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

Geothermal Tax Credit & NYS Budget - The NY Assembly and Senate each released their “One-House Budget” last weekend. Now, leaders of the two bodies and Governor Hochul will be negotiating to come to an agreed upon final state budget, due April 1st. Both the Senate (S3864 - Kennedy) and the Assembly (A7493 – Rivera) have included a 25% tax credit (up to $5,000 per residential installation) in the respective budgets they are bringing to negotiations. NY-GEO members are urged to call the Governor’s office at 518-474-8390 to urge inclusion of this measure in the final budget.
NY-GEO 2022 Top Job Competition is Open – Have a favorite geothermal installation you think New Yorkers should know about? Lisa Marshall is organizing this year’s Top Job competition for our annual conference coming up April 27th and 28th at the Albany Marriott. Click here to apply for your project or email Lisa at elizamars@gmail.com to suggest a project we should feature. The Online Application is actually easy to fill out - a few quick questions to answer, text box for up to 500 word description and you can upload up to 6 photos of your great project!
Also Crucial in the Budget – There are 5 bills the Renewable Heat Now (RHN) Campaign has identified as crucial to renewable heating in this year’s legislative session. Together they would:

- Require all-electric new construction
- Fund renewable heating and weatherization
- End subsidies for new gas hookups
- Make utilities plan for an equitable transition

Click here to find out more about this campaign and how to provide support at this crucial point. The graphic below celebrates legislators RHN is designating as champions because they have signed on as sponsors of the entire RHN bill package.

Welcome to the Hall of Fame

RENEWABLE HEAT NOW CHAMPIONS!

Clockwise, legislators Salazar, Kelles, Hoylman, Krueger, May, Meeks, Kavanagh, Gianaris, Gallagher, Abinant, Cleare, Simon and Burdick

Climate Action Plan Hearings April 5th through May 11th - https://climate.ny.gov/
The NY Climate Action Council has released a Scoping Plan designed to equitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050. The Council will be holding hearings throughout the state (including 2 virtual hearings) in coming weeks. The plan includes a phase out of fossil fuel heating, starting with new construction, along with several other measures crucial to decarbonization of the building sector. Public support for these measures will be essential to the effectiveness of the plan that is scheduled for adoption at the end of this year. The Sierra Club has produced an excellent guide to participation in the hearings.
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Analysis of Budget Proposals – from Renewable Heat Now - Press release commenting on the budget “We hope it’s helpful in understanding what exactly we’ve won so far, and what more we need to push for going forward. Stay tuned for more actions to participate in! Thank you for all your hard work and support that got us here!” And from the Sierra Club – “Here are some highlights of what was included in the Senate and Assembly One-House Budgets:

• The Senate included a modified version of the All-Electric Building Act, which bans fossil fuels in new small buildings by 2024 and new buildings that are 7 stories or more by 2027.
• The Senate included a modified version of the Advanced Building, Appliance, and Equipment Standards Act with language to factor greenhouse gas emissions into building codes and strengthen appliance efficiency standards, which would save New Yorkers $17.5 billion by 2035.
• The Senate and Assembly both included tax credits to incentivize the installation of geothermal heating and cooling systems, which use renewable energy from the Earth to efficiently make our homes comfortable and heat our water.
• The Senate and Assembly both included an increase in the Environmental Bond Act to fund green buildings. $1 billion is included in the Senate’s budget for “renewable heating and cooling and weatherization for low- and moderate-income households,” and $850 million is included in the Assembly’s budget for “green building projects.”
Building Decarbonization Coalition Announces Six Figure Television Ad Buy in Albany and New York City Markets – “The Building Decarbonization Coalition... will be running a robust, six-figure television ad buy, beginning Monday, March 21st in Albany and New York City markets, on both cable and broadcast channels. The 30 second television ad celebrates the historic steps the Hochul administration is taking towards building decarbonization, allowing New York State to reach its climate and emissions goals on schedule. The ad centers on Governor Hochul's plan to halt gas expansion in new buildings, build 2 million decarbonized homes, and decarbonize 1,000 schools. On top of the climate benefits, Governor Hochul's plan will help alleviate conditions that endanger the public health of New Yorkers and create thousands of high quality jobs.”

