Feldmann Sets the Pace for NY-GEO Members – NY-GEO Founding member Bill Feldmann was first to respond to our call to contact his local legislators on the Renewable Heat Now package of bills that NY-GEO is supporting. Bill’s note to his local Senator, Phil Boyle, is reprinted below. We urge each and every NY-GEO member to follow suit. Find your Assembly Member here and your Senator here. For non-NY members we urge you to email Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie at Speaker@nyassembly.gov and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins at MajorityLeaderCommunications@nysenate.gov. The brochure to attach to your email can be found here.

“Dear Senator Boyle,

I am writing to you as a business operating in your district to strongly urge you to consider co-sponsoring the bills in the Renewable Heat Now legislative package. We have an enormous opportunity to create jobs and keep wealth in the community while we move away from out-of-state fossil fuels in our buildings in order to meet the challenge of the climate crisis head on. I have attached a brochure on the legislative package and hope that you will sign on to these bills.

···Geothermal tax credit (S3864/A7493) – Kennedy/Rivera - This bill would give geothermal heat pumps tax credit parity with the solar PV tax credit of 25% capped at $5,000. This bill passed the Legislature unanimously in 2015 only to be vetoed by the former Governor. It is needed now more than ever as we transition off fossil fuel heating.

···Geothermal sales tax exemption (S642a/A8147) – Sanders/Rivera – This exemption would give geothermal the same sales tax treatment as solar PV and would cut the cost of installations, saving money for your constituents

···All-Electric Building Act (S6843a/A8431) – Kavanagh/Gallagher - would sunset fossil fuels in new construction starting January 1, 2024. It is a statewide bill similar to bill New York City enacted on December 15th.

···Advanced Building Codes, Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards Act of 2021 (S7176/A8143) - Parker/Fahy – This bill would bring NY’s codes in sync with New York’s Climate law (CLCPA). It would also save consumers an estimated $15 billion on their utility bills by 2035

I am a proud member of NY-GEO – the New York Geothermal Energy Organization. Please feel free to contact NY-GEO at nygeoinfo@gmail.com or 716-316-7674 with any questions on these bills.”
Utility JMC: Cadence of Clean Heat Rebate Program Changes (Including Possible Incentive Changes) – The Utility Joint Management Committee released the following announcement with notes from the December JMC stakeholder meeting:

- “Going forward, any potential program changes would take place on a semi-annual cadence, effective on March 1st and September 1st of each year. This does not mean that the program will experience a change every March or September – only that any program changes that do happen going forward will be made on this cadence.
- A glossary of OIT statuses is now posted to the Documents tab of the OIT homepage and is also available at the link [here](#).
- An ACH payment guidance [document](#) is also available on the NYS Clean Heat Resources webpage.

The JMC announcement followed a discussion of recent reductions in the Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) incentives for the Central Hudson, Con Edison and Orange & Rockland territories based on “impressively rapid growth” in ASHP sales in those areas. Incentive adders designed to assure that ASHP systems are the prime or only heating source are still in place.

Phase Out of Fossil Fuel Replacement Systems – Last week we noted that NY’s [Climate Action Council Scoping Plan](#) includes a recommended ban on fossil fuels in new construction in 2024. There’s lots more to unpack in the 861-page document. Below is the list of proposed dates for other elements of the fossil fuel phase out:

- **Zero emissions standards to phase out fossil fuel combustion equipment**: NYSERDA should set zero emissions standards for the sale of building equipment, in coordination with DOS for enforcement. DEC should set and enforce zero emissions standards tied to the operation of large fuel burning equipment.
  - 2024: The PSC should prohibit utilities from providing new gas service to existing buildings as part of a comprehensive plan to end investments in new gas infrastructure in coordination with municipalities.
  - 2030: Adopt zero emission standards that prohibit gas/oil replacements (at end of useful life) of heating and cooling and hot water equipment for single-family homes and low-rise residential buildings with up to 49 housing units.
  - 2035: Adopt zero emission standards that prohibit gas/oil replacements (at end of useful life) of heating, cooling, and hot water equipment for larger multifamily buildings (4 stories and higher or 50 or more housing units) and commercial buildings.
  - 2035: Adopt zero emission standards that prohibit gas appliance replacements (at end of useful life) for cooking and clothes drying.
  - 2035: DEC should adopt zero emissions standards that prohibit gas/oil use in large fuel burning equipment. The standards should be enforced under a new emissions enforcement regime of large combustion equipment that typically heat buildings 50,000 sq ft or more in floor area, thereby requiring early retirement.
NY’s Climate Law Requires a Clean Energy Connection to Disadvantaged Communities – Do you need help making that connection? The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act states that 35% of the benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency funding must go to "disadvantaged" communities: typically low-income communities and communities of color hit first and worst by the climate crisis. A business that can be helpful in outreach to disadvantaged communities across New York State has recently been established in Western New York. Monarch of Infinite Possibilities (MIP) has a mission to “Connect environmentally focused companies, arts organizations, and various community-based entities that serve or want to engage with Black, Brown, and Indigenous (BIPOC) communities. MIP helps clients communicate, develop outreach strategies, and provide opportunities that foster a better future for all. MIP primarily focuses on setting a table for clients and targeted populations to partake in healthy and positive outcomes.” Click here for the MIP website.

Fossil Fuel Subsidies – “Each year, New York taxpayers shower about $1.6 billion – nearly as much as New York State’s entire spending on environmental protection in 2021 – subsidizing the sale and consumption of fossil fuels. Some lawmakers hope to change that in 2022, New York Focus writes.” (from 2021 12 30 – City & State First Read)
The Top 6 Ambitious State Climate Laws Passed in 2021 – By Jeff St. John in Canary Media - Progress may be stalled in D.C., but there’s real momentum on the state level, from blue states like Oregon to red states like North Carolina. Full article here.

5 Clean Energy Stats That Will Wow Your Friends for The New Year - With these surprising facts at your fingertips, you’ll be the life of the (virtual) party. Chart below illustrates one of the five statistics. From Canary Media

### Americans overwhelmingly support solar and wind power

Percentage of U.S. adults who favor or oppose expansion of energy sources

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<th>Energy Source</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
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<tr>
<td>More solar panel farms</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>More wind turbine farms</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<td>More nuclear power plants</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<td>More offshore oil and gas drilling</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<td>More hydraulic fracturing</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More coal mining</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>65%</td>
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Note: Totals are less than 100 because some respondents did not give an answer.

Chart: Canary Media • Source: Pew Research Center, U.S. Public Views on Climate and Energy, 2020 • Download image
**US Coal Power Generation Rose in 2021, Bucking a 6-Year Trend** - *Spiking natural-gas prices are the chief culprit.* - Canary Media - 2021 12 31 – “There’s no doubt that the U.S. coal industry is in trouble. Between dwindling demand, leery investors, increasingly unfavorable economics, aggressive phaseout schedules and mounting pressure from climate activists, it would seem that the sector’s days are numbered. But the weird year that was 2021 left us with one last unwelcome parting gift: a big lump of coal in our stocking.” [Full article here](#).

**Coal power in U.S. increased in 2021**

U.S. annual electric power generation by source, 2011–2021

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Chart: Canary Media • Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration • Embed • Download image

**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.
“Huge Toll Of Extreme Weather Disasters In 2021 • Weather events, linked to a changing climate, brought misery to millions in 2021 a report from the charity Christian Aid says. It lists 10 extreme events that each caused over $1.5 billion of damage. The costliest were the flooding in Europe in July and Hurricane Ida, which hit the US in August. [BBC]" (from 2021 12 27 Green Energy News) Article features a 4-minute video summary of 2021’s worst climate disasters.

In the latest Climate Check, Ben Rich looks back at some of the year’s defining weather events

US Snowstorms: California and Other Western States Battered • Heavy storms have battered western regions of the US, leaving thousands without power. Almost 30 inches (76 cm) of snow fell in parts of northern California in 24 hours, causing blackouts and road closures, including a 70-mile (112 km) stretch of Interstate 80 into Nevada. [BBC] “ (from 2021 12 27 Green Energy News)

Snow trouble (Truckee Meadows Fire Department via Twitter)
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 - National Building Electrification Network & Sunstone Strategies
The Guardian
2121 12 27 Just In!