

LIFE 2017 New York City Regional Meeting May 1, 2017 – Long Island City

**Preliminary Agenda is subject to change.*

- 8:30 am - 9:30 am** **Registration and Networking**
- 9:30 am - 9:45 am** **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service
- 9:45 am - 11:15 am** **Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri; NYS Department of Public Service
Karen Phillips, NYS Homes and Community Renewal

New York State has recently undertaken several key initiatives to improve energy affordability and access to clean energy solutions for low-income residents. Through Governor Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative, the NYS Public Service Commission has initiated proceedings addressing energy affordability (14-M-0565), retail access (12-M-0476), the value of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (15-E-01751), and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) (14-M-0224), which will provide low-income customers and communities with greater opportunities to reduce energy burdens, and access clean energy options. Through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), NYSERDA is making significant investments to increase access to clean energy solutions for low and moderate-income customers by addressing the barriers that often prevent them from benefiting from energy efficiency and renewable energy. In addition, NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) has increased the building performance of affordable new construction projects through initiatives such as the development of higher energy efficiency standards for projects that qualify for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), implementing Green Building Criteria, and the development of an integrated physical needs assessment. This session will provide attendees with an update on REV, the CEF, and key affordable housing strategies as well as an overview of key strategies and initiatives specific to low and moderate-income New Yorkers.

- 11:15 am - 11:30 am** **Networking and Exhibit Break**
- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm** **Utility Updates**
Christalle Combie, National Grid
Dave Nelson, Con Edison

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to their low-income customers—from budget billing to efficiency programs. This utility updates session provides the most recent information on utility low-income energy efficiency and payment assistance programs currently being administered in New York State.

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm Con Edison REV Demonstration Projects for Low- and Moderate-Income Customers

Josh Gould, Con Edison

In late 2016, Con Edison launched an initiative to provide new products and services for low- to moderate-income (LMI) customers with the goals of: providing LMI customers with access to clean energy options and new tools and services; improving affordability for LMI customers by helping them manage their energy use and control costs; and achieving impact by increasing energy savings, greenhouse gas reductions, system improvements and local co-benefits. Con Edison released a request for information (RFI) in November 2016 seeking proposals to test innovative approaches to helping low- and moderate-income Con Edison customers while achieving the goals mentioned above. The RFI submission period closed on February 3, 2017 and Con Edison is in the midst of reviewing the proposals to the RFI. This presentation will discuss the initiative and provide an update on its progress.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Meeting Luncheon

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Consumer Protections: Child Identity Theft Prevention

Esther Hughes, NYS Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, and victimizing someone is easier than ever with widespread availability of personal information and access to it. Children’s identities are especially attractive to thieves because the theft often remains undetected for years. Learn how parents and guardians can protect children from identity theft and what steps to take if you know a child who has become a victim. Pass this information along to your colleagues and clients to keep children safe from identity thievery.

2:00 pm - 2:45 pm Reaching the Hard to Reach: Low-Income and Multifamily Energy Efficiency Programs

Ariel Drehobl, American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy

Stefen Samarripas, American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy

Many low-income and multifamily households are unlikely to live in energy-efficient housing, and they often spend a greater proportion of their income on utility bills than higher-income or single family households. This presentation will cover findings from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy’s (ACEEE) recent assessments of multifamily and low-income utility sector programs serving the country’s largest metropolitan areas, with an added emphasis on the programs serving New York City. Earlier this year, ACEEE released a report updating its 2013 assessment of multifamily energy efficiency programs. Using housing, policy, and utility-sector data from 2014 and 2015, they documented how these programs have changed in the context of dynamic housing markets and statewide policy environments. ACEEE also recently conducted an initial assessment of energy efficiency programs serving low-income households in the largest US cities, using data from 2015 and 2016. For both projects, they used utility-sector data to analyze elements of program design and delivery, including program spending, savings, coordination, and included measures. For this presentation, they will compare programs serving New York City with the current trends and best practices of low-income and multifamily programs across the country.

