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**From:** Brady Fergusson <brady@climategfl.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 9, 2026 12:52 PM  
**To:** erda.sm.rggiprograms  
**Subject:** Support Increased RGGI Funding for EmPower+

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Dear NYSERDA,

I am writing in support of NYSERDA's Draft 2026 RGGI Operating plan that will provide a significant increase in RGGI funding to the EmPower+ program. The following are reasons why it is critical to provide more funding to EmPower+:

EmPower+ helps low-and-moderate income (LMI) households, save energy and money toward energy improvements made to their primary residence. The program focuses on one-to-four family households.

The 2025 NY State Energy Plan finds that electrification and energy efficiency are core strategies to drive energy savings in residential buildings; keeping buildings comfortable; and support reliability of the electric grid.

The 2025 NY State Energy Plan recommends that the State continue to offer financial incentives to reduce upfront costs and motivate New Yorkers to make energy upgrades in existing buildings.

The 2025 NY State Energy Plan recommends that NYSERDA continue to prioritize financial incentives to address energy performance and housing quality for LMI housing and buildings in Disadvantaged Communities.

About half of New York households are low-to-moderate income households.

Nearly 60 percent of LMI New Yorkers live in one-to-four family homes, and over 40 percent of these households are renters.

Reducing energy consumption through energy efficiency and weatherization measures brings down energy costs for LMI households.

EmPower+ program is creating new clean energy jobs with building electrification and energy efficiency employers expecting increased need for key occupations over the next three years.

Clean energy workers continue to earn higher wages and benefits than other workers

Building electrification and energy efficiency added the greatest number of jobs in 2024, increasing by over 5,400 jobs at a rate of 4%.

The energy efficiency building contractor sector makes up the majority of clean energy establishments in the State at 88%.

Residential building activity is the key driver of the building electrification and energy efficiency industry.

State Incentives, such as EmPower+, are the most used incentives among building electrification and energy efficiency contractors.

Across the State, Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) account for nearly 60,000 clean energy jobs or about one-third (33%) of the statewide total.

A Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan key strategy was to scale up State incentives for building electrification and to prioritize LMI households and Disadvantaged Communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Brady Fergusson