Please be sure to check out the Events and Career Opportunities section below and here on our website. Several interesting new webinars coming up!

**U.S. Senate Rejects Ban on Gas Bans** – The Senate “…rejected an amendment from Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) on a 45-48 vote that would have prohibited funding for local building code updates that phase out natural gas heating and appliances. It’s an issue that stems from local bans on natural gas around the country — widely opposed by the GOP and industry — in an effort to electrify buildings and address climate change. See full article here from E&E News. Thank you to Caleb Heeringa from the Sierra Club for this tip.

![Image](image-url)

**Fossil Fuel Heated Homes Blowing Up** – In the past 2 weeks 2 fossil fuel heated homes have blown up in Lackawanna, just South of Buffalo and near Old Forge in the Adirondacks. Central NY News has a 1 minute video of the Old Forge explosion and reports “No one was home at the time of the explosion, but two landscapers working in a neighboring home sustained minor injuries, police said. Although it’s unclear exactly what caused the explosion, police said they think propane was involved.” In the Lackawanna incident, 92 year old Irene Sanok was killed and National Fuel Gas, the local utility, “found nothing unusual or any evidence of system malfunction or leaking natural gas” in its examination of “the main line and service line”. The service line is the pipe running from the main to a customer’s meter. National Fuel’s quote doesn’t address gas leaks that may have been internal to the house.
Schumer Opposes Brooklyn Pipeline - Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has joined the grassroots fight against a proposed natural gas pipeline slated to run through several Brooklyn neighborhoods. Schumer, a Brooklyn native, voiced his opposition to the North Brooklyn Pipeline on Aug. 6, saying that the project would be harmful to vulnerable populations, and that it violates the Climate Leadership and Community Act (CLPCA)." Brooklyn Paper reports

Building Electrification in the Top Ten – Canary Media author Noah Garcia has rated the Top 10 utility regulation trends of 2021 — so far – Coming in at #4 is “Efforts to
electrify buildings gain ground as natural gas faces scrutiny - There has been much debate over the last several years around decarbonizing buildings and the future of the natural gas system, and that debate has been heating up this year. So far in 2021, Colorado regulators continued their proceeding on decarbonization of the natural gas system as they prepare for utilities to file new electrification plans in accordance with legislation passed this session. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada plans to open a new proceeding on long-term gas planning in that state. After California’s landmark 2020 decision to establish $200 million in utility beneficial electrification programs, the California Public Utilities Commission continues its proceeding guiding future policies and rules for gas planning; it will conclude in 2022. Utility commissions in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Illinois, Wisconsin and Oregon are also overseeing proceedings that have planning implications for building electrification technologies.” Read the full 10-minute article here.

The Danish Board of District Heating (DBDH) Wants to Help You – The DBDH puts out a fascinating quarterly magazine – Hot Cool –“ Hot Cool presents state-of-the-art district heating and cooling technology in all its aspects through articles written by experienced professionals.” Current issue contains the article Demonstrating 100% Fossil Fuel Free District Heating and Cooling Solutions Across Europe.

By Jørgen Nielsen, The new Chairman of DBDH and CEO of IVS District Heating Company

WE WILL HELP YOU STOP SMOKING!

District heating and cooling (DHC) benefits: energy security, the economy, and the environment. It is one of the most effective means to implement renewable energy (RE) and benefit from the heat and power coupling.

But, the DHC potential remains mostly unexploited globally. Only 6% of energy consumption in the world is in the DHC networks, and only 8% of the energy in the DHC networks is renewable energy today. It is a bit sad! We can do better! There are opportunities in almost any country to deploy new DHC infrastructure. Improve energy efficiency, utilize surplus heat from industry and reduce fossil fuels. But it isn’t easy on your own.

LTE Requesting Climate Plans in the Buffalo Mayor’s Race – On August 4th, the Buffalo News published a letter to the editor from Bill Nowak, NY-GEO’s Executive Director. The letter concluded with: “The candidate that gets my vote will be the one with the most detailed plan to do the following:

• Eliminate pollution in Buffalo from internal combustion engines by 2035 or earlier
• Replace the fossil fuel heating systems in all our buildings by 2050 or earlier
• Meet those 2 goals while focusing resources and workforce development on frontline communities suffering from poverty and degraded environments.

I’m looking for this plan personally, but more so for all our children and theirs to come.”
16 Direct Fossil Fuel Subsidies – Dave Roberts of Canary Media reviews a “new paper in Environmental Research Letters, by Ploy Achakulwisut and Peter Erickson of the Stockholm Environment Institute and Doug Koplow of Earth Track. It breaks down the effect of 16 specific, direct U.S. fossil fuel subsidies on the profitability and emissions of U.S. oil and gas production. As for those subsidies, there are three basic categories: ‘forgone government revenues through tax exemptions and preferences; transfer of financial liability to the public; and below-market provision of government goods or services.’ (Note that this study does not get into unpriced environmental externalities like air pollution and greenhouse gases, which are themselves a kind of subsidy.)” Read the full 7-minute article here.

US Senate Appropriations Committee Recommends Heat Pump Funding - The Senate Appropriations Committee released their report on the 2022, Energy And Water Development Appropriations Bill, S. 2605. The report recommends $382 Million in for DOE's Building and Technologies Office. From that funding, they recommend that a minimum of $50,000,000 should be used for HVAC and dehumidification manufacturing scale-up projects. The committee also expressed strong support for heat pump technologies and Beneficial Electrification. Thanks to NY-GEO member Bob Wyman for this tip.

Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Blending Carbon Reduction with Social Equity - Cutting carbon emissions is a must to combat climate change. But policies aimed at cutting carbon emissions as quickly as possible aren’t always aligned with those meant to ensure that the people most harmed by existing pollution and facing the direst threats from climate change aren’t hurt in the process. A set of new reports from nonprofit group Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy (focuses on balancing these priorities) for three Western states in the midst of setting their own climate and energy goals for the coming decades: Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. Article from Canary Media here.

“Social Cost Of Methane Changes The Equation For Colorado Utility Policy • As a growing list of states pass laws aimed at curbing carbon emissions, Colorado has widened its scope, taking the seminal step of requiring state officials to consider the social cost of methane, the primary constituent of natural gas, in regulatory decisions. [Energy News Network]” (from 2021 08 02 Green Energy Times)

Interesting Logic - “TC Energy To Use Green Power To Run North American Energy Pipelines• TC Energy Corp could spend billions of dollars on its plans to lower emissions by switching to renewable energy to run its huge network of US and Canadian oil and gas pipelines. Based in Calgary, TC Energy operates nearly 100,000 kilometres (62,140 miles) of pipelines. [Reuters] (Really???)” (from 2021 07 31 Green Energy Times)
Italy’s Snam buys first hydrogen-certified pipes for gas network – Contributor Stephen Jewkes Reuters - Snam, which makes most of its revenue from gas transport in Italy, has pledged to deliver fully decarbonized gas in its network by 2050. It has been experimenting with a 10% mix of hydrogen in part of its grid and has previously said 70% of its natural gas network is already made up of “hydrogen-ready” pipes. Full story on the Nasdaq website here.
Why a hydrogen economy doesn’t make sense – From Phys.org - “In a recent study, fuel cell expert Ulf Bossel explains that a hydrogen economy is a wasteful economy. ‘In the market place, hydrogen would have to compete with its own source of energy, i.e. with (“green”) electricity from the grid…’ His overall energy analysis of a hydrogen economy demonstrates that high energy losses inevitably resulting from the laws of physics mean that a hydrogen economy will never make sense. ‘There is a lot of money in the field now,’ he continues. ‘I think that it was a mistake to start with a Presidential Initiative rather with a thorough analysis like this one. Huge sums of money were committed too soon, and now even good scientists prostitute themselves to obtain research money for their students or laboratories—otherwise, they risk being fired. But the laws of physics are eternal and cannot be changed with additional research, venture capital or majority votes.’

Nearly 58% Of Electricity In Iowa Last Year From Renewable Sources • A report from the American Clean Power Association shows Iowa leads the nation in the percentage of electricity generated by renewable sources. Nearly 58% of the electricity generated in Iowa in 2020 came from wind turbines and solar panels. [Radio Iowa]” (from 2021 08 03 Green Energy Times)

Climate Updates

There are many reasons our customers prefer geothermal heat pumps – saving money, superior comfort, health and safety. Their impact in totally eliminating greenhouse gas emissions is also a key benefit for many customers, and a key reason New York State is providing incentives and attempting to rev up the heat pump market. Just In!
provides a limited number of important climate updates most weeks to keep you in the know on this crucial topic that is important to so many New Yorkers.

“It's Biblical” – *Climate Fueled Destruction Circles The Globe* • The drought, heat, and fires in the Western US and the heavy rain and flooding seen elsewhere in the country are parts of a pattern that is seen worldwide. Wildfires are hitting Italy, Greece, and Turkey, while monsoon rains are causing flooding in India. “Welcome to global warming!” [CleanTechnica](http://www.cleantechnica.com) (from 2021 08 03 Green Energy Times)

Climate Chronology - Looking for a searchable chronology of climate-change events dating back to 1824 and up to the present? [Look no further](https://climatechronology.org), thanks to the University of Maine’s Sharon Tisher. From Bill McKibben’s weekly New Yorker *Climate Crisis* Column
John Kerry on the Unfathomable Stakes of the Next U.N. Climate-Change Conference - By David Remnick - August 3, 2021 - *In the New Yorker* - head of a major summit, the first special Presidential envoy for climate discusses the diplomatic tightrope he faces post-Trump, and the best outcome he can hope to achieve. From Bill McKibben’s weekly New Yorker *Climate Crisis* Column

“Study: Floods Are Getting Worse, And The Number Of People Exposed Is 10 Times Higher Than Previously Thought• Climate change is making extreme flooding worse. A study published in the journal *Nature* concluded the population exposed to those floods since 2000 is 10 times higher than previous estimates, as more people migrate into flood-prone areas. [CNN] August 3, 2021” (from 2021 08 06 Green Energy Times)
CA GEO on the Fires. - A couple weeks ago we posted a message from California GEO President Bill Martin on the Dixie fire, which was coming close to his net zero solar & geothermal house. In the meantime it seems that he’s need to evacuate more than once as the fire has ebbed and flowed in his direction with changing winds. Here’s his latest message: “We’ve lost a few of our Plumas County communities due to the Dixie Fire. During the worst of the Red Flag conditions over the last two afternoons the fire was so fierce that crews had to retreat from places like Greenville and Canyondam. Smoke was too thick for air tankers to make drops. Our citizens are devastated, as will be our already weakened regional economy. We are mourning for our neighbors.”
Frequent Sources for Just In!

Green Energy Times)
City & State First Read)
POLITICO Weekly NY & NJ Energy email)
Bill McKibben’s weekly New Yorker Climate Crisis Column
Canary Media
Sage Welch at the National Building Electrification Network and Sunstone Strategies