



## Low-Income Forum on Energy

# Low-Income Forum on Energy 2017 Regional Meeting Series

## AGENDA

May 1 – New York City – Long Island City, NY



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## 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

**8:30 am – 9:30 am**

### Registration and Networking

**9:30 am – 9:45 am**

### Welcome and Introductory Remarks

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

**9:45 am – 11:15 am**

### Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions

New York State has recently undertaken several key initiatives to improve energy affordability and access to clean energy solutions for low-income residents. Through Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy, the New York State Public Service Commission has initiated proceedings addressing energy affordability (14-M-0565), retail access (12-M-0476), and the value of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (15-E-0751), which will provide low-income customers and communities with greater opportunities to reduce energy burdens and access clean energy options. 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 barriers that often prevent them from benefiting from energy efficiency and renewable energy. In addition, New York State Homes and Community Renewal increased the building performance of affordable new construction projects through initiatives such as the development of higher energy efficiency standards for projects that qualify for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, implementing Green Building Criteria, and the development of an integrated physical needs assessment. This session will provide attendees with an update on REV, the CEF, and key affordable housing strategies as well as an overview of key strategies and initiatives specific to low- and moderate-income New Yorkers.

**Speakers:**  
Chris Coll, NYSERDA; Monica Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service; Karen Phillips, New York State Homes and Community Renewal

**11:15 am – 11:30 am**

### Networking and Exhibit Break

**11:30 am – 12:00 pm**

### 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:** Christalle Combie, National Grid;  
Dave Nelson, Con Edison

**12:00 pm – 12:30 pm**

### Con Edison REV Demonstration Projects for Low- and Moderate-Income Customers

In late 2016, Con Edison launched an initiative to provide new products and services for low- to moderate-income (LMI) customers with the goals of: providing LMI customers with access to clean energy options and new tools and services; improving affordability for LMI customers by helping them manage their energy use and control costs; and achieving impact by increasing energy savings, greenhouse gas reductions, system improvements, and local co-benefits. Con Edison released a request for information (RFI) in November 2016 seeking proposals to test innovative approaches to helping LMI Con Edison customers while achieving the goals mentioned above. The RFI submission period closed on February 3, 2017, and Con Edison is in the midst of reviewing the proposals to the RFI. This session will discuss the initiative and provide a progress update.

**Speaker:** Josh Gould, Con Edison

**12:30 pm – 1:30 pm**

### Meeting Luncheon

**1:30 pm – 2:00 pm**

### **Consumer Protections: Child Identity Theft Prevention**

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, and victimizing someone is easier than ever with widespread access to personal information. Children's identities are especially attractive to thieves because the theft often remains undetected for years. Learn how parents and guardians can protect children from identity theft and what steps to take if you know a child who has become a victim.

**Speaker:** Esther Hughes, New York State Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection

**2:00 pm – 2:45 pm**

### **Reaching the Hard to Reach: Low-Income and Multifamily Energy Efficiency Programs**

Many low-income and multifamily households are unlikely to live in energy-efficient housing and often spend a greater portion of their income on utility bills than higher-income or single-family households. This session compares programs serving New York City with the current trends and best practices of low-income and multifamily programs across the country. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) released an update to the 2013 assessment of multifamily energy efficiency programs. Using housing, policy, and utility-sector data from 2014 and 2015, they documented how programs have changed in the context of dynamic housing markets and statewide policy environments. ACEEE also recently conducted an initial assessment of energy efficiency programs using data from 2015 and 2016. For both projects, they used utility-sector data to analyze elements of program design and delivery, including program spending, savings, coordination, and included measures.

**Speakers:** Ariel Drehobl, American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy; Stefen Samarripas, American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy

**2:45 pm – 3:15 pm**

### **REVitalize: Encouraging Community-Scale Clean Energy Planning to Benefit Lower-Income and Environmental Justice Communities**

The Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy provides New York consumers and communities with new opportunities to participate in their energy future. Policy and regulatory developments such as community distributed generation and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) will result in the proliferation of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) and give consumers and communities unprecedented control over how they use and source energy, including community ownership of DER. However, lower-income and environmental justice communities often lack the technical expertise and financial resources to plan, develop, and implement a community-scale clean energy project, preventing these communities from fully taking advantage of the opportunities provided by REV. REVitalize is the result of a unique collaboration between community-based organizations and State government that seeks to facilitate the planning for and development of community-scale clean energy

projects. This session will provide an overview of the REVitalize initiative including: its origins; highlights of the initial work of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, UPROSE, and the Point; and the work NYSERDA is undertaking to support community-scale clean energy projects.

**Speakers:** Kartik Amarnath, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance; Ryan Chavez, UPROSE; Christopher Coll, NYSERDA; Angela Tovar, The Point

**3:15 – 3:30 pm**

### **Networking and Exhibit Break**

**3:30 – 4:00 pm**

### **Developing the Market for High Performance Energy Retrofits in Affordable Multifamily Housing: RetrofitNY**

New York State's aggressive energy and environmental goals include a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels and a 23 percent decrease in energy consumption from 2012 levels. In order to achieve these goals, it is crucial to address the State's existing building stock. Through RetrofitNY, NYSERDA is developing simplified solutions for conducting deep energy retrofits in tenanted multifamily units through a design competition and market development activities, such as the development of financing and business models. This session will provide attendees with an overview of the initiative and an update on progress.

**Speaker:** Greg Hale, Senior Advisor to the Chairman of Energy and Finance, Office of NY Gov.

**4:00 pm – 4:30 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; David Hepinstall, Association for Energy Affordability; Peter Mandelstam, GRID Alternatives

**4:30 pm**

### **Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation, and Raffle**

## 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](http://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](http://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.