



LIFE

Low-Income Forum on Energy
George E. Pataki, Governor

LIFE 2001-2002 Regional Conferences

Final Conference Report

The Low-Income Forum on Energy

The Low-Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) is a unique statewide dialogue on the challenges and opportunities facing low-income New Yorkers as they seek safe, affordable and reliable energy. LIFE brings together a diverse range of parties including: community-based organizations, utilities, state government, local government, energy services companies, low-income advocates, and others. Since 1998, the LIFE dialogue has included two statewide and ten regional conferences.

Sponsored by the New York State Public Service Commission and underwritten by NYSERDA-System Benefits Charge Programs, LIFE voices concerns of low-income New Yorkers and seeks solutions to low-income energy issues.

To have your name and address or those of others interested added to the LIFE distribution list, please contact:

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LIFE 2001-2002 Regional Conferences

The LIFE 2001-2002 Regional Conferences allow unique regional issues to be incorporated into the LIFE dialogue. Six regional conferences were scheduled for the 2001 series. Due to the tragic events of 9/11, two conferences (Albany on September 12 and New York on September 25) were postponed to 2002.

Each LIFE regional conference featured local host including new market entrants, utilities, state agencies and other community-based organizations. The agenda for each regional conference included a session describing New York State's changing energy market and the challenges and opportunities facing New York's low-income energy consumers. A regional perspective on energy markets and low-income consumers was developed by the local host agencies to address the unique circumstances facing the region.

Key to each regional conference were the interactive Work Group Discussions, which allowed conferees to participate in the LIFE dialogue in a very immediate way. Themes for each work group were developed based on the needs of the region. Results of those discussions were summarized and are included in this report.

The six LIFE regional conferences completed included the Potsdam (September 27), Syracuse (October 3), Buffalo (October 15), Binghamton (October 16), Albany (January 22, 2002), and New York (April 24, 2002). One hundred seventy-two organizations were represented at the regional conferences, which had total registration of 327.

The LIFE Steering Committee, Chairman and Conference Manager thank all who attended, those who shared their expertise through presenting, the local hosts and volunteers. Your enthusiasm and support is moving the LIFE dialogue to a higher level. **We look forward to seeing you again at the LIFE 2002 Statewide Conference at the Albany Marriott Hotel on November 7 and 8!**

Potsdam Regional Conference

Clarkson University, Potsdam

September 27, 2001

Local Hosts: Community Energy Services, Inc. and Community Power Network of NYS, Inc.

Attendance: Thirty-nine representatives from twenty-eight organizations participated. Representatives included: 3 Utility, 3 State Government, 6 Local Dept. of Social Services, 3 Local Office for Aging, 3 Local Government, 2 ESCO, 2 Community Action/Weatherization, 13 Community-Based Organizations, 4 Other Sector, 1 Legislative.

Speakers: Michael Corso, NYS Dept. of Public Service; Peggie Neville, NYSEERDA; Bill Mills, NYS Dept. of Public Service; Sue Montgomery Corey, Community Power Network of NYS; Michael Meath, Agway Energy Services; Ann Heidenreich, Community Energy Services; Susan Vann, Clinton County Dept. of Social Services; Brian Bashaw, ComLinks, Ben Wiles, Public Utility Law Project, Keith Pitman, Massena Municipal Electric Department; Carol Sweeney, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.

Unique Regional Work Group Issues:

- 1) Limited staff resources in some counties and limits on use of volunteers make it difficult to respond to demand for resource programs such as HEAP;
- 2) Program (HEAP/WAP) requirements on property ownership makes it difficult for some households to access services-life leases, and contracts and situations where a mobile home is owned but not the site are of particular concern;
- 3) Increasing minimum oil/propane delivery make it difficult for some households to obtain oil;
- 4) Municipal Utilities may have informal ways to help payment-troubled low-income households that should be explored; and
- 5) Housing quality and availability of affordable, safe housing are an issue. Lead stabilization of housing may be important long-term, but increase the cost of low-income housing.

Syracuse Regional Conference

University Sheraton Hotel, Syracuse

October 3, 2001

Local Hosts: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation Consumer Advocates, United Way of Central New York/Volunteer Center, Oswego County Opportunities, PEACE, Inc., American Red Cross of Cortland County, Cortland County Area Agency on Aging

Attendance: Forty-four representatives from twenty-six organizations participated including: 4 Utility, 3 State Government, 5 Local Office for Aging, 6 Local Dept. of Social Services, 13 Community Action/Weatherization, 10 Community-Based Organizations, 2 Other, and 1 Legislative.

