



**NYSERDA**

# **Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting**

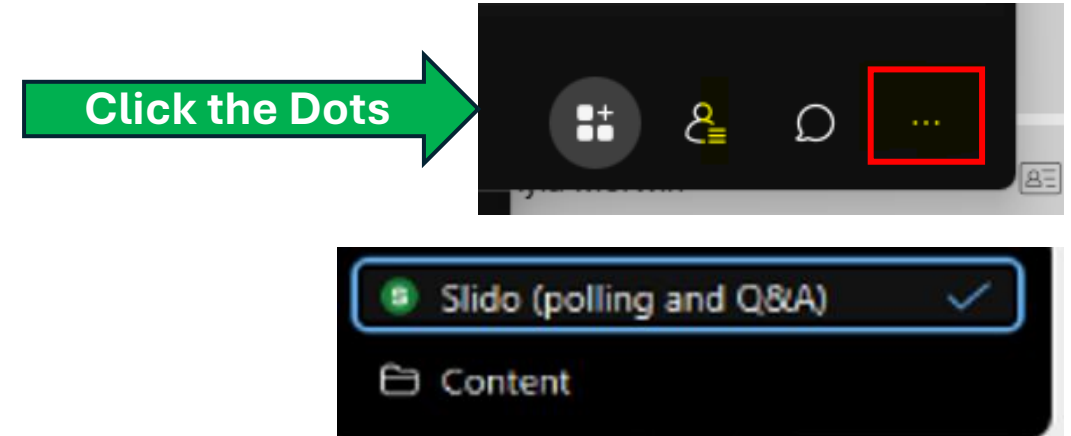
**DRAFT 2026 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative  
Operating Plan Amendment**

**December 18, 2025**

# Meeting Procedures

## Before beginning, a few reminders:

- This meeting is being recorded.
- For questions or comments, please activate the Slido Q&A function by clicking on the three dots in the lower right corner and selecting the Slido option.
- The presentation will be made available following the meeting.
- If technical issues arise for you during this meeting, please contact Adam Hauck: [adam.hauck@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:adam.hauck@nyserda.ny.gov)



# Agenda

1. Opening Remarks
2. Funding Assumptions and Investment Strategy
3. Proposed Investments By Theme
4. Discussion and Next Steps
5. Adjournment

# Opening Remarks





**Doreen Harris**

President and Chief Executive Officer, New  
York State Research & Development  
Authority (NYSERDA)



**Sanjay Seth**

Deputy Commissioner for Climate, Air, and  
Energy, New York State Department of  
Environmental Conservation (DEC)