2:45 pm - 3:15 pm **REVitalize: Encouraging Community-Scale Clean Energy Planning to Benefit Lower-Income and Environmental Justice Communities**
Kartik Amarnath, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
Ryan Chavez, UPROSE
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Angela Tovar, The Point

The Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative is providing New York consumers and communities with new opportunities to participate in their energy future. Policy and regulatory developments such as community distributed generation and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) will result in the proliferation of DER and provide consumers and communities with unprecedented control over how they use and source energy, including community ownership of DER. However, lower-income and environmental justice (EJ) communities often lack the technical expertise and financial resources to plan for, develop, and implement a community-scale clean energy project, preventing these communities from fully taking advantage of the opportunities provided by REV. REVitalize is the result of a unique collaboration between community-based organizations and State government that seeks to facilitate the planning for and development of community-scale clean energy projects that benefit disadvantaged communities. This presentation will provide you with an overview of the REVitalize initiative including its origins; highlights of the initial work of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, UPROSE, and the Point; as well as the work that NYSERDA is undertaking to support community-scale clean energy projects.

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm **Networking and Exhibit Break**

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm **Developing the Market for High Performance Energy Retrofits in Affordable Multifamily Housing: RetrofitNY**
Greg Hale, Senior Advisor to the Chairman of Energy and Finance, Office of NY Gov.

New York State's aggressive energy and environmental goals include a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels and a 23 percent decrease in energy consumption from 2012 levels. In order to achieve these goals, it is crucial to address the State's existing building stock. Through RetrofitNY, NYSERDA is seeking to develop simplified, scalable solutions for conducting deep energy retrofits in tenanted multifamily units through a design competition and market development activities, such as the development of financing and business models to foster deep energy retrofits in New York State's affordable multifamily building market segment. This session will provide attendees with an overview of the initiative and an update on progress made to date.

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Low-Income Solar and Community Solar

Michelle Andry, NY-Sun

David Hepinstall, Association for Energy Affordability

Peter Mandelstam, GRID Alternatives

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy to low- to moderate-income households and communities. To that end, NY-Sun's Affordable Solar initiative provides assistance through additional solar incentives for low- to moderate-income homeowners and funding to develop solar projects through traditional and shared solar models serving affordable housing providers, renters, and residents who cannot put solar on their roofs. Learn about the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners who are working in various ways towards solar for all.

4:30 pm

Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation and Raffle

LIFE 2017 Long Island Regional Meeting May 2, 2017 – Melville

**Preliminary Agenda is subject to change.*

- 8:00 am - 9:00am** **Registration and Networking**
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am** **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service
- 9:15 am - 10:15 am** **Low-Income Energy Efficiency Programs on Long Island**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Elisabeth Fiteni, NYS Department of Public Service
Brian Loughlin, PSEG Long Island
Brittney Pietro, National Grid

In 2017, the energy efficiency initiatives that NYSERDA administered on Long Island will be transitioned from NYSERDA to PSEG and National Grid. This presentation will provide an update on the transition and an overview of the low-income energy efficiency programs administered by PSEG and National Grid.

- 10:15 am - 10:35 am** **Networking and Exhibit Break**
- 10:35 am - 11:05 am** **Utility Updates**
Suzanne Brienza, PSEG Long Island
Christalle Combie, National Grid

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- 11:05 am - 11:35 am** **Local Spotlight: Long Island Progressive Coalition**
Ryan Madden, Long Island Progressive Coalition

Too many individuals and institutions are left out of the renewable energy economy. The Long Island Progressive Coalition is working to change that. The Long Island Progressive Coalition supports low- to moderate-income households on Long Island by providing energy efficiency services through its PowerUp Communities program and community solar offerings to nonprofit organizations through its PowerUp Solar program. PowerUp Communities allows homeowners to take advantage of free energy assessments, as well as grants and financing to receive improvements with zero out-of-pocket expense. The program has helped saved Long Islanders \$800-\$3000 annually on their utility bills. PowerUp Solar is an initiative designed to bring solar energy to non-profit organizations at a substantially reduced cost. It does this through aggregation, third party financing, and C-PACE loans. It provides a simple package for nonprofits with no upfront costs.

11:35 am -12:05 pm Low-Income Solar and Community Solar
Michelle Andry, NY-Sun

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy to low- to moderate-income households and communities. To that end, NY-Sun's Affordable Solar initiative provides assistance through additional solar incentives for low- to moderate-income homeowners and funding to develop solar projects through traditional and shared solar models serving affordable housing providers, renters, and residents who cannot put solar on their roofs. Learn about the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners who are working in various ways towards solar for all.

