



## Low-Income Forum on Energy

# Low-Income Forum on Energy 2015 Regional Meeting Series

## AGENDA

**May 5 - North Country**  
Ramada Watertown,  
21000 NYS Route 3,  
Watertown, NY 13601



# 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 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 – 11:30 am**

### Session 2: National Grid/Weatherization Oil to Gas Conversion

This session will explore an exciting new collaboration between National Grid and the Weatherization Assistance Program. Working with Syracuse-based PEACE, Inc., National Grid will develop and implement a natural gas conversion pilot program, with the purpose of providing low-income households with high efficiency heating appliances.

#### Speakers:

Phil Amsterdam, National Grid  
Bill Seitz, PEACE  
Sally Ward, PEACE

**11:30 am – 12:00 pm**

### Session 3: Consumer Protection for Energy Customers

This session will discuss frequent scams and business practices that negatively affect low-income energy consumers. From issues as diverse as appreciating the benefits and drawbacks of energy service companies (ESCOs), to hidden propane delivery fees, to understanding potential natural gas rights, information can empower the consumer to protect themselves and make sound financial decisions.

#### Speaker:

Alicia Lendon, Office of the New York State Attorney General

**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

### Lunch and Networking

**1:00 pm – 1:30 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:**

Martani deRooy, National Grid  
Jen White, NYSEG

**1:30 pm – 2:15 pm**

### **Session 5: What is an Energy Audit?**

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.

**Speaker:**

Al McMahan, NYS Weatherization Directors' Association

**2:15 pm – 2:45 pm**

### **Session 6: 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 the 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:**

Nathan Yehle, Honeywell Utility Solutions

**2:45 pm – 3:15 pm**

### **Session 7: Renewable Heat NY**

With the brutal winters in the North Country and the lack of access to natural gas, homeowners certainly face high heating bills, especially when oil and propane prices rise. This session will provide an overview of Renewable Heat NY, an initiative launched by Governor Cuomo to provide more affordable heating options to homeowners and help build the biomass heating industry in New York. In this session, learn about the incentives available for high-efficiency wood and pellet boilers and stoves.

**Speakers:**

Leslie Karasin, Northern Forest Center  
Ryan Moore, NYSERDA

**3:15 – 3:30 pm**

### **Networking Break**

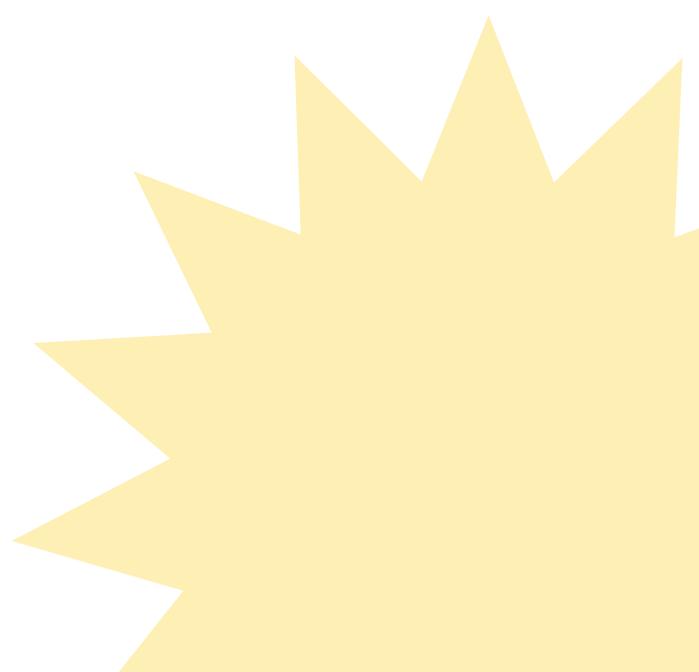
**3:30 – 4:00 pm**

### **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 and 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.

