



**LIFE 2019 Southern Tier Regional Meeting
May 23, 2019 – Corning**

Radisson Hotel Corning, 125 Denison Parkway East, Corning 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 - 11:15 am Utility Updates

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.

11:15 am - 11:45 am Connecting People to Services: Using myBenefits.ny.gov as a Resource

Russell Chauvot, 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.

11:45 am - 12:45 pm Meeting Luncheon

12:45 pm - 1:15 pm **Participating in a Major Utility Rate Case**
Laurie Wheelock, Public Utility Law Project of New York

This session will cover how and why individuals and community-based organizations/businesses and other entities can become parties or otherwise advocate knowledgeably for their standing and values in major utility rate cases. The procedural rhythms and necessary resource commitments as set forth in State law will be detailed along with discussion of how resource-constrained groups/individuals may nonetheless have strong impact upon these vital public proceedings. Examples will be provided from recent rate cases to illustrate how informed and involved communities can make a difference in utility affordability, the State's greenhouse gas reduction goals, and energy efficiency targets.

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm **Focus on Environmental Justice: Statewide and Local Perspectives**
Michelle Andry, NYSERDA
Amber Johnson, Progressive Leaders of Tomorrow

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.