12:05 pm - 1:05 pm Meeting Luncheon

1:05 pm - 1:35 pm Consumer Protections: Child Identity Theft Prevention
Esther Hughes, NYS Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, and victimizing someone is easier than ever with widespread availability of personal information and access to it. Children's identities are especially attractive to thieves because the theft often remains undetected for years. Learn how parents and guardians can protect children from identity theft and what steps to take if you know a child who has become a victim. Pass this information along to your colleagues and clients to keep children safe from identity thievery.

1:35 pm - 2:05 pm The State of Poverty in the Empire State: NYSCAA's New York State Annual Poverty Report
Kim McMann, NYS Community Action Association

Representatives from the NYS Community Action Association (NYSCAA) will share information from NYSCAA's *New York State Annual Poverty Report*, allowing attendees to get a clear perspective of what poverty looks like in the State as well as how NYSCAA and the NYS Community Action network provide resources and information to alleviate the impact of poverty across the state.

2:05 pm - 2:35 pm The Path to Higher Performing Affordable and Multifamily Housing
Mark Brescia, National Grid
Mark Thielking, Energize NY

While there is agreement that energy improvements benefit both property owners and tenants of affordable and multifamily buildings, how to proceed with a project in a way that maximizes those benefits can be challenging. Together we'll walk through the upgrade process for a multifamily building or affordable housing project, discussing the first steps to get started and how to best leverage existing PSEG and National Grid programs along with PACE financing. Specific regional case studies will be used to provide examples of successful projects.

2:35 pm - 2:55 pm Networking and Exhibit Break

2:55 pm - 3:25 pm

Updates on the Home Energy Assistance Program

Jim Dormond, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income New Yorkers with address their home energy needs. 1.32 million low-income households received bill assistance to offset their heating costs, heating equipment repair or replacement, or cooling assistance during the 2015-2016 program year. This presentation will provide you with an update on the 2016-2017 program year and will look forward to the 2017-2018 heating season.

3:25 pm - 3:55 pm

Local Spotlight: Community Development Corporation of Long Island

Maureen Pedrotti, Community Development Corporation of Long Island

Our local spotlight is on the Community Development Corporation of Long Island (CDC), a nonprofit organization that believes that housing is a platform from which we can work to improve health outcomes, particularly when woven into a supportive living environment that promotes healthy lifestyles. In June 2015, CDCLI launched a Healthy Homes Pilot Program in the Village of Hempstead to improve the overall health and wellbeing of a low-income population. The pilot program was conducted in collaboration with several partners including the Hempstead Housing Authority (HHA), Nu-Health, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, the Health and Welfare Council of Long Island, Island Harvest, and the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University. The project included the renovation of Gladys Gardens, 30 apartments owned by the HHA; an assessment of the health and safety issues of HHA housing units; and an assessment of the health needs of HHA residents. A lack of integrated services and an under-utilization of local health centers were identified as challenges to overcome. This presentation will provide you with an overview of the pilot program and discuss the implications for the findings.

3:55 pm

Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation and Raffle

LIFE 2017 Western New York Regional Meeting May 10, 2017 – Buffalo

**Preliminary Agenda is subject to change.*

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am** **Registration and Networking**
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am** **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service
- 9:15 am - 10:15 am** **Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions: Reforming the Energy Vision and the Clean Energy Fund**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service

Through Governor Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative, New York State has undertaken significant steps to improve energy affordability and access to clean energy options for low and income New Yorkers. Proceedings addressing energy affordability (14-M-0565), retail access (12-M-0476), the value of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (15-E-01751), and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) (14-M-0224) will provide low-income customers and communities with greater opportunities to reduce energy burdens, and access clean energy options. In addition, through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), NYSERDA is making significant investments to increase access to clean energy solutions for low and moderate-income customers by addressing the barriers that often prevent them from benefiting from energy efficiency and renewable energy. This session will provide attendees with an update on REV and the CEF, as well as an overview of key strategies and initiatives specific to low and moderate-income New Yorkers.