# Funding Assumptions & Investment Strategy

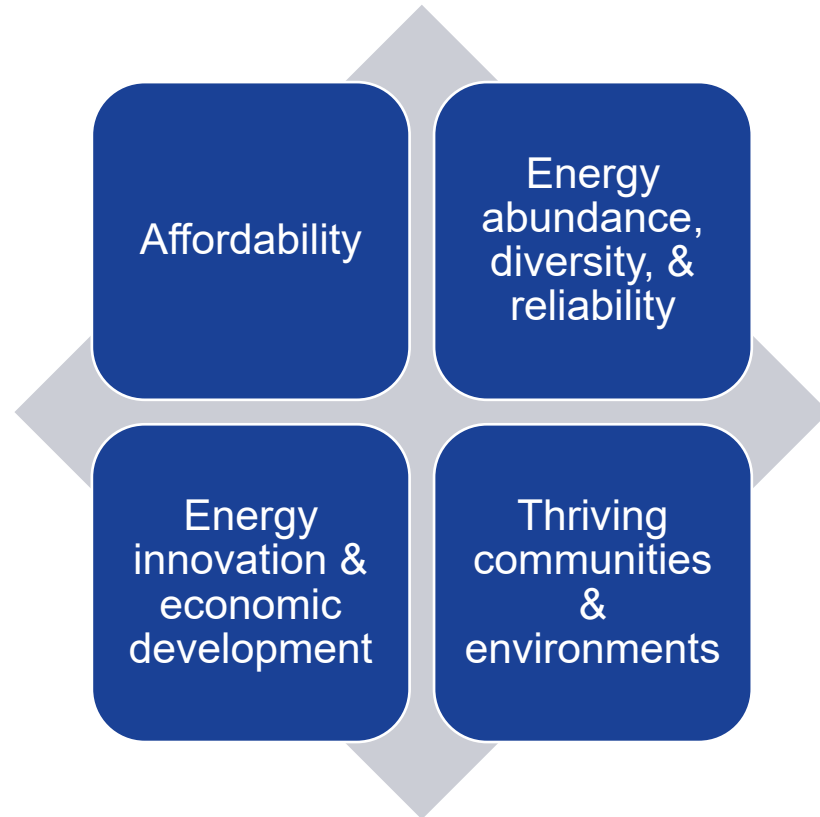


# Funding Assumptions

- **Continued three-year look-ahead planning and budgeting horizon** helps maintain program momentum and provide meaningful market signals.
- **Conservative, consistent budget assumptions** based on historical allowance prices remain appropriate to mitigate the risk of program shortfalls and ensure auction process integrity.
- Within this framework, **periodic recalibration of the lookback window** is necessary to stay current in light of RGGI program updates, market shifts, and macroeconomic trends.
  - Recent prior budgets considered auction process dating from last plan review.
  - With a newer plan review and recommendations now in place, there is a strong rationale to base budget assumptions on a more recent series of auctions to better reflect current conditions.
  - **For the upcoming FY27-29 Operating Plan**, the budget assumes a base allowance price of **\$20.42** – the average of the last four auctions prior to this month (auctions 66-69).
- Per convention, **we also have updated the current fiscal year budget assumption and Operating Plan** based on actual proceeds for auctions through November.

# Investment Strategy

- We are using RGGI as a tool to support core State priorities:



- In addition to coding RGGI programs by theme to highlight the link to those priorities, we also have selectively aggregated or adjusted naming for programs to group like work together and best describe the offerings.
- For your reference, Appendix 3 in the Operating Plan Amendment includes a crosswalk of the legacy RGGI program names and the new RGGI program names.

# Affordability Focus

- RGGI historically has been a key component of New York's affordability agenda, providing important funding for a range of energy efficiency and clean energy programs that offer the opportunity for all New Yorkers to be able to control and lower their energy costs.
- In addition, in this Operating Plan Amendment, we are...
  - Proposing approximately **60%** of planned RGGI programmatic investments under the four themes go to programs under the Affordability theme.
  - Introducing a new affordability strategy to balance the need to achieve robust portfolio benefits and promote consumer affordability, namely: If additional RGGI auction proceeds are realized above those expected from the assumptions that have been used in this Amendment to estimate auction proceeds for the next three fiscal years, we will use a percentage of those proceeds (**34%**) to implement ratepayer-funded programs, prompting DPS and LIPA to reduce ratepayer collections by a proportionate amount.

# Investment Planning Program Allocations

The following represents the programmatic investments for the FY26-27, FY27-28, and FY28-29 period by investment theme.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Total Investment Over the Next 3 Fiscal Years</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Programmatic Investment</b>
Affordability	\$886,389,132	62%
Energy Abundance, Diversity, and Reliability	\$162,850,000	11%
Energy Innovation and Economic Development	\$233,000,000	16%
Thriving Communities and Environments	\$155,600,000	11%
<b>Total Programmatic \$ [1]</b>	<b>\$1,437,839,132</b>	<b>100%</b>

[1] This only shows programmatic spending and does not include directed, non-program, and administrative spending.

# Investments Under Affordability Theme

*EmPower+ Program*

*New Construction and Thermal Energy Networks  
Programs*

*Affordable Multifamily Buildings Programs*

*Retrofit Challenges*

*Buildings Technical Assistance Programs*

*Green Jobs – Green New York Fund*

*Consumer Education, Uptake, and Experience*



# EmPower+ Program

- RGGI funding will be used to continue providing energy efficiency and electrification incentives to low- to-moderate- income (LMI) customers statewide under the Empower+ Program. The EmPower+ Program provides comprehensive energy efficiency services for LMI-qualified households in existing one-to-four family homes.
- In recent years, NYSERDA has seen an increase in demand for the EmPower+ Program, and combining RGGI with ratepayer, state, and federal funding has expanded our reach.

# New Construction and Thermal Energy Networks Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to continue investing in programs that support (a) the use of high-performance technologies and design for new construction and (b) neighborhood-scale decarbonization, such as through thermal energy networks.
- In particular, we will be pursuing...
  - A new Residential New Construction Heat Pump Rebate program offering, which will provide incentives (rebates), technical assistance, and training for heat pumps for new construction all-electric residential buildings.
  - Training and tools to support adoption of affordable, high-performance energy systems in new construction.
  - Demonstrations of high-performance solutions that can work across multiple building typologies and climate zones in NYS, including new construction building challenges and demos to help catalyze implementation of low-carbon thermal energy networks.