Speakers: Michael Corso, NYS Dept. of Public Service; Peggie Neville, NYSEERDA; Sue Montgomery Corey, Community Power Network of NYS; Jack Ziegler, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.; Rebecca Livengood, Regional Learning Services; Mike Irwin, OCM BOCES; Phil Prehn, Syracuse United Neighbors; Suzanne Elias, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.; Sharon Stevans, Cortland Co. Office for Aging; and Annette Krisak, JOBSPLUS

Unique Regional Work Group Issues:

- 1) Need for an impartial mechanism to compare products and services in the changing market;
- 2) Value of collaboration and networking in linking low-income customers to services and education and building capacity of community-based organizations and others to address the energy needs of low-income customers;
- 3) Need for clear contract language that low-income customers can understand; and
- 4) The need for education about choice that is at an appropriate level of information and language for low-income customers.

Buffalo Regional Conference

Classics V, Amherst

October 15, 2001

Local Hosts: National Fuel Gas

Attendance: Forty-two representatives from twenty-eight organizations participated. Representatives included: 13 Utility, 3 State Government, 6 Local Dept. of Social Services, 3 Local Office for Aging, 3 Local Government, 3 Community Action/Weatherization, 7 Community-Based Organizations, 1 ESCO, 2 Other, 1 Legislative.

Speakers: Michael Corso, NYS Dept. of Public Service; Peggie Neville, NYSERDA; Sue Montgomery Corey, Community Power Network of NYS; Cliff Mason, National Fuel Gas; Dave Fontaine, Village of Hamburg; Carl Panzarella, NHS of S. Buffalo; Kevin Duggan, Erie County Dept. of Social Services; Isabell Berger, Erie/Niagara Rebuild Partnership

Unique Regional Work Group Issues:

- 1) Concern about the impact that the five-year time limit for Welfare Reform will have on the ability of low-income households to access the emergency component of the HEAP Program.
- 2) Need for unit pricing to allow low-income households to make meaningful comparisons of the energy they are buying.
- 3) Need for solutions which better address the energy needs of renters.

Binghamton Regional Conference

Regency Hotel, Binghamton

October 16, 2001

Local Hosts: NYSEG, Opportunities for Broome, Broome County Office for Aging

Attendance: Forty-six representatives from twenty-four organizations participated. Representatives included: 12 Utility, 5 State Government, 3 Local Office for Aging, 2 Local Dept. of Social Services, 1 Local Government, 3 Community Action/Weatherization, 16 Community-Based Organizations, 0 ESCO, and 3 Other, 1 Legislative.

Speakers: Michael Corso, NYS Dept. of Public Service; Peggie Neville, NYSERDA; Cherie Gregoire, NYSERDA; Alan Hertel, NYSEG; Carol Smyth, Sullivan Co. Cooperative Extension; Kathy Pfaffenbach, Catholic Charities; Caroline Brown, Broome Co. Cooperative Extension; Sheri Lazier, Cooperative Extension/NYSEG Customer; and John Sterlacci, United Way of Broome County.

Unique Regional Work Group Issues:

- 1) The importance of a living wage (above the minimum wage) to help low-income households afford their energy burden;
- 2) Possible increase in the number of homeless- especially homeless teens who are encouraged to leave home by parents who cannot afford to support them;
- 3) Potential for using a family development case management approach as part of the strategy for empowering low-income energy customers;
- 4) Tremendous value inherent in interagency networking;
- 5) Concern about changes for proposed NYSEG Power Partner Program.

Albany Regional Conference

University at Albany, Alumni House

January 22, 2002

Local Hosts: New York State Department of Public Service, New York State Consumer Protection Board, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and Capital Region Counties of Cornell Cooperative Extension

Attendance: Fifty representatives from twenty-four organizations participated.

Representatives included: 5 Utility, 17 State Government, 3 Local Dept. of Social Services, 12 Community Action/ Weatherization, 10 Community-Based Organizations, 0 ESCO, 3 Other, and 0 Legislative.

Speakers: Michael Corso, NYS Dept. of Public Service; Peter Smith, NYSEERDA; Cherie Gregoire, NYSEERDA; Martin Insogna, NYS Dept. of Public Service; Anne Curtin, NYS Consumer Protection Board; Jim Reis, NYSEERDA; Kelvin Keraga, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., and Donna O'Brien, Dutchess County Community Action Agency.

