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

NY DEC recently provided guidance for state agencies that centers on a CO₂ price of $125 per ton. NY-GEO has calculated that adding the cost of methane leaks as required by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) raises that price to at least $157 per ton of CO₂e (equivalent) produced, which works out to more than $700 worth of carbon pollution per year from an average gas-heated New York home. Write nygeoinfo@gmail.com for a copy of NY-GEO’s calculations.

Sign the BEEP Petition?: Take New York Homes Off Fossil Fuels – article by Nick Reisman – “Advocates in a letter to Gov. Kathy Hochul urged her to back a plan that would shift millions of residential homes in New York from fossil fuels to renewable energy by the start of the next decade. The push by more than 200 advocacy organizations comes as the state is working toward a timetable in the coming decades of switching to renewable energies, as well as phasing out gas-powered vehicles. The push by advocates targets 2030 as the goal for switching 2 million homes in the state to renewable sources of energy.” Full article from State of Politics here. (from 2021 10 21 – City & State First Read). Several NY-GEO member organizations signed the letter which is framed as the Building Electrification Equity Platform (the BEEP). See the letter, a list of signers, and an online petition for individuals to sign in support of the BEEP at beepny.org

Governor Hochul, please make a massive investment in better buildings!

On October 20, 2021 over two hundred organizations from across New York sent a letter to New York Governor Kathy Hochul urging her to make a massive investment in better buildings in New York, starting in disadvantaged urban and rural communities, where buildings are the least efficient and costs are highest. The letter is signed by environmental justice, health, housing, and clean energy organizations.

AWESomeEarthKind podcast: - Joanne Coons is leading by example, demonstrating that getting off fossil fuels and everything gas-related is actually much more comfortable and safer for you, the kids, and your family as a whole. By taking things one step at a time, we can each make the transition. Joanne is a retired High School teacher and currently an Adjunct Professor at Hudson Valley Community College’s TEC-SMART campus. Listen via your favorite podcast playing app (Apple, Spotify, Google Podcast) https://awesomearthkind.com/podcasts/JoanneCoons updates from the meeting:
Make the Federal Geothermal Tax Credit a Direct Payment! – Wouldn’t it be much more effective if the federal geothermal incentive was a direct payment instead of a tax credit? Yearly income and tax liability wouldn’t need to trigger the tax credit, meaning it would be accessible to lower income customers. No more financing the tax credit while homeowners wait to claim it. For your business or organization, please consider signing this petition TODAY, along with over 200 businesses and organizations that have already done so, to urge Senator Schumer, to prioritize direct pay for renewable energy. Thank you to Michaela Ciovacco for this tip.

She Said It Out Loud! - Governor Hochul "Buildings are the leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions in New York State, and we need to ramp up tangible solutions that decarbonize buildings faster to fight climate change," This statement breaks new ground. Nationally, almost all attention to climate change solutions has focused on solar and wind (electricity generation) and electric vehicles. Until recently, given NY’s relatively clean electricity generation resources, it has been “obvious” to most observers that transportation is the most important sector for NY to clean up. However, our state’s Climate Law – the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act – requires the appropriate accounting of methane leaks through the supply chain, meaning the heating sector is now co-equal with transportation as sectors needing immediate attention. Kudos Governor Hochul for telling it like it is!
Gas Utility Refers Callers to Electric Utility for Heat Pumps – A provision of settling its recent rate case requires National Grid’s downstate gas utilities to refer set numbers of customers seeking new gas service to local electric utilities Con Edison and PSEG-LI, to explore heat pumps as an alternative to a gas hook up. NGrid has begun the referrals. Although it could use significant improvements, this initiative is an important one that will need to be embraced, strengthened, and carried out successfully across the state, both between gas and electric utilities and between the gas and electric divisions of combined utilities, if New York is to meet its climate goals. See the settlement language requiring the referrals, the current script NGrid is using, NY-GEO’s proposals for improving the initiative, and PSEG-LI’s suggestions for strengthening the channel between the utilities.

October Clean Heat Stakeholder Session: The October monthly stakeholder session between the Joint Management Committee (JMC) of NY’s utilities and contractors and other stakeholders was held on October 14th. Presentations included proposals from Dandelion Energy to lower allowable entering water temperature from geothermal loops to 25 degrees and from Zach Fink of ZBF Geothermal on behalf of NY-GEO to set payment milestones on larger projects to allow rebates to flow earlier and improve cash flow. Presentation slides and meeting notes can be found here, under “Working Group Series. The JMC, in summarizing its recent activity, reports:

- **“Version 5** of the Program Manual was released on 10/1 and incorporates updates to incentives and adders in Con Edison and Orange & Rockland service territories
ICF has been working diligently to incorporate stakeholder feedback regarding improvements to the Online Intake Tool (OIT). A summary of the status of that work can be found in the presentation slides.