**Note:** For better understanding of how related work fits together to support the priorities of the state and stakeholders, this RGGI program brings together like work under three prior RGGI programs: (1) Building Retrofit and New Construction Challenges, (2) Healthy New Home Design & Construction Challenge, and (3) Community Thermal Energy Networks.

# Affordable Multifamily Buildings Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to support investments in more energy efficiency and building electrification projects for affordable multifamily buildings throughout the state.
- In particular, the funding will be used to support NYSERDA's new Upstate Affordable Multifamily program offering, which is slated to launch in early 2026, where NYSERDA will be the sole program administrator for affordable multifamily energy efficiency projects in the Upstate New York region. The RGGI funding will allow the inclusion of income-eligible properties that do not pay into the system benefit charge.

# Retrofit Challenges

- RGGI funding will be used to continue investing in retrofitting existing buildings through challenges and other competition programs that support use of high-performance technologies and design for hard-to-decarbonize existing buildings.
- In particular, we will be...
  - Pursuing new investments to support the industrial sector.
  - Continuing to support product development and innovation of room heat pumps, an emerging “plug and play solution” for the multifamily sector that reduces the cost and complexity of affordable electrification.
  - Continuing to support NYSERDA’s Clean Green Schools Program, which helps underresourced schools to invest in infrastructure improvements that reduce school energy loads, decarbonize their building portfolio, improve indoor air quality, and provide clean energy educational opportunities.

**Note:** For better understanding of how related work fits together to support the priorities of the state and stakeholders, this RGGI program brings together like work under two prior RGGI programs: (1) Building Retrofit and New Construction Challenges and (2) Disadvantaged Communities Schools/Buildings.

# Buildings Technical Assistance Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to continue supporting technical services, including through the FlexTech and On-Site Energy Manager program offerings.
- The investments will promote the adoption of technologies and practices that reduce energy loads, increase energy affordability, and decarbonize buildings across all sectors, including multifamily, and help serve buildings statewide.

# Green Jobs – Green New York Fund

- RGGI funding will be leveraged to motivate private investment and continue supporting the Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY) Program, which was created under the Green Jobs-Green New York Act of 2009. GJGNY provides New Yorkers with access to energy assessments and low-interest financing for associated installation services.
- RGGI funding will be used to continue GJGNY residential financing, including (a) making unsecured concessionary loans to consumers and (b) expanding access to affordable financing for consumers who may not qualify for conventional financing due to low credit score or high debt-to-income ratio, but who meet NYSERDA's underwriting criteria.
- RGGI funding also will be used to support home energy assessments for one- to four-family residential buildings and energy audits for small commercial buildings.

# Consumer Education, Uptake, and Experience

- RGGI funding will be used to increase consumers' awareness of and grow their familiarity with the ways in which they can improve the efficiency, health, safety, and comfort of their homes in an affordable manner.
- With the funding, NYSERDA will run marketing campaigns focused first on helping New Yorkers understand and increase their interest in taking a “weatherization-first” approach to their energy journey and second on promoting the benefits of highly efficient electrification measures so that consumers can make informed decisions when replacing or upgrading technologies and systems in their homes.
- RGGI funds also will be used to continue investing in simplifying the customer experience for New Yorkers accessing state energy programs to remove barriers to participation and reduce the cost to reach new customers, including through enhancements to MyEnergy.

# Investments Under Energy Abundance, Diversity, and Reliability Theme

*Large-Scale Generation Programs*

*Advanced Fuels Innovation Program*

*NY-Sun Program*

*Agrivoltaics Research Program*

*Grid Modernization Innovation Program*



# Large-Scale Generation Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to make necessary investments to support large-scale generation in New York State.
- NYSERDA will initiate a new Offshore Wind Predevelopment Support Program to enable NYS to co-invest in project-specific pre-development activities that best accelerate project timelines.
- RGGI funding also will be used to support the initial stages of bringing forward Advanced Nuclear generation projects and associated investments, including early project development activities, helping communities to identify and assess potential nuclear project sites, supply chain investments to develop and increase New York's capacity for in-state and export markets, and workforce training initiatives and partnerships, in coordination with nuclear workforce initiatives by the New York Power Authority (NYPA).

