



## Low-Income Forum on Energy

# Low-Income Forum on Energy 2015 Regional Meeting Series

## AGENDA

**April 29 - New York City**  
Con Ed Auditorium  
4 Irving Place  
19th Floor Auditorium  
New York NY 10003



# 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

**8:30 am – 9:30 am**

### Registration and Networking

**9:30 am – 10:15 am**

### Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Chris Coll, NYSERDA  
Marilyn Caselli, Senior Vice President, Con Edison  
Len Silverstein, NYS Department of Public Service  
Patricia Acampora, Commissioner, NYS Public Service Commission  
John Rhodes, President and Chief Executive Officer, NYSEDA

**10:15 am – 11:45 am**

### Session 1: An Overview of REV and Updates on 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 REV, 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 CEF 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, NYSEDA

**11:45 am – 12:15 pm**

### Session 2: Consumer Protections: Scams and Identity Theft

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Victimiting 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:

James Dees, NYS Department of State

**12:15 pm – 1:15 pm**

### Lunch & Networking

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

### Session 3: The Impacts of Increasing Household Energy Prices on Health and Health Care Costs in New York State

Children's HealthWatch has conducted several research studies examining the relationships between household energy insecurity (financial difficulties keeping the lights, heating/cooling on) and children's health. This research indicates that energy insecurity often occurs together with other household hardships such as housing insecurity (overcrowding, frequent residential moves, financial difficulties paying rent or mortgages) and/or food insecurity (lack of sufficient food for all household members to lead healthy lives due to financial difficulties). In 2013, Children's HealthWatch produced a report with support from the Enerergy Foundation examining several scenarios of energy price increases in New York, simulating their impacts on energy security, health, health resource utilization, and health care costs. While predicting future energy dynamics is a difficult and uncertain process, consideration of different future scenarios can improve our understanding of alternative pathways forward. Dr. Cook will share results of Children's HealthWatch research on household energy insecurity, as well as the cumulative impacts of combination with other hardships, and their associations with child health outcomes. A number of factors, such as future trends in population growth, energy production and consumption, and global climate disruption, argue for careful consideration of future energy policies and practices. The topics discussed and explored by workshop participants from a perspective of household energy security and health will shed light on important considerations for New York's energy future.

**Speaker:**

John Cook, Children's HealthWatch, Boston University School of Medicine

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

### Session 4: 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:**

David Nelson, Consolidated Edison  
Karla Ayala, National Grid  
Suzanne Brienza, PSEG

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

### Session 5: What Is REV Likely To Mean For Energy Efficiency In Affordable Multifamily Housing: Challenges and Opportunities

New York's Reforming the Energy Vision transformation of how utilities and customers interact could provide new sources of financing for energy efficiency in multifamily buildings or it could result in reduced spending in this sector, including affordable multifamily housing. The outcome will depend on actions by New York regulators and program administrators along with private sector providers and financiers. This session will explore the challenges and opportunities arising from Public Service Commission and NYSERDA activities expected in the next several years.

**Speaker:**

David Hepinstall, Association for Energy Affordability

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm

### Networking Break

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm

### Session 6: Westchester Community Choice Aggregation Pilot

Community aggregation creates new opportunities for communities to access energy efficiency, renewables, and affordable power. This session will explore 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% of all Westchester municipalities participating, representing approximately 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.

**Speaker:**

Mike Gordon, CEO of Joule Assets and Co-Chair of Sustainable Westchester

4:15 pm – 4:30 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!

4:30 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](http://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](http://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.