

## Thank You to the Capital District Regional Meeting Leaders

The LIFE Steering Committee would like to recognize our Regional Meeting leaders for their time and expertise in the development of the agenda for this meeting. Their commitment to the LIFE mission and the support from the organizations that they represent on the LIFE Steering Committee is greatly appreciated. Thank you to:

- Gregg Collar, NYS Department of State, Division of Consumer Protection
- Eileen Griffin, NYS Office for the Aging
- Anne O'Connell, National Grid

Since the NYS Public Service Commission initiated LIFE in 1998, the LIFE Steering Committee has been an integral part of the growth and development of the program. The Steering Committee is comprised of the following organizations:

The Association for Energy Affordability, Inc.  
Cattaraugus County Community Action, Inc.  
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation  
Community Power Network of NYS, Inc.  
Consolidated Edison of NY, Inc.  
Long Island Power Authority (LIPA)  
National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation  
National Grid  
New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)  
New York State Department of Public Service (NYS DPS)  
New York State Department of State (NYS DOS)  
New York State Housing and Community Renewal (HCR)  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)  
New York State Office for the Aging (NYS OFA)  
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)  
New York State Weatherization Director's Association (NYSWDA)  
New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG)  
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R)  
Orange County United Way  
The Public Utility Law Project (PULP)  
Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E)

*As part of our on-going commitment to both environmental and fiscal responsibility, we will not be printing and distributing presentation handouts. Please support us in these efforts by going to [www.lifenews.org](http://www.lifenews.org) after to download copies of available presentations. Attendees will receive an email notification when the presentations become available.*

*\*The LIFE program may photograph, videotape, and/or audiotape attendees and materials at the functions of the meeting. The productions of such may be freely disseminated for the purposes including, but not limited to, future outreach, education and informational efforts.*

Mark your calendar for the 2012 LIFE Statewide Conference!

When: May 2012

Where: Albany Marriott Wolf Road, Albany NY

Details including dates and agenda will be forthcoming.

*LIFE is sponsored by the New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. For more information about LIFE, please visit our website at [www.lifenews.org](http://www.lifenews.org).*



**CAPITAL  
DISTRICT**

**May 13 , 2011**

**Malta  
New York**

**LOW-INCOME FORUM ON ENERGY  
2011 REGIONAL MEETING SERIES**

**AGENDA**

**TEC-SMART FACILITY  
345 HERMES ROAD  
MALTA, NY 12020**



## Welcome

On behalf of the LIFE Steering Committee, welcome to today's LIFE Regional Meeting, one of six taking place around the State. This year's theme, This is your LIFE, reflects our goal of providing community leaders and service providers with useful, timely information to assist the growing number of low income consumers struggling to make ends meet in these economically challenging times. Today's program will supply valuable resources on energy efficiency assistance programs, energy affordability, and highlight some regional best practices. We have also set aside time for networking and to learn from each other. By the end of the day, we hope you'll leave feeling more knowledgeable, connected and energized.

**Len Silverstein**  
LIFE Chairman

### 8:30 – 9:30 AM

**Registration, Networking, & Tour of TEC-SMART Facility (8:45 AM)**

### 9:30 – 9:45 AM

#### Welcome & Introductions

*Welcome:* Len Silverstein, NYS Dept. of Public Service & LIFE Chairman

*Opening Remarks:* Francis J. Murray, Jr. President & CEO, NYS Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA)

*Remarks:* Michael Corso, Managing Director New York State Department of Public Service

### 9:45 – 10:15 AM

**Session 1: Energy Affordability in the Capital District**

This presentation will explore the various demographic and economic factors that impact energy affordability within the Capital District.

*Speaker:* Christopher Coll, NYSERDA

### 10:15 – 10:30 AM

#### Organized Networking

### 10:30 – 11:00 AM

**Session 2: What is an Energy Audit?**

An energy audit is the first step in determining the energy savings potential of a house. This presentation will provide you with a hands-on look at the procedures and diagnostic tools used in an energy audit.

*Speaker:* Matt Redmond, NYS Weatherization Directors' Association (NYSWDA)

### 11:00 – 11:40 AM

**Session 3: Going Green without Spending Green**

You don't have to purchase new appliances or pay for energy efficiency upgrades in your home to reduce your energy costs. This presentation will provide you with information on low cost or no cost energy savings actions that you and your clients can implement to save energy and money.

*Speaker:* Maria DeLucia-Evans, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County

### 11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

**Session 4: Green Jobs – Green New York**

The Green Jobs - Green New York (GJGNY) Program provides New Yorkers with access to free or reduced-cost energy audits, installation services, low-cost financing, and pathways to training for various green-collar careers. GJGNY financing options include the use of alternatives to credit scores to expand credit opportunities for households that do not qualify

for traditional lending products, enabling more households to make energy efficiency upgrades.

*Speaker:* Bryan Henderson, NYSERDA

### 12:00 – 12:45 PM

#### Lunch/Networking

### 12:45 – 1:15 PM

**Session 5: The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) & WorkPays New York**

The Earned Income Tax Credit is the largest anti-poverty program in the country, larger than food stamps and larger than TANF. The IRS estimates that 20-25% of eligible families in New York do not claim the credit. This translates to over 300,000 households in New York alone. This presentation will provide an overview of the EITC, as well as other work supports programs designed to increase the income of working families as they struggle to make ends meet.

*Speaker:* Mark Schaeffer, NYS OTDA

### 1:15 – 1:30 PM

**Session 6: An Update on the Weatherization Assistance Program**

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment act allocated record level of funding to the Weatherization Assistance Program. This presentation will provide you with an update on the progress that has been made in the program.

*Speaker:* Tom Platten, NYS Housing and Community Renewal (NYS HCR)

### 1:30 – 2:15 PM

**Session 7: Breaking Down the Barriers: Community Based Energy Advocacy**

How do you educate clients about available benefits and get them to apply for assistance when faced with barriers such as bureaucracy and stigma? How do you get clients all of the services that they are eligible for without going through the red tape? This session will discuss how front line workers can overcome the challenges and barriers to assisting low income and senior clients. Many find that clients are reluctant to receive help, or are overwhelmed with forms and follow-up. This community team has success to share

about how they collaborate to assist clients to become more self sufficient and able to manage their energy costs.

#### Moderators:

Eileen Griffin, NYS Office for the Aging  
Anne O'Connell, National Grid

#### Speakers:

Lou Manuta, Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.  
Cheryl Gardiner, Schenectady Co. Dept. of Senior & LTC Services  
Michelle Armstrong, Visiting Nurses Homecare  
Chris Cutting, Visiting Nurses Homecare

### 2:15 – 2:30 PM

#### Networking Break

### 2:30 – 3:15 PM

**Session 8: Energy Services for Renters**

This presentation will offer attendees the opportunity to discuss strategies for providing energy services to renters in need.

*Speakers:* David Friello, NYSERDA  
Sandy LeVan, United Tenants of Albany

### 3:15 – 4:00 PM

**Session 9: This is Your LIFE**

While LIFE serves as a forum for discussing energy issues, your colleagues within your community can often provide the most valuable advice. Whether you are an experienced caseworker or a new advocate, take this opportunity to brainstorm and learn from each other.

### 4:00 PM

**Wrap Up & Closing Remarks Evaluation and Raffle**

The evaluation form is the most critical tool in developing the type of event that is most beneficial to you. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation form at the end of the day. When you turn in your evaluation, you will be given a ticket for the raffle drawing, which will occur at the end of the day.