NYSERDA Residential Market Advisory Group (RMAG) Quarterly Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 2026

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Meeting Overview

Background

On Thursday, October 10, 2026, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) convened its Q3 2026 Residential Market Advisory Group (RMAG) meeting, bringing together stakeholders to discuss residential clean energy market development across New York State. The event was held virtually.

The quarterly meeting included program and policy updates on residential energy storage, the New Efficient Homes New York program, the EmPower+ program, and the municipal permitting modernization effort. Participants also heard updates on RMAG sub-groups: New York Geothermal Energy Organization (NY-GEO) presented on a final report from the Geothermal Target Areas Working Group, and NYSERDA presented on a newly formed Multifamily No-Heat Electrification Working Group. Meeting attendees participated in a priority setting poll to inform future RMAG sub-group activities, 2027 priorities, and planning for a December 2026 in-person RMAG meeting. In total, 83 individuals attended the meeting, including 8 NYSERDA staff.

Meeting Agenda

Time (ET)	Topic and Presenter	Presenters
10:00 am – 10:10 am	**Welcome and Introductions**	• Trevor Reddick, Senior Director, Kearns & West • Tamar Nagel, Project Manager, NYSERDA • Courtney Moriarta, Director, Home Modernization, NYSERDA
10:10 am – 11:00 am	**NYSERDA Program and Policy Presentations** • Residential Energy Storage • New Efficient Homes New York • EmPower+ Program Update • Municipal Permitting Modernization	• Jasmine Lim, Project Manager, Residential and Retail Energy Storage, NYSERDA • Tamar Nagel • Scott Oliver, Associate Director, Home Modernization Team, NYSERDA • Elizabeth Staubach, Program Manager, Codes, Products, and Standards, NYSERDA
11:00 am – 11:30 am	**RMAG Activity Updates** • Multifamily No-Heat Electrification Working Group • Geothermal Target Areas Working Group Report	• Jackie Albanese, Contractor, NYSERDA • Christine Hoffer, Executive Director, New York Geothermal Energy Organization (NY-GEO)

Time (ET)	Topic and Presenter	Presenters
11:30 am – 11:55 am	**RMAG Planning and Interests Polling**	• Trevor Reddick
11:55 am – 12:00 pm	**Closing and Next Steps**	• Tamar Nagel • Trevor Reddick

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Trevor Reddick, Senior Director, Kearns & West, opened the meeting by reviewing the ground rules and the agenda. Trevor covered webinar logistics and noted that presentation materials and a detailed meeting summary would be posted to the NYSERDA RMAG webpage following the meeting.

NYSERDA Opening Remarks

Courtney Moriarta, Director of the Home Modernization Team at NYSERDA, welcomed participants to the meeting.

Courtney provided an update on the Total Home concept, which aims to deliver a combined package to low- and moderate-income customers through the EmPower+ Program. Total Home planning efforts for were deferred, as NYSERDA worked on bringing the EmPower+ Program into compliance with new U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) rules for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) rebates. Courtney noted that NYSERDA expects to resume planning in 2027 and invited stakeholder input on implementation and strategy in the interim.

Courtney also provided an update on the MyEnergy platform (myenergy.ny.gov), a customer-facing hub that offers open-access educational resources alongside personalized tools for customers who create an account. The Home Modernization Team is integrating virtual energy assessment services into the MyEnergy customer journey. Once an assessment is complete, customers are routed to a home energy plan, eligible programs, and can connect with participating contractors.

NYSERDA Program and Policy Presentations

Residential Energy Storage

Jasmine Lim, Project Manager, Residential and Retail Energy Storage, NYSERDA, provided an overview of NYSERDA's residential energy storage program offerings, covering Con Edison and Rest of State service territories, the Long Island paired solar and storage offering, and the new statewide Inclusive Storage Incentive for disadvantaged communities.

Jasmine provided background, introducing residential storage as primarily batteries used for backup power or to store on-site solar generation. Benefits include resiliency without the fuel use or noise of a generator, bill savings from shifting solar generation to later use, utility compensation for discharging to the grid during peak demand, and low maintenance.