- 10:15 am - 10:35 am** **Networking and Exhibit Break**
- 10:35 am - 11:20 am** **Utility Updates**
Jill Emilanowicz, National Fuel Gas
Kevin Graham, RG&E/NYSEG
Kate Granger, National Grid

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to their low-income customers—from budget billing to efficiency programs. This utility updates session provides the most recent information on utility low-income energy efficiency and payment assistance programs currently being administered in New York State.

11:20 am - 11:50 am The Fruit Belt Neighborhood Solar REV Demonstration Project

Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Jon Nickerson, National Grid

The Fruit Belt Neighborhood Solar REV Demonstration Project seeks to engage and benefit a largely low- to moderate-income (LMI) neighborhood within the City of Buffalo through the installation of utility-owned, solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and the provision of energy efficiency services to a subset of homes. Electric energy produced by the solar PV systems is fed directly into the neighborhood grid. The entire value of that power is aggregated, monetized, and then redistributed equally among a larger group of neighborhood residential electric accounts. This Demonstration also promotes the integration of renewable energy and energy efficiency to further reduce energy costs of low- to moderate-income consumers and will test the impact on the ability of payment troubled customers to pay their energy bills. Residents participating in this project will benefit from a reduction in their overall energy bills.

11:50 am - 12:20 pm Updates on the Home Energy Assistance Program

Meshell Garcia, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income New Yorkers with address their home energy needs. 1.32 million low-income households received bill assistance to offset their heating costs, heating equipment repair or replacement, or cooling assistance during the 2015-2016 program year. This presentation will provide you with an update on the 2016-2017 program year and will look forward to the 2017-2018 heating season.

12:20 pm - 1:20 pm Meeting Luncheon

1:20 pm - 2:20 pm Participating in a NYS Public Service Commission Proceeding

Richard Berkley, Public Utility Law Project

Do you have questions about NYS Public Service Commission proceeding participation? Learn what you need to know to get involved. This session will provide an overview of the various parameters and expectations, and rhythms and flow associated with participating as an intervenor in both rate and policy proceedings. A current water company rate proceeding (16-W-0130) and the current proceeding involving utility low-income programs (14-M-0565) will be used as examples for discussion.

2:20 am - 2:50 pm Low-Income Solar and Community Solar

Michelle Andry, NY-Sun
Sage Green, PUSH Buffalo

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy to low- to moderate-income households and communities. To that end, NY-Sun's Affordable Solar initiative provides assistance through additional solar incentives for low- to moderate-income homeowners and funding to develop solar projects through traditional and shared solar models serving affordable housing providers, renters, and residents who cannot put solar on their roofs. Learn about the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners who are working in various ways towards solar for all.

2:50 pm - 3:10 pm Networking and Exhibit Break

3:10 pm - 3:40 pm Green and Healthy Homes Initiative Buffalo: Past, Present and Future
Katie Pieri, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

In 2010, the City of Buffalo was chosen as a pilot site for the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI). Since then, GHHI Buffalo has looked beyond individual service area boundaries to come together as a collective group of service providers efficiently coordinating weatherization, home health, and safety interventions to expand the scope of services available to low income families. To date, over 400 City of Buffalo families have benefited from this holistic approach. GHHI Buffalo aims to break down programmatic silos so that low-income families can efficiently access weatherization and home health programs from multiple organizations through one collaborative process. However, with funding for this program now depleted, the value-added efforts that flexible funding provided are no longer available. Thankfully, the legacy of the full-scale GHHI Buffalo program continues today as evidenced by strong system-wide collaboration among project partners. Looking toward the future, GHHI Buffalo partners hope to efficiently scale and enhance the most successful aspects of the past and bring GHHI Buffalo back to life.

3:40 pm - 4:10 pm Low-Income Energy Policy and Programs: Perspectives from Erie County
Eric Walker, Erie County Department of Public Works

The energy landscape in New York State is shifting, presenting new challenges and opportunities for residents. With one of the more diverse populations in the State, Erie County offers a platform to explore new approaches to increasing energy affordability and reducing social vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. This presentation will provide you with an overview of the opportunities that Erie County is exploring to drive energy related economic development, reduce energy insecurity, and improve health outcomes through bulk purchasing energy and renewable energy investment.

