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-GEO 2022 Conference Schedule Released** – The initial schedule for NY-GEO 2022 is now posted on the conference website. The conference will be held April 27th and 28th in Albany. With New York’s nation-leading building decarbonization efforts, we expect this year’s industry gathering to be the best ever! [Early bird registration rates](#) are currently available.

[Click here to see the full schedule!](#)
Momentum Builds for Renewable Heat Legislation – The Renewable Heat Now Campaign is generating remarkable momentum behind a package of bills designed to aid New York’s transition to clean, affordable heating. The package includes a sunset on new construction using fossil fuels as well as a geothermal tax credit and sales tax exemption. Sponsors of the tax credit bill include Senators Kennedy, Harkham, Kavanagh, Krueger, May, Mayer and Ryan and Assembly Members Rivera, Abinanti, Burke, Colton, Englebright, Galef, Hevesi, Jackson, Kelles, McDonald III, Paulin, Sillitti, Simon, Tannousis and Thiel. To support the campaign, send a quick email to the Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie using this link: bit.ly/RHNemail. Write nygeoinfo@gmail.com if you’d like to help at this crucial time as New York’s budget is being debated and set.

Weekly Nugget from NY’s Climate Action Draft Scoping Plan: NY-GEO is running pertinent quotes from the Climate Action Council’s Scoping Plan weekly in Just In! This week’s quote:

"Vision for 2050
By 2050, 85% of homes and commercial building space statewide should be electrified with energy-efficient heat pumps. New York should have advanced a managed, phased, and just transition from reliance on fossil gas and the gas distribution system in buildings to a clean energy system... Embedded subsidies for fossil fuels will have been eliminated, and energy-efficient, zero-emissions buildings will have become the most cost-effective option in a clean energy economy that supports secure jobs and demonstrates leadership in innovation. Investments in research and development will have brought affordable batteries and thermal storage, grid-interactivity, ultra-low GWP refrigerants, and advanced technical solutions for the hardest-to-electrify building types to market. All New Yorkers will benefit from a just transition that supports vibrant, healthy communities and repairs structural inequalities in access to housing, credit, economic opportunities, environmental resources, and a clean and healthy environment."

From Page 122 of the Climate Action Council’s Draft Scoping Plan.
Oven Pilot Gives NYCHA Residents Induction Stoves for Air-Quality Project - By Samantha Maldonado - smaldonado@thecity.nyc – “Chef Sia Pickett taught over the clanging of pans, and a bit of sizzle and hum as she demonstrated how to use an induction range for a Bronx public housing tenant. There’s a learning curve when it comes to cooking on an induction range, she explained. It offers the control of a gas range but results in a ‘different type of heat.’ ‘You gotta play around with it,’ said Pickett, who owns a personal chef service called Malata Cuisine. ‘Everything cooks faster than you think.’… (Residents) will be part of an induction stove experiment for the next six months. Ten will get electric-powered induction stoves, another 10 will use their old gas ranges, as the ‘control group…’ The goal of the study is to test air quality in the public housing apartments with and without gas-burning kitchens.” Thanks to NY-GEO member Paul Coons for this tip. Full article here.
Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie Profiled – “The Assembly speaker’s collaborative approach has prevented any progressive challengers from emerging. – “By Rebecca Lewis for City & State - His unassuming nature made his ultimate rise to power in the wake of former Speaker Sheldon Silver’s expulsion seem unexpected to some observers, though savvy politicos hadn’t forgotten Heastie’s successful bid to take control of the Bronx Democratic Party years earlier. It’s in this way that Heastie quietly made history as the first Black speaker of the Assembly, keeping his grasp on his conference for the past seven years during which Albany underwent monumental change. But Heastie is more than a reserved deal-maker who was likened to his predecessor when he took the position. He’s also a nerd with a love for the likes of Prince and “Star Trek”. (from 2022 02 12 – City & State First Read) Full article here.

