

New York's Energy Transition & Workforce Development Summary of Comments - September 19th, 2023

On September 19th, 2023, OurEnergyPolicy hosted a live discussion about New York's progress in the energy transition and workforce development. Find the audio recording [here](#).

SPEAKERS



Marcia Bystryn
Former President
New York League of
Conservation Voters
Moderator



Kelly Speakes-Backman
EVP, Public Affairs
Invenergy



Georges Sassine
VP, Large-Scale
Renewables
NYSERDA



Gary LaBarbera
President
Building & Construction
Trades Council

OurEnergyPolicy is a non-partisan organization. The following represents a summary of comments from the panelists.

Issue Scope

- New York (NY) state's energy portfolio is currently at 27% from renewables.
 - The goal is to get to 70% by 2030.
- 92% of energy usage in upstate NY comes from zero-emissions sources. In New York City, only 8% comes from zero-emissions sources.
 - Transmission lines are needed to transport clean energy downstate.
- Recent NY state legislation expands authority for the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to develop, own, and operate renewable energy generation projects.
- Training infrastructure and opportunities to support workers being displaced by the energy transition is crucial for a just clean energy transition.

New York's Energy Transition & Workforce Development

Summary of Comments - September 2023

Clean Path NY and the New York Power Authority (NYPA)

- Clean Path NY is partnering with energyRe and NYPA on the largest investment by NY state in the last 50 years in clean energy infrastructure.
- NY state enlisted NYPA to expand NY's clean energy goals in 4 different areas:
 1. Renewable Energy Access and Community Health (REACH) program: Subsidizing low-income energy consumption through renewable energy production.
 2. Ending fossil fuel electricity generation in small natural gas power plants by 2030.
 3. Contributing \$25 million annually to the NY Department of Labor for renewable energy workforce development programming.
 4. Decarbonization Leadership Program: Developing a decarbonization action plan for 15 state entities.
- Future New York transmission projects will connect renewable energy sources from upstate New York, Canada, and offshore wind to NYC.
- Over the next 2 years, NYPA will spend over \$1 billion on transmission projects.
- NY state allocated \$500 million towards the offshore wind supply chain in NY.
- Clean Path NY will invest \$270 million towards community engagement.
- Clean Path NY will create 8,300 jobs in New York.

Workforce Development for New York's Energy Transition

- Clean energy infrastructure project workers will come from both the existing workforce and from the workforce development programs.
- The NY Climate Act mandates that 35%-40% of clean energy projects need to benefit disadvantaged communities.
 - Workforce Goal #1: To recruit from marginalized communities where 15% or more of the population are below the federal poverty line.
 - 60% of NYC communities qualify as disadvantaged communities.
 - Workforce Goal #2: To develop the workforce in communities that are the most impacted by climate change.
- Builder's trades have 1,500 apprentice programs nationally and spend \$2 billion annually in training.
- To support a strong workforce, the renewable energy economy must support strong union jobs.