NYSERDA began funding residential storage through a paired solar and energy storage incentive on Long Island in 2019, administered through the NY-Sun program. The dedicated Energy Storage program was launched following the 2024 Energy Storage Order from the New York Public Service Commission, which set a statewide deployment goal including 200 megawatts of residential storage and allocated $100 million to incentivize projects in Con Edison territory and in the rest of the state. Funding is distributed through megawatt-hour (MWh) blocks allocated at a set dollar-per-kilowatt-hour rate. Blocks and rates are adjusted over time in coordination with the Department of Public Service (DPS), and current rates are published on NYSERDA's online MWh dashboards.

Jasmine discussed the Inclusive Storage Incentive (ISI), a funding block created to meet the 2024 Storage Order goal of 35% of projects serving disadvantaged communities. Residential ISI Block 1 opened in April 2026 at $450 per kilowatt-hour, roughly double the market-rate incentive rate. The block does not currently include Long Island. Projects qualify through one of three pathways: location within a disadvantaged community census tract as identified under New York State climate law; income eligibility at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) or State Median Income (SMI), whichever is higher, verified through the same income eligibility application used for NY-Sun; or a government-designated affordable housing property between 1-4 units.

Jasmine discussed Residential eligibility requirements and available funding for the dedicated Energy Storage program. Residential storage systems must be new and installed on the customer side of the meter, either on their own or together

with a solar system. Systems cannot be off-grid, must interconnect to the utility grid before December 31, 2030, and must enroll in the utility's Bring Your Own Battery program. Projects must receive required local permits that reference the energy storage system, or provide evidence that the municipality was aware of the storage system when permitting the installation. Equipment must be commercially mature, carrying a 10-year-plus warranty and a UL 9540 listing.

Currently active regional blocks include Con Edison and Rest of State, which covers Westchester County and all upstate utilities, respectively. Incentives are capped at 25 kilowatt-hours of system size. Con Edison Block 1 is open at $250 per kilowatt-hour and Rest of State Block 1 at $200 per kilowatt-hour, with a maximum incentive of $6,250 and $5,000 respectively. Rest of State Block 1 has nearly reached capacity; Block 2 will open at $175 per kilowatt-hour and will be announced on the dashboard and through the program mailing list.

To access these incentives, contractors must be Participating Contractors in the Energy Storage Program and can submit a Contractor Application online. Companies who already participate in NY-Sun must apply separately to the Energy Storage program. Contractors are held responsible for meeting all program requirements and engaging directly with customers and NYSERDA. Contractors and builders are separate roles. Contractors manage the customer contract and builders are responsible for installation, and a company may register as both. Builders must complete 30 hours of storage-specific training, and contractors must hold a DER Provider approval letter from the Department of Public Service (DPS) to contract directly with customers. Contractors offering a lease or Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) must detail the financial breakdown including NYSERDA incentive in the customer agreement.

Jasmine closed with a review of the Long Island paired solar and storage program, along with program resources and guidance. The Long Island program launched in 2019. Unlike the Con Edison and Rest of State programs, the Long Island program does not currently accept standalone storage; systems must be paired with solar PV. The storage system must be new but can be paired with either a new or an existing solar system. The system must also be enrolled in PSEG Long Island’s Battery Storage Rewards Program and listed to applicable UL/CAN standards. Full eligibility requirements are covered in the NY-Sun Program Manual, which is separate from the Energy Storage Program Manual.

The active Long Island block is open at $250 per kilowatt-hour for up to 25 kilowatt-hours, with just under $400,000 in funding remaining. Incentives are available only through NY-Sun Participating Contractors.

Participants were directed to the NYSERDA website for program resources, including the Residential and Retail Energy Storage Program Manual, the NY-Sun Program Manual, the contractor application checklist, project application guidance documents, and the Quality and Market Standards Inspection Manual.

