



LIFE 2004 Regional Meetings

Conference Report: Lake Placid

The LIFE 2004 Regional Meeting for the North Country Region was held on May 6, 2004 at the Lake Placid Resort Hotel in Lake Placid. Thirty-one individuals representing twenty organizations attended the event. Martin Insogna, Chair of the LIFE Steering Committee and Utility Consumer Program Specialist for the New York State Department of Public Service served as Master of Ceremonies. Support for the regional meeting was provided by our local host, Community Energy Services of Canton.

Agenda

The agenda for the regional meeting included the following sessions:

Consumer Protection Update. This session discussed the changing consumer protection requirements: what they mean for low-income customers and common misconceptions about New York's consumer protection rules. *Speakers: Ben Wiles, Public Utility Law Project; Glenn Alveranga, New York State Dept. of Public Service and Connie Clouston, NYSEG.*

The Changing Resource Picture. This session explored the current public and private resource programs available for low-income energy customers and the changes occurring with those resource programs. *Speakers: Peggie Neville, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; Bruce Bowdy, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and Patrick Costello, New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal.*

Regional Profiles. This session reviewed regional energy, housing, and poverty statistics available for this region. *Speaker: Sue Montgomery Corey, Community Power Network of New York State, Inc.*

Housing and Energy. This session provided a regional perspective on the link between energy and housing. It explored community-based solutions that helped low-income households address their housing and energy needs. *Speakers: Ann Heidenreich, Community Energy Services; Bryan Bashaw, Comlinks; and Barbara Willis, North Country Affordable Housing.*

Best Ideas Identified At This Conference

The importance of collaborating, networking and leveraging funding opportunities and programs.

The mobile home replacement program was appreciated.

The simple cottage project was a good strategy for helping low-income households to achieve affordable homeownership. All of the community-based strategies were appreciated.

The consumer protection update was useful - especially the information about utility shut-offs.

It was good to hear about the NYSERDA and Division of Housing and Community Renewal resource programs.

It would be great to have a simple resource book so that organizations like ours can make more appropriate referrals.

The HEAP update was appreciated.

Significant Concerns Identified At This Conference

There isn't enough funding to meet the needs in our community. Continuity of funding (HEAP, Housing and other energy programs) is also a major concern.

The rising cost of energy and its impact on energy burden.

It seems that utility shut-offs may be increasing.

The escalating cost of materials (housing and energy efficiency) is a concern.

Conference Evaluation Results

Each conferee was asked to complete a conference evaluation. Eleven participants completed evaluations with the following results.

1. How well did the Regional Meeting meet your expectations? *Conferees rated this at 3.82 out of 5.0.*
2. Please rate the quality of the speakers overall. *Conferees rated this at 3.91 out of 5.0.*
3. Please rate the quality of the other aspects of LIFE.

Materials	<i>Conferees rated this at 3.73 out of 5.0</i>
Conference Facilities	<i>Conferees rated this at 4.36 out of 5.0</i>
Food	<i>Conferees rated this at 4.00 out of 5.0</i>
Parking	<i>Conferees rated this at 4.18 out of 5.0</i>
Conference Staff	<i>Conferees rated this at 4.27 out of 5.0</i>

Participation By Sector

Sector	Number Attending	Percent of Total
Utility	3	9.68%
State Government	6	19.35%
Local Government	6	19.35%
2 Dept. of Social Services		
2 Office for Aging		
2 Other Local Government		
Community Action/Weatherization	3	9.68%
Community-Based Organization	9	29.03%
Energy Services Company	0	0%
Faith-Based	1	3.23%
Independent Living Centers	0	0
Statewide Non-Profit	1	3.23%
National Non-Profit	0	0%
Other	2	6.45%

Organizations Represented at This Regional Meeting

NYS Dept. of Public Service
 ComLinks (Community Action Agency of Franklin County, Inc.)
 NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance
 NYS Electric & Gas Corp. (NYSEG)
 NYS Div. of Housing & Community Renewal
 St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc.
 Community Power Network of NYS, Inc.
 Warren County Planning & Community Development Dept.
 Community Energy Services, Inc. (North Country Energy \$mart Communities)
 National Grid

Rural Preservation Company of Clinton County
 NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
 Franklin County Office for the Aging
 North Country Ministry
 Franklin County Dept. of Social Services
 Essex County Dept. of Social Services
 JCEO of Clinton & Franklin Counties, Inc.
 Adirondack Habitat for Humanity
 Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc.
 Public Utility Law Project (PULP)
 North Country Affordable Housing
 Niagara Mohawk (NIMO), A National Grid Company