

## NY State Energy Plans for 2024 Summary of Comments - January 31st, 2024

On January 31st, 2024, OurEnergyPolicy hosted a one-on-one discussion with John O’Leary on the priorities, goals, and challenges for NY state’s energy plan in the coming year. Find the audio recording [here](#).

### SPEAKERS



**John O’Leary**  
Deputy Secretary,  
Energy  
Office of Governor  
Kathy Hochul



**Frances Resheske**  
Board Director  
Our Energy Policy

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

#### Key Takeaways

- The office of New York State’s Governor Kathy Hochul is busy at work with a new set of initiatives, legislative proposals and programs that advance the objectives of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (NY Climate Act) and foster a clean energy transition throughout the state of New York.
- According to John O’Leary, Governor Hochul’s office has five main energy priorities for 2024:
  - 1) Decarbonization
  - 2) Energy Affordability
  - 3) Reliability of our Energy Systems
  - 4) Ensuring the Economic Benefits Coinciding with the Energy Transition
  - 5) Environmental Justice

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### The State of NY State's Energy Market and Goals

- The NY Climate Act created an ambitious set of mandates for the improvement of NY State's public health and reduce its contribution to climate change.
  - These mandates include 40% emissions reduction by 2030.
- To meet decarbonization goals requires electrification.
  - Without a creative grid strategy, the electrification process could lead to an overbuilt power grid with low capacity utilization for peak demand in the summer and winter
- For renewable projects to be built, they need: the long term financeable offtake; the permitting process to be effective and efficient; and an interconnection and transmission system that delivers renewable energy to where demand is highest.
- The NY Clean Energy Standard launched in 2016. Subsequently, NYSERDA conducted large scale renewable energy procurements. However, the permitting process was not designed to ramp up with this increase in procurements. The Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) was created in 2020 to address this deficiency.

### NY State Energy Initiatives

- NY State recently passed and proposed government reforms and initiatives determined to accelerate progress towards the mandates of the New York Climate Act while avoiding decreases in energy affordability and reliability.
- The RAPID Act aims to accelerate and reform the transmission permitting process.
- The NY "Grid of the Future" study aims to analyze all that was learned from the past decade in the progress towards more renewable energy adoption. This study will be used to assist in the accommodation of more renewable energy expansion and better demand-side grid management.
- The Affordable Gas Transition Act aims to address how to absorb electrification efforts into the power system. It empowers the Department of Public Service (DPS) and Public Service Commission (PSC) to direct utilities in the management of the transition to clean energy sources with strategies such as managed EV charging at scale.
- The PSC Energy Affordability program aims to keep the energy burden (the amount of income New Yorkers dedicate to utility bills) from exceeding 6%.