

New York's Clean Energy Future



Working together to identify barriers and opportunities for historically overburdened and under-resourced communities

Introduction

New York State is creating a report that examines the barriers that historically overburdened and under-resourced communities face in receiving protection from air pollution and the impacts of climate change, and barriers in accessing clean electricity, energy efficient buildings, and cleaner transportation options, like electric cars and buses. The initial findings are shared here to receive early input in the development of the report to ensure it is responsive and reflects the needs all New Yorkers. We especially encourage those who live or work in historically overburdened and under-resourced communities to provide comments and input.

This report is required by New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act ([Climate Act](#)), which has ambitious goals and mandates for clean and affordable energy, keeping communities safe and healthy, preparing our homes and buildings for climate change, and creating family-sustaining jobs. Advancing New York's Climate Act and achieving its goals to reduce climate pollution will change how we generate and use electricity, heat and cool our homes, and travel to school and work.

The report is also investigating the opportunities communities have for ownership of and access to the services and resources that would realize these benefits. The Climate Act specifies five areas of services and resources to explore, as indicated in the table below.

Five Areas of Services and Resources				
Generating Renewable Energy	Updating and Weatherproofing	Zero- and Low-Emissions Transportation	Resilient Homes, Buildings, and Infrastructure	Reducing Health Risks
<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A solar array on the roof of single or multifamily buildings • Community solar subscriptions – third party owns array • Community-owned solar and/or energy storage – community-owned solar array 	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Window treatments, air sealing, and insulation for single and multifamily homes • Replacing gas boilers and other fossil-fuel heating with heat pumps (fact: heat pumps can provide air conditioning as well) • Using technologies such as low flow shower heads, LED bulbs, and replacing old refrigeration and laundry units with new efficient models 	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal electric vehicles • Electric buses and trains to replace current public transit • Electric trucks to replace medium- and heavy-duty diesel trucks • Communities designed for alternative transportation, such as biking and walking 	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting homes, buildings, and infrastructure from extreme heat and cold and flooding • Microgrids • Planting trees and other natural features to provide shade • Back-up generation and/or energy storage (i.e., batteries) in case of electricity outage • Landscaping to mitigate effects of flooding 	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters and cooling centers for extreme temperature days • Shelters for flooding events • Medical treatment for asthma and other conditions that are exacerbated by climate-related events

Initially Identified Barriers New York State agencies have developed an initial list of barriers based on other available reports, agency input, public input from previous agency proceedings, and existing academic, non-profit, and government literature. The following table lists these barriers to help illustrate the types of challenges that communities might face.

Four Categories of Barriers			
Physical Barriers	Financial and Economic Barriers	Knowledge, Perception, and Information Barriers	Programmatic Design and Implementation Barriers
Physical systems that prevent access to programs and solutions.	Not enough resources at the household, agency, organization, or municipal level to access available programs. These resources can include financial resources, time, and peoplepower.	Differences in information, priorities, or perceptions that prevents awareness of and access to programs and services. This includes historical patterns of interaction that have eroded trust.	Differences in information, priorities, or perceptions that prevents awareness of and access to programs and services. This includes historical patterns of interaction that have eroded trust.
<p>Examples of this type of barrier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old buildings in disrepair are expensive to upgrade and repair • Landlords do not invest in upgrades and repairs, and tenants have limited ability to improve property and accrue savings • Limited or outdated infrastructure in buildings and communities (e.g., bad drainage) that make withstanding severe weather events difficult 	<p>Examples of this type of barrier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wealth disparities, lack of bank accounts, and limited access to credit • Limited municipal budgets • Lack of time for planning to submit applications • Lack of time to find, plan, and manage projects • Workforce constraints – both for workers and for businesses 	<p>Examples of this type of barrier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and risk information not accessible or easy to understand • Jargon and technical language can be difficult to understand • Limited documented information about planning and infrastructure priorities for addressing severe weather vulnerabilities • Lack of trust in program/ service provider • Complex and negative interactions with state and private sector 	<p>Examples of this type of barrier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs require home ownership or new technology purchase • Program eligibility varies and is difficult to understand and navigate • Program scope and timeframe are too limited to address complex issues and widespread need • Lack of awareness of programs by individuals, communities, business owners, and landlords

We want to hear from you!

New York State agencies want to make sure everyone can participate in and benefit from the implementation of New York’s nation-leading Climate Act, and we are looking for input from community members, especially those living or working in communities that have been historically underserved and under-resourced. We are seeking feedback on the information provided in this fact sheet. This feedback is a critical component in the development of the report. Feedback can be provided at virtual public meetings or in writing – equal weight is given to oral and written statements.

Questions to consider

- What challenges do you (or your community) face in accessing or using programs or services related to the five areas listed above?
- What opportunities do you see to make it easier for you (or your community) to access or use programs or services related to the five areas listed above?
- What has your experience been with using clean energy (such as solar), living in a healthy environment, and receiving protection from climate change driven impacts such as storms and extreme temperatures? Was it easy or hard to access these benefits and why?
- What are your thoughts or experiences with actions that help overcome barriers to accessing services and resources in your community?

Public Meetings

When: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Phone: 1-518-549-0500

Access Code: 2335 830 3224

View Webex: [Join online](#)

Event Password: Nov3-530PM

When: Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

Phone: 1-518-549-0500

Access Code: 2330 982 8040

View Webex: [Join online](#)

Event Password: Nov4-12PM

Written comments submission

Written comments or feedback will be accepted until November 8, 2021. Comments can be submitted via an [online form](#), or mailed to Elizabeth Boulton, NYSERDA, 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, New York, 12203, or emailed to opportunities_report@nyserda.ny.gov. All of this information, including the online form, can be found at <https://climate.ny.gov/Events-and-Meetings>.

