Friello, NYSERDA

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm

Session 5: RUPCO's Outreach to Spanish-Speaking Communities

In order to contextualize energy usage in the Hudson Valley, this presentation will provide demographic background on the diversity of New York State residents and how everyone, regardless of ethnic background, consumes energy. Attendees will learn about the work that Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO) does through the Green Jobs-Green New York program to reach out to the Hispanic Community in the areas they serve. Specific strategies for outreach will be discussed, among them RUPCO partnership with key media outlets such as “La Voz Hispanic Magazine” and RUPCO’s partnership with “Mano a Mano,” a local coalition with a mission to serve the Spanish-speaking community of Ulster County by providing a structure where agencies, individuals, businesses, and organizations work collaboratively to network, support, and foster a diverse community.

Speaker:

Hugo Jule, RUPCO

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Session 6: Community Aggregation in the Hudson Valley

Community choice aggregation creates new opportunities for communities to access energy efficiency, renewables and affordable power. This session will explore the two different community aggregation models.

Sustainable Westchester is the first approved community aggregation pilot under the NYS Public Service Commission’s community aggregation proceeding. Sustainable Westchester will undertake that effort. Sustainable Westchester is a membership organization with more than 90 percent of all Westchester municipalities participating, representing roughly 900,000 county residents. The action group is designed to turn environmental challenges into opportunities to improve the quality of life, economy and future prospects of county citizens.

Community choice aggregation is part of Citizens for Local Power’s growing portfolio of projects and initiatives. Citizens for Local Power (CLP) is a community-based organization working to transform energy policy and practice in the mid-Hudson Valley as a way to fight climate change and increase resilience. CLP has been an active party to the NYS Public Service Commission’s Reforming the Energy Vision Initiative and related proceedings, and recently introduced a REV demonstration project proposal for an Ulster County CCA.

Speaker:

Dennis Quinn, Sustainable Westchester
Jennifer Metzger, Citizens for Local Power

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Networking Break

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

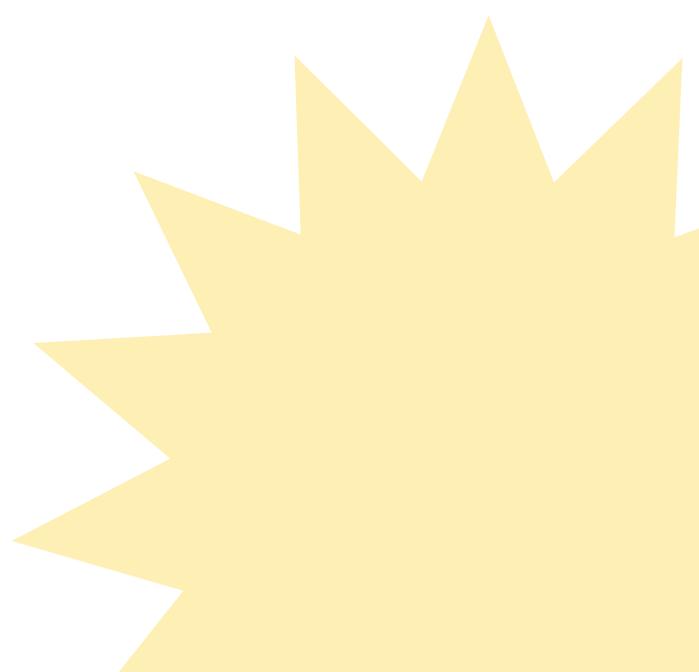
Session 7: Use a LIFE Line

Do you still have questions that were not answered throughout the day? Do you have a specific case that you would like to get input on? Use a LIFE line and ask your colleagues for help!

4:00 pm

Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

Evaluation & Raffle



Thank you to the LIFE 2015 Regional Meeting Leaders

The LIFE Steering Committee would like to thank our 2015 Regional Meeting leaders for their time and expertise in the development of the agenda for this meeting and in the facilitation of scholarship opportunities. Their commitment to the LIFE mission and the support from the organizations that they represent on the LIFE Steering Committee is greatly appreciated. In addition, the Steering Committee extends gratitude to the LIFE Implementation Team, comprised of Sue Montgomery Corey (Community Power Network of NYS), Chuck Schwartz (LI Green), and Jennifer Monroe (Adirondack Efficiency), for their contributions to meeting content and logistics.

LIFE 2015 Regional Meetings Planning Subcommittee

Donna Boyce, Solix, Inc.; Chris Coll, NYSERDA; Sue Montgomery Corey, Community Power Network of NYS; Mishel Filisha, NYSERDA; Kate Granger, National Grid; John Mazzarella, NYSERDA; Beth Ryan, NYS Homes and Community Renewal; Jackie Sykas, NYSEG/RG&E; Virginia Walsh, Honeywell

LIFE 2015 Regional Meetings Scholarship Subcommittee

Sue Montgomery Corey, Community Power Network of NYS; Pat Fayó, United Way of the Dutchess Orange Region; Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service; Mishel Filisha, NYSERDA; Kim McMann, NYS Community Action Association; Beth Ryan, NYS Homes and Community Renewal

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:

Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation
Consolidated Edison of NY, Inc.
Honeywell
National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation
National Grid
New York State Community Action Association
New York State Department of Public Service
New York State Department of State
New York State Electric and Gas Corporation
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
New York State Homes and Community Renewal
New York State Office for the Aging
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
New York State Weatherization Directors' Association
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.
PSEG Long Island
Rochester Gas and Electric
Solix, Inc.
United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region

LIFE is sponsored by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) and supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Visit www.lifenynews.org for more information about LIFE.

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 after the meetings to download copies of available presentations. Attendees will receive an email notification when the presentations become available.

Save the Date!

The 2016 LIFE Statewide Conference will be held in May 2016 in the Capital District. Details including dates and program information will be available in late 2015.

