

NEW YORK STATE
NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY (NYPA)
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INTERAGENCY TASKFORCE
DRAFT ACTION AGENDA

I. General Recommendations and Agency Actions

Recommendation 2: Continue Collaboration with the Environmental Justice Community

Action Agenda

- In the past, when large projects were undertaken by NYPA, it designated a portion of the NYPA.gov website to the project to provide up-to-date information to the public. Going forward, NYPA will continue to provide such information through use of the web as well as bilingual public notices, hearings and other outreach efforts to inform the public of the status of projects and opportunities for public participation in the process. NYPA will also designate an individual in the Community Relations group to serve as the primary liaison with the Environmental Justice Community. This individual will help facilitate information flow and work to bring important environmental justice Community issues to NYPA staff. See NYPA environmental justice Survey and NYPA Action Agenda for more details.

Recommendation 5: Develop Environmental Justice and Sustainability Provisions in Permitting

Action Agenda

- See NYPA environmental justice Survey regarding our on-going work to keep emissions low, improve our facilities, and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Recommendation 6: Give Priority to Environmental Justice Communities in Relevant RFP requirements, Scoring Systems for Funding, Assistance and Training Programs

Action Agenda

- NYPA currently offers contributions and sponsorships to specific types of community projects. Under the direction of the New York State Attorney General, NYPA recently revised the guidelines for the types of community projects which are eligible for funding. NYPA may provide contributions and sponsorships to not-for-profits and state and local governmental units for projects, programs and activities related to NYPA's statutory purpose and mission. In general and for illustrative purposes only, NYPA Support may be provided for projects, programs and activities in the following five major categories:
 1. Economic Development – to expand employment and investment in the state.
 2. Energy Services – to advance and promote the development and implementation of new energy technologies.
 3. Emergency Services – to assist rescue squads, hospitals, police and fire departments that benefit and support Authority Projects.

4. Non-Profit Organizations, Local and State Government – to sponsor programs or activities which further the Authority’s statutory purpose and mission.
 5. State Assistance – to those departments responsible for energy and environmental research.
- NYPA will work to incorporate criteria into the guidelines to give grant preference to projects and sponsorships in environmental justice communities near our facilities and will look for opportunities to promote the grant program in these communities.

Recommendation 9: Provide Environmental Justice Training for Agency Staff

Action Agenda

- NYPA will establish environmental justice training for our staff that is specifically tailored to NYPA’s unique legislative mandate. Please see our proposal in the NYPA Action Agenda for Specific Recommendations.

II. Draft Specific Recommendations and Agency Actions

Training/Education

Stakeholder Recommendation

- New York State agencies should develop environmental justice training curriculum and require that staff be trained. Training would involve a discussion of potential barriers affecting communication with community stakeholders, site visits and a discussion on how permitting decisions potentially impact environmental justice communities.
- Agencies should also consider developing a training checklist or template to guide agency policy-makers through the decision-making process for policies that may impact environmental justice communities. The checklist could pose questions or statements such as: 1) has consideration been given to the impact of this decision on the air quality; 2) has public access to meetings been provided; 3) have language barriers been addressed.
- NYS should hire and create more diversity in the state agency workforce.

Action Agenda

- NYPA proposes developing an environmental justice training and awareness program for employees who are working with the public and/or on large capital projects. Training would include the following NYPA departments: Project Development, Licensing & Compliance, Community Relations, Media Relations, Environmental Health & Safety and Legal. The curriculum will focus on the environmental justice communities near NYPA sites, issues that these communities face, and awareness of potential impacts of NYPA projects on environmental justice communities.
- NYPA is pursuing opportunities for improvement on diversity. NYPA is reviewing the demographics and diversity of its workforce. NYPA will take steps to address its organizational

structure and look for opportunities to ensure that it is more representative of the State of NY. To that end, NYPA will commit to hiring a diversity consultant to help the Authority address diversity issues related to hiring, retention, and training and will look for opportunities for improvement.

- To honor diversity within the organization, NYPA holds Diversity Training and an Annual Diversity Day for its employees. Diversity Training examines the ways that differences affect our interactions and shows how by accepting and understanding diversity, we can actually have a more effective workforce that takes maximum advantage of everyone's unique contributions. This course is offered twice per year to our employees at both our Upstate and Downstate facilities and offices. NYPA Annual Diversity Day is a program focused on celebrating the cultural diversity of all NYPA employees as well as the history and interests we have in common. NYPA will explore expansion of our Diversity Day events to our Upstate facilities so that more employees will have the opportunity to participate in these programs.
- To foster diversity with the organizations with which NYPA does business, NYPA has participated in the Supplier Diversity Program. Since 1983, NYPA has awarded approximately \$469 million in contracts to minority- and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs) and regularly does business with 60 to 70 M/WBEs through either direct business or subcontracting opportunities. NYPA has also held an Annual Purchasing Exchange where representatives of MWBEs discuss contract opportunities with some of the largest corporations and government agencies in the region. In addition to the 18 exchanges downstate, NYPA has hosted exchanges in several Upstate venues including Syracuse in 2006, Buffalo in 2003 and Utica, NY in 2002. NYPA plans to continue all of the above efforts going forward and will explore hosting another Purchasing Exchange event in Buffalo for later this year.

