

Low-Income Forum on Energy 2019 Regional Meeting Series

AGENDA

June 14th – New York City – Manhattan, NY



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY.

**Low-Income
Forum on Energy**



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. 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!

– Monica M. Ferreri, LIFE Chair

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Networking

9:00 am – 9:15 am

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Monica M. Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service

9:15 am – 10:45 am

Session 1: Advancing Energy Affordability and Access to Clean Energy in New York State

New York State is advancing far-reaching clean energy initiatives to spur achievement of important climate and energy affordability objectives, including undertaking clean energy innovation and fundamental regulatory changes to bring new investments into the State that improve consumer choice and affordability. This session provides an overview of and update on the primary initiatives guiding New York State's clean energy transition with specific focus on how New York is advancing energy affordability and access to clean energy solutions for lower-income and disadvantaged New Yorkers, with an emphasis on issues important to New York City.

Speakers: Christopher Coll, NYSERDA

Monica M. Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service
Nicholas Patané, New York City Mayor's Office of Resiliency

10:45 am – 11:00 am

Networking and Exhibit Break

11:00 am – 11:30 am

Session 2: 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: David Nelson, Con Edison
Carolyn King and Brittney Pietro, National Grid

11:30 am – 12:00 pm

Session 3: Focus on Environmental Justice: Statewide and Local Perspectives

As defined by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. Environmental justice in energy policy intersects with the racial, economic, housing, health and other social justice issues which impact low-income residents and communities of color. Achieving equity in clean energy program design and implementation requires inclusive engagement with and representation of the impacted communities along with fair distribution of benefits and burdens while prioritizing those with the highest need. This session will provide local and statewide perspectives on environmental justice and the opportunity to learn about related projects led by local organizations.

Speakers: Michelle Andry, NYSERDA
Lourdes Perez-Medina, UPROSE

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm

Luncheon

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

Session 4: New York City Climate Mobilization Act

New York City has passed the Climate Mobilization Act – a groundbreaking package of legislation designed to dramatically improve the carbon footprint of buildings across New York City. The centerpiece of the Act is a law that will require buildings above 25,000 square feet to meet strict greenhouse gas emissions limits starting in 2024. Among the first of its kind in the country, the bill is expected to reduce cumulative building emissions 40% citywide by 2030. In addition, the Act establishes a new, City-based Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to enable retrofits through long-term financing, and requires the installation of solar PV and green roofs on certain NYC buildings. This presentation will provide an introduction to the bills, strategies for compliance, and an overview of the City's free technical and educational resources to support building decision makers.

Speaker: Aaron Ordower, New York City Mayor's Office of Sustainability

1:45 pm – 2:15 pm

Session 5: Consumer Protections: New York State's Residential Shared Meter Law

This session will cover a widespread consumer protection and utility affordability issue in New York: shared meter conditions. A shared meter condition exists when a consumer's electric and/or gas meter reports usage both inside of the dwelling and to areas outside of the dwelling. In other words, a residential customer in a shared meter condition is additionally paying heat for common areas or other apartments, which is prohibited under New York State law. These conditions can arise intentionally or accidentally and are most often associated with conversions of single-family dwellings into rentals or from owner-occupied multiple dwelling units to non-owner-occupied investor units. Presenters will discuss how to identify when such a situation is occurring, the consumer's rights, and the procedural and legal steps necessary to protect the consumer's rights and finances.

Speaker: Richard Berkley, Public Utility Law Project of New York

2:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Afternoon Remarks

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Networking and Exhibit Break

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Discussion on Programs, Barriers, and Opportunities

Building on the discussions started during the 2018 Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) Public Forums hosted by NYSERDA and the NYS Department of Public Service, this stakeholder feedback discussion will focus on current initiatives and identify opportunities to improve the impact of energy and affordability programs in communities.



Thank you to the LIFE 2019 Regional Meetings Subcommittee members

The LIFE Steering Committee would like to thank our 2019 Regional Meeting Subcommittee members 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.

LIFE 2019 Regional Meetings Planning Subcommittee

Amy Barry, National Grid; Susann Brown, Orange and Rockland Utilities; Nancy Campo, PSEG-Long Island; Linda Eddy, PSEG-Long Island; Mishel Filisha, NYSEERDA; Beth Monaco, Central Hudson Gas and Electric; Valerie Strauss, Association for Energy Affordability; Charlie Quinn, Regional Economic Community Action Program

LIFE 2019 Regional Meetings Scholarship Subcommittee

Connie Clouston, National Grid; Mishel Filisha, NYSEERDA; Meshell Garcia, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance; Sherry Higgins, National Grid; Jackie Sykas, New York State Electric and Gas

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

Community Power Network of NYS

Consolidated Edison of NY, Inc.

HeartShare Human Services of New York

National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation

National Grid

New York Power Authority

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

Public Utility Law Project of New York State

Regional Economic Community Action Program

Rochester Gas and Electric

Solix, Inc.

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 (NYSEERDA). For more information about LIFE, please visit our website at nyserda.ny.gov/LIFE.

As part of our ongoing 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 nyserda.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 LIFE 2020 Statewide Conference will be held on May 19-20, 2020 in Albany NY. Further information will be available in late 2019.