4:10 pm Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation and Raffle

LIFE 2017 Southern Tier Regional Meeting May 11, 2017 – Corning

**Preliminary Agenda is subject to change.*

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am** **Registration and Networking**
- 9:00 am- 9:15 am** **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service
- 9:15 am - 10:15 am** **Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions: Reforming the Energy Vision and the Clean Energy Fund**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service

Through Governor Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative, New York State has undertaken significant steps to improve energy affordability and access to clean energy options for low and income New Yorkers. Proceedings addressing energy affordability (14-M-0565), retail access (12-M-0476), the value of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (15-E-01751), and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) (14-M-0224) will provide low-income customers and communities with greater opportunities to reduce energy burdens, and access clean energy options. In addition, through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), NYSERDA is making significant investments to increase access to clean energy solutions for low and moderate-income customers by addressing the barriers that often prevent them from benefiting from energy efficiency and renewable energy. This session will provide attendees with an update on REV and the CEF, as well as an overview of key strategies and initiatives specific to low and moderate-income New Yorkers.

- 10:15 am - 10:35 am** **Networking and Exhibit Break**
- 10:35 am - 10:50 am** **Utility Updates**
Jacqueline Sykas, NYSEG

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10:50 am - 11:20 am **Low-Income Solar and Community Solar**
Michelle Andry, NY-Sun
Adam Flint, Southern Tier Solar Works

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy to low- to moderate-income households and communities. To that end, NY-Sun's Affordable Solar initiative provides assistance through additional solar incentives for low- to moderate-income homeowners and funding to develop solar projects through traditional and shared solar models serving affordable housing providers, renters, and residents who cannot put solar on their roofs. Learn about the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners who are working in various ways towards solar for all.

11:20 am - 11:50 pm **Updates on the Home Energy Assistance Program**
Gary Wrobel, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income New Yorkers with address their home energy needs. 1.32 million low-income households received bill assistance to offset their heating costs, heating equipment repair or replacement, or cooling assistance during the 2015-2016 program year. This presentation will provide you with an update on the 2016-2017 program year and will look forward to the 2017-2018 heating season.

11:50 pm - 1:00pm **Meeting Luncheon**

1:00 pm -2:00 pm **Participating in a NYS Public Service Commission Proceeding**
Richard Berkley, Public Utility Law Project

Do you have questions about NYS Public Service Commission proceeding participation? Learn what you need to know to get involved. This session will provide an overview of the various parameters and expectations, and rhythms and flow associated with participating as an intervenor in both rate and policy proceedings. A current water company rate proceeding (16-W-0130) and the current proceeding involving utility low-income programs (14-M-0565) will be used as examples for discussion.

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm **The State of Poverty in the Empire State: NYSCAA's New York State Annual Poverty Report**
Lindy Glennon, Cortland County Community Action Program
Laura Rossman, Pro Action of Steuben and Yates

Representatives from the NYS Community Action Association (NYSCAA) will share information from NYSCAA's *New York State Annual Poverty Report*, allowing attendees to get a clear perspective of what poverty looks like in the State as well as how NYSCAA and the NYS Community Action network provide resources and information to alleviate the impact of poverty across the state.

2:30 pm - 2:50 pm **Networking and Exhibit Break**

2:50 pm - 3:20 pm **Renewable Heat NY: High-Efficiency Low-Emission Biomass Heating in New York State**
Matt McQuinn, NYSERDA

Homeowners throughout New York State spend a significant portion of their household income on heating bills, especially when volatile fossil fuel markets cause oil and propane prices to rise. When fossil fuel prices rise many rural areas of the state witness an increase in homeowners turning to wood, a locally-sourced and relatively inexpensive, fuel to heat their homes. This session will provide an overview of Renewable Heat NY, an initiative launched by Governor Cuomo to provide more affordable advanced biomass heating options to homeowners and help build the high-efficiency, low-emissions biomass heating industry in New York State. In this session, learn about the incentives available for advanced cordwood boilers, pellet boilers, and pellet stoves. For pellet stoves, an additional incentive is offered for income qualified individuals.

3:20 pm - 2:50 pm **USDA's Opportunities for Low-Income Households in Rural New York: Home Repair and Home Purchase Programs**
Jennifer Jackson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through their programs, they promote economic development and provide technical assistance to help communities move toward empowerment. To support rural households in homeownership, the USDA provides affordable loans and grants to low income applicants to purchase and repair homes located in rural areas. Learn more about these programs and how you can partner with USDA to better serve your client's home repair and energy efficiency needs.

