

Bringing Renewable Energy to All

NYSERDA is collaborating with investors, nongovernmental organizations, foundations, project developers, and policymakers to build consensus around investing principles that bring capital for renewable energy to LMI communities.

The United Nations has prioritized making sustainable energy a reality for everyone around the globe by 2030. Currently, access to renewable energy is most limited for individuals and families in low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities.

More than 40% of New York households have low- to moderate-incomes and spend a large portion of their income on energy bills. A lack of available capital in LMI communities often prevents development of renewable energy projects that can help lower those bills. Creating awareness and galvanizing organizations with capital to allocate targeted investments gets renewable energy into LMI communities.

Allocating even 5% of investment assets in this manner can mitigate climate change and support more resilient and healthy communities. Using Inclusive Finance Renewable Energy (IF + RE) Principles to manage that 5% will ensure measurable impact on the planet and create resilient communities.

Inclusive Finance Renewable Energy (IF+ RE) Principles

Guide your organization to invest more in renewable energy for LMI communities with these five principles.

1. Access

Access to safe, reliable, and affordable renewable energy. Providing access includes a combination of education and outreach, and the adoption of policies that mitigate investment risk.

2. Inclusivity

Meaningful involvement of the public in decisions that impact their community. This value includes sharing the benefits of local employment creation.

3. Innovation

Innovation in financing choices, and business models for renewable energy that builds wealth in LMI communities with transparency and fairness while limiting risk to investors.

4. Fairness

Commitment to using standard documents and contracts, best practices for project management, accountability, verifiability, and measurability of community benefit reported with industry standard metrics.

5. Resiliency

Build renewable energy that functions reliably in the event of grid outage and/or fuel supply shortages as an essential component of resilient design.



Benefits of IF + RE

Using renewable energy can bring cleaner air, jobs, and stable energy prices to communities of all income levels. For investors, the benefits of allocating money toward developing renewable energy include economic development, meeting stakeholder goals, opening new markets, investment diversification, and access to a new asset class. For example, aggregated portfolios that incorporate IF+RE Principles could be issued as green bonds for direct impact and reduction of greenhouses gas emissions. A robust market for green bonds backed by IF+RE Principles-based investment assets can be the catalyst to channel broader access to capital for mitigating climate change.

How you can participate

Capital providers and project developers working with policymakers can overcome barriers that exist in the market, including lack of sufficient capital and financially attractive risk-adjusted returns.

Investors (all classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt IF+RE Principles on all levels including impact, mission, SRI, PRI, pension, and corporate social governance. • Redirect 5% of assets to projects and portfolios that follow IF+RE Principles. • Require subadvisors to adopt IF+RE Principles. • Develop action plan for financing strategies to allocate investment capital for renewable energy that benefits and builds LMI communities.
Nongovernmental organizations and foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt IF+RE Principles for project development. • Insure project developers adopt and adhere to IF+RE Principles. • Help convene initial partners and momentum for participation and adoption of IF+RE principles.
Policymakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop broad policies and encourage the adoption of measurements and verifiability standards for IF+RE Principles. • Develop policy intervention methodologies and strategies to channel broader access of capital to the LMI sector.
Project Developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt IF+RE Principles for project development. • Initiative new and innovative projects utilizing the IF+RE Principles.

**Commit
5%**
of capital to
projects that
follow the
IF+RE Principles

For more information, contact John Joshi, Director of Financing Solutions

john.joshi@nyserda.ny.gov
518-862-1090 x3636

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975. To learn more about NYSERDA's programs, visit nyserda.ny.gov or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram.

