



Department
of Public Service

NYSERDA

NY Power
Authority

Department of
Environmental
Conservation



TO: Clean Energy Industry Businesses and Employees
FROM: New York State Energy and Environment Agencies
DATE: April 1, 2020
SUBJECT: Supporting the Clean Energy Industry Through the COVID-19 Response

Dear Members of the Clean Energy Industry:

On behalf of our respective agencies and staff, we want to convey a message of support and compassion during these challenging times. We are committed to doing everything in our collective power and authority to provide you with assistance and relief in the weeks and months ahead. As we all know, these are extraordinarily difficult days, and supporting Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's COVID-19 response and protecting the well-being of New Yorkers is our top priority. We also know energy, climate, and economic development objectives remain core to our respective missions and cannot be ignored. Establishing and maintaining stability in these critical areas will be key for recovery after this crisis subsides. These goals and approach will help ensure New York remains positioned to meet Governor Cuomo's nation-leading climate commitments.

New York's clean energy industry is robust – almost 160,000 strong as of 2018 – but we know the public health and economic crises brought about by the novel coronavirus pandemic will bring serious challenges to every sector of our clean energy economy – energy efficiency, solar, land-based wind, offshore wind, heat pumps, energy storage, electric vehicles and clean transportation, cleantech startups, grid modernization and everything in between. This is especially true given the current social distancing protocols in place, which – while critical for public health – have an acute impact on the construction sector, which encompasses the majority of clean energy jobs statewide. To meet and exceed the commitments New York has adopted as part of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), the state needs you to endure through the current crisis and grow and thrive in the years ahead.

In addressing the current uncertainty, we want to make sure first and foremost we have an opportunity to hear from you. We want to provide you with a forum to describe existing and emerging roadblocks and threats to your businesses, and the opportunity to put forward creative ideas and solutions for your sector in collaboration with our agencies. To achieve this necessary goal, our agencies will jointly launch a coordinated effort to engage with you over the coming weeks and months to collect your input. This effort will take numerous forms with multiple opportunities for engagement, including sector-specific webinars, surveys for employers and employees, virtual public comment/listening sessions and other opportunities for feedback.

We have already begun these efforts. We recently held an Energy Efficiency and Heat Pump Focused Input Session hosted by the Department of Public Service (DPS) and NYSERDA on March 27. In addition to seeking input directly from you, as members of the clean energy industry, we will also invite and encourage input from industry-adjacent stakeholders such as environmental groups, labor groups, environmental justice advocates, investor-owned utilities, consumer advocates, non-governmental organizations, local communities, and many others. Furthermore, our agencies are actively monitoring similar steps being taken by neighboring states and peer agencies in the Northeast so as to promote regional alignment and collaboration wherever appropriate.

We will be shortly launching these engagement efforts across the following sectors:¹

- Energy efficiency and heat pumps
- Solar and energy storage
- Large-scale land-based renewables
- Offshore wind development and supplies
- Offshore wind ports
- Electric Vehicles & EV charging
- Innovation ecosystem support organizations (investors, incubators, accelerators)
- University, Brookhaven National Labs, and Private R&D
- Green/climate start-ups
- QA/QC service providers
- Program evaluation service providers
- NY Green Bank partners and network (renewable and energy efficiency project development)
- Demand Response
- Community Choice Aggregation

These unprecedented challenges require unprecedented thinking and adaptability as to how best we can aid you and support your critical industries in the months ahead. Our agencies remain open for business, with our staffs effectively functioning in a telecommuting manner. Please reach out to any of our respective agency staff with whom you are accustomed to working, as needed.

Thank you for all your hard work and contributions to the energy system and energy consumers in New York State. We look forward to continuing to partner together to sustain the progress we have helped build together over the last decade-plus, and to developing a shared roadmap for a resilient recovery in the Empire State. Excelsior.

¹ Please note that input from QA/QC service providers, program evaluation service providers, and other relevant entities will be welcomed as part of the engagement activities conducted for the respective subject-matter areas in the list above.

Sincerely,



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John B. Rhodes
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