3:50 pm **Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation and Raffle**

**LIFE 2017 North Country Regional Meeting
May 16, 2017 – Watertown**

**Preliminary Agenda is subject to change.*

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am Registration and Networking**
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service
- 9:15 am - 10:15 am Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and
Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions: Reforming the Energy Vision and
the Clean Energy Fund**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service

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- 10:15 am - 10:35 am Networking and Exhibit Break**
- 10:35 am - 10:50 am Utility Updates**
Kate Granger, National Grid

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to their low-income customers—from budget billing to efficiency programs. This utility updates session provides the most recent information on utility low-income energy efficiency and payment assistance programs currently being administered in New York State.

10:50 am - 11:20 am **Low-Income Solar and Community Solar**
Michelle Andry, NY-Sun
Nancy Bernstein, Solarize Tri-Lakes

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy to low- to moderate-income households and communities. To that end, NY-Sun's Affordable Solar initiative provides assistance through additional solar incentives for low- to moderate-income homeowners and funding to develop solar projects through traditional and shared solar models serving affordable housing providers, renters, and residents who cannot put solar on their roofs. Learn about the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners who are working in various ways towards solar for all.

11:20 am -11:50 pm **The State of Poverty in the Empire State: NYSCAA's New York State Annual Poverty Report**
Melinda Gault, Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County

Representatives from the NYS Community Action Association (NYSCAA) will share information from NYSCAA's *New York State Annual Poverty Report*, allowing attendees to get a clear perspective of what poverty looks like in the State as well as how NYSCAA and the NYS Community Action network provide resources and information to alleviate the impact of poverty across the state.

11:50 pm - 1:00 pm **Meeting Luncheon**

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm **Participating in a NYS Public Service Commission Proceeding**
Lisabeth Jorgensen, Public Utility Law Project

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2:00 pm - 2:30 pm **Renewable Heat NY: High-Efficiency Low-Emission Biomass Heating in New York State**
Matt McQuinn, NYSERDA

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2:30 pm - 2:50 pm Networking and Exhibit Break

2:50 pm - 3:20 pm USDA's Opportunities for Low-Income Households in Rural New York: Home Repair and Home Purchase Programs

Jennifer Jackson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through their programs, they promote economic development and provide technical assistance to help communities move toward empowerment. To support rural households in homeownership, the USDA provides affordable loans and grants to low income applicants to purchase and repair homes located in rural areas. Learn more about these programs and how you can partner with USDA to better serve your client's home repair and energy efficiency needs.

3:20 pm - 3:50 pm Local Spotlight: Green and Healthy Homes Initiative Greater Syracuse

Katie Bronson, Home HeadQuarters

Sally Ward, PEACE, Inc.

Our local spotlight is on the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative Greater Syracuse program located at Home HeadQuarters in partnership with PEACE, Inc., the Weatherization Assistance Program for Onondaga and Oswego Counties which provides the experience in energy efficiency improvements. Learn about strategies for approaching the compound challenges of energy affordability and the negative health impacts of aging housing. The development of the initiative will be discussed, highlighting case studies that represent the successful implementation of aligning, braiding, and coordinating resources.

3:50 pm Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation and Raffle

**LIFE 2017 Hudson Valley Regional Meeting
May 17, 2017 – Poughkeepsie**

**Preliminary Agenda is subject to change.*

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am** **Breakfast and Registration**
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am** **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service
- 9:15 am - 10:45 am** **Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service
NYS Homes and Community Renewal

New York State has recently undertaken several key initiatives to improve energy affordability and access to clean energy solutions for low-income residents. Through Governor Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative, the NYS Public Service Commission has initiated proceedings addressing energy affordability (14-M-0565), retail access (12-M-0476), the value of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (15-E-01751), and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) (14-M-0224), which will provide low-income customers and communities with greater opportunities to reduce energy burdens, and access clean energy options. Through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), NYSERDA is making significant investments to increase access to clean energy solutions for low and moderate-income customers by addressing the barriers that often prevent them from benefiting from energy efficiency and renewable energy. In addition, NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) has increased the building performance of affordable new construction projects through initiatives such as the development of higher energy efficiency standards for projects that qualify for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), implementing Green Building Criteria, and the development of an integrated physical needs assessment. This session will provide attendees with an update on REV, the CEF, and key affordable housing strategies as well as an overview of key strategies and initiatives specific to low and moderate-income New Yorkers.

