



## LIFE 2004 Regional Meetings

Conference Report: New York City

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The LIFE 2004 Regional Meeting for the New York Region was held on May 20, 2004 at the Association for Energy Affordability's Training Center in the Bronx. Forty-seven individuals representing twenty-seven 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, Association for Energy Affordability.

### 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 Robin Segur, Consolidated Edison of New York.*

**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: Sharon Griffith, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; Peggie Neville, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; Bruce Bowdy, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and Deborah Boatright, 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: David Hepinstall, Association for Energy Affordability.*

**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: Sunari Silva, Habitat for Humanity; Louis Kilkenny, Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, Joseph Barden, Margert Community Center; and Barry Seebachan, Bronx Shepards Restoration Corporation.*

### Best Ideas Identified At This Conference

The importance of partnerships and networking between organizations and programs in helping low-income energy customers address their energy burden.

The need to address energy efficiency standards during the design stage of housing prior to construction.

Green building and energy efficiency techniques are still on the back burner for new low-income housing developments-this needs to change!

When low-income housing programs are financed, they should be required to include energy efficiency.

Hearing about the Consolidated Edison settlements for low-income consumers and the NYSEERDA incentives was important.

Low-income households should have greater access to Energy Star appliances.

Strengthen the relationship between resource programs and Habitat for Humanity. Habitat's Green Building Program is exciting!

Educating residents, managers, and builders about energy use is important.

## **Significant Concerns Identified At This Conference**

Indoor air quality is important and not understood or addressed as well as it should be.

High levels of asthma in low-income neighborhoods are an issue.

The low-income population is growing and the program resources are not keeping pace.

Energy and housing affordability are major issues for low-income households and they often have difficulty borrowing money to obtain safe, affordable housing.

Section 8 program is not as available for low-income households as it needs to be (moratorium a concern).

Housing and energy networks and resource programs often are not communicating as effectively as they need to and often seem to operate on parallel and separate tracks.

Consumer protection is not as strong as it needs to be for low-income households.

No information on how renewables can benefit low-income households.

## **Conference Evaluation Results**

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

1. How well did the Regional Meeting meet your expectations? *Conferees rated this at 3.83 out of 5.0.*
2. Please rate the quality of the speakers overall. *Conferees rated this at 3.95 out of 5.0.*
3. Please rate the quality of the other aspects of LIFE.

Materials *Conferees rated this at 3.78 out of 5.0*

Conference Facilities      *Conferees rated this at 3.90 out of 5.0*  
 Food                              *Conferees rated this at 4.05 out of 5.0*  
 Parking                           *Conferees rated this at 3.09 out of 5.0*  
 Conference Staff              *Conferees rated this at 4.50 out of 5.0*

## Participation By Sector

Sector	Number Attending	Percent of Total
Utility	7	14.89%
State Government	11	23.40%
Local Government	2	4.23%
2 Dept. of Social Services		
0 Office for Aging		
0 Other Local Government		
Community Action/Weatherization	11	23.40%
Community-Based Organization	8	17.02%
Energy Services Company	0	0%
Faith-Based	0	0%
Independent Living Centers	0	0%
Statewide Non-Profit	3	6.38%
National Non-Profit	0	0%
Other	5	10.64%

## Organizations Represented at This Regional Meeting

Long Island Power Authority (LIPA)  
 NYS Dept. of Public Service  
 Margert Community Corporation  
 NYS Div. of Housing & Community Renewal  
 NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance  
 167<sup>th</sup> Street HDFC  
 O<sub>2</sub> New York City  
 SINERGIA, Inc.  
 Common Ground  
 Community Power Network of NYS, Inc.  
 Westchester County Dept. of Social Services  
 NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)  
 Association for Energy Affordability (AEA)

Neighborhood Housing Services of NYC, Inc. (NHS)  
 Housing Conservation Coordinators, Inc.  
 Governor's Office for Small Cities  
 Community Development Corp. of Long Island, Inc.  
 South Bronx Mental Health Council, Inc.  
 Consolidated Edison Customer Outreach (ConEd)  
 HANAC Weatherization, Inc.  
 KeySpan Energy Delivery  
 Sunset Park Redevelopment  
 Bronx Shepherds Restoration Corp.  
 Habitat for Humanity- NYC  
 Public Utility Law Project  
 Energy \$mart Communities  
 Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.