# Advanced Fuels Innovation Program

- RGGI funding will be used to continue supporting research and technology studies and demonstration projects for advanced fuels, including biofuels, renewable natural gas, renewable diesel, and sustainable aviation fuels.
- The RGGI investments will focus on supporting fuel production from waste resources generated in New York State and enabling first-time demonstrations in the state for low-carbon fuel products that can help decarbonize hard-to-electrify sectors, such as heavy-duty transportation, industry, aviation, maritime, and low-capacity factor firm resources.

# NY-Sun Program

- RGGI funding will be used to enable the following groups to access targeted NY-Sun incentives:
  - (1) Low- and- moderate-income households, affordable housing providers, and members of Disadvantaged Communities under New York's Solar Energy Equity Framework (SEEF), with the RGGI-funded incentives serving LIPA customers that do not pay into the System Benefits Charge and other SEEF projects that cannot access PSC-funded incentives.
  - (2) Non-SBC-paying customers of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and of Upstate NY municipal utilities, with the RGGI-funded incentives expected to primarily fund solar installations on NYC public schools and other NYC public buildings that are served by NYPA, in addition to residential and commercial installations in Upstate NY.

**Note:** For better understanding of how related work fits together to support the priorities of the state and stakeholders, this RGGI program brings together like work under two prior RGGI programs: (1) NY-Sun Long Island SEEF Incentives and (2) NY-Sun Statewide Customer Incentives.

# Agrivoltaics Research Program

- RGGI funding will be used to further advance viable models of agricultural and solar co-utilization that simultaneously produce clean energy, diversify farmer incomes, and support the state's agricultural sector.
- This funding will support and consider expanding on a suite of agrivoltaic research and demonstration projects across a range of agricultural commodities and in different regions of New York State. Funding may also support an evaluation of innovative agrivoltaic systems for potential commercialization and/or deployment support.

# Grid Modernization Innovation Program

- RGGI funding will be used to continue supporting decarbonization and increased resilience of municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives. The investments will:
  - (1) Support ongoing work with municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives to offer energy efficiency and electrification measures to customers who are not able to access PSC-funded programs
  - (2) Provide required matching funds for the federal formula funding from the Department of Energy's 40101(d) program. The latter funding will be used to offer technical assistance (e.g., feasibility assessments, techno-economic studies, and grid planning) to municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives in the state and position them to leverage further funding from the DOE.

# Investments Under Energy Innovation and Economic Development Theme

*Clean Transportation*

*Energy Markets Intelligence and Statewide Planning  
and Implementation*

*Clean Energy Economy and Innovation Ecosystem  
Support*



# Clean Transportation Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to continue supporting the transition of New York's vehicles to electrified low-carbon alternatives, including through the strategies below:
  - Continued operation of the Drive Clean Rebate Program (rebates for electric vehicles) and New York Truck Voucher Incentive Program (rebates for zero-emission trucks) to accelerate purchases of EVs by reducing upfront costs.
  - Development of fleet electrification plans that provide guidance to truck and bus fleets interested in transitioning their fleets to zero-emission vehicles.

# Energy Markets Intelligence and Statewide Planning and Implementation

- RGGI funding will be used to continue conducting the planning necessary to responsibly implement the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) and the associated Scoping Plan, as well as to advance the State Energy Plan.
- Scoping Plan implementation work may include technical analysis where additional detailed information is required, as well as technical infrastructure to aid in implementing key policy components of the Scoping Plan.
- Energy Plan implementation resources are reserved for key follow-up topics identified by the 2025 State Energy Plan.

# Clean Energy Economy and Innovation Ecosystem Support

- RGGI funding will be used to support the growth of clean tech manufacturing and supply chains in NYS through a range of offerings.
- In particular, we will...
  - Continue building clean tech attraction and retention capacity, via clean tech supply chain analyses and continued partnership with Empire State Development (ESD) and entities like NY-BEST on targeted business attraction and retention efforts for strategic industries.
  - Continue and expand the Build-Ready Program to support economic development initiatives by helping to optimize the siting and development of new loads and expansion of existing loads and to investigate the incorporation of clean energy technologies with economic development projects.
  - Complete studies of regional and statewide innovation ecosystems and sites to unlock the New York State's full potential as a hub for clean energy technology development and deployment.

