

2022 03 28 **Just In!**

NY-GEO/Geostar 2022 Top Job Competition is Open – Have a favorite geothermal installation you think New Yorkers should know about? Enter your project for consideration for our annual "Top Job" competition. Secure your place in history, impress your friends, win fabulous prizes! Top Job finalists will present at annual conference coming up April 27th and 28th at the Albany Marriott. [CLICK HERE to APPLY](#) (Or email Lisa at Lisa@HeatSmartTompkins.org 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 !



Hal Smith of Halco receives award from NY-GEO's John Manning



Homeowner William Sunderlin with his award

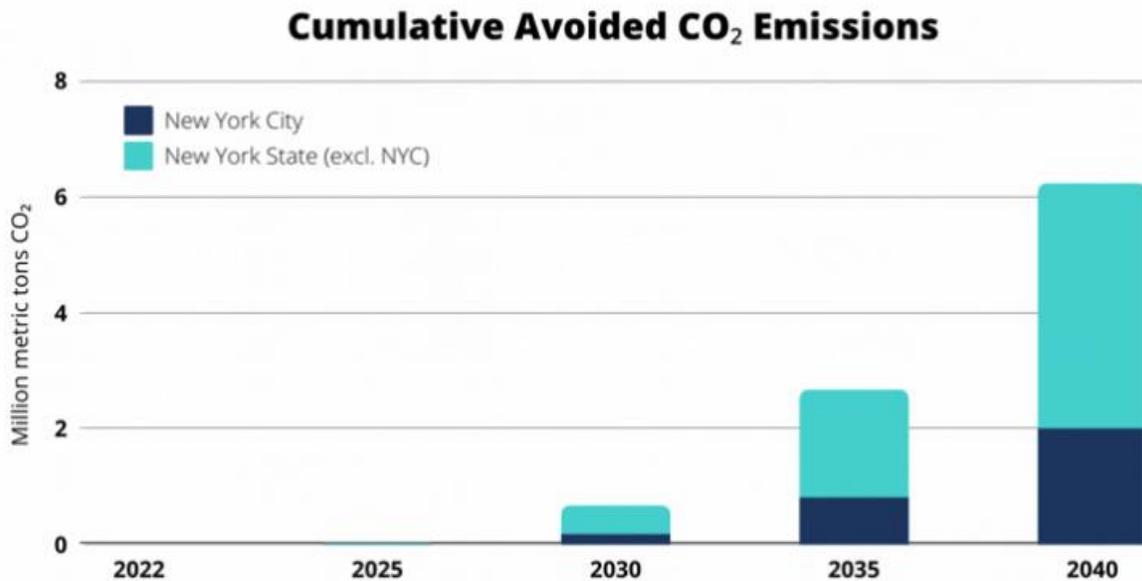
Award ceremony for 2019 Top Job Winner

Quick Easy Thing You Can Do on Monday – from Alex Beauchamp, Northeast Region Director, Food & Water Watch - “New York has more pollution from buildings than any other state in the country. That's why we're fighting for a statewide ban on gas in construction of new buildings. The All-Electric Building Act would fight climate change, cut pollution, and create good green jobs. Governor Hochul and the legislature are negotiating the state budget, which is due to be finalized by April 1st. The good news is that Governor Hochul's budget proposal includes a gas ban in new construction, *however her proposal doesn't take effect until 2027- far too slow...* Making a call is a simple act, but it has a big impact.¹ Staffers will be tallying the calls they receive and reporting to the Governor. **Call 866-961-4293 – the message: ‘As a constituent, I urge Governor Hochul to ban gas in construction of new buildings by 2024 in the state budget.’** We have just one week left to influence the outcome of climate action in the state budget. New York can become the first state to ban gas in construction of new buildings, but only if Governor Hochul hears from hundreds of us.” **Editors note:** when making this call be sure to also mention your support for the geothermal tax credit.