Residential Energy Storage Q&A

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
Do residential energy storage programs explicitly exclude thermal energy storage?	No. The program is intended to be technology agnostic, which is why it is structured as an energy storage program rather than a battery program. Any technology that demonstrates commercial maturity, carries UL 9540 certification and a 10-year-plus warranty, and meets the other technical requirements in the program manual would be accepted.
Is anyone at NYSERDA available to discuss New York City and FDNY requirements for residential storage?	Participants should email the NYSERDA energy storage program at energystorage@nyserda.ny.gov with specific questions so the team can route them to the staff involved in that conversation.
For customers who have participated in the program, what savings have they seen on their energy bills?	NYSERDA does not collect utility bills following installation. Bring Your Own Battery compensation is typically calculated per kilowatt of power discharged across summer call events, at roughly $50 per kilowatt for most utilities, or approximately $150 per summer for a system averaging a 3-kilowatt discharge. Con Edison's newly launched program is set at $100 per kilowatt. On installation cost, the NYSERDA incentive typically covers approximately one-third to one-half of total installed system cost.
What is the DPS case number for the 2024 storage order?	18-E-0130
Is it true that electric batteries only last 4 to 8 hours each and have limited usage?	It depends on how you are using the battery and how much capacity you have. For example, if you have a 15 kWh storage system and have connected 3,000 W of appliances/other loads, the battery could power those for 5 hours. But if you have a larger system or less load, it would last longer. Homeowners can work

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
	with their installers to decide what size of system to install and what loads to connect. Many homeowners also decide to pair their energy storage system with solar panels, which enable the batteries to recharge every day the sun is out, even if not receiving grid power. But even without solar panels to recharge, an energy storage system can power a home through almost all typical grid outages which are a few hours on average.
Is there a link for the residential energy storage program?	Our website: https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Energy-Storage-Program/Developers-and-Contractors/Residential-and-Retail-Storage-Incentives The Residential & Retail Storage Program Manual (which contains complete rules/details) - PDF download: https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/Energy-Storage/Residential-and-Retail-Energy-Storage-Program-Manual.pdf
Is there a future plan for people using EV batteries tied to the power grid?	At this time, storage systems installed in vehicles ("V2G"), storage systems that interconnect by plugging into a customer's electrical outlet, or other storage systems that are not permanently installed and considered a capital improvement are not eligible.

New Efficient Homes New York

Tamar Nagel, Project Manager, NYSERDA, presented on the recently launched New Efficient Homes New York program, along with updates on the Buildings of Excellence competition and enhanced design support.

New Efficient Homes New York provides a direct incentive of $6,000 to $15,000 per dwelling unit to developers and home builders, or authorized heat pump installers, for the purchase and installation of cold climate air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps in new construction statewide. Key program details include:

- New single-family and small homes, and new multifamily buildings under 50,000 square feet.
- A declining block structure gives early adopters the highest per-dwelling-unit amounts. Incentives are based on the application submission date, equipment type, and number of dwelling units, and are capped at 35% of total installed equipment cost.
- Projects in disadvantaged communities may receive an additional per-dwelling-unit incentive.
- Non-residential space in mixed-use buildings and non-occupiable square footage are not eligible.

Tamar also discussed the Buildings of Excellence competition, a $20 million program offering up to $1.5 million per project to recognize high-performing building design, construction, and operation. The seventh round is currently open. Selected projects demonstrate realistic, replicable cost reductions, substantially lower energy use and carbon emissions, and increased resiliency. The competition includes dedicated funding for performance validation, and early projects have shown strong alignment between measured and modeled performance.

- Enhanced design support funds up to 100% of approved eligible costs, within program limits, for the additional analysis that high-performance design requires but that a standard design fee often does not cover.
- Project teams can evaluate high-performance strategies while they can still influence the enclosure, mechanical systems, electrical infrastructure, constructability, and project cost.
- Coverage now extends from 1–4 unit homes through large multifamily buildings.
- NYSERDA can help fund the analysis and coordination needed to make Passive House and other high-performance approaches feasible before major design decisions are fixed.
- Funding does not cover basic architectural or engineering services and is not a general construction incentive.

New Efficient Homes New York Q&A

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
Does this new heat pump incentive have any impact on the NYS Clean Heat program? Can it be braided with those funds?	• ASHP Projects: The funding provided through PON 6242 may not be used in conjunction with utility NYS Clean Heat incentives for Projects. • GSHP Projects: The funding provided through PON 6242 may be used in conjunction with utility NYS Clean Heat incentives for Projects.

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
	Overall, Incentives are capped at 35% of the total installed cost of the equipment, inclusive of any relevant utility incentive.
Is there a link to the program for New Efficient Homes New York?	https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/New-Efficient-Homes-New-York

EmPower+ Program Update

Scott Oliver, Associate Director, Home Modernization Team, NYSERDA, provided an update on EmPower+ program performance, funding, and the changes implemented in response to DOE direction on IRA funds.