Public Participation and Communication

Stakeholder Recommendation

- NYS should establish effective community participation strategies that lead to response and action. This could be accomplished a number of different ways, including:
 1. Increase public outreach utilizing an early notification process (i.e., before agency review of an application) and during agency review of a permit application. Permit applicants should show evidence that the public has been notified throughout the permit review process. Additionally, applicants are required to involve all community stakeholders during permit review. It was suggested that the air permit process adopt the outreach method used in permitting hazardous waste facilities (NYCRR Part 373).
 2. Develop web-based mechanism to inform the public on the status of applications under review by NYS agencies.
 3. Discuss with agency staff, potential barriers affecting communication with community stakeholders.
 4. Develop agency procedures that detail how agencies will listen and respond to environmental justice community concerns.

5. Consider methods to increase agency representative interaction with community stakeholders.
 6. Create a format to increase public participation in county and local municipality decisions for environmental justice community actions.
- Each NYS Agency will designate an environmental justice person who will assist the public with information regarding environmental justice activities and achievements. Each Agency will strive to make environmental justice activities and proposals readily available for the public.

Action Agenda

- In the past, when large projects were undertaken by NYPA, the Power Authority has taken a number of steps to involve and communicate with the public during project development and implementation. If NYPA undertakes another self-build power project, it will work to involve and inform the community through some of the following efforts:
 - Designate a portion of the NYPA.gov website to the project to provide up-to-date information to the public and ways for the public to contact NYPA about the project.
 - Develop printed materials such as newsletters, fact sheets, brochures and running advertisements.
 - Hold public meetings and open houses to communicate information when a public hearing is not required.
 - Establish a hotline for phone calls seeking project information.
 - Assign a NYPA staff person as the “point person” with the community through whom all communications flow.
 - Meet with reporters and editorial boards of local media to discuss the project.
 - Submit op-ed pieces to local media.
 - Meet with elected officials and interested groups prior to a public announcement to seek their input for the project.
 - Distribute materials to local libraries for review by public.
- The goal of these efforts is to inform the public of the status of projects and opportunities for public participation in the process. Should a future project be built by another power supplier via a contract with NYPA, the Authority will work to ensure that all appropriate community outreach is conducted.
- NYPA has named Sobeida Cruz, Director of Public & Governmental Affairs, as the primary liaison with environmental justice communities. Ms. Cruz has worked for NYPA for 26 years and has developed a strong background on environmental justice issues. As NYPA’s environmental justice liaison, Ms. Cruz will work to address environmental justice community needs near NYPA’s facilities. With the help of NYPA community relations staff, she will monitor and coordinate community contributions in environmental justice communities, will help implement the NYPA environmental justice Action Plan and will keep NYPA staff informed of environmental justice community concerns and issues. She will also help develop a longer-term strategy for updating the current

environmental justice Action Plan and identifying new environmental justice initiatives going forward.

Air Quality

Stakeholder Recommendation

- Research should be conducted on new technologies that result in low pollutant emissions from the use of energy sources.

Action Agenda

- NYPA's recently approved \$21 million of funding over five years for renewable projects will, in part, help finance demonstration projects in clean energy technologies with low emissions. Several sites initially identified for large-scale solar PV demonstration projects include a brownfield site in Solvay, NY as well as a 1.1 MW ground mounted solar PV installation at the University of Buffalo. NYPA will also research large-scale energy storage technologies including large scale batteries and compressed air storage systems to improve wind integration and dispatch in New York. A project at the DEP Owls Head sewage treatment facility includes advanced metering equipment that will help the facility use renewable methane gas to supplement power taken from the grid, rather than dispatching dirty diesel fuel generators. These and similar projects will develop new uses of clean energy technologies.
- In November 2008, NYPA released a Request for Information for its plan to purchase 6 MW of solar PV power on behalf of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. NYPA plans to release a Request for Proposal in 2009 to secure a solar developer to install, own, and operate PV systems at MTA sites in New York City. NYPA would then purchase power from the developer for re-sale to the MTA through a power purchase agreement. NYPA hopes to partner with other city and state agencies on solar energy projects, including CUNY, DASNY, and OGS.
- NYPA recently hired Jenifer Becker as our Chief Sustainability Manager. She is charged with expanding efforts in the area of sustainability at NYPA headquarters and facilities. To that end, NYPA will develop a corporate sustainability plan that will incorporate the NYPA's environmental justice Action Agenda and will examine measures such as reducing water intake, increasing the efficiency of our power plants, and reducing our carbon footprint. Ms. Becker will work with Ms. Cruz to ensure that environmental justice communities have opportunities to provide input and suggestions to NYPA's on-going sustainability efforts.

