



Low-Income Forum on Energy

Low-Income Forum on Energy 2017 Regional Meeting Series

AGENDA

May 2 – Long Island – Melville, NY



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 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

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Networking

9:00 am – 9:15 am

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

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

9:15 am – 10:15 am

Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs on Long Island

In 2017, the energy efficiency initiatives that NYSERDA administered on Long Island will transition from NYSERDA to PSEG and National Grid. This presentation will provide an update on the transition and an overview of the low-income energy efficiency programs administered by PSEG and National Grid.

Speakers: Christopher Coll, NYSERDA; Elisabeth Fiteni, New York State Department of Public Service; Brian Loughlin, PSEG Long Island; Brittney Pietro, National Grid

10:15 am – 10:35 am

Networking and Exhibit Break

10:35 am – 11:05 am

Utility Updates

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to their 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: Suzanne Brienza, PSEG Long Island; Christalle Combie, National Grid

11:05 am – 11:35 am

Local Spotlight: Long Island Progressive Coalition

Too many individuals and institutions are left out of the renewable energy economy. The Long Island Progressive Coalition is working to change that by providing low- to moderate-income households with energy efficiency services through their PowerUp Communities and PowerUp Solar Programs. PowerUp Communities allows homeowners to take advantage of free energy assessments, as well as grants and financing to receive improvements with zero out-of-pocket expense. The program has helped saved Long Islanders \$800–\$3,000 annually on their utility bills. PowerUp Solar is an initiative designed to bring solar energy to nonprofit organizations at a substantially reduced cost. It does this through aggregation, third-party financing, and C-PACE loans with no upfront costs.

Speaker: Ryan Madden, Long Island Progressive Coalition

11:35 am – 12:05 pm

Low-Income Solar and Community Solar

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy for 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 the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners.

Speaker: Michelle Andry, NYSERDA

12:05 pm – 1:05 pm

Meeting Luncheon

1:05 pm – 1:35 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

1:35 pm – 2:05 pm

The State of Poverty in the Empire State: NYSCAA's New York State Annual Poverty Report

Representatives from the New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) will share information from NYSCAA's New York State Annual Poverty Report. Attendees will gain a clear perspective of what poverty looks like in the State and how NYSCAA and the NYS Community Action network is working to alleviate the impact of poverty.

Speaker: Kim McMann, New York State Community Action Association

2:05 pm – 2:35 pm

The Path to Higher Performing Affordable and Multifamily Housing

While there is agreement that energy improvements benefit both property owners and tenants of affordable and multifamily buildings, proceeding with a project in a way that maximizes those benefits can be challenging. We'll walk through the upgrade process and discuss how to get started and best leverage existing PSEG and National Grid programs along with PACE financing. Specific regional case studies will be used to provide examples of successful projects.

Speakers: Mark Brescia, National Grid; John Franceschina, PSEG Long Island; Mark Thielking, Energize NY

2:35 pm – 2:55 pm

Networking and Exhibit Break

2:55 pm – 3:25 pm

Updates on the Home Energy Assistance Program

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income New Yorkers address their home energy needs. More than one million low-income households received bill assistance to offset their heating costs, heating equipment repair or replacement, or cooling assistance during the 2015–2016 program year. This session provides an update on the 2016–2017 program year, and will look forward to the 2017–2018 heating season.

Speaker: Jim Dormond, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

3:25 pm - 3:55 pm

Local Spotlight: Community Development Corporation of Long Island

The Community Development Corporation of Long Island (CDCLI), is a nonprofit organization that believes housing is a platform from which we can work to improve healthy lifestyles. In June 2015, CDCLI launched a Healthy Homes Pilot Program in the Village of Hempstead to improve the overall health and well-being of the low-income population. The pilot program was conducted in collaboration with several partners, including the Hempstead Housing Authority (HHA), Nu-Health, New York State Homes and Community Renewal, the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island, Island Harvest, and the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University. The project included the renovation of Gladys Gardens, a 30-unit apartment building owned by HHA; an assessment of the health and safety issues of the units; and the health needs of HHA residents. A lack of integrated services and an under-utilization of local health centers were identified as challenges to overcome. This session provides an overview of the pilot program and will discuss the implications for the findings.

Speaker: Maureen Pedrotti, Community Development Corporation of Long Island

3:55 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 nyserderda.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 nyserderda.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.