Scott reported that as of August 2026, EmPower+ had completed 13,000 projects year to date and provided more than $105 million in incentives, achieving 70,000 gross megawatt-hours (MWh) of electric savings and 325,000 MMBTU of fuel savings annually.

NYSERDA received $150 million for the Sustainable Futures Program funds in this year's state budget, along with $50 million of other budget funds, for a total of $200 million to support heat pumps, heat pump water heaters (HPWHs), and panel boxes over the coming years. This follows $50 million received in the 2025 budget, which the program began deploying in March 2026.

In May 2026, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) directed that, effective September 1, 2026, IRA funds could no longer be used for projects involving fuel switching. EmPower+ reconfigured program systems over the summer, as most of its heat pump projects involve conversion from oil or propane. IRA funds remain available up to $1,600 for insulation, air sealing, and ventilation. All funds previously used for electrification were shifted to the Sustainable Futures Fund, which now offers $10,000 for air source and ground source heat pumps, $5,000 for HPWHs, $5,000 for panel box replacements, and $2,500 for electric wiring upgrades. IRA and Sustainable Futures funds cannot be stacked on the same project. IRA funds are used for insulation-only projects and Sustainable Futures funds for electrification projects.

The program maintains four incentive levels across upstate and downstate low-income and moderate-income customers. Sustainable Futures funds stack on top of the program's standard Energy Efficiency and Building Electrification (EE/BE) and RGGI funds, so a project combining a heat pump water heater, air source heat pump, panel box, and wiring upgrade could reach approximately $34,000 for an upstate low-income customer, $36,000 for a downstate low-income customer, and $29,000 (upstate)/$31,000 (downstate) for a moderate-income customer.

Implementation of the changes called for in the New York Public Service Commission's Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) EE/BE Order began in January 2026 and continues in a phased schedule:

- **March 2026.** Primary EE/BE changes to income eligibility calculations, increased incentives, and heat-pump-ready weatherization requirements.
- **September 2026.** IRA changes and additional measures eligible under the Sustainable Futures Fund, and corresponding incentive increases.
- **Early 2027.** Launch of a pre-weatherization health and safety offering, enabling greater use of program funds for pre-weatherization work. This will be discussed further at the December RMAG meeting. NYSERDA also plans to release a report detailing program participation by region, as called for in the Order.
- **2028.** A successor system to the New York Home Energy Portal (NYHEP), a renter offer, and public-facing dashboards providing easier access to program data.

EmPower+ Q&A

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
What are examples of the "other electric wiring upgrades" covered by the $2,500 incentive?	Wiring work outside the panel box that is required to install an electrification measure would be covered. Examples include replacing knob and tube wiring and running new outlets or circuits for a heat pump or heat pump water heater.
Does the Sustainable Futures Program (SFP) funding for knob and tube wiring have to be associated with a heat pump water heater (HPWH) upgrade or can it be used if it is a barrier for weatherization?	Currently the Sustainable Futures funds have to be used with electrification. When we implement Pre-weatherization Health and Safety we'll include it without that requirement.

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
Can a Tier 3 customer access the full Sustainable Futures heat pump funds with no customer contribution?	That appears to be how the calculation works in NYHEP, with no requirement to meet a 50% contribution before Sustainable Futures funds apply. NYSERDA will confirm how the insulation match and IRA sequencing interact in the calculation.
Must projects meet cost savings thresholds to unlock Sustainable Futures funds?	Projects that do not fully meet cost savings thresholds may still proceed if the customer participates in the Energy Affordability Guarantee, which assures that energy costs remain below 6% of household income. Low-income customers interested in heat pumps and electrification are strongly encouraged to apply, as participation gives NYSERDA additional latitude in approving projects.
Does NYHEP show a breakdown of the different funding streams?	Yes. IRA and Sustainable Futures funds appear under separate labels. Only one of the two may be used on a given project.
The June EmPower+ implementation plan showed approximately 36,000 completed projects in 2024. Given funding from RGGI, the state budget, and the Clean Energy Fund, why is the program not reaching comparable numbers?	Two factors account for most of the difference. In 2024, refrigerators were processed as standalone projects, adding roughly 6,000 projects to the count. In addition, state budget funds received in 2023 were time-limited, requiring accelerated spending and the deferral of other funding sources. NYSERDA is now working to level budgets at approximately $220 million per year over the next four to five years to avoid boom-and-bust cycles and to sustain electrification projects, which carry higher per-project costs than the insulation projects completed previously.
When do the Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR) program and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) open for the 2026–2027 heating season?	HERR is open, HEAP is closed until Nov. 1 https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-equipment-repair-or-replacement

