

Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY)
Advisory Council Meeting Notes
August 23, 2018
2:00 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 NYSEDA's Albany, Buffalo, and New York City offices on August 23, 2018. Telephone access was made available to members who could not be present at a video conference site. Also attending the meeting were NYSEDA staff members, additional staff members from Advisory Council member organizations, and members of the public.

Attendees

Albany Office:

Valerie Strauss, Association for Energy Affordability; Tony Joseph, NYS Department of Labor
NYSEDA: Alicia Barton, Heather Clark, Adele Ferranti, Karen Hamilton, Kevin Carey, Jeff Pitkin, Laura Rowe, David Sandbank

New York City Office:

Stephen Edel, Center for Working Families; David Hepinstall, Association for Energy Affordability; Ellen Redmond, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Rocco Lacertosa, NY Oil Heating Association, Inc.; Chuck Bell, Consumer Union; Tanya Dugal, NYS Department of Public Service

Buffalo Office:

NYSEDA: Kelly Tyler, Bianca Shaw

Phone:

Beth Fiteni, NYS Department of Public Service; Hal Smith, Halco; Aaron Edge, EFS; Iami Carrasquillo, NYS Department of Budget; Les Bluestone, Blue Sea Development; Andrew Bryk, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

1. Welcome and Introductions

Alicia Barton called the meeting to order. She regretfully acknowledged the passing of Kevin Rooney, CEO of the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island and a long-standing GJGNY Advisory Council member and stakeholder. She expressed condolences to his family, friends and colleagues on behalf of the Advisory Council.

In addition, she announced that Karen Hamilton will be retiring at the end of September 2018. Barton acknowledged Hamilton's many contributions to NYSEDA overall and the GJGNY program specifically. She is currently serving as the Director of the Single Family Residential group at NYSEDA and has been the point for the GJGNY Program since its inception. Barton expressed thanks on behalf of NYSEDA. A transition plan is underway. If advisory council members have any questions about the transition or the program, they may contact Kevin Carey Kevin.Carey@nyserda.ny.gov.

Hamilton thanked all the Advisory Council members and member organizations who have been participating through the entire planning and implementation of the program; and the Advisory Council and stakeholders in general for their positive impact on the program.

2. Residential Loan Fund Status Update (Jeff Pitkin, NYSERDA)

- March 2018 Bond Issuance
- Public Access to Loan Performance Data
OpenNY link to dataset (to be updated monthly): <https://data.ny.gov/Energy-Environment/Green-Jobs-Green-New-York-GJGNY-Residential-Loan-P/9evn-drxk> and visualization of the loan fund performance parameters on NYSERDA's web site: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Researchers-and-Policymakers/Green-Jobs-Green-New-York/Data-and-Trends>
- Residential Loan Fund Performance
 - GJGNY Financing Residential Loans Issued by Type
 - Dollar Value of Residential Loan Fund
 - Applications Received, Trend
 - Applications Received and Denied

3. Proposed Loan Fund Changes (Heather Clark, NYSERDA)

- Simplify interest rate structure
- Eliminate Smart Energy Loan cost-effectiveness screening for applicants with credit score of 780 or above
- Changes to underwriting and income documentation to streamline
- Closer review of project for Assisted HPwES loan applicants with high debt-to-income ratio
- Customer Service Improvements
 - Electronic signature
 - On-line applications
 - Seeking suggestions for increasing online submittal.
 - A working group will be assembled to discuss online application process.
Advisory Council members who would like to be involved in the working group should contact Jeff.Pitkin@nyserda.ny.gov and Heather.Clark@nyserda.ny.gov
- OBR policy and fees to be addressed in the future
 - Funding of title search and filing fees for OBR loans is unsustainable
 - Current transferability mechanism causes confusion and is not effective
- Timeline for all changes will be communicated

Question: With the interest rate changes, what is the overall percentage of loan applicants who are in the Tier 2 greater than 120% AMI category, who will now receive higher interest rates?

NYSERDA response: 5% or less

Comment: Should monitor to see if people are not undertaking projects because of the loss of this reduced interest rate.

NYSERDA Response: Those who fall into this category would normally be paying very high interest rates, if they could get financing at all, in the private lending market. This makes the GJGNY financing, even at the interest rate of 6.99%, a very attractive option for them. We think this change is fair to them, as well as to other applicants.

Comment: Those who advocated for the transferability of On-Bill Financing should be informed that it is not working out as expected.

4. Workforce Development Update – New Strategy under CEF (Adele Ferranti, NYSERDA)

- Strategy
 - Create talent pipeline to ensure robust supply of new and existing workers
 - Initial focus areas will be offshore wind, energy efficiency and clean technology, cleantech startups
- Talent pipeline funding and expected outcomes
 - \$47M in total, with \$10M reserved for offshore wind
- Training infrastructure, internships and on-the-job training (OJT)
 - Building/enhancing training infrastructure and capacity
 - Developing an internship program
 - Implementing an OJT program with NYS DOL
 - Preference for efforts that help priority populations: low-income and displaced workers, veterans, 18- to 24-year-olds
- Multifamily Building Operations and Maintenance program is active.

Question: Please provide clarification on wage subsidies.

NYSERDA response: NYSERDA will provide 50% of a wage for a trainee for a discreet amount of time to off-set the cost to the employer.

Question: What is the timeline?

NYSERDA response: Programs should be launched within the next two months.

Question: Is this applicable to Long Island

NYSERDA response: No. This is support for businesses in the SBC territory only at this time.

Question: Is Building O&M program also funded with SBC funds?

NYSERDA response: Yes

5. Update on the Community Energy Engagement Program (Karen Hamilton, NYSERDA)

- A map of Community Energy Engagement Program, Community Energy Advisors, by region, is included in the slide deck.
- Kelly Tyler introduced Bianca Show, NYSERDA's new Project Manager, who will be a member of the GJGNY Advisory Council.