# Investments Under Thriving Communities and Environments Theme

*Clean Energy Workforce Development Programs*

*Clean Energy Communities Program*

*DAC and Community Engagement Programs*

*Clean Energy Siting Technical Assistance for Local Governments Program*

*Environmental, Energy Social Science, and Climate Resiliency Research and Implementation Programs*

*Supplier Education and Qualification Programs*



# Clean Energy Workforce Development Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to invest in upskilling existing workers and bringing new workers into the clean energy economy, with special attention to the just transition of fossil fuel workers and opportunities for new workers from disadvantaged communities.
- In particular, RGGI funding will be used to support the following activities:
  - Clean energy training for technology areas beyond energy efficiency and building electrification, such as large-scale renewables, energy storage, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
  - Clean energy workforce development for residents that do not pay the System Benefits Charge, including residents of Long Island, enabling programs to be offered statewide.
  - Wrap-around support for disadvantaged community residents entering the clean energy workforce to help them be better positioned to succeed in their careers, after other available resources to provide such support have been exhausted.
  - Clean energy career awareness for K-12 students, including funding for the development of teaching resources, educator training, and career exploration activities (e.g., site visits, internships).

# Clean Energy Communities Program

- RGGI funding will be used to continue investing in building out the capacity of local governments to spur community-scale decarbonization via the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) Program.
- Building on the foundation of the CEC Program being in place for many years, moving forward, NYSERDA is seeking to help communities deepen their clean energy and decarbonization work by motivating the implementation of additional high-impact actions via rewards-based grants.
- In addition, NYSERDA is launching a cohort-based model of engagement for CEC, which is being co-funded via the Energy Efficiency and Beneficial Electrification (EE-BE) portfolio, with the RGGI funding being used to enable participation by non-SBC paying communities.

# DAC and Community Engagement Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to continue working with community-based organizations to operate the Regional Clean Energy Hubs, which build capacity within local communities (especially disadvantaged communities) by providing residents with information about opportunities in the clean energy economy, access to building energy assessments, and referrals and application assistance for NYSERDA, utility, and other programs. RGGI funding is especially important to supplement EE/BE funding and support the Long Island Hub.
- In addition, NYSERDA will use RGGI funding to support language access services (translation and interpretation) for community-facing programs.
- Finally, NYSERDA will use RGGI funding to compensate DAC individuals and community-based organizations for their time when providing in-depth input into program and policy planning and design.

# Clean Energy Siting Technical Assistance for Local Governments Program

- RGGI funding will be used to continue providing technical assistance to local governments and communities in New York State to support local clean energy development, including solar, wind, energy storage, and other emerging dispatchable emissions-free technologies.
- In particular, NYSERDA will continue our investments in expanding locally-based technical support networks, providing training opportunities for local governments, and offering public-facing educational forums across the state, in accordance with requirements outlined in the SITED Act.

# Environmental, Energy Social Science, and Climate Resiliency Research and Implementation Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to continue investing in:
  - Climate resiliency research and implementation planning, which is necessary to ensure that investments in clean energy are resilient to extreme weather and they will continue to deliver benefits over time as the climate changes.
  - The continued establishment of a participatory research framework to study the social dimensions of an equitable, inclusive clean energy transition.

# Supplier Education and Qualification Programs

- RGGI funding will be used to continue improving the quality and performance of and thus customer confidence in New York State's clean energy marketplace through market quality assurance designations and quality assurance services.
- RGGI funding will be used to support NYSERDA's Energy Project Quality Assurance Program, which inspects statewide energy projects to ensure contractors meet high standards for workmanship, safety, and overall quality and thus helps enhance customer trust and satisfaction and grow the market.
- RGGI funding also will be used to support NYSERDA's Quality Energy Contractor Designation Program, which recognizes contractors that meet the highest quality standards, helping them to build their business and encouraging informed customer decision-making.

# Directed Program Investments



# Directed Program Investments

## **Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation**

- The Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Program was enacted in the 2015–2016 New York State Budget and is designed to support communities that are transitioning local economies that have been reliant on fossil fuel power plants as a source of financial support.

## **Transfer to State – Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)**

- NYS FY25-26 Budget directed NYSERDA to transfer \$10M in RGGI funds to the EPF.
- Amendment assumes continued annual funding to support EPF programs that advance NY's leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

# Discussion



# Next Steps

- DRAFT Operating Plan Amendment available from this webpage:  
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Funding/Regional-Greenhouse-Gas-Initiative/Useful-Documents>
- Submit written comments to [rggiprograms@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:rggiprograms@nyserda.ny.gov) by close of business through **Friday, January 9, 2026**.
- The Operating Plan Amendment will be provided to NYSERDA's Board of Directors for consideration at its next meeting on January 26, 2026.