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
For the Residential Storage program that Jasmine spoke about, there is an eligibility pathway for people living in a DAC. Empower+ should similarly provide eligibility to residents living in DACs. **The EEBE Order only applies to the CEF-funded portion? If so, now that there is a separate Sustainable Futures Program funding stream apart from the DOE and CEF funds, it seems like those funds could use geographic eligibility as well. Maybe RGGI funds could be treated similarly?**	The EEBE order explicitly forbids using geographic eligibility for program participation.
I'm a condominium president in Westchester county and would welcome your support to implement any of these energy saving measures in our development. Feeling a little isolated as most information is directed to homeowners not unit owners. Welcome anyone who can point me in the right direction.	Please email NYSERDA at resmarket@nyserda.ny.gov with some details on your building and/or unit and energy efficiency goals and they can connect you with the right person.

Municipal Permitting Modernization Effort

Elizabeth Staubach, Program Manager, Codes, Products, and Standards Team, NYSERDA, presented on PON 5862, a $7.5 million grant program supporting New York State municipalities in transitioning from paper-driven permitting to an online approval process.

The program offers participating municipalities two years of no-cost access to the CitizenServe software platform, along with technical support and training delivered by a third-party contractor, Noresco. Participants work directly with the software provider to implement the system and share experience with other municipalities moving through the process concurrently.

A central design principle is that the platform follows each municipality's existing process. CitizenServe translates current applications and workflows into an online system without requiring changes to how the municipality operates or conducts review. Anticipated benefits include:

- Concurrent review across departments, replacing sequential routing of paper plans

- Faster response times and direct communication with applicants during review
- Fewer silos between departments
- Reporting dashboards for internal tracking and Department of State reporting
- Regional consistency for developers and applicants working across neighboring jurisdictions, as adoption grows

NYSERDA covers subscription costs for the first two years, including the implementation work in year one. Beginning in year three, the subscription cost transfers to the municipality. NYSERDA emphasized being upfront with municipalities about the year-three per-user cost, and noted that efficiencies realized during the first two years are intended to support the case to local governing bodies.

Elizabeth outlined the application process, noting that applications are open to all New York State municipalities and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis while funding remains available. Applicants must be willing to transition fully, either from a paper-driven process or from an existing online platform. A portion of funds is set aside specifically for disadvantaged communities, and applicants must identify whether their municipality qualifies. Applications may be submitted online through NYSERDA's website or by mail. The program implementation manual outlines application requirements and submission materials. NYSERDA also provides a template PowerPoint presentation that municipalities can use to seek approval to apply from their local governing body.

Elizabeth closed by thanking RMAG members for the opportunity to present. In addition to direct outreach to municipalities, NYSERDA is working to raise awareness of the program across the market. She encouraged members who work regularly with municipalities that could benefit from the platform to help spread the word.

Municipalities or stakeholders with additional questions may contact Elizabeth.codes@nyserda.ny.gov.

Municipal Permitting Q&A

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
Are NYSERDA staff or contractors available to speak with municipal leaders about the PON?	Yes. Municipalities should email Elizabeth.codes@nyserda.ny.gov directly to schedule time, and the software provider is also available to discuss the platform and support municipalities through the application process.
Does the municipal permitting modernization program assist with retrofit streamlining?	The goal for the platform is to streamline the application, review, acceptance, and payment process, but does not change a municipality's

Question/Comment	NYSERDA Answer
Some towns require permits for installations, which delays upgrades and creates burden on homeowners and contractors.	permit requirements. Where a municipality requires permits for certain items, those permits remain required and would be processed through the online system. During the two-year process municipalities will be working together, which could provide an opportunity to share practices and efficiencies across municipal bounds, including approaches to which items require permits.

Multifamily No-Heat Electrification Working Group

Jackie Albanese, Contractor, NYSERDA, introduced a new working group focused on multifamily no-heat electrification. NYSERDA is studying the potential for multifamily buildings to convert to heat pumps during no-heat emergencies, which are projects triggered by the failure of a building's existing heating system. NYSERDA is forming the working group to guide this research.

