



LIFE

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

LIFE 2001-2002 Regional Conferences

Conference Report: New York

The LIFE 2001-2002 Regional Conference for the New York City area was held on April 24, 2002 at the Consolidated Edison Learning Center in Long Island City. One hundred and twelve representatives from sixty-one organizations attended. LIFE was hosted locally by the Association for Energy Affordability, Consolidated Edison of New York, Inc. and KeySpan Energy Delivery.

The conference convened with a welcome by the Public Service Commission and Consolidated Edison and opening remarks by the Chairperson and Executive Director of the NYS Consumer Protection Board. An overview of statewide energy information was presented by a representative of the Public Service Commission.

The regional meeting agenda included two panels. The first, addressing utility programs in the region, included presentations by representatives of Consolidated Edison, KeySpan and Orange and Rockland. The second, addressing government programs for low-income households, included presentations by representatives of NYSERDA, the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal's Weatherization Assistance Program and New York City Human Resource Administration. The regional panel was followed by a presentation from New York City's Energy Policy Coordinator.

Work Group Findings

Representatives from the local host committee (Consolidated Edison, KeySpan Energy Delivery and Association for Energy Affordability) acted as facilitators, note takers and flip chart staff for five work groups. Each group considered five questions:

1. How have the changes in the energy marketplace in recent years directly affected you or the customers/clients you serve?
2. What other factors have affected low-income households?
3. From your experience how fully have various government and utility sponsored programs addressed the issues identified above?
4. What have your organizations done on behalf of low-income households, buildings or communities?
5. What recommendations do you have that will enhance change or add to any government or utility programs or regulations that affect low-income households, buildings or communities?

The work group discussions at this regional conference identified several issues that have become common themes at LIFE conferences: the need for consumer education, impact of increasing energy costs, and challenges in accessing resource programs. The New York Regional also revealed several unique issues:

- The important role that energy plays in housing affordability
- Submetering of multi-family buildings and the challenge that it creates in educating customers and helping them to afford their energy bill
- The role of trust in utility/ESCO/CBO/customer relationships
- The importance of communication with the customer, within CBOS, utilities and ESCOs

- The potential for making renewable energy available to low-income communities
- The impact that siting new generation can have on low-income communities

Conference Evaluation Results

Each conferee was asked to complete a conference evaluation. Forty-three of the one hundred and twelve participants completed the evaluation. The raw averages for the numerically scaled questions follow.

1. How well did the Regional Meeting meet your expectations? *New York response 4.16 .*

1	2	3	4	5
Didn't Meet		Met		Exceeded

2. Please rate the quality of the speakers overall. *New York response 4.23.*

1	2	3	4	5
Poor		Good		Excellent

Did any speaker stand out for you? Please comment.

3. Please rate the quality of the other aspects of LIFE.

	Poor				Excellent	New York
Materials	1	2	3	4	5	3.93
Conference Facilities	1	2	3	4	5	4.67
Food	1	2	3	4	5	4.47
Parking	1	2	3	4	5	3.23
Conference Staff	1	2	3	4	5	4.42

Attendance By Sector

Representation by sector was as follows:

Sector	Number Attending	Percent of Total
Utility	21	18.75%
State Government	15	13.39%
Local Government	13	11.61%
Community Action/Weatherization	29	25.89%
Community-Based Organizations	23	20.54%
ESCO	1	.89%
Other	9	8.04%
Legislature	1	.89%

Attendance Summary

One hundred and twelve representatives of sixty-one organizations attended the New York Regional Conference. Organizations represented included:

167th St. HFDC	NYSERDA
1st Rochdale Cooperative	Office of Assemblymember Gianaris
Adult Protective Services, Financial Management Unit	Office of Community Affairs, HRA
Alliance for Community Services, Inc.	Orange and Rockland
Association for Energy Affordability	People United For Children
Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.	Public Utility Law Project
BOEDC	RBSCC, Inc.
Boro Park Jewish Community Council	RECAP, Inc.
Bronx Adult Protective Services	Suffolk County Office for the Aging
Bronx Shepherds Restoration Corp.	Sunnyside Foundation
Catholic Charities	United Way of Long Island
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services	Verizon
Community Board #10	Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc.
Community Development Corp of Long Island	Westchester County DSS-HEAP
Community Environmental Center	
Community Power Network of NYS	
Consolidated Edison	
CYEC	
HANAC, Inc.	
Harlem CDC	
Harlem CDC	
Harlem Consumer Education Council, Inc.	
HEAL	
HeartShare Human Services	
Housing Conservation Coordinators, Inc.	
HPP Superintendents for the City of New York	
HR&A	
HRA Jamaica Job Center	
Human Resources Administration	
Institute for P.R. Hispanic Elderly	
Jewish Community Council of the Rockaways	
KeySpan Energy /LIPA	
Long Island City Business Development Corp.	
Long Island Power Authority	
Margert Community Corporation	
Mercy Advocacy Program	
Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island	
New York City Council	
New York City Economic Development Corp.	
New York City Housing Authority	
New York University	
Northern Manhattan Improvement	
Northfield Community LDC	
NYS Consumer Protection Board	
NYS Dept. of Public Service	
NYS DHCR-Energy Services Bureau	
NYS Div. of the Budget	