H. Armstrong Roberts / Corbis

New York Set to Pioneer a Move to New All-Electric Buildings - By Yu Ann Tan, Talor Gruenwald, Amar Shah – RMI - “The New York State Legislature is poised to take a leadership role nationwide by requiring all-electric new construction across the state. This comes on the heels of local all-electric legislation in New York City, which passed in December 2021. RMI analyzed the impacts of all-electric new construction in New York State on a timeline comparable to New York City’s law. We found that the statewide policy would save an additional 4 million metric tons of CO₂ by 2040 beyond the reductions already expected from NYC — the equivalent of keeping 870,000 cars off the road for one year.” [Full article here](#). **Editors note** – Passage of this bill is far from a foregone conclusion – see **Quick, Easy Thing You Can Do Monday** above to learn how you can help, as well as **The Plan to Kill Electrification**. below to see why it’s important for you to act.



The Plan to Kill Electrification in New York - The propane industry's plan to kill electrification in NY laid out [here](#): - NY Propane Gas Association (NYPGA) and gas groups' plan to oppose CLCPA, particularly building electrification, and what they are learning from a similar \$1.2 million campaign in NJ. They say that it's time to take the gloves off against electrification and that **they will need to spend much more than the \$1.2 million spent in NJ because New York is much bigger**. Here's a slide from an hour long presentation to the NYGPA Fall 2021 meeting from a PR firm called Warm Thoughts Communications:

We Need All of Us to be "All In"



- **Engage your customer base and employees**
 - Send Propane Matters
 - Email your customers
 - Put links on your home page
 - Share our Facebook posts
 - Get your employees to send letters through our website
 - Talk to local officials and local media
- **We need you to donate to the battle fund**
 - There are legal limits to how much Perc can help us financially, and there are practical limits to what we can do from our budget



And here's an ad from an allied campaign. Expect to see massive spending in the coming months to stop New York's attempt to reduce greenhouse gases.

Energy Citizens
Sponsored • Paid for by AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

Don't let the government decide what fuels your home.
Oppose the Natural Gas Ban!