Jackie walked through the criteria that define the working group's scope:

- Multifamily buildings with centralized heating systems serving 10 or more units, a system type not typically found in smaller residential buildings.
- Emergency no-heat projects, in which a heating system fails during the heating season and requires replacement.
- Building owners who have not undertaken advance capital planning for system replacement.

The study is statewide, covering upstate New York, downstate New York, and Long Island.

NYSERDA is currently accepting working group members with direct experience in electrification retrofits in complex multifamily buildings, including design engineers, heating contractors, manufacturers, and affordable housing experts. Member expectations include:

- A one-year commitment, running through September 2027.
- One- to two-hour meetings held every other month.
- Virtual meetings, with the exception of the annual in-person RMAG meeting.
- Review of and feedback on draft research deliverables between meetings, which will also set the topics for each meeting.

Benefits of participation include:

- Helping shape future initiatives supporting multifamily electrification across New York State.
- Increasing visibility among peers and NYSERDA staff.
- Building a network of professionals working in this specialized market.

Jackie described research questions that include mapping the multifamily electrification project timeline to identify stages that could be shortened. For example, where electric service upgrades are a constraint, the research team would assess the upgrade process across utilities and validate its findings against the field experience of working group members. The effort will also include a data collection survey conducted during the current heating season to complement the literature review.

Attendees interested in joining the working group were invited to contact Jackie Albanese at Jackie.albanese@nyserda.ny.gov or Zach Zill at Zachary.zill@nyserda.gov.

Geothermal Target Areas Working Group Report

Overview

Trevor Reddick (Senior Director, Kearns & West) and Christine Hoffer (Executive Director, New York Geothermal Energy Organization, NY-GEO) presented the final report of the Geothermal Target Areas Working Group, which met in 2025 and 2026.

The working group followed NYSERDA roundtable discussions, where participants recommended identifying residential geothermal hotspots to accelerate market development, and a 2025 RMAG quarterly meeting, where NY-GEO discussed market development opportunities for ground source heat pumps. Championed by NY-GEO, the group convened cross-sector experts to assess the factors influencing market development: permitting and municipal policy, funding and financing constraints, socioeconomic and workforce considerations, contractor and driller availability, and data gaps that inhibit mapping and decision-making. A central objective was separating the factors that meaningfully hinder residential progress from those that are perceived issues or that apply mainly to commercial deployments.

Working Group Report

- **Definition of a geothermal target area.** Geographic regions within New York State that show favorable alignment for residential ground source heat pump deployment, or that represent high-value targets for intervention.
- **Screening framework.** Three categories of indicators were identified. *Structural alignment* addresses whether policy and financing match market needs. *Execution capacity* addresses whether the workforce depth and demand signals exist to scale deployment. *Information infrastructure* addresses the lack of data on where deployments are occurring and where they are predictable.
- **Key factors and resource matrix.** The report appendices catalogue key factors under each category. Related resources are aggregated in a resource matrix. The working group noted that as a voluntary, unfunded body it can scope what these tools and resources require but lacks the capacity to develop them.
- **Recommended Actions: The report includes description of some recommended activites. For example,** municipal permitting treatment was identified as an issue that regional train-the-trainer programs could help resolve. NY-GEO Perspective

NY-GEO Reflections

Christine noted that one of the clearest takeaways from the group was the need for education among contractors not currently working in geothermal regarding cost profiles and installation difficulties with ground source heat pumps. She noted that NY-GEO assesses that of roughly 1,500 Clean Heat contractors that only about 140 are certified to install ground source heat pumps. Some recent activities mentioned include:

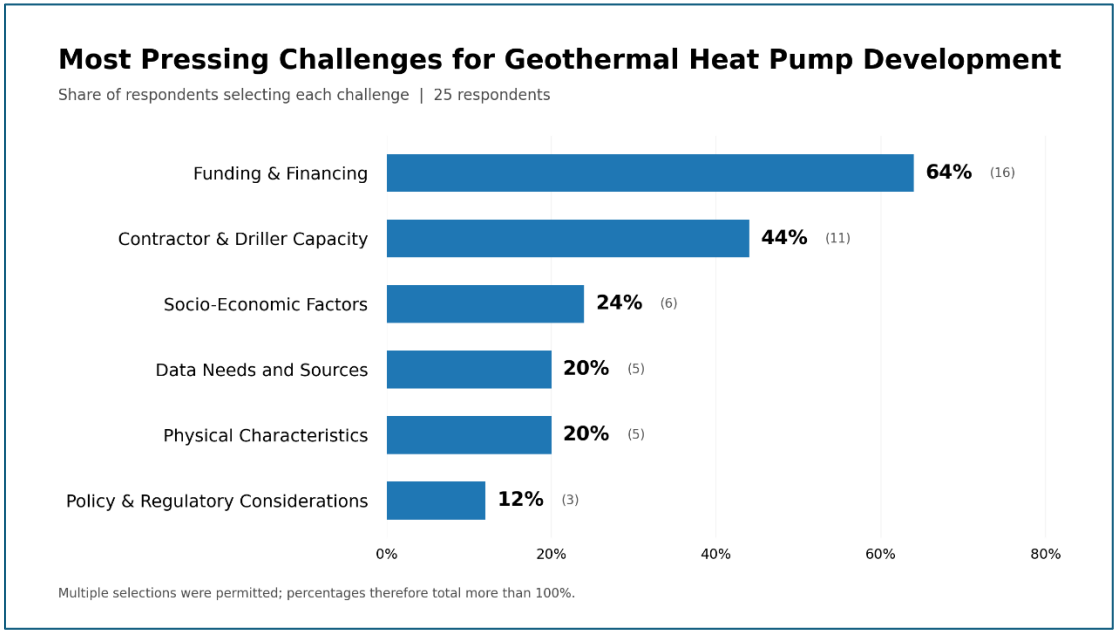
- Accredited installer training through the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA). Training has been restructured to be more accessible, with design work requiring accredited staff and installation more approachable.
- NY-GEO works closely with the Empire State Water Well Drillers Association to expand driller capacity across a broader range of regions.
- Utility and NYSERDA incentives for ground source heat pumps have increased across the board, and the tax credit has risen from $5,000 to $10,000, with these sources intended to be stackable.

Christine closed by sharing details on NY-GEO 2027, the annual conference being in Saratoga Springs, to occur April 26 - 28, 2027. On April 26, NY-GEO will host a field day featuring geothermal site tours and drilling demonstrations, followed by an exhibitor mixer and three free Geothermal 101 sessions for attendees.

Geothermal Target Areas Poll and Next Steps

Attendees were polled on where they see the most pressing challenges in the ground source heat pump market and where future collaborations could have the greatest impact.

Funding & Financing was the most frequently identified challenge (64%), followed by Contractor & Driller Capacity (44%).



Collaboration priorities identified by respondents include:

- Identifying based on the (geographic) data where GSHP installations are feasible

- Working with installers to bring costs down
- Training and subsidies for contractors to get started
- Having people who have used GSHP tell their story about switching, as it may help others to do the same

Priority Setting / RMAG Planning Polls

Trevor Reddick facilitated a series of priority-setting polls to gather stakeholder input on future RMAG sub-group activities and to inform 2027 RMAG planning.

RMAG Priority Setting Polls

Poll #1: Which of the residential clean energy program areas discussed today are of high interest for you, your business, and your communities?

Attendees were polled on which program areas discussed during the meeting were of high interest and which additional areas they would like to cover at future meetings.

Of the 37 respondents, 86% selected *energy efficiency for low- and moderate-income customers*, 35% selected *residential energy storage*, and 22% selected *efficient new construction* and *municipal permitting improvements*.

Program Area	Respondents (n = 37)	Share of Respondents
Energy efficiency for low- and moderate-income customers	32	86%
Residential energy storage	13	35%
Efficient new construction	8	22%
Municipal permitting improvements	8	22%

**Respondents could select more than one program area, so percentages total more than 100%.*

Poll #2: What change would you like to see in the residential market in 2027

Participants were asked what change they would like to see in the residential market in 2027. *Affordability*, *contractor friendliness*, and *multifamily applications* led in responses.

Cost and incentive structures were emphasized, including more affordable options, comprehensive incentives, greater incentives at Tier 3, and more financing approvals.

Multifamily responses pointed to an easier multifamily measure and in-unit services. Other responses called for fewer barriers and simpler participation, better applicant screening, access to rural areas, hybrid electrification, and more projects overall.

Closing and Next Steps

What change would you like to see in the residential market in 2027?



Trevor Reddick and Tamar Nagel thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting.