



**2013 Regional Meetings**

# Low-Income Forum on Energy 2013 Regional Meeting Series

## AGENDA

**New York City/Long Island**  
May 2, 2013

**Allegria Hotel**  
80 West Broadway  
Long Beach, NY 11561



## Welcome

On behalf of the LIFE Steering Committee, welcome to today's LIFE Regional Meeting, one of six taking place around the State. This year's theme, LIFE in Action, is designed to provide you with specific action steps you can take to help your constituencies. As the cost of energy continues to pose challenges to New Yorkers with low or fixed incomes, it is important to provide community leaders and service providers with useful, timely information to assist low-income consumers. Today's program will supply you with valuable information on available resources, updates on key programs, and will highlight certain regional best practices. 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. We 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 – 9:00 AM**

### Registration & Networking

**9:00 – 9:15 AM**

### Welcome & Introductions

*Speakers:*

*Len Silverstein, NYS Dept. of Public Service, LIFE Chairman*  
*Chris Coll, NYSEERDA*

**9:15 – 9:45 AM**

### Session 1: LIFE as a Resource

Comprised of organizations and individuals committed to addressing low-income issues, the LIFE network can be a valuable resource for you to better serve your clients and can also provide an opportunity for professional growth. Hear from the LIFE Implementation team on how you can utilize the LIFE network to better serve your clients.

*Speakers:*

*Sue Montgomery Corey, Community Power Network of NYS*  
*Chuck Schwartz, Long Island Green*

**9:45 – 10:00 AM**

### Session 2: Utility Programs

Hear about the consumer protections and assistance programs for electric and natural gas customers through ConEd, LIPA, and National Grid.

*Speakers:*

*Lisanne Altman, LIPA*  
*Karla Ayala, National Grid*

**10:00 – 10:30 AM**

### Session 3: Updates on the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that issues heating benefits to supplement eligible household's annual energy costs. Many low-income households depend on HEAP benefits to offset their home energy costs, with nearly 1.4 million households in New York State receiving a benefit during the 2012-2013 program year. This presentation will provide you with an update on the 2012-2013 HEAP program, a look forward to the 2013-2014 program and promote the enrollment of HEAP recipients in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through my benefits.

*Speaker: Andrew Bryk, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance*

**10:30 – 11:00 AM**

### Session 4: After the Storm: Dealing with Mold & Mildew

Water damage and excess moisture in a home can cause a number of problems, including mold and mildew growth. Mold and mildew can present health and safety issues for building inhabitants and can be an obstacle for energy efficiency or weatherization improvements in a home. This presentation will provide an overview of the impacts that mold and mildew can have on homes and residents, and will discuss strategies for dealing with mold and mildew.

*Speakers:*

*Virna Miller, Energy Savings Plus, LLC*  
*Melissa Mason, Energy Savings Plus, LLC*

**11:00 – 11:15 AM**

### Networking Break

**11:15 – 11:30 AM**

### Session 5: The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program

The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program is a New York State program for seniors administered by the Department of Health. It helps more than 270,000 income-eligible seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D) costs. This presentation will provide you with an overview of the EPIC program and highlight recent changes to the program.

*Speaker: Gema Diaz, NYS EPIC Outreach Representative*

**11:30 – 12:00 PM**

### Session 6: New York's Competitive Energy Market

In 1994, the energy industry was restructured in New York to provide consumers the opportunity to purchase electricity and natural gas from an energy service company (ESCO), instead of only from their utility. The Department of Public Service has opened a proceeding, in Case 12-M-0476, to review and address specific concerns, such as aggressive door-to-door marketing, and other important aspects of the competitive energy market for residential customers. In addition, the Department has surveyed residential customers to find out their experiences with ESCOs. This presentation will review the results of the survey, provide an overview of the public comments received and will discuss options for future Commission action to address the concerns raised in the residential survey and in this proceeding.

*Speaker: Len Silverstein, NYS Dept. of Public Service*

12:00 – 1:00 PM

## Lunch & Networking

1:00 – 1:30 PM

### Session 7: An Update on the Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program provides an essential service to low-income New Yorkers by delivering energy conservation improvements and addressing health and safety issues in homes across the state through a network of 60 sub-grantees. This presentation will provide you with an update on program activities during the last year and plans for the 2013-3014 program, including the coordination with the federal Healthy Homes Initiative.