Updates to the GSHP checklist, made in collaboration with NY-GEO, will be implemented on 12/1. The updates will be released to the stakeholder community ahead of time so that contractors can prepare for the changes.

Contractors are reminded that project inquiries should first be directed to their account manager at ICF. As a secondary option, contact information for the Utility Program Managers is provided in the presentation slides as well.

The next Working Group Series meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18 from 8:30-10:00am.

Talking Points on Higher Heating Gas Prices – It looks like higher gas utility bills will be an important topic of conversation this winter and Climate Nexus has developed talking points that can help conversations focus on heat pumps as a solution to the problem. This link expands and documents the points below:

Key points:

- Gas is expensive. It always has been, but Wall Street is no longer willing to subsidize unprofitable expansion plans.
- Blame fossil fuels, not renewables, for the failures of the fossil fuel industry.
- The gas industry’s push to export LNG has sent domestic prices higher.
- Higher gas prices put families and businesses at risk.
- Renewable energy is not only cheaper, it does not suffer from wild price fluctuations like gas.
- American families can save money by replacing gas appliances with cleaner all-electric alternatives.
- To protect American families and businesses from high gas prices, the Build Back Better Act would rapidly expand renewable energy and provide consumers with financial incentives to replace gas appliances.
- New gas investments only double down on what got us into this mess in the first place.

$9.5 for Decarbonizing Multifamily and Commercial Buildings: "Through this initiative, we are creating the bridge between innovative solutions and multifamily and commercial building owners who can benefit from those solutions to chart a more sustainable, low carbon future." Governor-Hochul-Announces-Funding to Establish the Empire Technology Prize Program and Advance Building Decarbonization in New York State.

“You May Be Able To Book A Flying Taxi Within Three Years • Two decades into the 21st Century, and the dreams of the creators of The Jetsons are closer than ever to becoming a reality. With the likes of Uber and Boeing developing eVTOL flying taxis, one report predicts that by 2040 there will be 430,000 such vehicles in operation around the world. [BBC] ” (from 2021 10 18 Green Energy Times)
“Record Levels Of Renewable Energy Drive Down Electricity Prices Across Australia • Record levels of renewable energy drove down electricity prices across Australia in the September quarter, with prices zero or lower a sixth of the time, AEMO said in a report. Solar, wind, and hydro power supplied a record 31.7% of the electricity. [The Guardian]” (from 2021 10 22 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.

CA Undercounts Deaths from Extreme Heat – LA Times - By Anna M. Phillips, Tony Barboza, Ruben Vives and Sean Greene

"Extreme heat is one of the deadliest consequences of global warming. But in a state that prides itself as a climate leader, California chronically undercounts the death toll and has failed to address the growing threat of heat-related illness and death, according to a Los Angeles Times investigation. Between 2010 and 2019, the hottest decade on record, California’s official data from death certificates attributed 599 deaths to heat exposure. But a Times analysis found that the true toll is probably six times higher. An examination of mortality data from this period shows that thousands more people died on extremely hot days than would have been typical during milder weather. All told, the analysis estimates that extreme heat caused about 3,900 deaths.” Thanks to Irene Weiser, Coordinator of Fossil Free Tompkins for this tip.
“Expansion Of Wind And Solar Power Too Slow To Stop Climate Change • After extensive analysis, researchers at Chalmers University of Technology and Lund University in Sweden and Central European University in Vienna concluded that virtually no country is moving sufficiently fast to avoid global warming of even 2°C. [Science Daily]” (from 2021 10 17 Green Energy Times)

The world is getting warmer

Annual mean land and ocean temperature above or below average, 1850 to 2020

Note: Average calculated from 1951 to 1980 data

Source: University of California Berkeley
“A Future Of Extreme Drought And Brutal Storms Predicted By New Climate Modelling • Two new climate modelling studies map how the world might experience climate change under warming scenarios of increasing severity. Predicting widespread instances of extreme drought and brutal storms, the findings are concerning. [The Weather Network]” (from 2021 10 18 Green Energy Times)

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- 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 & Chloe Ziliac - National Building Electrification Network & Sunstone Strategies
- The Guardian