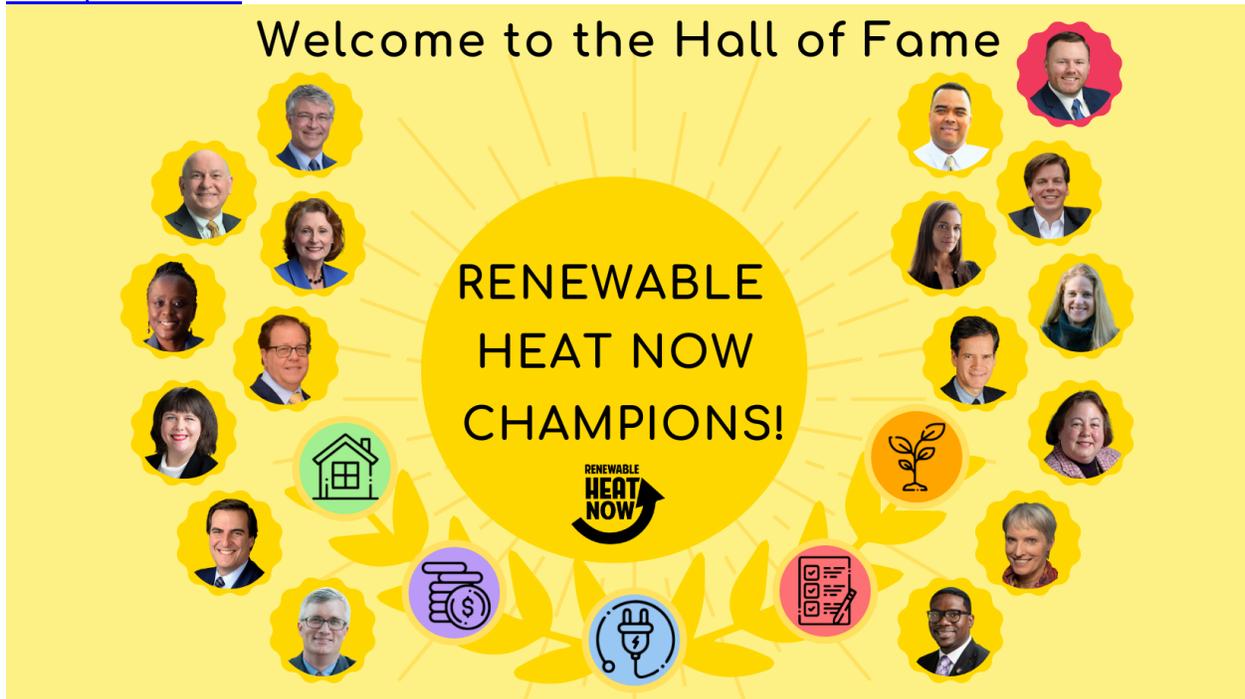


**We Should Decide What Fuels Our Home
NOT THE GOVERNMENT**

Paid for by  Energy Citizens

NYSERDA Plan to Compensate Community-Based Organizations and Individuals in Disadvantaged Communities for their Expertise and Input - “NYSERDA wants to partner with communities to inform State-level energy policy and program planning. This is essential to advancing climate and energy justice and will help achieve the Climate Act’s call for at least 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of the benefits of clean energy investments be directed to disadvantaged communities... NYSERDA will conduct an Informational Webinar on March 29, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. ET during which NYSERDA will review the RFI to seek public feedback on the draft honorarium and the draft RFQL for a disadvantaged communities stakeholder services pool and answer questions.” [Register for the webinar](#). More on the [initiative here](#)

Is Your Legislator a Renewable Heat Champion ? – The Renewable Heat Now (RHN) Campaign is working to pass 5 bills designed to significantly boost heat pump installations and building decarbonization in New York’s State. Dozens of legislators have signed on to sponsor one or more of these bills and the campaign is gaining steam. RHN is designating legislators who are sponsoring all 5 bills Renewable Heat Now Champions and there are now 17 ! The newest is Assembly Member Patrick Burke from Western New York. See more about the legislative package and the [champions here](#).



Burlington, VT Goes All In on Electrification – When it comes to electrifying everything, the town of Burlington, Vermont has become a model for how to get it done. The city of 43,000 set an ambitious goal of becoming a Net Zero Energy city by 2030, and has followed up with incentives that help its citizens switch from fossil-fueled appliances to electric vehicles, heat pumps, and other clean and efficient technologies. In December, townspeople passed the first-ever Net Zero Energy Revenue Bond, approving \$20 million in funds to expand its previous rebates and Green Stimulus programs. The measure passed with wide support – fully 70 percent of voters approved of funding the switch to electrification. [Burlington Electric website here](#). March 30th 5:00 PM - [register here for a webinar on the Burlington initiatives](#) with Rewiring America and Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger.



Capitol Press on Building Decarbonization in the Budget – “The upcoming state budget could include big steps toward decarbonizing buildings.” Read or listen to Susan Arbettor as she interviews Lisa Dix of the Building Decarbonization Coalition. (from 2022 03 22 – City & State First Read)



Lisa Dix, NY Director of the Building Decarbonization Coalition – graphic from another interview Lisa did for the [Bob Cesca show](#)

We Need to Talk About How We Talk About Natural Gas - Julian Spector – Canary Media – “Tackling climate change requires action, not just words. But the language we use influences what kind of action we take, and that has profound implications — especially in the case of natural gas. ‘Natural gas’ is the common name for the fossil fuel, composed almost entirely of methane, that produces electricity, heats homes and cooks food. It’s the largest source of electricity in the U.S., the heating fuel that Europe depends on a belligerent Russia to supply, and a major contributor to near-term global warming.” [Full article here.](#)



