

**Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY)
Advisory Council Meeting Notes**

September 8, 2016
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
NYSERDA Board Room
Albany, New York

Members of the Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY) Advisory Council met via videoconference at NYSERDA's Albany, Buffalo, and New York City offices on April 15, 2016. Telephone access was made available to members who could not be present at a video conference site. Also attending the meeting were NYSERDA staff members, additional staff members from Advisory Council member organizations, and members of the public. The meeting was videotaped and posted on the [GJGNY Advisory Council meetings page of NYSERDA's website](#).

Attendees

Albany Office:

Advisory Council Members: Ross Gould, Workforce Development Institute; Paul Shatsoff; PS Consulting; Pam Hadad-Hurst, NYS Department of Energy Conservation
NYSERDA: Karen Hamilton; Kevin Carey; Carley Murray; Kelly Tyler; Jessica Waldorf; other NYSERDA staff

New York City Office:

Advisory Council Members: John Rhodes, NYSERDA; David Hepinstall, Association for Energy Affordability; Lisa Tyson, Long Island Progressive Coalition; Ellen Redmond, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
NYSERDA: Emily Dean

Phone:

Advisory Council Members: Tanya Dugal, NYS Department of Public Service; Les Bluestone, Blue Sea Construction; Jason Kulaszewski, PUSH Buffalo; Kevin Rooney, Oilheat Institute of Long Island; Tom Carey, NYS Homes and Community Renewal; Conrad Metcalf, Building Performance Contractors Association; Tony Joseph, NYS Department of Labor
Members of Public: Kathleen Langton, Affordable Housing Partnership Home Ownership Center; Guy Kempe, RUPCO; Rebecca Paavola, Social Enterprise and Training Center; Kristin Chin, Pratt; Scott Oliver, Pathstone; Valarie Strauss, Association for Energy Affordability;
NYSERDA: John Joshi, NYSERDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Rhodes welcomed participants to the Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY) Advisory Council meeting and reviewed the agenda.

2. Draft Report from the Community Outreach Discussion Working Group and NYSERDA Response (Slides 3-17)

Kelly Tyler, Director of Communities and Local Government at NYSERDA, provided a presentation summarizing the Community Outreach Discussion Working Group's report, which is in progress. The presentation covered: working group members, background of NYSERDA's CBO initiative, goals of the new community-based engagement initiative, challenges and barriers to existing CBOs, barriers to LMI households and communities implementing clean energy services, key considerations for the new initiative, base activities for the new initiative, regionally-specific activities related to the new initiative,

characteristics of a successful locally-based engagement organizations, and NYSERDA response to recommendations.

Question: Why is there so much emphasis on leveraging funds, and what has been done to confirm that funds are available for CBOs to leverage?

NYSERDA response: The goal is to access funding from organizations with similar goals to those of NYSERDA. Community funding is available for complimentary efforts.

Comment: Funding for complimentary programs have been cut back drastically. Before a program that emphasizes leveraging funds is finalized, it should be confirmed that these funds are available to CBOs.

NYSERDA response: Many CBOs are already leveraging funds and building these partnerships.

Comment: Agreement from CBOs that these partnerships are possible.

Comment: There may be regional differences in the workforce development components to consider. Not all CBOs have the same expertise in workforce development.

NYSERDA comment: Note that the role of the CBO is to facilitate workforce development, not to necessarily develop or deliver training.

Question: What is the timing on the solicitation?

NYSERDA response: The timeline is aggressive. The RFP will be released in the late fall and will be out on the street for 6-8 weeks. A schedule should be available in the coming weeks.

Question: Is there any more time for Working Group input?

NYSERDA response: The report needs be finalized, but additional feedback is always welcome.

Comment: Some of the recommendations of the group should be incorporated into the RFP, including the characterizations for a successful program.

Question: When will the outcome of the RFP be announced?

NYSERDA response: A schedule should be available in the coming weeks.

3. Update on September 1st Launch of Revised Interest Rates

Karen Hamilton

(Slide 18)

New applications for financing combine the loan and income-eligible incentive application. Owner occupied single family applicants can apply online or on paper. Rental and multi-unit applicants can use paper. An [interest rate estimator is available online](#) and has received positive feedback.