- 10:45 am - 11:05 am** **Networking and Exhibit Break**
- 11:05 - 11:35** **Utility Updates**
Tineesha McMullen, Orange and Rockland Utilities
Beth Monaco, Central Hudson Gas and Electric

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to their low-income customers—from budget billing to efficiency programs. This utility updates session provides the most recent information on utility low-income energy efficiency and payment assistance programs currently being administered in New York State.

11:35 -12:05pm **The State of Poverty in the Empire State: NYSCAA's New York State Annual Poverty Report**
Elizabeth Carlton Spira, Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County

Representatives from the NYS Community Action Association (NYSCAA) will share information from NYSCAA's *New York State Annual Poverty Report*, allowing attendees to get a clear perspective of what poverty looks like in the State as well as how NYSCAA and the NYS Community Action network provide resources and information to alleviate the impact of poverty across the state.

12:05 - 1:05pm **Meeting Luncheon**

1:05 - 1:35pm **Consumer Protections: Child Identity Theft Prevention**
Esther Hughes, NYS Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America, and victimizing someone is easier than ever with widespread availability of personal information and access to it. Children's identities are especially attractive to thieves because the theft often remains undetected for years. Learn how parents and guardians can protect children from identity theft and what steps to take if you know a child who has become a victim. Pass this information along to your colleagues and clients to keep children safe from identity thievery.

1:35 - 2:05pm **The Path to Higher Performing Affordable and Multifamily Housing**
Mark Thielking, Energize NY
James Mannarino, NYSERDA

While there is agreement that energy improvements benefit both property owners and tenants of affordable and multifamily buildings, how to proceed with a project in a way that maximizes those benefits can be challenging. Together we'll walk through the upgrade process for a multifamily building or affordable housing project, discussing the first steps to get started and how to best leverage existing NYSERDA programs and PACE financing. Specific regional case studies will be used to provide examples of successful projects.

2:05 -2:35p **Low-Income Solar and Community Solar**
Max Joel, NY-Sun
Michael D'Arcy, RUPCO
Hugo Jule, RUPCO

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy to low- to moderate-income households and communities. To that end, NY-Sun's Affordable Solar initiative provides assistance through additional solar incentives for low- to moderate-income homeowners and funding to develop solar projects through traditional and shared solar models serving affordable housing providers, renters, and residents who cannot put solar on their roofs. Learn about the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners who are working in various ways towards solar for all.

2:35 - 2:55pm **Networking and Exhibit Break**

2:55 - 3:25 pm **Fundraising for Low-Income Clean Energy: Challenges and Opportunities**
John Scicchitano, NYSERDA

What are the barriers to scaling up low-income clean energy programs and how can they be addressed? Join this discussion about the challenges and opportunities for community-based clean energy programs, with a focus on energy efficiency and weatherization. Learn about the funding landscape for equitable clean energy programs, including NYSERDA's work on philanthropic engagement. Discover how alliances between private, public, and philanthropic actors can achieve our shared social and environmental goals.

3:25 - 3:55 pm **Updates on the Home Energy Assistance Program**
Helen Schneider, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income New Yorkers with address their home energy needs. 1.32 million low-income households received bill assistance to offset their heating costs, heating equipment repair or replacement, or cooling assistance during the 2015-2016 program year. This presentation will provide you with an update on the 2016-2017 program year and will look forward to the 2017-2018 heating season.