Unique Regional Work Group Issues:

- 1) Using a one-stop shop approach to bring energy services and education together;
- 2) The need for strategies to strengthen the quality of HEAP no-heat emergency assistance;
- 3) Confusion on the funding status, availability, and eligibility for Weatherization Assistance;
- 4) Potential for using schools as a mechanism for distributing energy efficiency information, products and services; and
- 5) Need for new mechanisms to increase choice for

New York Regional Conference

Consolidated Edison Learning Center

April 24, 2002

Local Hosts: Association for Energy Affordability, Consolidated Edison of New York, Inc., KeySpan Energy Delivery, Inc.

Attendance: One hundred twelve individuals from sixty-one organizations participated including: 21 Utility, 15 State Government, 13 Local Dept. of Social Services, 29 Community Action/ Weatherization, 23 Community-Based Organizations, 1 ESCO, 9 Other, and 1 Legislative.

Speakers: May Chao, NYS Consumer Protection Board, Michael Corso and Martin Insogna, NYS Dept. of Public Service; Gayle Bautz and Eugene Twomey, Consolidated Edison of New York; Allen Zerkin, New York University; Kevin Jones, Orange and Rockland; Barbara Washington, KeySpan Energy Delivery; Peggie Neville, NYSEERDA; Thomas Carey, NYS Div. Of Housing and Community Renewal; Morty Pupco, Human Resources Administration; Richard Miller, NYC Community Economic Development Corporation

Unique Regional Work Group Issues:

- 1) Role that energy plays in housing affordability;
- 2) Submetering of family buildings and the challenge it creates in educating customers and helping them to afford their energy bill;
- 3) Role of trust and communication in Utility/ESCO/CBO/Customer relationships;
- 4) The importance of communication with the customer, within CBOs, Utilities, and ESCOs;
- 5) Making renewable energy available in low-income communities; and
- 6) Impact that siting new generation can have on low-income communities

Major Issues of the LIFE 2001 Regional Conferences

Interactive work groups are an essential component of every LIFE conference. Each 2001-2002 Regional Conference featured two-three work groups. What follows is a summary of the themes and discussion results from each regional conference.

Potsdam, September 25, 2001
Syracuse, October 3, 2001
Buffalo, October 15, 2001
Binghamton, October 16, 2001
Albany, January 22, 2002
New York, April 24, 2002

Local hosts for the Potsdam, Buffalo, and Albany regional conferences opted to have work groups consider three themes:

- The role of community-based organizations and local government in the changing energy market;
- The changing relationship between low-income energy customers and their energy providers; and
- The way that resources for low-income households are changing due to the changing energy market and Welfare Reform.

Syracuse, October 3, 2001

Local hosts for this regional conference opted to have work groups consider three themes:

- What challenges do we face in talking to low-income consumers about energy “choice”?
- What is there about the low-income experience that must be kept in mind in order to effectively communicate to them regarding the new energy market?; and
- What do agency staffs need in order to be able to effectively inform their low-income clients about the energy marketplace?

Binghamton, October 16, 2001

Local hosts for this regional conference opted to have work groups consider two themes:

- Internal and External Community Influences that Affect Low-Income Customers in the Southern Tier; and
- Energy Education and Consumer Protection Issues.

New York, April 24, 2002

Local hosts for this regional conference opted to have work groups consider five questions:

- How have the changes in the energy market place in recent years directly affected you or the customers/clients you serve?
- What other factors have affected low-income households and communities in a way that interacts with the impact of changes in the energy markets?
- From your experience how fully have various government and utility sponsored programs addressed the issues identified above?
- What has your organization done on behalf of low-income households, buildings or communities that best address the issues raised by changes in the energy market place?
- What recommendations do you have that will enhance change or add to any government or utility programs or regs that affect low-income households, buildings or communities?

The summaries for each regional conference identify issues, which emerged that were unique to that regional

conference. Many issues emerged at one or more of the regional conferences. Here is a summary of those issues (not in order of priority):

The need for safe, affordable and energy efficient housing is a statewide issue.

The best approaches to addressing a low-income household's energy burden are those which involve the family and build on their strengths.

Adequate transportation impacts a household's ability to be an effective energy customer because it impacts where they can live, and whether or not they can work.

Budget counseling services can be effective, but are often not as available as they need to be. Credit counseling is also important-some households try to deal with utility shut-off and arrears situations by changing accounts to their children's name which creates a credit problem for the child.

