2021 11 15   Just In!

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

2021 11 18 - Town Hall: How You Can Join the Fight for a Fossil Free NY! - 1pm-2pm - The [Renewable Heat Now Campaign](#) is organizing to win funding and policies that will get fossil fuels out of our buildings affordably and equitably. “Join us to hear about our 2022 legislative package for Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature. Learn how you can get involved in the movement for renewable heat, and how we will organize and build our power to win!” The legislative package includes a geothermal tax credit (S3864/A7493) and sales tax exemption (S642a/A8147) as well as the All-Electric Building Act (S6843a/A8431) that would sunset fossil fuels in new construction starting January 1, 2024. It also includes the Advanced building codes, appliance and equipment efficiency standards act of 2021 ([S7176/A8143](#)) [RSVP here](#) for the Zoom link. If the 18th doesn’t work for you, there will also be a session on December 1st at 6:00 PM.

**Governor Hochul Announces Energy Efficient Upgrades For Affordable Housing Units** - Administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the RetrofitNY funding announced today [2021 11 10](#) seeks to support owners of eligible affordable housing buildings up to seven stories. The program helps building owners planning substantial renovations in their roofs, windows, and/or heating system replacements within the next two years. Owners of qualifying buildings may also be eligible for up to $100,000 in design incentives... Owners may also be eligible for up to an additional $40,000 per dwelling unit, with a cap of $1.6 million per building, subject to funding availability, to cover incremental costs for all electric, whole-building upgrades that put buildings on a path to carbon neutrality. This incremental funding is meant to bridge the gap between financing from other sources such as regulated housing agencies, bank loans and tax credits used for business-as-usual renovations. Thanks to Adam Flint of the Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow for this tip.

![Governor Hochul Announces Energy Efficient Upgrades for Affordable Housing Units](image)

Want to Support the Build Back Better Bill? – As we mentioned last week, the Build Back Better Bill in Congress contains significant incentives for geothermal heat pumps, both commercial and residential. If you’d like to quickly and easily show support for this bill, Interfaith Power & Light has set up a [convenient web page](#) to help you.
Utility Rebate Funds Slow In Arriving? Small Business Loans and Grants Are Still Available Until Dec 31 - Small businesses effected by COVID 19 are still eligible for the Small Business Administration’s EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) program. Both low interest loans (3.75% fixed) and grants/advances (up to $15,000 if you are located in a “low income” area) are available. The EIDL ends December 31, 2021 unless funds are depleted before that. Contractors experiencing shortfalls from anticipated rebate revenues may be able to use these funds until their rebates/incentives are received. If you have any questions call/email the SBA office to speak with a free advisor in your region; 833-853-5638 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Thanks to new BPCA executive director Cara-Leigh Battaglia for making this information available.

Utilities Trim Geothermal Field Assessment Checklist – The Utility Joint Management Committee (JMC) plans to file a revised geothermal checklist for their inspection teams to use on geothermal installations on December 1st. To a large extent, the new list reflects ongoing input from NY-GEO and shrinks the checklist from over 40 items to 21. A concern NY-GEO has raised is that the new process requires filing more data as part of the rebate application process. We expect communication from ICF and the JMC confirming that these new items will not be scrutinized as part of ICF’s application review process, and will not further slow that process down. Please let us know right way if you receive a comment on either new file upload to the application. The new format is expected to be reviewed at the JMC stakeholder session on 2021 11 18 (see Events below). As always please contact nygeoinfo@gmail.com with concerns or suggestions.

Capitol Pressroom: “Environmental Advocates Urge State To Prioritize All-Electric Homes - Nov. 9, 2021 – Environmentalists are calling on Gov. Kathy Hochul to transition 2 million homes to energy-efficient, all-electric residences by 2030, in order to make a dent in the state’s greenhouse gas emissions, according to Lisa Marshall, of Mothers Out Front NY, and Sonal Jessel, of WE ACT for Environmental Justice.” 15 minute interview here
Canary Media Analysis of the Infrastructure Bill Energy Provisions – by Jeff St. John - “The just-passed legislation sends more than $80 billion to the power grid, EV charging, batteries, hydrogen, carbon capture and more.” Full article here. Another article on this topic in Fast Company here.