Sierra Club on the 100 Foot Subsidy for Gas - Many New Yorkers are unaware that we are being forced to pay to install fracked gas pipelines to buildings across New York State. The state’s “100-foot rule” requires gas utility customers to collectively pay for the first 100 feet of new gas pipelines for building owners that request it. The Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act would end this rule, saving New Yorkers almost one billion dollars in utility charges over the next five years while providing renewable heat options to customers; making our homes healthier and continuing New York's climate leadership. We’ve made tremendous progress, and now we need your help to achieve our building electrification goals. Will you send a message now to lawmakers expressing your support for the Gas Transition and Affordable Energy Act?
Eversource - Networked Geothermal and the Clean Energy Future – The utility Eversource includes networked geothermal, along with offshore wind, solar and energy storage on its Clean Energy Future webpage for Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire. The utility includes a 2:24 video on “how utility scale networked geothermal works”

Redefine “Zero Emissions”? – by Colin Kinniburgh – City & State - “New York’s power companies want to expand the meaning of ‘zero emissions’ The power industry is pushing a pair of proposals to state legislators and regulators that have attracted little notice, but could shift the course of the state’s climate action…the proposal, if approved this year, could shift the course of New York energy policy, potentially opening a back door for power plants to keep polluting past New York’s legal deadline to achieve a 100% emissions-free grid.” Full article here
Electrification Op Ed in the Daily News – On March 14th, the New York Daily News published an op-ed written by Sonal Jessel, WE ACT Director of Policy, and Jasmine Graham, WE ACT Energy Justice Policy Manager. The op-ed is about the importance of including building electrification in the state budget, and its potential to give all New Yorkers access to cleaner, healthier and safer buildings, and affordable utility bills. Thanks to Marcelo Gonzales of Climate Nexus for this tip.
RI – **100% Renewable Electricity by 2030** – With the potential to have 80% of electricity generation from offshore wind, Gov. Dan McKee, Senate President Dominick Ruggerio and Rep. Deborah Ruggiero are backing a law to require 100% of Rhode Island’s electricity to be from renewable sources by 2030. The short timeline is the most aggressive by any state in the nation for a complete adoption of renewable electric supplies, according to the bill’s supporters and sets the stage to electrify the heating and transportation sectors. [Full article here.](#)
Russia and US Oil Market – Canary Media – Maria Virginia Olano – “Russia’s war on Ukraine has us all thinking more than we usually do about where our energy comes from, especially our oil and gas. The U.S. is the world’s biggest oil producer, but it’s also the world’s biggest oil consumer. It imports crude oil and petroleum products from around the world — and the third-biggest source of those imports last year was Russia.”
Full article here.
Ukraine Ranks 4th in the World for Natural Resources – by Andriy Futey - Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Ukrainian World Congress – published in Homeland Security Today – This list details natural resources and agricultural and industrial products that shed light on some of the strategic reasons behind the Ukraine war. Graphic below is the natural resources section of the list.

For those who ask:
“Why does Ukraine matter?”

1st in Europe in proven recoverable reserves of uranium ores;
2nd place in Europe and 10th place in the world in terms of titanium ore reserves;
2nd place in the world in terms of explored reserves of manganese ores (2.3 billion tons, or 12% of the world’s reserves);
2nd largest iron ore reserves in the world (30 billion tons);
2nd place in Europe in terms of mercury ore reserves;
3rd place in Europe (13th place in the world) in shale gas reserves (22 trillion cubic meters)
4th in the world by the total value of natural resources;
7th place in the world in coal reserves (33.9 billion tons)

Contractor’s Corner:

Up to $40K per Unit for Carbon Neutral Affordable Multifamily Buildings – From a NYSERDA email - RetrofitNY still has funding available for eligible deep energy building retrofits achieving or approaching carbon neutrality. NYSERDA has committed $5 million to whole building retrofit pilot projects that will electrify affordable housing multifamily buildings…. Owners of low-rise affordable multifamily buildings outside of New York City are especially encouraged to apply. Qualified pilot participants will be eligible for up to $100,000 in funding for design, and up to $40,000 per dwelling unit for construction. GSHPs are fast becoming the HVAC system of choice for these projects as developers are stacking additional rebates from the utility administered NYS Clean Heat Program for GSHPs (both space heating & hot water!) and selling the 10% Federal Tax Credits for only geothermal heat pumps to the project’s Low Income Tax Credit (LITC) investor. Learn more.
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.

“Allergy Season Will Start Much Earlier And Be Far More Intense Because Of Climate Crisis, Study Suggests • A study published in Nature Communications, found by the end of the century, pollen season could begin as much as 40 days earlier than it normally has in the US because of global warming. Pollen counts could climb by up to 250%. [CNN] "

More than 24 million people in the US experience pollen-induced respiratory allergies or hay fever, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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