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# Regional Meeting May 10, 2007

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation  
120 Route 28  
Kingston, New York 12401

# Welcome

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On behalf of the entire LIFE Steering Committee, welcome to today's LIFE 2007 Regional Meeting. The agenda has been designed to provide you with an update on the activities and programs generated from discussions at previous LIFE events, information on current energy issues facing low-income energy consumers, model programs, and an opportunity to network with other professionals who face the same challenges as you do in looking for solutions for the consumers you serve. To maximize your time with us, we will be presenting many topics and allowing time to hear from you at the networking sessions. Please share your ideas with us and enjoy the day.

Pamela Carter  
LIFE Chairperson

## Agenda

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**8:30 - 9:00 AM**

### Registration and Networking

**9:00 - 9:30 AM**

### Welcome and Opening Address

You have asked and we are responding. The LIFE Chairperson will focus on questions raised at previous LIFE events and the solutions generated. Whether you have attended LIFE events in the past or this is your first time, you will want to hear about the positive effects LIFE has on the lives of many low-income New Yorkers.

*Welcome: Brian Dimisko, Manager,  
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation*

*Honorable Cheryl A. Buley, Commissioner,  
NYS Public Service Commission*

*Honorable Maureen F. Harris, Commissioner,  
NYS Public Service Commission*

*Speaker: Pamela Carter, LIFE Chairperson,  
NYS Department of Public Service*

**9:30 - 9:45 AM**

### Introduction to Networking

More than just a term used to describe time to interact with colleagues, networking is a valuable tool. We will demonstrate how you can use this tool to your advantage and give you an opportunity to practice what you have learned later in the day.

*Speaker: Mary Thompson Grassi, Project Manager, NYSERDA*

**9:45 - 10:30 AM**

### Session 1:

#### Panel Presentation – A New Light on Today's Energy

Our animated panel will report on the state of energy in New York, energy sources and how energy use affects the environment. We will also address low-income consumer's energy burden. It's a fact that low-income consumers pay more of their income toward energy bills; we will examine how much more. The session will end with useful cost-effective ways to help consumers save energy.

*Moderator: Ben Wiles, Senior Attorney, Public Utility Law Project*

*Speakers: John Ahearn, Program Manager, NYSERDA*

*Charles Wesley, Senior Project Manager, NYSERDA*

*Brian Atchinson, Associate Project Manager, NYSERDA*

**10:30 - 10:45 AM**

### Break

**10:45 - 11:30 AM**

### Session 2:

#### Weatherization: The Jet Stream Shouldn't Be in Your Home

Heard of a blower door test and wonder what that is? Want to refer a client for weatherization and not sure how to explain what to expect? Whether you are a seasoned weatherization professional or someone just starting out, this session will provide you with a hands-on look at the tools of the trade and information on the referral process.

*Speakers: Maureen Collett, WRAP Liaison, Orange County OFA*

*Donna O'Brien, Weatherization Director,*

*Dutchess County CAP, Inc.*

*Brian Atchinson, Associate Project Manager, NYSERDA*

# LIFE Mission Statement

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- To maintain a forum that attracts a diverse range of parties whose efforts will have an impact on the ability of low-income customers to meet their energy needs.
- To seek to identify and address the full range of low-income energy issues.
- To broaden participation and encourage involvement of all stakeholders in the energy forum.
- To encourage linkages through the forum to strengthen the understanding of and support for the energy needs of low-income New Yorkers.
- To encourage an interactive exchange of information and collaboration among the programs and resources that help the State's low-income households.
- To provide a venue for policy makers to hear of emerging issues from those at the front end of program delivery, identification of best practices, and networking opportunities for those in the low-income energy field.

## 11:30 - 12:15 PM

### Session 3:

#### The Mystery Unraveled

Within the myriad of programs available to help low-income consumers, we'll share three that you should have in your tool box.

*Speakers:* Elizabeth Katz, Utility Consumer Assistance Specialist 3,  
NYS Department of Public Service  
Laura Mulvibill,  
EPIC Outreach Representative, NYS EPIC Program  
Patrice O'Connor, Utility Consumer Assistance Specialist 4,  
NYS Department of Public Service  
Mark Schaffer,  
WMS Installation Team Supervisor, NYS OTDA

## 12:15 - 1:15 PM

### Networking Lunch

Join a luncheon table discussion group for a conversation about one of the topics presented during the morning sessions.

## 1:15 - 2:00 PM

### Session 4: Regional Program Best Practices – Learn From the Experts

An in-depth presentation will highlight one local program's creative approach to working with low-income New Yorkers.

*Speakers:* Kelvin Keraga, Project Manager, NYSERDA  
Kyro Ojulo, Supervisor of Low-Income Programs,  
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation  
Rick Struck, Director of Consumer Energy Program,  
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.

## 2:00 - 2:45 PM

### Session 5:

#### Hypothetical Family – Meet the Coopers

Heat or eat. A choice no one should have to make. Join the group as we problem solve our way to helping the Cooper family struggle with limited resources to meet the challenge of paying for their energy bills and still have money to buy the necessities of life.

Small group working session.

## 2:45 - 3:30 PM

### Session 6:

#### LIFE, Sharing, Action...

An opportunity to practice the networking skills learned through out the day.

*Speakers:* Pamela Carter, LIFE Chairperson,  
NYS Department of Public Service  
Mary Thompson Grassi, Project Manager, NYSERDA

### Evaluation and Raffle

The evaluation form is a critical tool in developing the type of event that is most beneficial to you. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation form at the end of the day. When you turn in your evaluation, you will be given a raffle ticket for a gift basket drawing.

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**Since LIFE began in 1998, the LIFE Steering Committee has been an integral part of its growth and development. The Steering Committee is comprised of the following organizations:**

Association for Energy Affordability  
Cattaraugus Community Action  
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation  
Community Energy Services, Inc.  
Community Power Network of New York State, Inc.  
Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.  
Dutchess County Community Action Agency, Inc.  
KeySpan Energy Delivery  
LIPA/REAP  
National Fuel Gas  
National Grid  
New York State Consumer Protection Board  
New York State Public Service Commission  
New York State Department of State Division of Community Services  
New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal  
New York State Electric & Gas Corporation  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority  
New York State Office for the Aging  
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance  
New York State Weatherization Directors' Association  
Public Utility Law Project  
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.  
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation

### **Acknowledgements**

A special thank you to our local host, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, for providing space, supplies and support for today's LIFE Regional Meeting. Their support has been essential in making the Kingston meeting a success and is greatly appreciated.

### **Mark your calendar for next year's LIFE Statewide Conference**

May 20-21, 2008  
Marriott Wolf Road  
Albany, New York

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LIFE is sponsored by the New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. For more information about LIFE, please visit our website at [www.lifenynews.org](http://www.lifenynews.org).