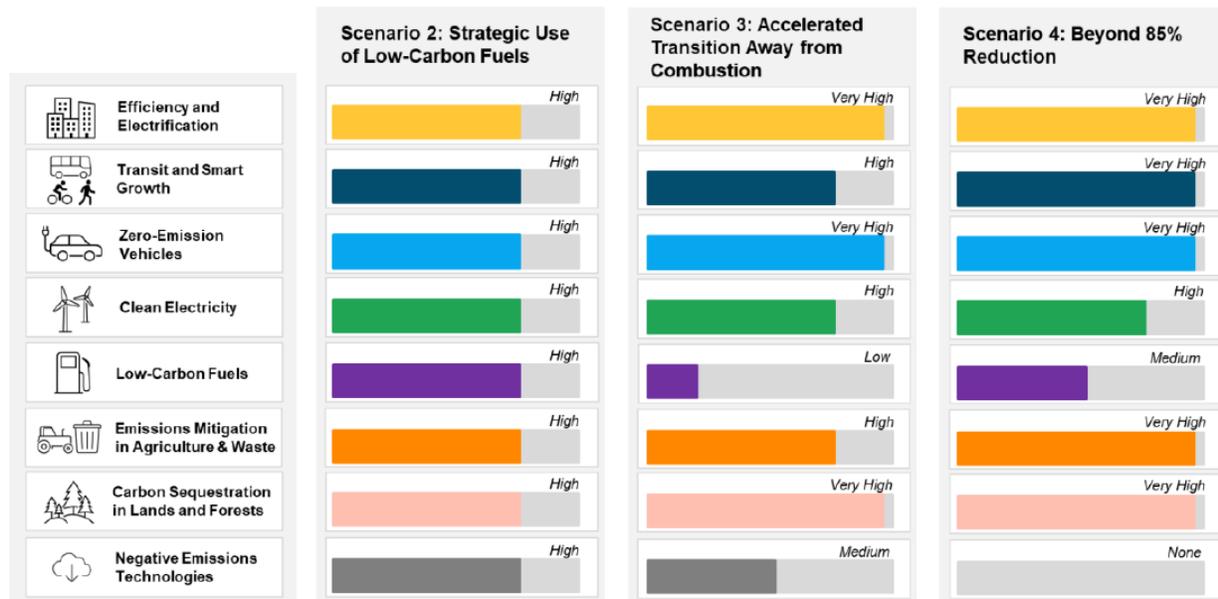
Natural gas is flared off during an oil-drilling operation in the Permian Basin oil field. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

Heat Pumps Continue Getting Positive Recognition in Popular Publications -

“Wired” is a popular, respected hard copy and on line publication that focuses on how emerging technologies affect culture, the economy, and politics. [This recent article](#) titled “Why You (and the Planet) Really Need a Heat Pump” gets the geothermal heat pump message across with an assist from NY-GEO member Ryan Dougherty. *“The easiest way to think about this is like your backyard is a battery,” says Ryan Dougherty, president of the Geothermal Exchange Organization, a trade association that advocates for geothermal heat pumps. “You can draw off that thermal battery in the winter and you can heat your house with the energy that’s right there in your yard. And then in the summer, the processes is just reversed: You take heat out of your house and you put it back into the battery.”* Thanks to NY-GEO Director of Operations JR Rath for this tip.

Weekly Nugget from NY’s Climate Action Draft Scoping Plan: NY-GEO is running pertinent items from the Climate Action Council’s Scoping Plan weekly in **Just In !** This week’s we show a graphic from page 71 of the [Climate Action Council’s Draft Scoping Plan](#). It show the 3 scenarios that will be brought to the public in a series of hearings coming up over the next couple months. NY-GEO strongly urges EVERY NY-GEO member and renewable heating stakeholder to provide feedback on the Scoping Plan. The Sierra Club has produced an excellent [guide to participation in the hearings](#).

Figure 5. Level of Transformation by Mitigation Scenario



More detailed scenario assumptions are available in the Integration Analysis Technical Supplement (Appendix G) and on <https://climate.ny.gov/Climate-Resources>.

Environmental Groups Urge Rejection of NY Gas Tax Suspension - By Nick Reisman - City of Albany – State of Politics - Prominent environmental, transit and good-government organizations on Friday urged Gov. Kathy Hochul to reject a proposed gas tax suspension in the state budget, arguing it would run counter to the state's efforts to combat climate change and deprive road improvement projects of funding. Lawmakers and Hochul are negotiating a potential suspension of the tax that would run from May 1 to the end of the year as the per-gallon price of gasoline remains above \$4 in many parts of New York. The provision was advanced earlier this month by Democrats in the state Senate as part of their budget proposal. New Yorkers pay about 47 cents to 48 cents per gallon in gas taxes. But a range of organizations on Friday, including Reinvent Albany, Environmental Advocates NY, New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness and the Riders Alliance are opposing any suspension. [Full article here.](#)



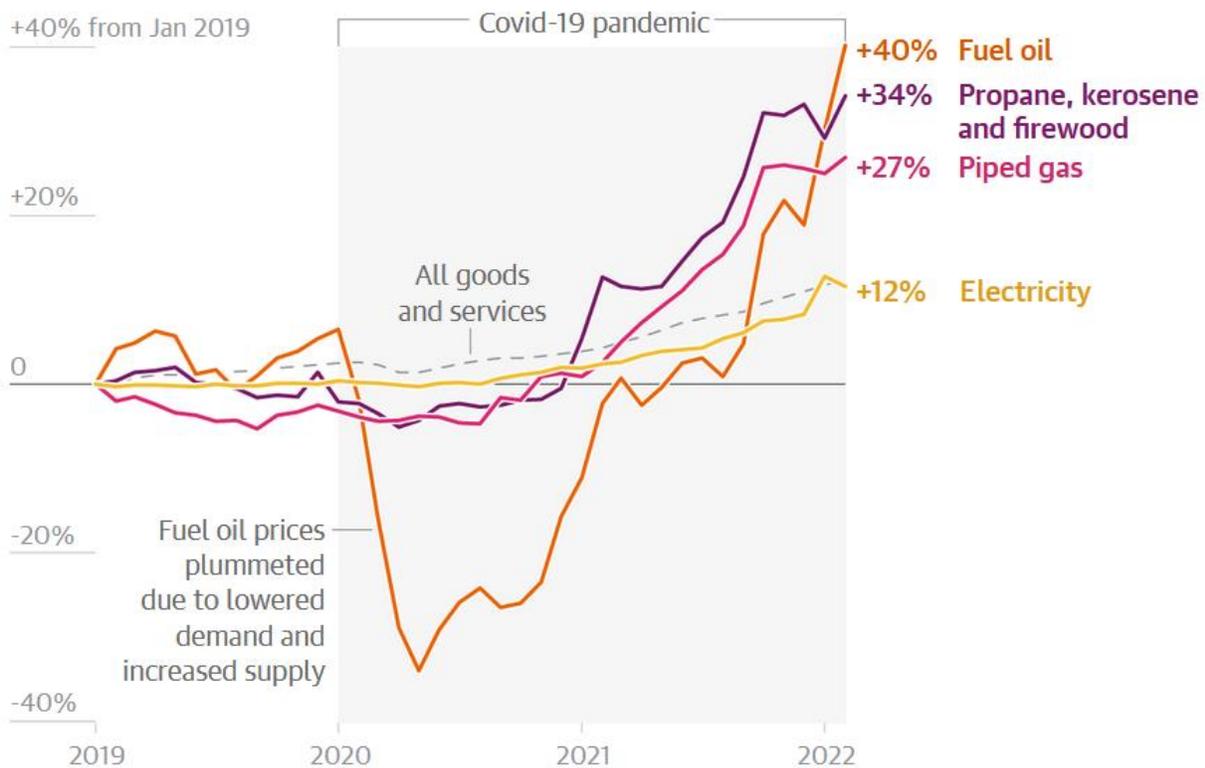
(AP Photo)

NY – 1 Million Green Jobs – “New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli released a report last month which documented that New York’s green economy sector has created more than 1 million jobs over the last two years. The report also found that jobs in the “green” sector composed 17% of all employment in New York prior to the pandemic in 2020. Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2.org) has previously documented that over 3 million Americans work in the clean energy sector – already TRIPLE the number of Americans working in the fossil fuel industry (<https://e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-america-2021/>). The latest report by the NYS Comptroller shows that we can not only address the critical environmental issues that are threatening our children’s future – but by doing so we will create a more prosperous and healthier economy. The Comptroller’s full report can be found [here](#). From ~ **Ron Kamen** Host, AWESome EarthKind Podcast

Guardian Examines Rise in Utility Bills - A variety of factors, from Russia's invasion to the pandemic, are causing higher bills – and Americans should expect to see higher prices until the end of the year. A dramatic rise in energy prices in the US is causing utility bills to soar, with many left wondering: what is driving the rise?... 'Almost one in five New Yorkers are staring into potential multi-generational debt,' said Richard Berkley, executive director of the Public Utility Law Project. Before the war in Ukraine, he would have expected the prices to dip back down as the weather warms up. 'But now with sustained disruption of the world energy markets, we should expect to see higher prices till the end of the year,' Berkley said, adding that the situation been different if the US wasn't so reliant on an energy source that that hinges upon the supply chain and the global market. 'We need to build more wind, solar, hydro and tidal power, which are quite honestly expensive to create but are much cheaper in the future,' Berkley said. [Full article here.](#)

Home energy prices have outpaced inflation

The percent change in US prices since 2019



Guardian graphic. Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Note: Monthly prices from January 2019 to February 2022, seasonally adjusted.