There was been a steady increase in the number of applications received over the month of August.

There was a webinar review of the application with questions and answers held on September 8.

It was suggested that the NYSERDA website should be updated to reflect the language “community-based organization” as people don’t understand “constituency-based organization.” Note that the term “constituency” is from the GJGNY Act.

NYSERDA will provide the Advisory Council with analysis of how the loan fund is performing, and changes in participation, in the spring.

4. Update on Small Commercial and Multifamily Loan Funds

(Slide 20)

The demand for small commercial/not-for-profit (NFP) loans exceeds the budget. The demand for small commercial/NFP audits and multifamily loans is low, but a budget balance remains. To accommodate the changes in demand, the remaining budget for Multifamily loans and Small Commercial/NFP audits and loans will be shifted as needed between the three functions.

Comment: Is this effective immediately?

NYSERDA response: Yes.

5. Research and Analysis Regarding Residential Audits

(Slide 21)

GJGNY audit funds are fully expended. The budget has been supplemented with RGGI funds. Free audits for LMI households will continue through the Clean Energy Fund. Currently, NYSERDA needs to analyze the role and value of audits in the market rate residential sector. NYSERDA is reviewing findings in evaluations. Round table meetings with contractors are planned.

Comment: Customers need to understand the limits and potential of energy efficiency work.

NYSERDA response: Information found in the evaluation reports can be used for customer education.

The evaluation of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program is multi-faceted and includes a process evaluation, market characterization, an analysis of GJGNY CBO efforts, and an impact assessment of projects that received a GJGNY audit. The results of the CBO efforts are available on the NYSERDA website - <http://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/-/media/Files/Publications/PPSER/Program-Evaluation/2016ContractorReports/GJGNY-CBO-Outreach-Program-Process-Evaluation.pdf>. Additionally, the results of the HPwES Process and Market Characterization Assessment is complete and available on the NYSERDA website - <https://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/-/media/Files/Publications/PPSER/Program-Evaluation/2015ContractorReports/2012-2013-HPwES-Process-Evaluation-Market-Characterization-Assessment-FinalReport.pdf>. In the impact study, evaluators are assessing the energy-saving impacts associated with homeowners who received a GJGNY audit but did not pursue participation in the NYSERDA residential programs. NYSERDA is working toward having the HPwES and GJGNY impact evaluation results available in late-2016.

Question: Has there been any research done on CBO relationship to the close rate on work?

NYSERDA response: No formal research has been conducted yet, but NYSERDA can look at the relationship.

6. Draft GJGNY Annual Report - Additional Comments?

Karen Hamilton requested any additional comments to the draft of the GJGNY 2016 Annual Report draft that was sent around. Any final input on the report should be submitted in the next few days.

7. Public Input

Comment: Long Island is not part of the Clean Energy Fund. Contractors have a lot of questions. People have a lot of questions.

DPS Long Island response: DPS is doing a gap analysis on the changes. They are happy to discuss.

NYSERDA has been in discussion with LIPA. Over previous years, NYSERDA has used RGGI funds to support work on Long Island. Now NYSERDA is providing those RGGI funds directly to LIPA, and LIPA will administer programs. Program plans need to reflect the goals of the State Energy Plan and

Reforming the Energy Vision/Clean Energy Fund. Discussions are underway with PSEG staff to discuss taking over the HPwES program on Long Island. LIPA is close to finalizing their planning for Long Island. Within a few weeks they will be able to share details on the programs. GJGNY financing will still be available to Long Island customers. Whether or not Long Island will be included in the new CBO RFP is still undecided. It will depend on the outcomes of LIPA's planning process.

Question: Why is Long Island not included in the Clean Energy Fund?

NYSERDA response: Because they do not pay into rate-payer collections.

Comment: The definition of community-based organizations needs to be broadened to remain consistent with a more widely-understood definition.

8. Closing Remarks

John Rhodes thanked Advisory Council participants for their engagement and feedback.