



Common Acronyms

BPI – Building Performance Institute – Organization that provides national home performance and weatherization standards and contractor credentials

BRIA – Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance – State agency responsible for the implementation of services to refugees and for the administration of programs targeted at immigrants

CAA – Community Action Agency – Nonprofit public and private organizations providing a variety of services aimed at helping low-income people reach self sufficiency

CBO – Community Based Organization – Nonprofit organization aimed at addressing local needs of a community

CFL – Compact fluorescent light bulb – A fluorescent light bulb designed to replace the incandescent light bulb. CFLs give the same amount of visible light, but use less power.

CO – Carbon Monoxide – An odorless, colorless toxic gas

CO₂ – Carbon Dioxide – A colorless, odorless incombustible gas

C&T – Heating System Clean & Tune – Preventative maintenance performed on a heating system

DEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation – State agency with the mission to conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment

HCR – New York State Homes & Community Renewal – Consists of all the State's major housing and community renewal agencies, including: The Affordable Housing Corporation, The Division of Housing and Community Renewal, Housing Finance Agency, State of New York Mortgage Agency, Housing Trust Fund Corporation and others

DFTA – New York City Department for the Aging – Agency with a mission to work for the empowerment, independence, dignity and quality of life of New York City's diverse older adults and for the support of their families

DOE – United States Department of Energy – National department concerned with the United States' policies regarding energy, including safety in handling nuclear material

DOL – New York State Department of Labor – State department with the mission to protect workers, assist the unemployed, and connect job seekers to jobs

DOS – New York State Department of State – Part of the executive branch of New York State government. The Department of State keeps records, issues business licenses, enforces building codes, provides technical assistance to local governments, and administers fire prevention and control services

DPS – New York State Department of Public Service – The Department of Public Service is charged with ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to reliable and low-cost utility services. DPS is the staff arm of the Public Service Commission.

DSS – Department of Social Services – Agencies providing services to low-income residents, usually organized at the county level

EBT – Electronic Benefits Transfer – An electronic system that allows a recipient to authorize transfer of their government benefits from a federal account to a retailer account to pay for products received

EEPS – Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard – A regulatory policy that requires electricity service providers to meet a portion of their annual increase in electricity demand through energy efficiency measures

EITC – Earned Income Tax Credit – A refundable federal income tax credit for low- to moderate-income working individuals and families

EJ – Environmental Justice – An equitable spatial distribution of burdens and benefits to groups such as racial minorities, residents of economically disadvantaged areas, or residents of developing nations

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency – Agency of the federal government charged with writing laws and enforcing regulations that protect human health and the environment

EPIC – Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage – New York State sponsored prescription plan for seniors who need help paying for their prescriptions

HEAP – Home Energy Assistance Program, administered by OTDA – A program that helps low-income individuals and families with energy bills and no-heat emergencies

HHS – United States Department of Health & Human Services – Federal agency that administers the HEAP program

HRA – NYC Human Resources Administration – Provides temporary help to individuals and families with social service and economic needs to assist them in reaching self-sufficiency

HUD – Housing and Urban Development – Federal agency that oversees many low-income housing programs

kWh – Kilowatt Hour – A unit of energy equivalent to one kilowatt (1 kW) of power expended for one hour (1 h) of time

LIHEAP – Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program – Federally funded payment assistance program that helps low-income individuals and families with energy bills and no-heat emergencies. In New York State, LIHEAP is referred to as HEAP.

LIFE – Low -Income Forum on Energy – A statewide dialogue bringing together organizations and individuals committed to addressing the challenges and opportunities facing low- income New Yorkers as they seek safe, affordable and reliable energy

LIPA – Long Island Power Authority – a nonprofit municipal electric provider for Long Island, New York

MMBtu – Million Metric British Thermal Units – An energy measurement used to describe the heat value (energy content) of fuels and also to describe the power of heating and cooling systems, such as furnaces, stoves, barbecue grills, and air conditioners

MWh – Megawatt Hour – A unit of energy equivalent to one thousand kilowatts (1000 kW) of power expended for one hour (1 h) of time

NYPA – New York Power Authority – State organization with a mission to provide clean, low-cost, and reliable energy to residents of New York State

NYSERDA – New York State Energy Research & Development Authority – A public benefit corporation with a mission to facilitate change through the widespread development and use of innovative technologies to improve the State’s energy, economic, and environmental wellbeing

NYSCAA – New York State Community Action Association – A statewide agency that aims to provide New York State Community Action Agencies with information, professional development, and technical assistance to enhance the capacity of agencies to serve as effective, responsive community resources

NYSWDA – New York State Weatherization Directors Association – An association that provides materials and equipment procurement services for a network of weatherization agencies and services as a collective voice for public policy input and regulatory compliance

OFA – New York State Office for the Aging – State department with a mission to help older New Yorkers to be as independent as possible for as long as possible through advocacy, development and delivery of person-centered, consumer-oriented, and cost-effective policies, programs and services that support and empower the elderly and their families

OGA – New York State Office of the Attorney General – Serves as the guardian of the legal rights of the citizens of New York, its organizations, and its natural resources. The Attorney General not only advises the Executive branch of State government, but also defends actions and proceedings on behalf of the State.

OTDA – New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance – Oversees a range of the New York State’s programs for low-income residents, with a focus on employment wherever possible. Provides leadership, guidance and support to local departments of social services in the administration of those programs.

PSC – New York State Public Service Commission – Governing body that regulates and oversees the rates and services of New Yorks's electric, gas, steam, telecommunications, and water utilities, in addition to the cable industry

PV – Photovoltaic – A method of generating electrical power by converting solar radiation into direct current electricity

RFP – Request for Proposal – An acronym for a bidding process for commodities or services

RGGI – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – A regional initiative by states in the Northeastern United States region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

RPS – Renewable Portfolio Standard – A regulation that requires the increased production of energy from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal

SBC – Systems Benefit Charge – A surcharge on customers' electric utility bills used to fund public policy initiatives that improve the state's transmission and distribution infrastructure. Goals of the funded programs include: improving system-wide reliability and increasing peak-electricity reductions through end-user efficiency actions; improving energy efficiency and access to energy options for under-served customers; reducing the environmental impacts of energy production and use; and facilitating competition in electricity markets to benefit end-users.

SIR – Savings to Investment Ratio – The amount of money that something will save divided by the cost. If an SIR is greater than one, the measure is cost effective

TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families – A federal assistance program that provides temporary financial assistance while aiming to get people off of that assistance, primarily through employment

TRC – Total Resource Cost Test – A cost -benefit measure

WAP – Weatherization Assistance Program – Enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient

WRAP – Weatherization Referral, Assistance and Packaging Program – A program designed to assist low-income seniors in maintaining safe, affordable, energy-efficient homes