Customer choice is still a confusing and fuzzy thing. In many parts of the state, residential customers do not have real choices. Where they do exist, they are hard to compare.

Affordable health care and preventive health care will have a positive impact on a household's ability to manage its energy burden and will reduce the number of "heat or eat" choices that low-income households face.

The living wage is important. Many households have one or more working members but their hourly wage is so low that that they cannot meet their obligations as energy customers.

There is concern for what will happen to households which transition from TANF to Safety Net as a result of Welfare Reform Time Limits

There is concern for what will happen to the working poor in the economic downturn and how this will impact their ability to be effective energy customers.

Central intake and one-stop shop approaches are essential in helping low-income households navigate "the system". They are more important than ever and could provide an important opportunity to link energy education and services. Hours for resource program intake should be flexible to address the needs of working poor.

Energy education is extremely important and isn't happening at the level that it needs to. Education should include the state, utilities, CBOs and families. It should reflect the differing needs of seniors, families, and others. It should include teaching people how to shop for energy because most residential customers don't know how to do this well. It should also include energy use management.

Aggregation could provide an important model for addressing the cost of the energy that low-income households purchase, but aggregation initiatives are not as readily available as they need to be.

The Weatherization network is an important resource, but is stretched to the limit in many communities. Many have extensive waiting lists. As a result, it has been difficult for other market players to partner with local weatherization agencies on behalf of low-income customers. There is confusion concerning the measures that they can undertake, when families can access the program and what the resource level is.

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There is currently no effective way for low-income consumers to compare their options. There should be a mechanism to do this statewide. Contract language for

new market opportunities should be written in plain language that a low-income customer can understand.

Utility low-income programs can be helpful for many families, but are limited (generally) to those who have arrears. As a result, households that are making regular "heat or eat" decisions may not be able to get help that they desperately need.

Telemarketing and door-to-door sales are a relatively new technique for energy sales. Customers are not used to buying energy this way and a lot of misleading information is being provided. Telemarketers are not generally in the business of educating customers.

Residents of public housing often fall through the cracks. Most do not qualify for full HEAP benefits because they are renters yet may have air conditioning bills that are \$300-400 per month.

Educational materials need to be available in multiple languages.

Time of use rates should be more available for residential customers.

Customers should be able to get help before they get a disconnect notice.

Client support should be more proactive and preventive.

There should be energy standards for all public and supported housing.

There should be more programs and resources for master-metered buildings. Is submetering really the only option?

Energy bills are hard to read. It is unclear who the "average" customer is. Local utility offices were easier to work with.

Utility costs should be factored into new mortgages. Greater attention should be paid to predatory lending and efforts by predatory lenders to target low-income neighborhoods.

Language and cultural barriers make it difficult for many low-income households to ask for help or receive it. Even though language lines exist at most utilities, customers may be reluctant to call them if they don't speak English.

Siting of new generation should not be clustered in low-income neighborhoods and when siting occurs in these neighborhoods, air quality should be monitored carefully.

Can renewables be a viable option for low-income neighborhoods?

When people can't afford their electric bill, they sometimes turn to other sources of energy which can be dangerous-fires can result.

How can we be sure that the maintenance of transmission and distribution infrastructure is occurring in low-income communities?

Energy efficient appliances need to be available in low-income communities and often are not.

The Public Service Commission needs to have clear authority to monitor the changing energy markets and their impact on low-income customers.

There should be greater participation by low-income advocates in ratemaking, siting, and other PSC proceedings.

Consider a cartoon series on energy efficiency.

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Price volatility is a concern with all fuels and should be addressed.

Consider regional income guidelines for Weatherization.

Energy Services Companies and utilities should recognize that external factors like September 11 impact the ability of customers to pay their bills.

HEAP is an important resource, but there is significant concern statewide about limits on when a household can access emergency HEAP. Because a shut-off notice is required, those who make the “heat or eat” trade off and pay their utility bill at the expense of other things cannot receive this assistance.

There is concern about the impact of opening the HEAP season early. Will more households run into trouble at the end of the heating season?

Many HEAP offices have downsized as part of Welfare Reform. At the same time, many are serving a significant population of first-time applicants who require more time and money to serve. This should be recognized.

There may need to be more attention given to resources for renters.

There should be stronger codes enforcement to encourage landlords to improve the quality of their housing.