Global Warming and Energy Strategies

Stakeholder Recommendation

- NYS should modernize the energy infrastructure to allow transmission of renewable source energy (e.g., energy derived from wind farms) from rural locations to urban areas.

- Create incentives to site clean energy in the New York metropolitan area. Develop programs that promote the creation of energy by small businesses and that would allow them to be small generators to a limited extent, in particular during peak electrical demand periods.

Action Agenda

- As more fully described in the NYPA Agency Survey, NYPA owns and operates 1/3rd (1,400 circuit miles) of New York State's high voltage bulk transmission. With 1,000 MW of wind generation expected to be integrated into the transmission system by the end of 2008 and an additional 7,000 MW of wind generation in the New York Independent System Operator queue, increased transmission capacity is needed. NYPA is exploring opportunities to develop New York's transmission system and utilize its resources and capabilities to advance renewable energy development in New York State. For instance, NYPA's Renewable Energy Plan includes assisting in research of the state transmission system expansion and upgrades needed to access new wind farms, including potential off-shore sites identified by the Great Lakes Wind Transmission Work Group. Diversifying our power supply sources to include more renewable energy will likely improve air quality and lessen the reliance on conventional power plants for electricity production. All of this benefits the state as a whole as well as communities near current or potential power plant sites.
- As more fully described in the NYPA Agency Survey, NYPA has installed on-site renewable projects throughout New York State. One project NYPA is looking to expand with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection is their fuel cells at their waste water treatment plants. These plants produce anaerobic digester gas (ADG), primarily made up of carbon and methane, which is a significant air pollutant and a major contributor to global warming since it traps 10 to 20 times more heat than carbon dioxide. Fuel cells utilize ADG to produce on-site power, which reduces air pollution and the load on the distribution system. One program NYPA will undertake involves upgrading the piping at the waste water treatment plants located in Oakwood Beach, Hunts Point, 26 Ward and Red Hook. By upgrading the piping, more ADG will be captured and air pollutants will be even further reduced at these sites. NYPA is also looking at other potential sites to install fuel cells, including ones at Newtown Creek.

Green Jobs and Green Infrastructure

Stakeholder Recommendation

- State agencies should establish criteria in their grant programs to promote construction of green infrastructure in low-income communities. The Department of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) grants include criteria to promote projects that include green buildings, energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality.

Action Agenda

- As more fully described in the NYPA Agency Survey, NYPA looks for every opportunity to work closely with our customers on energy efficiency and renewable projects. Investing in renewable and energy efficiency projects creates green jobs and incorporates green infrastructure in environmental justice communities. Current legislation limits the types of projects and groups eligible to participate in our energy efficiency programs. Private entities, outside of K-12 schools, cannot utilize NYPA's energy efficiency programs except through a limited fund called the

Petroleum Overcharge Restitution (POCR). Outside of Southeastern New York, public-sector entities are allowed to participate in electric-only programs with NYPA. Southeastern New York public-sector entities can participate in both electric and non-electric programs.

- NYPA plans to spend \$1.3 billion through 2015 for financing energy efficiency and clean energy projects. Eligibility for financing is limited to current NYPA customers, including NYC Government and schools. There is legislation proposed to expand NYPA's eligible services across the state as well as its customer base to facilities such as private hospitals, colleges and non-profits. If proposed legislation is passed, NYPA intends to market the financing to the new customers. Even without this authority, NYPA will continue to market the availability of its financing to eligible customers. Specific near-term projects with environmental justice community impacts that NYPA intends to help implement (with or without legislation) are below:
 - New York City Housing Authority – Compact Fluorescent Project
 - New York City Housing Authority – Instantaneous Hot Water Heaters
 - New York City Housing Authority – Replacement of boilers at Castle Hill Houses, Bronx
 - City of New York – Various efficiency projects including schools, homeless shelters, etc.
 - CUNY – System wide energy efficiency upgrades
 - DEP – Waste Water treatment plant ADG capture and reuse
 - Williamsville and Massena School Districts – Various energy efficiency measures throughout districts
 - SUNY Buffalo – Energy efficient chillers, dormitory room heat control, improved heating systems.
 - SUNY Plattsburgh – Improved energy control systems
 - Hybrid Electric Shuttle Bus in Harlem
 - Hybrid Electric Shuttle Bus in White Plains
 - Plug-in Electric Hybrid School Bus Project in Schenectady
 - Hybrid Electric Shuttle Bus in Sunset Park, Brooklyn
- As described in the Air Quality Action Agenda above, NYPA is investing \$21 million over five years in renewable projects throughout the state. This funding is designated for solar PV, wind and ADG projects, and NYPA will look for opportunities to develop green jobs and green infrastructure in environmental justice communities.