*Speaker: Dan Henkin, NYS Homes and Community Renewal*

1:30 – 2:30 PM

### Session 8: Responding to Sandy – Response Coordination

Hurricane Sandy displaced more than 40,000 New Yorkers and left over 2 million without power. The response to storm was essential to ensure the well-being of those affected. Hear from organizations that provided disaster relief immediately after the storm and how they coordinated services and leveraged resources to help those in need. Panelists will also discuss the need for continued support as many continue to recover and rebuild.

*Speakers:*

*Nancy Cianflone, National Grid*

*Randi Dresner, Island Harvest*

*Gwen O'Shea, The Health and Welfare Council of Long Island*

2:30 – 2:45 PM

## Networking Break

2:45 – 3:30 PM

### Session 9: The Future of Low-Income Housing?

Passive house designs have the potential for reducing energy consumption in homes by up to 85%. Net zero energy building strategies can significantly reduce carbon emissions in affordable housing and result in an increase in disposable income for residents affordable housing. As passive building techniques and net zero energy building strategies become more widely understood and applied, how can these techniques be incorporated into low-income housing?

This presentation will discuss considerations for incorporating passive house design and net zero energy building strategies into affordable new construction, weatherization, and low-income energy efficiency projects.

*Speakers: Kevin Brennan, Association for Energy Affordability*

*Gerald Abt, Association for Energy Affordability*

*Paul Welch, Renewable Community Initiative, Inc.*

3:30 – 4:00 PM

### Session 10: Best Practices – The Long Island Progressive Coalition: Energy Efficiency Outreach & Project Aggregation

The Long Island Progressive Coalition's Power Up Communities program conducts outreach, marketing, and energy education to communities in Nassau and Suffolk counties in support of the Green Jobs Green New York program. Through PowerUps Aggregation Pilot, retrofits are bundled together for each home performance contractor in advance according to proximity. By pre-qualifying each homeowner for rebates and low interest financing before the free home energy assessment, PowerUp homeowners are more likely to follow through on improvements such as heating system upgrades and insulation. In addition to reducing costs, this approach also gives the program administrator greater control over the project pipeline, enhances customer and contractor communications, and provides for timely project completions, and allows for workforce training opportunities.

This presentation will provide you with an overview of the outreach and education initiatives that LIPC has been involved with and will discuss the benefits of the aggregation model of retrofitting homes.

*Speaker: Marrielle Robinson, Long Island Progressive Coalition*

4:00 PM

## Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

### Evaluation & Raffle

The evaluation form is a critical tool in developing the type of event that is most beneficial to you. Please complete the evaluation form throughout the day and turn it in at the end of the program. When you turn in your evaluation, you will be given a ticket for the raffle drawing, which will occur at the end of the day.



## Thank You to the NYC/Long Island Regional Meeting Leaders

The LIFE Steering Committee would like to thank our NYC/Long Island Regional Meeting leaders for their time and expertise in the development of the agenda for this meeting. Their commitment to the LIFE mission and the support from the organizations that they represent on the LIFE Steering Committee is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Kate Granger, National Grid and Virginia Walsh, Honeywell.

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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:

The Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.  
Cattaraugus County Community Action, Inc.  
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation  
Community Power Network of NYS, Inc.  
Consolidated Edison of NY, Inc.  
Honeywell  
National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation  
National Grid  
New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)  
New York State Department of Public Service (NYS DPS)  
New York State Department of State (NYS DOS)  
New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR)  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)  
New York State Office for the Aging (NYS OFA)  
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)  
New York State Weatherization Director's Association (NYSWDA)  
New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG)  
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R)  
United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region  
Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E)

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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).

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## Save the Date!

The 2014 LIFE Statewide Conference  
will be held in May 2014, in Albany NY.

*Details including dates and program information will be available in late 2013.*

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 to download copies of available presentations. Attendees will receive an email notification when the presentations become available.