Renewables Are Cheaper Than Ever—Why Are Household Energy Bills Going Up? New energy needs a new market. By Michael Grubb - “Energy markets aren’t designed to cope efficiently with sources like renewables, which cost a lot to build but far less than fossil fuels to run. Governments offer long-term, fixed-price contracts to generators for their output of renewable energy…By contrast, households and other small consumers can rarely buy fixed-price contracts more than a year or two ahead, given the uncertainties in wholesale prices along with governments encouraging competitive switching between suppliers. Thanks to Rob Jensen of Agreenability for this tip. Rob notes the article is about European markets, but has relevance for US consumers. Full article here.
Markey: Heat Pumps and Peace in Ukraine - Could Heat Pumps have an important role in preventing international conflict and in protecting democracy? Senator Markey (D-MA) seems to think so! On Feb 15, in a speech before the US Senate, he said: "If we are serious about ending Russia's oil and natural gas blackmail, we should invest in energy-efficient technologies that get us off the fossil fuel that threatens our planet and threatens the security of Europe. ... We need to build electric heat pumps so our European allies no longer have to rely on Putin's natural gas to heat their homes in the winter." He also warned that "If we export more American natural gas to our allies in Europe, fuel prices would increase for American consumers and the Russian Government would continue to profit by simply redirecting its fossil fuel supply to Asia. Putin would still be able to use his oil and natural gas revenue to threaten the sovereignty of free and democratic countries." Thanks to NY-GEO member Bob Wyman for this tip.
The Beijing Olympics Are Keeping Rinks Ice-Cold Using Natural Refrigerants - Aurora Almendral – “For the first time, Olympic skaters, hockey players, and curlers will be gliding across ice made using natural refrigerants rather than synthetic chemicals that emit F-gases, greenhouse gases that are thousands of times more potent at warming the atmosphere than CO2. According to the International Olympic Committee, the natural refrigeration systems will save 26 million kilograms (57 million pounds) in greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent of what 3,900 cars would produce in a year.” Thanks to John Manning of Phoenix Energy for this tip. Full article here.
“Hawaii Utility Wants to Pay Households to Share Clean Energy – Julian Spector in Canary Media - “Hawaiian Electric and rooftop solar installers have agreed on a plan to shore up the state’s grid…the state’s regulators earlier this month (were asked ) to approve a program to pay households an upfront cash bonus plus a monthly credit on their bills for adding a battery to their rooftop solar. To earn the money, customers must agree to export power to the grid during the two hours in the evening when the island needs more electricity. Essentially, they would use their battery to store up solar power during the day and then export it after the sun sets to help meet peak demand.  Full article here.

![Sunrun foreman Oliver Walker installs a residential battery.](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Hydrogen For Cars And Trucks Is An Idea Whose Time Has Come – And Gone • A study published at *Nature Electronics* says fuel cell cars and trucks have little chance of being developed to the point they are commercially viable and that the urgency of the climate crisis demands decision makers focus on battery-electric vehicles instead. [CleanTechnica]  ” “Hydrogen will play a vital role in industry, shipping and synthetic aviation fuels. But for road transport, we cannot wait for hydrogen technology to catch up…” (from 2022 02 16 Green Energy News)

![Hydrogen for cars and trucks](https://via.placeholder.com/150)
Contractor’s Corner:

Electrical Load Shape of Heat Pump Water Heaters (HPWHs) – From February 2021 ASHRAE Journal - HPWHs “continue to gain the attention of energy providers and policy makers as an efficient alternative to traditional equipment for the residential market. While the operation of individual HPWHs has been widely studied, limited resources exist for understanding the aggregated operation for a population of HPWHs. This study examines the electrical load shapes of HPWHs by site characteristics, using field data from 147 residential HPWHs in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) during 2018”. Thanks to John Manning of Phoenix Energy for this tip. Full article here.