Greater energy efficiency should be encouraged-especially for subsidized housing where there is a clear public investment already.

Interagency collaboration is important, but it is often difficult to do well. Defining success in these collaborations is not always easy. Differences in regulatory and reporting requirements, competition for resources, territorial issues, agency culture and operations and existing

workloads often create barriers to networking well.

ESCOs should have a clear role in serving low-income people and should be encouraged to do so.

What role can technology play in helping low-income households to use energy more effectively or participate more effectively in the changing market?

There are many low-income households who do not qualify for the existing resources because they are over income, miss another program requirement, or approach their energy bills in a way that does not create a crisis. Their needs and the resource gap they face should be addressed.

The capacity of Community-Based Organizations and Family Workers to link low-income households with services should be developed. Many lack information, face significant staff turnover, and are so overloaded, that it is hard to work energy information into their existing workload. They should be provided with resources to overcome those barriers.

Home Energy Fair Practices Act (HEFPA) is currently an important part of New York’s consumer protections for low-income customers. It is important that consumer protection remains strong and all energy market players have an obligation to treat low-income customers in a fair and respectful manner.

Energy efficiency is important for low-income households, but it is also important for the not-for-profit organizations that work with them in the community. Many have office space that is expensive to heat and this impacts the resources that they have to serve low-income families.

Attendance at the LIFE 2001-2002 Regional Conferences

The following organizations registered for one or more of the LIFE Regional Conferences.

167th St. HFDC
1st Rochdale Cooperative
AARP
Adult Protective Services, Financial Management Unit
Agway Energy Products
AIDS Community Resources
Albany Co. Cooperative Extension
Albany Co. Dept. of Social Services- Menands Outreach
Albany County Dept. of Social Services
Albany County Opportunity
Alliance for Community Services, Inc.
Alpert & Alpert
American Red Cross
American Red Cross in the Finger Lakes
American Red Cross of Cortland County
ANR, Inc.
Assembly Committee on Social Services
Assembly Energy Committee
Association for Energy Affordability
Astor Early Childhood Program
Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.
BOEDC
Boro Park Jewish Community Council
Bronx Adult Protective Services
Bronx Parent Housing Network
Bronx Shepherds Restoration Corp.
Broome County Office for Aging
Business & Energy Services
Canton Housing Authority
Catholic Charities
Catholic Charities of Livingston County
Catholic Charities, Samaritan Center
Central Hudson
Cerebral Palsy of the North Country
Chautauqua County Office for Aging
Christopher Community
Clinton County Dept. of Social Services
Clinton County Office for Aging
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services
ComLinks
Community Action for Madison County
Community Board #10
Community Development Corp of Long Island
Community Energy Services
Community Environmental Center
Community Power Network of NYS
Consolidated Edison
Cooperative Development Institute
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County
Cortland County Area Agency on Aging
Couch White LLP
CYEC
Delaware County Planning Dept.
Dutchess County Community Action Agency
Energy Plus Co-op
Erie County Dept. of Social Services
Franklin Co. Dept. of Social Services
Franklin County Office for Aging
Fulmont Community Action- Head Start
Genesee Co. Office for Aging
Glens Falls Independent Living Center
HANAC, Inc.
Harlem CDC
Harlem Consumer Education Council, Inc.
HEAL
HeartShare Human Services
Holy Cross Head Start
Housing Conservation Coordinators, Inc.
HPP Superintendents for the City of New York
HR&A
HRA Jamaica Job Center
Institute for P.R. Hispanic Elderly

Jewish Community Council of the
Rockaways
JOBSplus!
Keyspan Energy Delivery
Lewis Co. Office for Aging
Lewis County Opportunities
Livingston County Dept. of Social
Services
Long Island City Business Development
Corp.
Long Island Power Authority
Madison County Dept. of Social Services
Margert Community Corporation
Mercy Advocacy Program
Mohawk Valley Senior Resource Center
National Fuel Gas
Neighborhood Housing Services of S.
Buffalo, Inc.
New York City Council
New York City Economic Development
Corp.
New York City Housing Authority
Niagara Co. Dept. of Social Services
Niagara Co. Dept. of Social Services
Niagara Frontier Center for Independent
Living
Niagara Mohawk
North Country Legal Services
Northern Manhattan Improvement
Northern Regional Center for
Independent Living
Northfield Community LDC
NYC Partnership and Chamber of
Commerce
NYS Assembly
NYS Assembly, Assemblyman William B.
Magnarelli
NYS Community Action Association
NYS Weatherization Directors
NYS Consumer Protection Board
NYS Dept. of Public Service
NYS DHCR-Energy Services Bureau
NYS Div. of the Budget
NYS Office for Aging
NYS Rural Development Council
NYSEG
NYSERDA
OCM BOCES
Office of Assemblymember Gianaris
Office of Community Affairs, HRA

