



Low-Income Forum on Energy

Low-Income Forum on Energy 2017 Regional Meeting Series

AGENDA

May 11 – Southern Tier – Corning, 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

Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions: Reforming the Energy Vision and the Clean Energy Fund

Through Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy, New York State has undertaken significant steps to improve energy affordability and access to clean energy options for low- to moderate-income New Yorkers. Proceedings addressing energy affordability (14-M-0565), retail access (12-M-0476), and the value of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (15-E-0751) will provide low-income customers and communities with greater opportunities to reduce energy burdens and access clean energy options. In addition, through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), NYSERDA is making significant investments to increase access to clean energy solutions for low- to moderate-income customers by addressing the barriers that often prevent them from benefiting from energy efficiency and renewable energy. This session will provide attendees with an update on REV and the CEF, as well as an overview of key strategies and initiatives specific to low- to moderate-income New Yorkers.

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

10:15 am – 10:35 am

Networking and Exhibit Break

10:35 am – 10:50 am

Utility Updates

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to 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.

Speaker: Jacqueline Sykas, NYSEG

10:50 am – 11:20 am

Low-Income Solar and Community Solar

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

Speakers: Michelle Andry, NYSERDA; Adam Flint, Southern Tier Solar Works

11:20 am – 11:50 am

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: Gary Wrobel, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

11:50 pm – 1:00 pm

Meeting Luncheon

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Participating in a New York State Public Service Commission Proceeding

Learn what you need to know to get involved. This session will provide an overview of the various parameters and expectations, and rhythms and flow associated with participating as an intervenor in both rate and policy proceedings. A current water company rate proceeding (16-W-0130) and the current proceeding involving utility low-income programs (14-M-0565) will be used as examples for discussion.

Speaker: Richard Berkley, Public Utility Law Project

2:00 pm – 2:30 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, allowing attendees to gain a clear perspective of what poverty looks like in the State as well as how NYSCAA and the NYS Community Action network provide resources and information to alleviate the impact of poverty.

Speakers: Lindy Glennon, Cortland County Community Action Program; Laura Rossman, Pro Action of Steuben and Yates

2:30 pm – 2:50 pm

Networking and Exhibit Break

2:50 pm – 3:20 pm

Renewable Heat NY: High-Efficiency Low-Emission Biomass Heating in New York State

Homeowners throughout New York State spend a significant portion of their household income on heating bills, especially when volatile fossil fuel markets cause oil and propane prices to rise. When fossil fuel prices increase, many rural areas of the State witness homeowners turning to wood, a relatively inexpensive fuel, to heat their homes. This session will provide an overview of Renewable Heat NY, an initiative launched by Governor Cuomo to provide more affordable advanced biomass heating options to homeowners and help build the high-efficiency, low-emissions biomass heating industry in New York State. In this session, learn about the incentives available for advanced cordwood boilers, pellet boilers, and pellet stoves. For pellet stoves, an additional incentive is offered for income qualified individuals.

Speaker: Matt McQuinn, NYSERDA

3:20 pm – 3:50 pm

USDA's Opportunities for Low-Income Households in Rural New York: Home Repair and Home Purchase Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Their programs promote economic development and provide technical assistance to help communities move toward empowerment. To support rural households in homeownership, the USDA provides affordable loans and grants to low-income applicants to purchase and repair homes located in rural areas. Learn more about these programs and how you can partner with USDA to better serve your client's home repair and energy efficiency needs.

Speaker: Jennifer Jackson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

3:50 pm

Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation, and Raffle

Monica Ferreri, New York State Department of Public Service

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 nyserdera.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 nyserdera.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.