



Low-Income Forum on Energy

Low-Income Forum on Energy 2015 Regional Meeting Series

AGENDA

May 13 - Southern Tier
Radisson Hotel Corning,
125 Denison Parkway East,
Corning, NY 14830



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: Consumer Issues for New York Families

This presentation will provide an update on the consumer protection work being done by Empire Justice Center in the Southern Tier and beyond. Empire Justice is a statewide, multi-issue, multi-strategy public interest law firm focused on changing the systems within which poor and low-income families live. With a focus on poverty law, Empire Justice undertakes research and training, acts as an informational clearinghouse, and provides litigation backup to local legal services programs and community-based organizations. As an advocacy organization, they engage in legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of those impacted by poverty and discrimination. As a nonprofit law firm, they provide legal assistance to those in need and undertake impact litigation in order to protect and defend the rights of disenfranchised New Yorkers.

Speaker:

Fiona Wolfe, Empire Justice Center

11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Session 3: The Solarize Model in the Southern Tier

Solarize is a proven model to scale up solar adoption using community-based social marketing. However, the current model does not meaningfully include low-income residents. This presentation will outline how Solarize is functioning in the Southern Tier region and discuss what policy and program changes are necessary for meaningful low- to moderate-income access to solar energy.

Speaker:

Adam Flint, Southern Tier Solar Works

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch and Networking

1:00 pm – 1:45 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:

Jackie Sykas, NYSEG
Katrina Colvin-Stilts, Corning Natural Gas

1:45 pm – 2:15 pm

Session 5: 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:

Kelvin Keraga, NYSERDA

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm

Session 6: Weatherization: Mobile Home Measures

Nationally, at least 25 percent of the homes being weatherized through the Weatherization Assistance Program are mobile homes. A majority of mobile homes consume one and a half to two times more energy than a site-built home. This is due to several variables including low thermal mass, large open areas and penetrations in the floor system, and poor duct design. This presentation will discuss the five components Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. Energy Programs utilizes to efficiently and effectively weatherize mobile homes. Specifically we will discuss: heating system, ducts system, insulation of underbelly, window/door replacement, and health/safety measures.

Speaker:

Shane Putnam, Pro Action of Steuben and Yates

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm

Session 7: 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:

Andy Stone, NYS Weatherization Directors' Association

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Networking Break

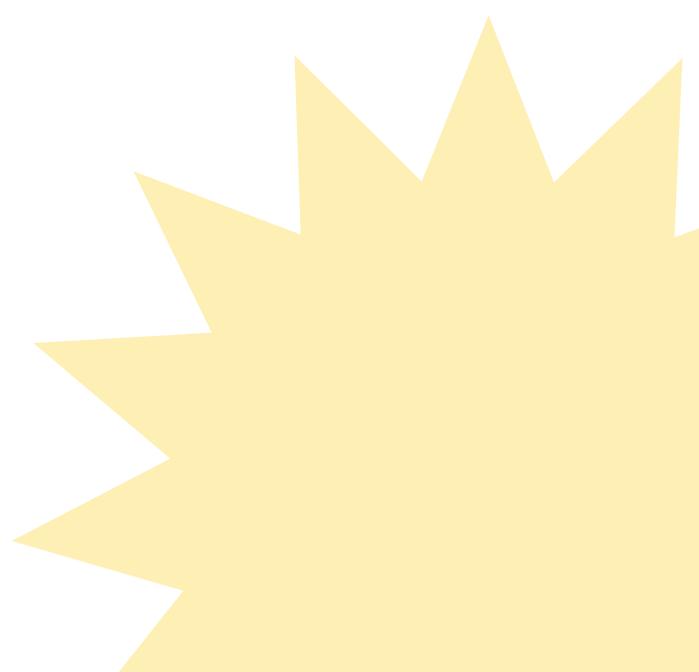
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Session 8: 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 & 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 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 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.