UMass Medical School Bets Big on Geothermal Heating and Cooling - UMass Chan Medical School is betting big on geothermal heating and cooling to slash the greenhouse gas emissions from the newest addition to its Worcester campus, a $325 million research and education complex. Shawmut Design and Construction and its subcontractors recently wrapped up drilling 75 holes, each 500 ft deep and six inches in dia., through the bedrock under the planned 9-story building, work on which began nearly a year ago, said Kevin Sullivan, executive vice president for New England at Shawmut Design and Construction. Full article here from Engineering New-Record (ENR), Thanks to NY-GEO member Paul Coons for this tip.
Texas Blackouts Prompt New York ISO To Consider 'Once In A Century' Winter Events – from Robert Walton at Utility Dive – “In all but the most extreme scenarios, New York expects to have ample capacity reserves for the coldest months. But following blackouts in Texas and the Southwest last winter, the Northeast grid operator now includes "once in a century" scenarios in its risk assessments and experts say the more cautious approach is now common across the country.” Full article here

NYISO (Independent System Operator) in action

“Financial Markets May End Up Killing Off Fossil Fuels Before Governments Do• “...a decade ago, the cost of capital for developing oil and gas projects and for renewable projects was pretty much the same — somewhere between 8% and 10%. Not anymore... The threshold of projected return that can financially justify a new oil project is now at 20% for long cycle developments, while for renewables it has dropped to somewhere between 3% and 5%. That’s according to Michele Della Vigna, a Goldman Sachs analyst based in London. “That’s an extraordinary divergence which is leading to an unprecedented shift in capital allocation,” Della Vigna says.. [CleanTechnica] ” (from 2021 11 11 Green Energy Times)
The Hydrogen Hype Bubble May Have Finally Popped – Article from Renewable Energy World by Abbe Ramanan, Clean Energy Group – “The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) punched a hole in the fossil fuel industry’s hydrogen hype bubble when they denied a Title V Air Permit to NRG Energy’s Astoria Gas Turbine Power Plant last Wednesday. Citing the project’s non-compliance with New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), DEC referred to the project’s own admission in its Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement that its plan to eventually convert the plant to run on ‘emissions-free’ hydrogen fuel ‘is not currently technically feasible given that there are no commercially available sources of [the] fuel.’”

“Green hydrogen’s current lack of availability isn’t the only reason it’s not the wonder-fuel the fossil fuel industry has been making it out to be”
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.

Al Gore Ted Talk on Climate Change 2021 – 15 minute video summarizes the latest data on climate change. Particularly haunting is video of the collapse of a flooded New Jersey basement apartment from Hurricane Ida at around the 3:00 minute mark in the video.
AWESome EarthKind Podcast - Climate Risk is Business Risk - We have reached the tipping point. Humanity’s greenhouse gas emissions are fueling extreme weather events that are becoming more intense, costly, deadly, and frequent. The time is NOW to move to clean energy. Take advantage of the cash and tax incentives today – or pay the price in penalties tomorrow. In this special episode, Ron Kamen discusses the business risk associated with climate change. Listen via your favorite podcast playing app (Apple, Spotify, Google Podcast) [https://awesomeearthkind.com/podcasts/ClimateRiskisBusinessRisk](https://awesomeearthkind.com/podcasts/ClimateRiskisBusinessRisk)

As COP 26 Closes:

“Fear Of Failure As Climate Summit Enters Final Day” • The COP26 climate summit is entering its final day, amid growing fears that the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C is unlikely to be met. UN Secretary General António Guterres said the summit would probably not see governments make the pledges needed to cut CO₂ emissions sufficiently. [BBC]” (from 2021 11 12 Green Energy Times)
“Young People Call For Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty As Delegates Spar Over Coal, Oil, And Gas” • At the COP26 climate summit, a group of young climate activists gave delegates a sharp rebuke, demanding that a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty be put in place and calling out global leaders for their continued closeness to the coal, oil and gas industries. [CNN]” (from 2021 11 12 Green Energy Times)

“New COP26 Pledges Could Limit Warming To 1.8°C • An analysis from the International Energy Agency shows that new pledges announced at the COP26 climate conference could keep global warming below 2°C if they’re actually implemented. Based on the new pledges, countries could limit the Earth’s warming to 1.8°C above pre-industrial levels in 2100. [The Hill]” (from 2021 11 06 Green Energy Times)

Frequent Sources for Just In!:

Bill McKibben on COPS26: “It’s a fairytale that world governments will fix our climate crisis. It’s up to us” – Full article from the Guardian here. “At the time of writing, it looks as if the phasing out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuels will be mentioned in a Cop document for the first time, and that there will be more money for nations of the global south to “adapt” to the climate crisis… But was this a sea change in the way we deal with the global climate crisis? No –Glasgow moves us down the track a little and boxes in national governments a little more, but it has changed not nearly enough. Thanks to Janet Lenichek of the Sierra Club Niagara Group for this tip.
You’ve Got to Be Kidding

The Power Grid: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver – This 22-minute sequence has been viewed 2.7 million times. Oliver takes on the need for power grid expansion in the age of climate change. NY-GEO Director of Operations John Rath: “Some salty language, but at least a few laughs when discussing the seriousness of the grid’s future. He makes some important points consistent with our thinking. If you have 22 minutes while doing chores, it may be amusing.”

John Oliver with a transmission tower designed to amuse
And Then, a Little Irony from Al Gore’s Recent Ted Talk Video ...