France Ends Gas Heaters Subsidies, Boosts "Virtuous" Residential Heating in Bid to Cut Russia Reliance - By Geert De Clercq – Reuters – “As part of a government "resilience plan" aimed at helping households and companies cope with the economic fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, France wants to end its imports of Russian gas and oil by 2027. To reduce gas demand, France will reform its "MaPrimeRenov" subsidy scheme to accelerate the replacement of fossil fuel-fired heaters with renewable heating such as heat pumps and biomass heaters, including hybrid systems. From April 15 until end 2022, it will increase by 1,000 euros (\$1,102) the subsidy for "virtuous" residential heating and will scrap subsidies for new gas heater installations. From Chloe Zilliac at the National Building Electrification Network and Sunstone Strategies [Full article here](#).



France's Ecological Transition Minister Barbara Pompili leaves following the weekly cabinet meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, February 15, 2022. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier/File Photo

Why Even Small Leaks Matter – “...three-quarters of the emissions from gas stoves happen when they are off. While the vast majority of these leaks are too small to smell, lots of little leaks add up: our analysis showed that gas stoves have an annual climate impact on par with the carbon dioxide emissions from 500,000 gasoline-powered cars. Kitchen stoves are also not the only gas appliance that can leak. In another recent study, we found that, like the gas stoves, water heaters also emit unburned gas at all times. What’s more, our appliances receive gas from a vast network of pipes and equipment, which emitted the methane equivalent to the carbon dioxide emissions from over 22 billion gallons of gasoline in 2019. From Physicians, Scientists and Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE) [Full post here](#)



Help Wanted to find NY-GEO’s Next Executive Director - – NY-GEO has begun a search for a new Executive Director. See the job description here - <https://lnkd.in/dDcSkdFi>. Please help us spread the word far and wide. Any candidates interested in the position or stakeholders who want to suggest candidates for the position are urged to email nygeoinfo@gmail.com. Please don't respond via linked in - respond via nygeoinfo@gmail.com.

Maryland & Fossil-Free Building - *The Maryland Building Energy Transition Plan highlights a shift toward efficient, electric heating and a 60–95 percent reduction in natural gas use.* By [Ashita Gona](#), & [Amar Shah](#) RMI - During the recent legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly introduced several high-profile provisions to equitably move buildings away from direct fossil fuel combustion, including:

- a robust gas transition planning process,
- shifting toward electrification in the state’s energy efficiency program,
- all-electric new construction,
- a building energy performance standard for large buildings, and more.

The timing of these bills coincides with an earnest reminder that natural gas poses health and safety risks. In early March, a cut gas line in a Silver Spring apartment led to an explosion that injured 14 people. From Chloe Zilliack at the National Building Electrification Network and Sunstone Strategies [Full article here](#)



“Governor Hochul Announces New York As Top Community Solar Market In The US • Governor Kathy Hochul announced New York is the top community solar market in the US, with more than 1 GW of community solar installed and operational, enough to serve 209,000 homes. New York also has the largest pipeline of solar projects. [\[Governor Kathy Hochul\]](#)” (from 2022 03 23 Green Energy News)

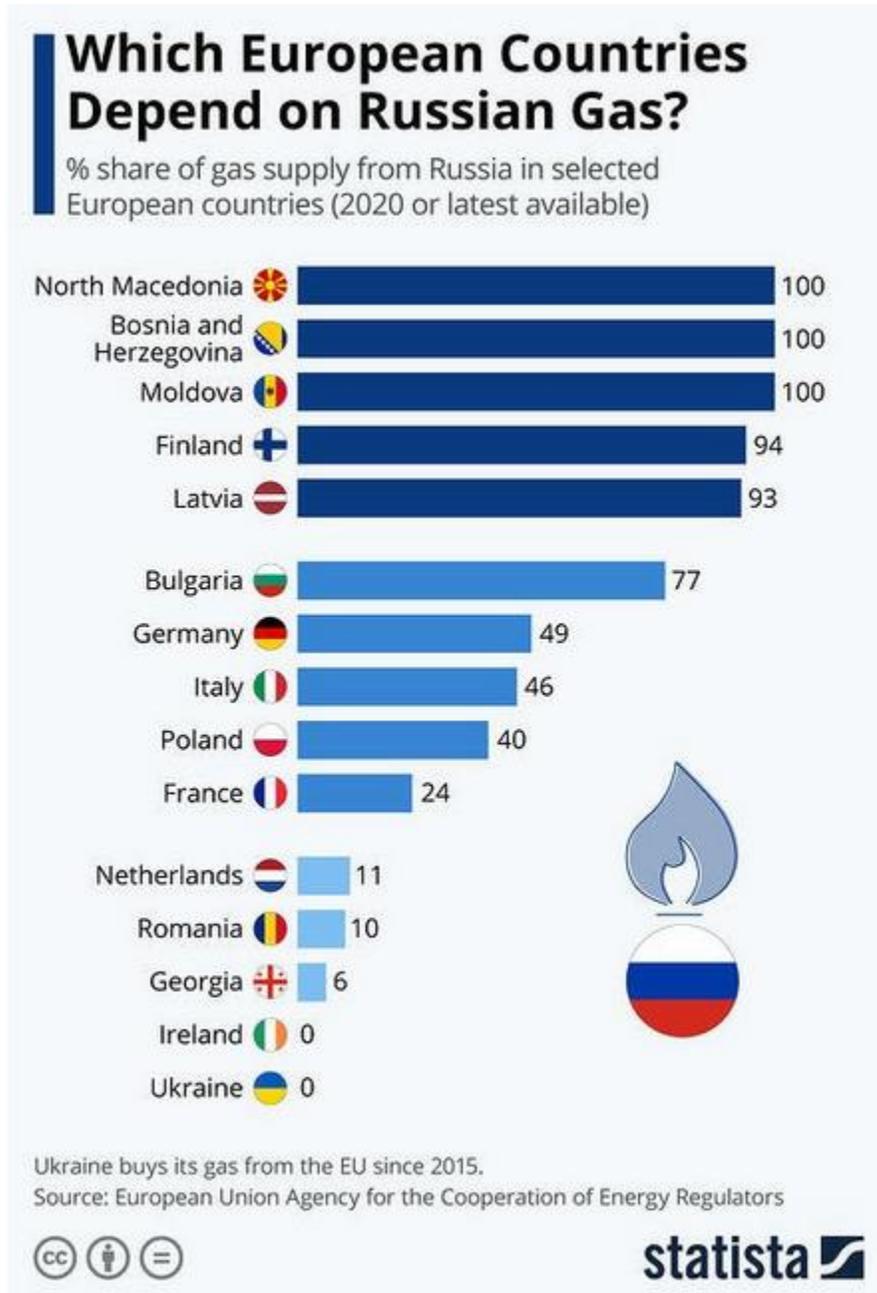


More Than One Gigawatt Installed – Enough to Serve More Than 200,000 Homes Across the State

Community Solar Delivers Guaranteed Savings to Customers and Renewable Energy Stabilizes New Yorkers' Long-Term Energy Costs

Supports State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act Goal to Generate 70 Percent of State's Electricity from Renewable Sources by 2030, and Governor's Goal to Achieve 10 Gigawatts of Solar by 2030

More on Russian Gas – [Full article here](#) – Thanks to Diverso Energy for this tip



Contractor's Corner:

“Scientists Show Large Impact Of Controlling Humidity On Greenhouse Gas Emissions • Analysis by National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Xerox PARC scientists explores impacts on the environment due to controlling humidity. It showed that humidity accounts for roughly half of the energy-related emissions from air conditioners. [\[CleanTechnica\]](#)” (from 2022 03 21 Green Energy News)

