



Low-Income Forum on Energy

Low-Income Forum on Energy 2017 Regional Meeting Series

AGENDA

May 10 – Western New York – Buffalo, NY



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 for community leaders and service providers to have useful, timely information to assist these consumers. Today's sessions will give you updates on key programs, valuable information on available resources, and highlight regional best practices. Please take advantage of the tremendous opportunity for networking at this event. Often, it takes the right contacts to help serve your clients in the most effective and efficient manner. I hope you enjoy today's meeting, and thank you for participating in the LIFE dialogue!

– Monica M. Ferreri, LIFE Chair

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Networking

9:00 am – 9:15 am

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Chris Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service

9:15 am – 10:15 am

Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions: Reforming the Energy Vision and the Clean Energy Fund

Through Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy, New York State has undertaken significant steps to improve energy affordability and access to clean energy options for low- to moderate-income New Yorkers. Proceedings addressing energy affordability (14-M-0565), retail access (12-M-0476), and the value of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (15-E-0751) will provide low-income customers and communities with greater opportunities to reduce energy burdens and access clean energy options. In addition, through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), NYSERDA is making significant investments to increase access to clean energy solutions for low- to moderate-income customers by addressing the barriers that often prevent them from benefiting from energy efficiency and renewable energy. This session will provide attendees with an update on REV and the CEF, as well as an overview of key strategies and initiatives specific to low- to moderate-income New Yorkers.

Speakers:
Chris Coll, NYSERDA; Monica Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service

10:15 am – 10:35 am

Networking and Exhibit Break

10:35 am – 11:20 am

Utility Updates

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to low-income customers—from budget billing to efficiency programs. This session provides the most current information on utility low-income energy efficiency and payment assistance programs administered in New York State.

Speakers: Jill Emilanowicz, National Fuel Gas; Kevin Graham, RG&E/NYSEG; Kate Granger, National Grid

11:20 am – 11:50 am

The Fruit Belt Neighborhood Solar REV Demonstration Project

The Fruit Belt Neighborhood Solar REV Demonstration Project seeks to engage and benefit a largely low- to moderate-income (LMI) neighborhood within the City of Buffalo through the installation of utility-owned, solar electric systems and the provision of energy efficiency services to a subset of homes. Electric energy produced by solar electric systems is fed directly into the neighborhood grid. The entire value of that power is aggregated, monetized, and then redistributed equally among a larger group of neighborhood residential electric accounts. This Demonstration promotes the integration of renewable energy and energy efficiency to further reduce energy costs for LMI consumers and will test the impact on the ability of these customers to pay their energy bills.

Speakers: Christopher Coll, NYSERDA; Jon Nickerson, National Grid

11:50 am – 12:20 pm

Updates on the Home Energy Assistance Program

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income New Yorkers address their home energy needs. More than one million low-income households received bill assistance to offset their heating costs, heating equipment repair or replacement, or cooling assistance during the 2015–2016 program year. This session provides an update on the 2016–2017 program year, and will look forward to the 2017–2018 heating season.

Speaker: Meshell Garcia, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

12:20 pm – 1:20 pm

Meeting Luncheon

1:20 pm – 2:20 pm

Participating in a New York State Public Service Commission Proceeding

Learn what you need to know to get involved. This session will provide an overview of the various parameters and expectations, and rhythms and flow associated with participating as an intervenor in both rate and policy proceedings. A current water company rate proceeding (16-W-0130) and the current proceeding involving utility low-income programs (14-M-0565) will be used as examples for discussion.

Speaker: Richard Berkley, Public Utility Law Project

2:20 pm – 2:50 pm

Low-Income Solar and Community Solar

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy to low- to moderate-income households and communities. NY-Sun's Affordable Solar initiative provides assistance through additional solar incentives and funding to develop solar projects serving affordable housing providers, renters, and residents. Learn about the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners.

Speakers: Michelle Andry, NYSERDA; Sage Green, PUSH Buffalo

2:50 pm – 3:10 pm

Networking and Exhibit Break

3:10 pm – 3:40 pm

Green and Healthy Homes Initiative Buffalo: Past, Present, and Future

In 2010, the City of Buffalo was chosen as a pilot site for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI). Since then, GHHI Buffalo has looked beyond individual service area boundaries to come together as a collective group of service providers efficiently coordinating weatherization, home health, and safety interventions to expand the scope of services available to low-income families. To date, over 400 City of Buffalo families have benefited from this holistic approach. GHHI Buffalo aims to break down programmatic silos so that low-income families can efficiently access weatherization and home health programs from multiple organizations through one collaborative process. However, with funding for this program now depleted, the value-added efforts that flexible funding provided are no longer available. Thankfully, the legacy of the full-scale GHHI Buffalo program continues today as evidenced by strong system-wide collaboration among project partners. Looking toward the future, GHHI Buffalo partners hope to efficiently scale and enhance the most successful aspects of the past and bring GHHI Buffalo back to life.

Speaker: Katie Pieri, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

3:40 pm – 4:10 pm

Low-Income Energy Policy and Programs: Perspectives from Erie County

The energy landscape in New York State is shifting, presenting new challenges and opportunities for residents. With one of the more diverse populations in the State, Erie County offers a platform to explore new approaches to increasing energy affordability and reducing social vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. This session will provide you with an overview of the opportunities that Erie County is exploring to drive energy-related economic development, reduce energy insecurity, and improve health outcomes through the bulk purchasing of energy and renewable energy investment.

Speaker: Eric Walker, Erie County Department of Public Works

4:10 pm

Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation, and Raffle

Monica Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service

Thank you to the LIFE 2017 Regional Meeting Leaders

The LIFE Steering Committee would like to thank our 2017 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 they represent on the LIFE Steering Committee is greatly appreciated.

LIFE 2017 Regional Meetings Planning Subcommittee

Donna Boyce, Solix; Pat Fayó, United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region; Monica Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service; Mishel Filisha, NYSERDA; Beth Ryan, New York State Homes and Community Renewal; Valarie Strauss, Association for Energy Affordability

LIFE 2017 Regional Meetings Scholarship Subcommittee

Donna Boyce, Solix; Monica Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service; Mishel Filisha, NYSERDA; Rebecca Jarrett, NYSEG; Kim McMann, New York State Community Action Association

Since the New York State 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
Community Power Network of New York State
Consolidated Edison of NY, Inc.
HeartShare Human Services of New York
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

The Low-Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) is supported by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). For more information about LIFE, please visit our website at nyserdera.ny.gov/LIFE.

As part of our ongoing commitment to both environmental and fiscal responsibility, we will not be distributing presentation handouts. Please support us in these efforts by going to nyserdera.ny.gov/LIFE after the meetings to download copies of available presentations. Attendees will receive an email notification when the presentations become available.

Save the Date! The 2018 LIFE Statewide Conference will be held in May 2018 in the Capital District. Details including dates and program information will be available in late 2017.