Office of Sen. John R. Kuhl, Jr.
Office of the Hon. Charles Schumer, US
Senate
One Work Source
Opportunities for Broome, Inc.
Opportunities for Broome, Inc.
Orange and Rockland
Orleans Community Action
Oswego Co. Dept. of Social Services
Oswego County Catholic Charities
Oswego County Head Start
PEACE, Inc.
People United For Children
Public Utility Law Project
RBSCC, Inc.
Rebuild Buffalo/Niagara
RECAP, Inc.
RLS Career Center
Rochester Gas and Electric
Rural Preservation Company of Clinton
Co.
Saratoga County Economic Opportunity
Council
Schenectady Community Action
Program
Schenectady Inner City Ministry
Schoharie County Community Action
Program
SCOIL
Sen. Mary Lou Rath
Seneca County Dept. of Human Services
Senior Services HEAP
St. Lawrence County Housing Council
St. Lawrence County Office for Aging
St. Lawrence County Planning Office
St. Lawrence Gas
Statewide Senior Action Council
Steuben County Rural Ministry
Suffolk County Office for the Aging
Sullivan Co. Cornell Cooperative
Extension
Sullivan Co. Cornell Cooperative
Extension
Sunnyside Foundation
Syracuse United Neighbors
Tioga Aging Services
Tioga County Rural Ministry
Tioga County Social Services
Tompkins County Chapter, American
Red Cross

Town of Aurora
Town of Massena Electric Department
Town of Stockholm
United Way of Broome County
United Way of Central New York
United Way of Long Island
United Way/Helpline
University at Buffalo
Verizon

Village of Hamburg
Washington County Cooperative
Extension
Westchester Community Opportunity
Program, Inc.
Westchester County DSS-HEAP
Westcott Community Center

LIFE 2002 Statewide Conference

The LIFE Steering Committee is pleased to announce that a Low-Income Forum on Energy statewide conference will be held in 2002. The conference will occur on November 7 and 8 at the Albany Marriott Hotel in Albany.

The agenda for this year's statewide conference will feature sessions based in large part on the feedback received through the regional meetings.

Save the date cards will be sent out this spring to everyone on the LIFE mailing list. Brochures for the conference will be mailed in late summer. Information about the conference will also be posted on-line at <http://www.ASKPSC.com> and [http://www.GetEnergy\\$mart.com](http://www.GetEnergy$mart.com).

If you're not on the mailing list or would like information about becoming an exhibitor, contact:

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LIFE Steering Committee

The LIFE dialogue is guided by a Steering Committee which includes representatives from state agencies, utilities, low-income advocates and others.

The Steering Committee is working on a strategic plan which will guide the development of LIFE over the next two years. Among the items it will include:

- Development of a LIFE Web Site to provide information on low-income energy issues;
- Strengthening understanding about the changing energy needs of low-income New Yorkers; and
- Continued growth of statewide and regional events which bring together those committed to addressing the energy needs of low-income New Yorkers.

Membership on the LIFE Steering Committee is voluntary. The Committee meets 4-6 times per year. If your organization is interested in being represented on the LIFE Steering Committee, contact the Chairman, Michael Corso at 518/474-4686 or Michael_Corso@dps.state.ny.us.

The Steering Committee currently includes:

Michael Corso, NYS Dept. of Public Service (Chairman)
Peggie Neville, NYSERDA
Jack Ziegler, Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
Charles Brennan, Public Utility Law Project
Marshall Suess, NYS Office for Aging
Pat Boynton, NYSEG
NYS Consumer Protection Board
Toni Tesu, Consolidated Edison of NY
Ben Wiles, Public Utility Law Project
Jon Gruchala, National Fuel Gas
Charles Giambalvo, NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance

David Hepinstall, Association for Energy Affordability
Barbara Washington, KeySpan
Bobby Ellis, Rochester Gas and Electric
Michael Gorman, NYS Div. of Housing & Community Renewal
Pat Sweeney, NYS Div. of Housing & Community Renewal
Maureen Lashlee, Dutchess County Community Action

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