Tesla Alum Raises \$90M to Make Smart Panels the Gateway to Home Electrification – Jeff St. John – Canary Media – “The future of home energy lies in getting solar panels, backup batteries, electric vehicle chargers and all-electric heaters and appliances working together smoothly to balance the grid. San Francisco–based startup Span wants to provide the master control platform to make that happen, starting with its smart electrical panels.” [Full article here.](#)



Span plans to use \$90 million in VC funding to expand beyond smart electrical panels to new devices and services, CEO Arch Rao says. (Span)

NYSERDA Revises New Construction Support - The New Construction – Housing (NC-Housing) PON 4337 supports the design, development, and construction of carbon neutral buildings, reducing energy consumption and per capita carbon emissions while ensuring the buildings are resilient. Through NC-Housing, NYSERDA offers financial incentives and technical support for the new construction, gut rehabilitation or adaptive re-use of residential and mixed-use buildings, inclusive of single-family homes, multi-unit developments, multifamily buildings, residence halls, dormitories, and congregate living facilities, exclusive of nursing homes. **Use of solar photovoltaic generation and other renewable energy systems, as well as ground source heat pumps and other innovative technologies, are encouraged. For a Summary of Revisions, Additional Details, and Associated Documents Visit: [PON 4337 Solicitation Detail Page](#)**

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Climate Updates:

“How Climate Change Is Leading To Bigger Hailstones • *One result of climate change is bigger hailstorms.* In Texas, Alabama, and Colorado, records for largest hailstone have been broken in the last three years, reaching sizes of up to 16cm (6.2 inches) in diameter. In 2020, Tripoli, the capital of Libya, was struck by hailstones nearly 18 cm (7.1 in) across. [\[BBC\]](#)” (from 2022 03 19 Green Energy News)



Record-setting hail stone for the US ([NWS, public domain](#))

“Scientists Show Large Impact Of Controlling Humidity On Greenhouse Gas Emissions • Analysis by National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Xerox PARC scientists explores impacts on the environmental due to controlling humidity. It showed that humidity accounts for roughly half of the energy-related emissions from air conditioners. [\[CleanTechnica\]](#)” (from 2022 03 21 Green Energy News)

“Scientists Astonished By Heatwaves At North And South Poles - Startling heatwaves at both of Earth’s poles are causing alarm among climate scientists, who have warned the “unprecedented” events could signal faster and abrupt climate breakdown. At both the North Pole and Antarctica, temperatures reached record high levels over the weekend. [[The Irish Times](#)] ” (from 2022 03 21 Green Energy News)



Penguin (Ian Parker, [Unsplash](#))

“Publicly Traded US Companies Will Have To Report GHG Emissions • It is reported that the SEC will announce it is stepping up to require all publicly traded companies to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and the climate risks they face. This announcement is expected to shake up hundreds of businesses. [[CleanTechnica](#)] ” (from 2022 03 21 Green Energy News)

“Flights Are Taking Huge ‘Detours’ Around Russian Air Space. Here’s What That Means for the Climate Crisis • In response to sanctions for its invasion of Ukraine, Russia closed its airspace to airlines from dozens of countries. About 400 flights per month are being forced to take a wider berth, each using significantly greater amounts of fuel. [\[CNN\]](#)” (from 2022 03 25 Green Energy News)

Rerouting flights around Russia increases emissions

As flights are rerouting to avoid Russian airspace, flights are getting longer and emitting more greenhouse gas. Here’s a look at four flights that have changed since the Russian invasion of Ukraine:



Approximate increases in flight times and emissions

Route	Flight time increase	Fuel burn increase	CO ₂ increase
Tokyo to London	2 hours 26 minutes	5,684 gallons	54,566 kg
Frankfurt to Tokyo	42 minutes	1,428 gallons	13,710 kg
Seoul to Helsinki	4 hours 8 minutes	7,425 gallons	71,285 kg
Helsinki to Tokyo	4 hours	7,186 gallons	68,985 kg

“Great Barrier Reef: Australia Confirms New Mass Bleaching Event • Australia’s Great Barrier Reef is being devastated by another mass bleaching event, officials confirmed. It is the fourth time in six years that such severe and widespread damage has been detected. Prior to 2016, only two mass bleaching events had ever been recorded. [BBC]” (from 2022 03 25 Green Energy News)



| Bleaching occurs when stressed corals expel colour-giving algae