3:55 pm **Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation and Raffle**

**LIFE 2017 Capital District Regional Meeting
May 23, 2017 – Saratoga Springs**

**Preliminary Agenda is subject to change.*

- 8:00 am - 9:00 am Registration and Networking**
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service
- 9:15 am - 10:15 am Updates on Policy and Programs Targeted at Energy Affordability and
Improving Access to Clean Energy Solutions: Reforming the Energy Vision and
the Clean Energy Fund**
Christopher Coll, NYSERDA
Monica Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service

Through Governor Cuomo’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative, New York State has undertaken significant steps to improve energy affordability and access to clean energy options for low and income New Yorkers. Proceedings addressing energy affordability (14-M-0565), retail access (12-M-0476), the value of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) (15-E-01751), and Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) (14-M-0224) will provide low-income customers and communities with greater opportunities to reduce energy burdens, and access clean energy options. In addition, through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF), NYSERDA is making significant investments to increase access to clean energy solutions for low and moderate-income customers by addressing the barriers that often prevent them from benefiting from energy efficiency and renewable energy. This session will provide attendees with an update on REV and the CEF, as well as an overview of key strategies and initiatives specific to low and moderate-income New Yorkers.

- 10:15 am - 10:35 am Networking and Exhibit Break**
- 10:35 am - 11:05 am Utility Updates**
Kate Granger, National Grid
Rebecca Jarett, NYSEG

Utilities have a long history of providing energy assistance to their low-income customers—from budget billing to efficiency programs. This utility updates session provides the most recent information on utility low-income energy efficiency and payment assistance programs currently being administered in New York State.

11:05 am - 11:35 am Low-Income Solar and Community Solar
Luke Forster, NY-Sun

New York State is committed to expanding access to renewable energy to low- to moderate-income households and communities. To that end, NY-Sun's Affordable Solar initiative provides assistance through additional solar incentives for low- to moderate-income homeowners and funding to develop solar projects through traditional and shared solar models serving affordable housing providers, renters, and residents who cannot put solar on their roofs. Learn about the benefits and challenges of bringing solar into low-income communities from representatives of NY-Sun and community partners who are working in various ways towards solar for all.

11:35 am -12:05 am The State of Poverty in the Empire State: NYSCAA's New York State Annual Poverty Report
Amy Turner, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency

Representatives from the NYS Community Action Association (NYSCAA) will share information from NYSCAA's *New York State Annual Poverty Report*, allowing attendees to get a clear perspective of what poverty looks like in the State as well as how NYSCAA and the NYS Community Action network provide resources and information to alleviate the impact of poverty across the state.

12:05 pm - 1:05 pm Meeting Luncheon

1:05 pm - 2:05 pm Participating in a NYS Public Service Commission Proceeding
Richard Berkley, Public Utility Law Project

Do you have questions about NYS Public Service Commission proceeding participation? Learn what you need to know to get involved. This session will provide an overview of the various parameters and expectations, and rhythms and flow associated with participating as an intervenor in both rate and policy proceedings. A current water company rate proceeding (16-W-0130) and the current proceeding involving utility low-income programs (14-M-0565) will be used as examples for discussion.

2:05 pm - 2:35 pm The Path to Higher Performing Affordable and Multifamily Housing
Mark Thielking, Energize NY
James Mannarino, NYSERDA

While there is agreement that energy improvements benefit both property owners and tenants of affordable and multifamily buildings, how to proceed with a project in a way that maximizes those benefits can be challenging. Together we'll walk through the upgrade process for a multifamily building or affordable housing project, discussing the first steps to get started and how to best leverage existing NYSERDA programs and PACE financing. Specific regional case studies will be used to provide examples of successful projects.

2:35 pm - 2:50 pm Networking and Exhibit Break

2:50 pm - 3:10 pm **Fundraising for Low-Income Clean Energy: Challenges and Opportunities**
John Scicchitano, NYSERDA

What are the barriers to scaling up low-income clean energy programs and how can they be addressed? Join this discussion about the challenges and opportunities for community-based clean energy programs, with a focus on energy efficiency and weatherization. Learn about the funding landscape for equitable clean energy programs, including NYSERDA's work on philanthropic engagement. Discover how alliances between private, public, and philanthropic actors can achieve our shared social and environmental goals.

3:10 pm - 3:50 pm **Updates on the Home Energy Assistance Program**
Andrew Bryk, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps low-income New Yorkers with address their home energy needs. 1.32 million low-income households received bill assistance to offset their heating costs, heating equipment repair or replacement, or cooling assistance during the 2015-2016 program year. This presentation will provide you with an update on the 2016-2017 program year and will look forward to the 2017-2018 heating season.

3:50 pm **Wrap-up and Closing Remarks, Evaluation and Raffle**