



**BUILDING
DECARBONIZATION
COALITION**

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

NYSERDA Board of Directors
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Programs
rggiprograms@nyserda.ny.gov

January 9, 2026

RE: Comments on the Draft 2026 RGGI Operating Plan Amendment in Support of Increased Funding Levels for the EmPower+ Program

The Building Decarbonization Coalition appreciates the opportunity to submit comments in response to the Draft 2026 Operating Plan Amendment, and to express our strong support for the proposed increased funding levels for the EmPower+ program.

As the state's flagship energy efficiency and electrification program for low and moderate-income customers in 1-4 family households, EmPower+ supports affordability, increased comfort, and decarbonization by providing funds for free home energy audits and to support home upgrades through insulation, installing energy efficient appliances and switching from polluting fossil fuel heating systems to clean, efficient electric alternatives. EmPower+ ensures that low income New Yorkers and residents of DACs have the necessary assistance to make these improvements and reap the health and economic benefits, and the program has seen strong uptake from building efficiency and electrification contractors.

This increase in funding for EmPower+, of \$240.9M over the next three years will support implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and its goal that 40% of the benefits of investments go to Disadvantaged Communities. BDC applauds the proposed new funding levels for the EmPower+ program, and urges the NYSERDA Board of Directors to approve these funding levels at the Board meeting on January 26, 2026.

As Governor Hochul and the legislature have recognized with their focus on energy affordability, low- and moderate-income (LMI) households spend a far larger proportion of their income on energy bills and continue to face disproportionate barriers to weatherizing, electrifying, and adopting cleaner technologies. These funds are critically needed for successful implementation of Governor Hochul's Climate Friendly Homes initiative, which set the target to ensure that one million homes will be electrification-ready and one million homes electrified by 2030, prioritizing investments in underserved communities. This investment will help support



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reductions in energy bills, improved health and comfort in housing, and increased resilience to a changing climate.

Sincerely,

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