![Figure 2: HPWH electrical load shapes by season.](image)

How to Sell ‘Comfort’ to Customers - Originally published: 02.01.22 by Richard Hartman – “As is common throughout this industry, hot and cold weather tends to drive our business. We can’t control this, but we can control our ability to respond quickly to emergency calls. Sometimes, this even requires that managers jump in to handle the workload. Many hvacr contractors know that giving customers a positive experience on emergency calls is a way to gain new customers, but it is also a way to introduce the idea of investing in high-end systems.” Thanks to John Manning of Phoenix Energy for this tip. Full article here.
The Hurdles to Electrifying a Home? – by Jeff St. John – Canary Media – Here is yet another article that, to its detriment, ignores ground source heat pumps when assessing heat pumps. It nonetheless attempts to cover several considerations that are part of the electrification discussion: “local contractors and customers on the front lines of electrifying homes have more practical concerns and questions. Can they get the latest models of heat pumps and induction stovetops from their distributors? Can the long-term health, comfort and cost benefits of these systems outweigh the higher upfront cost and complexity of installing them? And can their home’s electrical panels and breaker boxes handle the extra power loads without deal-breaking upgrade costs and complications?... One way to speed up home electrification is to set up electrical panels so they prevent multiple power-heavy appliances from being turned on at the same time. A number of companies are developing innovative tools and approaches to do this” Full article here.

Survey Sheds Light on Employee Recruitment - Recruitment and retention of employees may require different approaches based on a U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s survey. Factors such as wanting a career path, a desire to contribute to the “greater good” and having more flexibility are affecting all industries. Key findings include 1) a hiring bonus of $1,000 remains the top incentive most apt to bring unemployed workers back. 2) more than one in ten (13%) have left multiple jobs during the pandemic 3) a third (32%) want and expect to switch industries. Thanks to Building Performance Contractors Association (BPCA) executive director Cara-Leigh Battaglia for this information. Link to the survey here.
Job Promotion Tips: Food for Thought - Out of the box thinking or just successful yet forgotten ideas revisited? This recruiting blog may give you some ideas to help with recruitment/job promotion. If you have other ideas that work for you, feel free to share with NY-GEO staff at jfree49@yahoo.com and maybe we can publish them in future newsletters.

Have your recruitment methods kept up?

Schneider Snaps Up Solar Marketplace Energysage, Aims to Electrify Homes - Julian Spector in Canary Media – “Energysage, a scrappy startup with a platform that lets customers comparison shop for rooftop solar, just got acquired by Schneider Electric, the vast France-based energy hardware and services firm. Schneider sells industrial automation tools and large-scale microgrids-as-a-service, but it also makes the circuit breakers and electrical panels that form the heart of a home’s electricity system. The 186-year-old company has recently positioned itself as a leader on sustainability, helping customers get the tools they need to eliminate carbon emissions. Full article here.

(from 2022 02 12 Green Energy News)
(from 2022 02 12 – City & State First Read) Full article here.
(2022 02 12 POLITICO Weekly NY & NJ Energy email) Full article here.
From Bill McKibben’s weekly New Yorker Climate Crisis Column
Full article from Canary Media here.
Thanks to NY-GEO member Bob Wyman for this tip. Full article here.
From Sage Welch Chloe Zilliac at the National Building Electrification Network and Sunstone Strategies Full article here.
Thanks to John Manning of Phoenix Energy for this tip.
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.

**Monstrous Waves Will Crash Ashore More Frequently Due To Climate Change**

The risk of coastal floods could rise 50-fold because of man-made climate change, recent research shows. With the weather phenomenon of overtopping, huge waves will hit structures or beaches with increasing frequency, say scientists, devastating communities. [Study Finds](from 2022 02 13 Green Energy News)
White House Publishes Draft Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, Key Component in the Implementation of President Biden’s Justice40 Initiative – “…The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) released a beta version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), a major step toward addressing current and historic environmental injustices and fulfilling a key campaign promise from President Biden… (The) screening tool will help federal agencies ensure that the benefits of federal programs are reaching disadvantaged communities. Thanks to Adam Flint of Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow for this tip. Full release here.

Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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
National Building Electrification Network & Sunstone Strategies
The Guardian