



**LIFE 2019 Capital Region Regional Meeting  
May 16, 2019 – Malta**

Hyatt Place Saratoga/Hyatt, 20 State Farm Place, Malta NY

*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 M. Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service

**9:15 am - 10:45 am      Advancing Energy Affordability and Access to Clean Energy in New York State**

Christopher Coll, NYSERDA

Monica M. Ferreri, NYS Department of Public Service

New York State is advancing far-reaching clean energy initiatives to spur achievement of important climate and energy affordability objectives, including undertaking clean energy innovation and fundamental regulatory changes to bring new investments into the State that improve consumer choice and affordability. This session will provide an overview of and update on the primary initiatives guiding New York State's clean energy transition with specific focus on how New York is advancing energy affordability and access to clean energy solutions for lower-income and disadvantaged New Yorkers.

**10:45 am - 11:00 am      Networking and Exhibit Break**

**11:00 am - 11:30 am      Utility Updates**

National Grid

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.

**11:30 am - 12:00 pm      Connecting People to Services: Using myBenefits.ny.gov as a Resource**

Andres Vergara, Learning and Development Services (LEADS), Buffalo State College

myBenefits is an online tool for New York State residents. Users can check possible eligibility for multiple human services benefit programs; apply online for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP); recertify for SNAP or Temporary Assistance; report changes; and view case details. This session will demonstrate how myBenefits can be used a resource to connect your clients to programs and services that will benefit them.

**12:00 pm - 12:45 pm      Meeting Luncheon**

**12:45 pm - 1:15 pm      Consumer Protections: New York State’s Residential Shared Meter Law**

Laurie Wheelock, Public Utility Law Project of New York

This session will cover a widespread consumer protection and utility affordability issue in New York: shared meter conditions. A shared meter condition exists when a consumer's electric and/or gas meter reports usage both inside of the dwelling and to areas outside of the dwelling. In other words, a residential customer in a shared meter condition is additionally paying heat for common areas or other apartments, which is prohibited under New York State law. These conditions can arise intentionally or accidentally and are most often associated with conversions of single-family dwellings into rentals or from owner-occupied multiple dwelling units to non-owner-occupied investor units. Presenters will discuss how to identify when such a situation is occurring, the consumer's rights, and the procedural and legal steps necessary to protect the consumer’s rights and finances.

**1:15 pm - 1:45 pm      Focus on Environmental Justice: Statewide and Local Perspectives**

Michelle Andry, NYSERDA

Arlene Way, Arbor Hill Development Corporation

As defined by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including a racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. Environmental justice in energy policy intersects with the racial, economic, housing, health and other social justice issues which impact low-income residents and communities of color. Achieving equity in clean energy program design and implementation requires inclusive engagement with and representation of the impacted communities along with fair distribution of benefits and burdens while prioritizing those with the highest need. This session will provide local and statewide perspectives on environmental justice and the opportunity to learn about related projects led by local organizations.

**1:45 pm - 2:00 pm      Wrap-up and Closing Remarks**

**2:00 pm - 2:30 pm      Networking and Exhibit Break / Stakeholder Discussion Registration**

**2:30 pm - 4:30 pm      Discussion on Programs, Barriers, and Opportunities**

Building on the discussions started during the 2018 Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) Public Forums hosted by NYSERDA and the NYS Department of Public Service, this stakeholder feedback discussion will focus on current initiatives and identify opportunities to improve the impact of energy and affordability programs in communities.